



Earl D. Taft Elementary School

16 Granite Street
Telephone: (508) 278-8643

Uxbridge, Massachusetts 01569
FAX: (508) 278-8646

Paula A. Montesi, Principal
Lori J. Fafard, Assistant Principal

Overview of Activities for March

Parent Conferences were held on the afternoon of March 20. They were well-attended by the parents of our students who continue to make their child's education a priority.

On March 16, Grade 2 students presented their folk tales from around the world to parents and other significant people in their lives. These assemblies culminate the artist in residence program funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Arts Council. The plays are currently running on Cable Access Channel 13. Thank you to all parents and staff who made this program so successful. Through the generosity of Amy DiBattista, a parent and owner of The Village Printworks Inc. in Plainville, we will be selling note cards with color pictures of the 8 murals created by the students for the play. Proceeds will benefit the art program at Taft School.

The following students were entered into the Massachusetts Library Association's bookmark contest. **1st grade** Jake Usenia; Wesley Wicks; Lindsey Moss **2/3 grade** Jaylin Bodell; Emily Fernandes; Riley Malone **4th grade** Alison Colella; Morgan French; Stephanie Demetry

Mrs. Bandstra's class took a walking field trip to Peaceful Pond. The class observed the changes at Peaceful Pond since their trips in summer and fall.

Mrs. Harcourt's class and Mrs. Michelson's class are hatching eggs. Children are excitedly awaiting their arrival and vie to name the newest additions to their classes.

General School/Department Information

Selected students participated in MCAS Preparation classes funded by the Title I program. The Title I program also sponsored an MCAS Parent Night which was attended by parents of third and fourth grade students.

Spirit Day on March 27, 2009, was MCAS PEP RALLY DAY at Taft. Cheerleaders from UHS attended all lunches on Friday and cheered the students on to do well on the MCAS.

Students in Grade 1 made posters for the hallways and some Grade 3 and 4 students got letters and cards from the lower classes wishing them Good luck!

Professional Development Activities

3rd and 4th grade teachers completed their training in First Steps Mathematics with Kara Ekstrom, 6th Grade Math teacher on March 6, 2009. They are in the process of creating intervention activities to support children in their efforts to master math content.

Also on March 6th, Mrs. Montesi worked with reading teachers in Grades 1-4 to discuss our plans for full implementation of the RTI model during the 2009-10 school year. We discussed the RTI Team and built a list of Tiers 1, 2, and 3 materials and interventions that we currently have at Taft.

Susan Haughey and Diane Brophy attended a two-day conference for Special Education teachers on educating children who are on the autism spectrum.

Gretchen D'Andrea, Taft School Music teacher, attended the annual Massachusetts Music Educators Association All State Conference in Boston on March 26 and March 27.

Linda Benoit attended a meeting where teachers brought their student portfolios for the MCAS Alt. Representatives from the DOE assessed the teacher's work on the portfolio and gave them guidance as to what to fix (or not) before they are submitted to the DOE in April.

PTO Reports and Information

The PTO had a successful fundraiser. Each classroom donates a themed gift basket which range from a Car Care basket to an All Things Chocolate basket. Parents have an opportunity to buy raffle tickets through a backpack mailing, at Parent Conferences and a Family Fun Night on March 20th and at the Annual Wine Tasting Party on March 21st. The baskets are always a big success coupled with the opportunity for a night out for children (which included a magician this year) and a night out for adults.

All of the desks have been distributed to interested artists for the playground fundraiser and are due back in May. An auction is scheduled for June.

Upcoming Events

March 30-31, April 1, 2009 - April 9, 2009 – MCAS Grades 3 and 4

April 3, 2009 101 Dalmatians Play at UHS 1:30 pm, 3:30 pm, 5:00 pm, 6:30 pm

April 9, 2009 PTO Meeting 7:00

April 10, 2009 Good Friday - No School

April 13-17, 2009 Go Green Week.

April 15, 2009 District-wide Choral Concert 7:00 UHS Auditorium

April 17, 2009 PTO Family Fun Night

April 20-24, 2009 April Vacation

Administrator,


Paula A. Montesi, Principal