



# Earl D. Taft Elementary School

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

## Overview of Activities for May

Taft School Grade 4 chorus under the direction of Ms. D'Andrea held an evening concert entitled Celebration of Nature to a crowd of family and friends.

The principal and additional staff members held an evening open house on May 7 for incoming first grade parents. In addition, on May 7 and 8, Kindergarten students visited to tour the building, meet with first grade teachers, and eat breakfast. This yearly event is always well received by parents and children alike.

Grades 3 and 4 students took two-day MCAS tests.

International Fair was held on May 21 to a packed crowd of parents and other community members. During the International Fair, children sing songs and perform dances from various countries around the world. The children bake cookies with Mrs. Priore's and Mrs. Plasse's foods classes at UHS and they are served at the fair. Each child does a country poster and reports to the classes. Those reports are videotaped by Barry Giles and run throughout the morning in the grade 2 corridors. Artwork from around the world is displayed on the walls. Another great job by the Grade 2 teachers, Ms. D'Andrea, Mrs. Henries, and Mrs. Dimmick!

The Flying Squadron flew in to Taft for two assemblies. Besides the speeches by the veterans, the children sang a collection of patriotic songs. After a reading of the poem, In Flander's Field, by 4<sup>th</sup> grader Joe Garron, taps was played by two members of the Whittin/UHS band.

Students from Uxbridge High School Drama Club, under the direction of Mary Guilmette, presented the play, Big Bad Wolf to Grades 2 and 3 students. The children thoroughly enjoyed it.

Mrs. Dimmick was presented with an award from the American Heart Association from her many years of Jump Rope for the Heart. Over the years over \$110,000 has been collected by Taft students.

The Taft School Leadership Club collected over \$300.00 in loose change in the fourth grade classes to donate to Pennies for Patients. This charity helps people suffering from

leukemia. Thank you to the following students for providing us with important facts about this charity and about the disease during our morning announcements. Emily Guertin, Jack Chapman, Regina Merritt, Victoria Rondeau, Kirsten Grenon, Rosa Gonzalez, Lauren Small, Grace Lemire, and Jayce Knapik.

### **Subject/Course/Classroom Activities**

Third grade students were visited by adults from Slater's Mill as a preview of their field trip there in June. In this presentation they talk about the milling process from cotton plant to the completed product.

Grades 3 and 4 students took two-day MCAS tests. Prior to the testing a Math Day coordinated by Mrs. Bazzett was held in the gym. There are a variety of stations set up where children practice math skills, including probability, geometry, graphing, and fractions. This day provides a review of the tested skills.

### **Professional Development Activities**

May 26 & 27, 2009 Deb Dinoi attended a seminar Vision Quest into Symbolic Reality, this workshop was held in Maine.

### **PTO Reports and Information**

Two final events for the season: Spring Carnival on May 30 and the Desk Auction on June 6 at 2:00 on the Town Common. This silent auction will highlight one of a kind works of both professional and amateur artists, teachers, community members, and local businesses. This fundraiser is EARTH FRIENDLY as all the artwork was done on 40 old elementary school desks and chairs.

### **General School/Department Information**

Taft School community congratulates Kathy Schotanus on her upcoming retirement. Kathy has been a member of the Taft School staff for over 30 years. She is an excellent teacher and that expertise will be sorely missed. We wish her the best of luck.

Our sincere thanks to the following staff from UHS: Sue Priore, Becky Plasse, and Mary Guilmette. We consider them a valuable part of the education of our students and such an asset to our school community. A special thanks to Sue Priore for her high school volunteers who came and helped out at the International Fair, but also come daily to work directly in our classrooms. In addition, thank you to the high school volunteers who helped out at the Math Day. My thanks to George Zini and Tara Bennett for being open-minded to the possibilities of our partnership.

## Upcoming Events

- May 29      Grade 4 Field Trip Roger Williams Park
- May 30      PTO Spring Carnival
- June 1      Grade 4 Move Up Day – Whitin School – Sundae Party
- June 2      Field Day Grade 4 – 9:00 – 11:15 a.m.  
Field Day Grade 2 – 12:30 – 2:45 p.m.  
Grade 4 Pizza Party
- June 3      Rain Date for Field Day Grades 4 & 2
- June 4      Field Day Grade 3 – 9:00 – 11:15 a.m.  
Field Day Grade 1 - 12:30 – 2:45 p.m.  
Rain Date for Field Day Grades 3 & 1
- June 6      Desk Auction 10:00 – 2:00 Town Common
- June 8      Grade 3 Slater’s Mill (Campbell, Quintiliani, Hansel, DiGregorio)
- June 9      Grade 3 Slater’s Mill (Auciello, Lamarre, Higgins, Lukowski)  
Grade 1 Southwick Zoo
- June 11     Behind The Mask – Eric Bornstein 10:00 & 1:15 p.m.  
Grade 4 Talent Show 6:30 p.m.
- June 12     K-9 Assembly Grades 1 & 4  
Volunteer Breakfast 9:30 a.m.
- June 16     Grade 4 Chorus visits Senior Center 11:30 – 12:45 p.m.  
Grade 2 Science Guy presentation (6 classes)
- June 17     Grade 2 Science Guy presentation (2 classes)
- June 18     Talent Show Assembly
- June 19     Last Day of School - Dismissal @ 11:45 a.m.

Administrator,

*Paula A. Montesi*

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