

# TAFT EARLY LEARNING CENTER

16 Granite Street · Uxbridge, Massachusetts 01569

Phone 508-278-8643



## TAFT UPDATE - 11/11

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**A special thank you to all members of our military in all branches past and present! Thank you for serving our country and protecting our freedoms!**

### **This week at Taft:**

- Friday, November 15th - ½ day, Dismissal begins at 11:30 am.
- Parent Teacher Conferences - November 13th in the evening and November 15th in the afternoon

### **Donate A Book:**

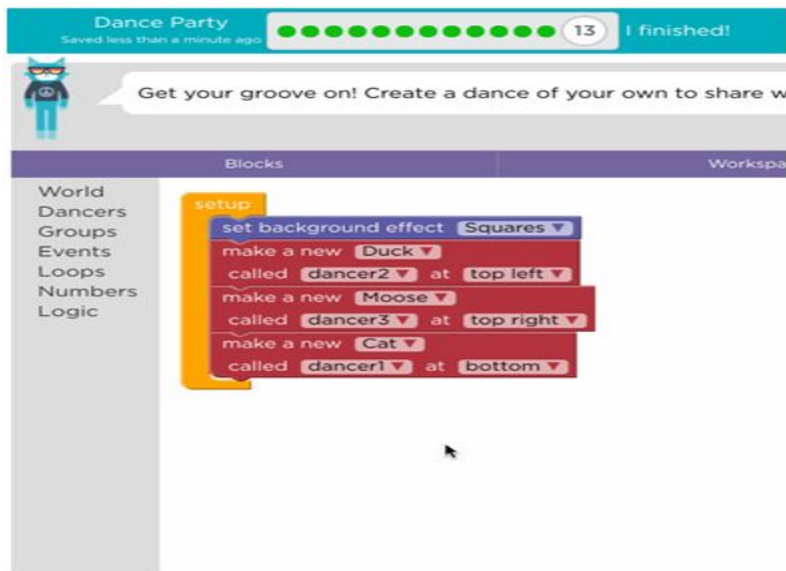
Thank you to all the generous Taft families who have supported our Donate-A-Book program. Because of your support we will be adding an amazing 57 new books to the Taft Library. Keep your eye out for another round in January and help us reach our goal of 100 new books this year!

### **Girls on the Run:**

Please see the attached note from Girls on the Run:)

### **A Message from the Computer Lab:**

Our third grade students are learning about computer science while they work at their own pace to create personalized, virtual dance parties. During each Code.org “Dance Party” session, children follow step-by-step instructions about how to select and connect coded attributes and functions to a work space. It looks something like this:



As students progress, they add characters, background, movement, and popular music. Select "RUN" and the party is on!



If your child comes home with a Code.org certificate, it means they completed a series of 13 lessons in the "Dance Party" series. Do you want to learn more? Explore free lessons at the Hour of Code at Code.org. Feel free to send your family's project to: [gquintiliani@uxbridge.k12.ma.us](mailto:gquintiliani@uxbridge.k12.ma.us)

Gaye Quintiliani, Computer Technology K-3

### Tips to Helping Your Child with Book Choice:

As parents, you can help to ensure that your child has books that he/she can read with understanding and fluency, and to have conversations with them about those books. You may be tempted to choose books for your child, but this can result in a mechanical approach to reading as a "task." Without genuine choice children will never experience the authentic role of a reader. At the same time, the ability to choose appropriate books is not something you can expect children to

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automatically know how to do. It is something you need to help your child discover. Communicate to your child that choosing a just-right book, not a difficult book, will promote enjoyment rather than frustration, as pleasure is the expectation and goal for independent reading.

Teach your child these 7 ways of judging a book choice:

Decide if the book is just right to read independently by reading a little at the beginning or middle. If many errors are made or your child is "sounding" out too many words and not able to focus on the meaning then this is probably a book that you should read to your child. Frustration is not fun for anyone.

1. Talk about the topics of the book to see what peaks your child's interest.
2. Read a bit of the book to get a feel for the author's style and the language.
3. Ask a librarian, friends or teachers for recommendations.
4. Look at the book cover, back cover, book flaps and illustrations.
5. Think about the author and what you may already know about him or her.
6. Give the book a good chance.

**Important Dates:**

November 20th - PTO meeting - 3:15 pm

November 20th - Community Reading Day

November 20th - School Council meeting - 6:00 pm

November 22nd - Patriot's Day (Favorite Football Team)

November 24th - The Loop 5K

My door is always open and I welcome your input. Please feel free to call or email, [jbelleville@uxbridge.k12.ma.us](mailto:jbelleville@uxbridge.k12.ma.us), to discuss any concerns throughout the year or stop by to say hello. I am looking forward to working with you as a team to help each student at Taft Early Learning Center meet their goals and have a successful school year!

Have a great week!

Principal Bellville

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