

# TAFT EARLY LEARNING CENTER

16 Granite Street · Uxbridge, Massachusetts 01569

Phone 508-278-8643



## TAFT UPDATE - 5/3

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I hope you are all staying healthy and active. The Taft staff is working hard on remote learning and balancing what is too much and too little. Please continue to reach out to teachers or myself if you are in need of technology. Though the building is closed, learning will continue. As a staff, we will also be working on professional development, curriculum mapping, and end of the year activities such as placement. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns!

### **Stay healthy!**

Principal Bellville

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

- Taft Town Hall - 6 pm (Zoom meeting)
- Last day of school - June 17th
- Taft closed for students through June 29th
- Building closed to the public

### **Taft Town Hall:**

In an effort to try and answer some of the questions that families could have and provide updates around remote learning at Taft, I would like to hold a Parent Town Hall on Monday night, at 6:00 p.m. The Zoom link will be emailed home Monday morning and not posted on our website to avoid it being on a public site and to keep the meeting more secure. The meeting will be password protected.

### **Remote Learning:**

Taft teachers are working hard to provide families with remote learning for the week on Friday, so families have time to plan their schedules. Please remember that first and foremost the health and well-being of your families is our number one priority. Allow yourself time to take a break and don't get into a power struggle trying to do everything. Teachers will be identifying priority activities to help families know what are the most important things to try and get to. Teachers will be providing feedback that is submitted to them, but we will not be grading. Students will not receive grades for the third term. In addition, students will be moving onto the next grade level when we return in the fall.

### **Message from Patti Sprague, Math Coordinator:**

The Taft Math Fairies are essential workers, and they have delivered May's Problems of the Month! Check out this [Padlet](#) for each grade level's problem. Click the plus sign underneath to upload your student's answer. It could be a picture of their work or a video or sound recording of their explanation. Here are more [detailed instructions](#), if necessary. Please join us to share your child's thinking and check out the work of other students!

### **Taft Placement for 2020-2021:**

As we are busy working on remote learning, end of the year activities are also continuing to take place as we look towards next year. The staff and I have begun working together to organize students into classes for the next school year. We first start by gathering information about each child that will be helpful in making the best student-classroom match for the following year. In preparing these class lists we will also focus on ensuring that individual classes are balanced whenever possible by boys/girls, overall range of abilities, learning styles, special needs, and various behavioral concerns/combinations.

Classroom teachers are an integral part in student placement. They provide valuable information gained by working closely with your child all year. Our reading specialists, special educators, nurse and guidance counselor make important recommendations as well.

The role of the parents in this process is important. We want and respect your insights as they pertain to any additional information you can provide for us in this process. If you choose, please complete the attached [google survey](#) by May 8th. This information that you provide will only be seen by Mrs. Squier, Assistant Principal, and myself. I will incorporate this information into the decision-making process. However, requests for a specific teacher cannot be honored.

If there is information that you've given to the school in the past, and want it considered again, please include it again this year.

Constructing class lists for the following year is a long and sometimes difficult process, but one in which we take very seriously. You can be sure that throughout the placement process our goal is for your child to be placed in a classroom in which she or he will have the opportunity to meet their fullest potential.

Please email me with any questions that you may have regarding this process.

**Meals to Go (see attached flyer):**

### **Uxbridge Offers Healthy Meal Service to Children During School Closures**

*Nutritious Breakfast and Lunch available free to all Uxbridge Students*

**April 9, 2020** — Beginning Monday, April 13, 2020 in efforts to support families during school closures, Uxbridge Public Schools is providing free, nutritious breakfast and lunch meals to all

*The Uxbridge Public Schools insures equal employment and educational opportunities for its employees and students and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, gender identity, disability, or sexual orientation in compliance with Title VI, Title IX, section 504/ADA and G.L. c 151b and 157c.*

Uxbridge students and *to all children/youth aged 0-21, regardless of residence or school attended*, as part of the USDA's emergency COVID-19 response.

“We want people to know that these healthy meals are available to all Uxbridge students. In fact, parents/caregivers can pick up meals on children's behalf to help ensure safe social distancing,” said Superintendent Frank Tiano. “We know that home food supplies are running low and it's important to try to keep people out of the supermarkets. This is a federally funded program, and the food is nutritious, so please come take your meals!”

Uxbridge Public Schools offer meals at the **Taft Early Learning Center**, 16 Granite St, Uxbridge, MA 01569. Meals are available for pick-up on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, with breakfast and lunch offered for multiple days. “On Monday and Wednesday, we offer two breakfasts and lunches to cover Tuesday, and Thursday. On Friday, we offer three breakfasts and lunches to carry children through the weekend,” said Stephanie Barstow, the district's School Nutrition Director.

- Meals are available to **Uxbridge Public School students and to all children/youth aged 0-21, regardless of residence or school attended.**
- Meals are available **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11am - 1pm**
- Children receive a **free breakfast and lunch for every day of the week** (bagged breakfast and bagged lunch). Children (or parents/guardians on behalf of children) can take multiple days' worth of meals at once.
- **On Fridays, families can pick up 6 meals** to cover both a breakfast and a lunch on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.
- **Children do not need to be present for parents/guardians to pick up the meals.**
- **Safe social distancing is encouraged via the pick-up process:** Meals are distributed outside cafeteria doors on the sidewalk where families enter the drive-up/pick-up line, pull up to the curb, and inform staff how many students they are picking up for. Food service staff will place meals in the trunk of vehicles to maintain distance.
- Anyone who cannot make it out of their house to pick up a meal is encouraged to email Stephanie at [sbarstow@uxbridge.k12.ma.us](mailto:sbarstow@uxbridge.k12.ma.us).

## **SPECIALISTS:**

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## Monday's Technology Activity:

Families and Students - Are you or your children interested in learning more about coding? Open a free account at [code.org](https://code.org). Feel free to email me to share or ask questions about any of the activities below.

**Gaye Quintiliani**

[gquintiliani@uxbridge.k12.ma.us](mailto:gquintiliani@uxbridge.k12.ma.us)

[Learn to Code at Home](#)

[Questions? Here is Support for Coding at Home](#)

Share private videos by logging into Flipgrid with your child's name in this format:

[firstname.lastname@uxbridge.k12.ma.us](mailto:firstname.lastname@uxbridge.k12.ma.us)

PW Taftelc!

## Grades K&1

How can you make popcorn (or raisins) dance in water?



[Flipgrid Dancing Popcorn Challenge](#)

[Dancing Popcorn on Youtube](#)

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## Grades 2&3

How can you make drawings that dance on the surface of water?



[Flipgrid Dancing Drawing Challenge](#)

[Dancing Drawing on Youtube](#)

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