

ESTABROOK UPDATE

Joseph Estabrook Elementary School, 117 Grove Street, Lexington, MA 02420

Principal: Martha Batten

Volume 2 Number 26

(781) 861-2520

Friday, April 4, 2008

A Principal Notes... A letter from parents to parents about courtesy and following procedures during drop off:

Hi All-

Just a friendly reminder that we all need to abide by the morning drop off rules (i.e. if dropping off stay in the right lane and pull ALL the way or as close as you can get to the orange cone on the sidewalk by the parking lot entrance; do NOT just stop in front of the front door)

The past few weeks I have seen multiple people stopping and dropping off right in front of the school when there are no aides present.

I have refrained from speaking up but this morning when someone did stop right in front of the door, a very large pickup truck swung out of the drop off line into the thru line and back into the drop off line in an effort to get around the stopped line to drop their child off and nearly crashed into me as they were swinging back into the drop off line.

Please. Please, please, let's all play by the rules even when there is no one on the sidewalk directing us all the way down to the cone and please slow down.

Suzie Barry

RUN OF THE MILL - Course Preview!

Thinking of doing the 5K? Have you been training and want to know what the course is like? Join us and get the inside scoop!

Meet in the Estabrook lobby on Wed., April 9 after drop off (after Safe Routes to School Walking Wednesday) and we'll leave no later than 9 AM.

Walkers and runners welcome.

If you can't make it during working hours, stay tuned for a weekend and/or evening course preview!

Contact Gretchen Reisig at 781/652-8169 or estabrook5K@gmail.com with any questions! To register for the Run of the Mill 5K, go to www.coolrunning.com and enter 'Run of the Mill'.

Big Backyard News Thank you to all of the parents who helped with the winter BBY walks for grades K, 1, 2, 4, and 5! Late spring BBY training, at 9 AM, will be:

Grades 1 & 2 – Tues., April 29

Grades K & 5 – Thurs., May 1

Grade 3 – Thurs., May

BBY classroom coordinators are now in the process of working with teachers to schedule dates for the late spring walks. The dates for the individual classroom walks and the training dates will be available at the following website as they are scheduled:

<http://calendar.yahoo.com/estabrookbby>, and the spring training dates can also be viewed at the website.

If you have not been involved with BBY walks earlier in the year but would like to help out now with the spring walks, it is not too late! No experience is necessary – all of the required information will be provided at the training sessions. If you cannot make the training sessions but would still like to help with your child's classroom walk, let us know and we will have the coordinator for your child's class contact you. If you are interested in volunteering and have not yet filled out a CORI form this year or within the last two years, please do this as soon as possible to make sure the CORI check is approved before the date of your child's class walk.

If you have any questions, email us at estabrookbby@yahoo.com, or call Jennifer Breen (781-274-0702) or Maria Cue (508-641-7433)

Calendar for April

- 4 Y.E.S., 3:15-4:15 P.M.
- 7 5th Gr. to Concord Museum, 9:30 AM-2:00 PM
- 8 Red Sox Day at Estabrook
4th Gr. to Berklee Ctr, 11:15 AM- 2:30 PM
Raising Resilient Children & Adolescents,
7 PM, Clarke Middle School
- 9 **Day for conferences.**
- 10 **Conferences**
Int'l Family Dance Night, 7-8:30 PM
14-17 Book Fair
- 14 AntiBias Meeting, 6-7 PM.
- 15 Family Bingo Night, 7-8:30 P.M
- 16 5th Gr. Mr. Magnet; ACT Poetry in Motion, Gr. 2/3
- 17 Writer's Celebration, Ms. Lee's class, 11:05 AM
- 18 Biography Sharing, Ms. Durkin's Rm., 9 AM
- 21-25 **NO SCHOOL**

Student Placement

Last week the following notice was put on the list serve and sent home on paper with every student. If you have input to share, remember to send the form into the office in a sealed envelope by April 28th.

Dear Estabrook Parents and Guardians,

The time of year is approaching when we begin to consider the classroom placements for August 2008. Our goal each year is to build balanced, heterogeneous classes where children's academic and social needs are met individually and as a group collectively. Every effort is made in this process to achieve a balance in several areas such as gender, race, and ethnic background, learning needs, social competency, and independence in learning. We have found that when children are grouped appropriately, all students and teachers have the best chance for success.

Placement is primarily a school responsibility. Parents frequently acknowledge how well teachers know their children. Parent input is important and is one of the many factors considered through this process. It is important that we do not place students solely on the perceived strengths or weaknesses of a teacher. For example, what would happen if all of the disorganized children were placed with a teacher known for organization and structure? That would stack the deck and unbalance the class. Please do not request a specific teacher as it puts an unfair burden on school personnel who have to consider everyone's interests and needs. We do not honor requests or disrequests, but will consider not placing a child with a teacher who taught a sibling if either the family or teacher believe that it was not a good fit.

Some of you participated in the placement simulation meeting at a PTA meeting last Spring. If so, you probably have a more thorough idea of how thoughtful and difficult the process is and how much time staff spends!

If you would like to complete the parent information form, return it in a sealed envelope to the office no later than Monday, April 28. We will not be able to consider information received after that time as we start our placement work immediately. All parental input will be shared with the Placement Team which includes the teachers at your child's current and next year's grade level. The Placement team makes the final decisions about placement. Placement letters will be mailed the week of August 4, 2008. It is unlikely that we would change placements after they are mailed, unless there was a significant change in enrollment.

Tentative classroom configurations for next year include 21 classrooms (as we have currently), but distributed differently which will necessitate some teaching assignment changes. If enrollment numbers remain constant and all staff currently on leave returns, here is the plan for the 2008-2009 school year.

3 Kindergartens (1 less than this year)

4 Grade One

4 Grade Two (1 more)

3 Grade Three

3 Grade Four (1 less)

4 Grade Five (1 more).

This means that one current fourth grade teacher and one current kindergarten teacher would move to a different grade level.

Warmly,
Martha Batten

ESTABROOK SCHOOL
PARENT PLACEMENT INFORMATION
2008-2009

RETURN TO OFFICE IN A SEALED ENVELOPE
(Please do not request a teacher)

Return by April 28th

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

The following information will go to the Estabrook Placement Team (current grade level and next grade level teachers) staff in placing your child for the 2008-2009 school year.

Student's name _____ Current Grade: _____

Present Teacher: _____ Previous Year's Teacher: _____

Student's 1st Language: _____ Other Languages Spoken at Home: _____

1. What would you like us to know about your child and/or family history?

2. List at **least** six students who are good learning partners for your child. Please don't list fewer than six.

Thank you for your input. Your comments will be taken into consideration with the many factors involved in creating effective classroom groupings.