



ESTABROOK UPDATE

Joseph Estabrook Elementary School, 117 Grove Street, Lexington, MA, (781) 861-2520

Volume 1 Number 18

Friday, April 27, 2007

A Principal Notes...

In my travels this week, I had the pleasure of watching three fifth grade lessons. In one class the students were using grids to reproduce cartoon drawings as exactly as possible. This is an intriguing application of coordinates and practice with close observation and accurate reproduction. In another class, students were discussing the different purposes of writing and how understanding the author's purpose might influence how they read something. For example, they discussed how differently they would read a book about the American Revolution (more slowly, more previewing, etc.) than a Calvin and Hobbes book. In my last observation, this morning, I listened as students read their written descriptions of three-dimensional shapes, using mathematical language (vertices, face, vertex, etc.) but not the name of the shape. The listeners had to guess the shape. This activity was creative, mathematical, literary, and spatial. And lest you think all learning takes place inside, on Thursday I refereed a first grade soccer game at recess and saw students problem solving, sharing, arguing, compromising, and learning specific soccer skills and strategies.

Safe and appropriate dress for warm weather

Well, at last, we are not discussing snow pants and hats! Please help students dress for safe outdoor play. Flip flops, open toed shoes, and even some clogs make it hard for students to run, bounce a ball, or climb a play structure. We have already had some stubbed toes and a slip on a ladder. Part of

the new health and wellness policy discusses footwear along the same lines as this. Just as students have sneakers for gym, it would be wise for them to have sneakers or secure shoes available for outdoor play.

WELCOME NEW STUDENTS

Please join us in welcoming Seth Gillett to our school. Seth will join Nancy Wilson's 1st grade classroom on Monday, April 30th.

Parent Advocacy - Lexington SPED Parent Advisory Council Meeting on May 3rd at 7:30pm

Kevin Johnson, a Lexington parent, will speak to the Lexington SPED Parent Advisory Council about his efforts to have Lexington High School adopt technology that would allow students, teachers, and parents access to information about assignments and grades online in a timely fashion. This technology would benefit many students in regular and special education, would simplify the job of resource teachers and parents, and might save the town money. We will discuss how we can support Kevin's efforts and whether his work could serve as a model for community education about other issues relevant to a large group of our students.

Helen Cohen, a member of the Lexington School Committee, will discuss the role of the School Committee and the types of information the committee finds useful.

Parents who have advocated for the needs of groups of students are encouraged to attend and share their experience with us.

Following the presentation, there will be time for networking with other parents. If you have any questions or a need for accommodations, please contact the PAC co-chairs, Larry Belvin (781-674-0246) or Dale Hernquist (781-862-8363).



ESTABROOK CALENDAR

APRIL

26 Math Olympiads, 5th Grade, 8am
26 Band Rehearsal
30 Grade 3 to Minuteman Park
30 AntiBias Meeting, 6pm

MAY

1 Math Olympiads, 4th Grade
1 Parents Open Circle Group, 7pm
2 Concert - Grade 3 for Students
2 ACT Performance for Grade 1
3 Math Olympiads, 5th Grade, 8am
3 Concert – Grade 3 for Parents
3 Band Rehearsal, 12:30 pm
3 SPED Parent Advisory Council
8 Math Olympiads, 4th Grade, 8am
8 Parents Open Circle Group, 7pm
8 Lexington School Committee Mtg.,
Lexington Town Hall, 8pm
9 ACT -New England Ensemble, 9am
9 Supporting Learning at Home,
Bowman School, 7:30 pm
10 Family Friends
10 Math Olympiads, 5th Grade, 8am
10 Band Rehearsal, 12:30 pm
10 All Town Concert (Band, Orchestra,
LHS, 7:30 pm
**14 MCAS Test Pilot Grades 5-7,
History & Social Science**
15 MCAS, Grade 5, Math 1
15 Math Olympiads, 4th Grade, 8am
15 Parents Open Circle Group, 7pm
16 MCAS, Grade 5, Math 2
16 Site Council, 4pm
17 MCAS, Grade 5, Science & Tech. 1
17 Math Olympiads, 5th Grade, 8am
17 Band Rehearsal, 12:30 pm
**18 MCAS, Grade 5 Science &
Technology 2**
21 MCAS, Grade 4 – Math 1
22 MCAS, Grade 4, Math 2

22 Math Olympiads, 4th Grade, 8am
22 Parents Open Circle Group, 7pm
22 Lexington School Committee Mtg.,
Lexington Town Hall, 7:30 pm
23 MCAS, Grade 3, Math 1
24 Math Olympiads, 5th Grade, 8am
24 1st Grade Pondering, Wilson/
Quebec, 9am
25 MCAS, Grade 3, Math 2
25 1st Grade Pondering, Ray, 9am
28 No School, Memorial Day
29 MCAS, Grade 5, History Pilot
29 Math Olympiads, 4th Grade, 8am
29 Parents Open Circle Group, 7pm
30 Grade 5, History Pilot
30 Spring Concert (chorus, band
strings), for students, 9am
30 Spring Concert, (chorus, band
strings), for parents, 7pm
31 MCAS, Make-up Grade 3,4,&5
31 Math Olympiads, 5th Grade, 8am