

ESTABROOK UPDATE

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

(781) 861-2520

Principal: Martha Batten Volume 2 Number 29

Friday, May 9, 2008

A Principal Notes... in my travels this week, I saw many interesting lessons and projects. I substituted for 15 minutes in a fourth grade class and saw the following learning objectives in the lesson plan:

- Count unit cubes and use a formula to find the volume of a rectangular prism.
- Find the area of the base and the surface area of a rectangular prism.
- Describe a rule for a pattern and use the rule to solve problems.
- Write number models using parentheses.

I remember doing that in eighth grade! I saw a first grade just returning from a Big Back Yard walk with Habitat volunteers, excitedly telling me what they found in the vernal pool. In one of the kindergartens this morning, the children were reading the book Lifetimes because the class fish had died. They were thinking about a good way to say goodbye to their fish. Fifth graders were in the computer lab working on their feature articles written in the style of the articles in Time for Kids. A third grade class was talking about what they had learned about writing non-fiction and how they could apply those skills and ideas to writing a story. The second graders went to Wilson Farms for a lesson on soils, which is their science topic.

Our SAFE SCHOOLS Wednesday walk was successful. Bravo to our parent coordinators and volunteers. The weather cooperated and many children and parents walked or rode their bikes. Come see our map of Massachusetts, signed by all these students! After I read the following letter on the Google group site, I decided to review the bike riding policy. At Estabrook, children must be in third grade or older to ride a bike to school without an adult and must have written parental permission. If you did not send in a permission letter from the summer mailing packet, please call the office to have the form sent home. All riders must wear helmets and **bikes must be walked on school property**. Please remind your children to get off the bike when they enter the school yard from the back or the sidewalk up from Grove St.

Hello everyone,

If parents are encouraging their children to bike to school it would be great if they could review bike safety and sharing of public ways with them. This morning I accompanied my son and his friend as walkers. On the narrow Grove St. sidewalk a group of 5 or 6 bikers plowed right past us on the sidewalk without any warning at all. If either of the walking children or one of the bikers had shifted an inch, they would have toppled into a pile and the biker would have landed in the street, where many cars speed past at that time of day. I thought biking on the sidewalk was illegal, but I could be wrong. I absolutely understand that it's not safe for children to bike on the street there, because the street is narrow and busy. However, it's not safe for the walkers if the bikers use

the sidewalk. I hope we can put our heads together and come up with a solution that makes it safe for everyone to get to school, especially on these beautiful days (and when gas prices are so high).-Ann Marie

Run of the Mill is next Sunday, May 18th!

Sign up today! Online registration is available through midnight on Fri., May 16th. After the 16th, you can register at the Greater Boston Racing Co. (1844 Mass Ave., between the Crafty Yankee and the library) or at Estabrook on race day. The fee is \$20 if you register before the 18th; \$22 if you register on May 18th! So sign up today!

Once you've registered, you can save time by picking up your race packet on Sat., May 17th at the Greater Boston Running Co. Race packets include your bib number, your t-shirt and some other fun goodies.

Volunteers are still needed! Don't forget: VOLUNTEERS GET A FREE T-SHIRT! If you can help, please email Estabrook5K@gmail.com. Feel free to email us at this address, too, if you have any questions.

To register for the race go to www.coolrunning.com.

Spring Clean-Up – Friday, May 16

Please join the PTA for a spring clean-up on Fri., May 16, at 5:00 PM. We will concentrate mainly on the back patio area and getting ready for the Run of the Mill. Pizza and drinks will be served. Bring your own rake and gloves. Contact Margaret Counts-Klebe, margck@yahoo.com. If you have any questions - we look forward to seeing you there!

Heroic Tale of Love and Adventure:

Indian Folktale and Dance-Drama

Presentation at Cary Library

For families with children between the ages of 6 and 14. Wed., May 14, 7:00 PM.

Enjoy a reading of "Savitri: A Tale of Ancient India," by Shachi Phene, accompanied by a dance demonstration by Amudha Pazhanisamy, and a video presentation of an Indian dance-drama in the traditional Indian style of "Bharatanatyam".

Children will also participate in traditional Indian henna decoration of their hands, and will be introduced to the traditional Indian art of Rangoli patterns.

Vision-Aid, Inc, a Lexington-based non-profit (www.visionaid.org), and the IAL, Indian Americans of Lexington (www.indianamericansoflexington.org), will co-sponsor this event.

Space in the Library's Meeting Room is limited to 80. Free tickets will be available in the Cary Library Children's Room, beginning Monday evening, May 5, at 7:00 PM. Telephone reservations will be accepted at (781) 862-6288, ext. 170, beginning at 7:30 PM.

If you have questions about this event, please contact IAL members/Vision-Aid Directors, Revathy Ramakrishna, at (781) 652-8450, or Chandrika Govardhan, at (781) 652-8764.

From the Nurse... Allergy Eyes

As I write this it is only 10 AM and I have already seen 6 red eyed weeping itchy children, none of whom have medications ordered for use at school for treating allergic eye symptoms. I give cold compresses but this is only slightly helpful for severely affected eyes. If your child has seasonal allergies causing significant eye symptoms, I would suggest seeing your pediatrician or allergist and getting an order for eye drops to be used in school as needed. Children cannot do their work to the best of their ability when suffering with itchy, burning, weepy eyes. Call me at school if you would like to discuss this.
Kathy Johnson RN

Calendar

May

- 9 BBY, Mrs. Ray’s Class, 9 AM
BBY, Ms. Kramer’s Class, 1 PM
- 12 Wilson's Farm-Ms. McDonald, 10:15-11:45 AM
- 14 Harvard Museum of Natural History;
Taddeo/Catalfano, 9 AM -2 PM
Site Council Meeting, 4 PM
- 16 Harvard Museum of Natural History;
Bourret/Lee, 9 AM-2 PM
- 18 5K Run of the Mill Race/Walk, 9 AM
- 19 BBY, Mrs. Berenson’s Class, 9 AM
- 20 BBY, Ms. Quebec’s Class, 9 AM
- 22 Games Day, 9 AM
- 26 No School-Memorial Day
- 29 Spring Concert for families, 7:15 PM
- 30 Biography Party, Barker/Speros, 9 AM

June

- 17 Last Day of School, _ Day

MCAS Dates

May 13	Tuesday	Grade 5 Math
May 14	Wednesday	Grade 5 Math
May 15	Thursday	Grade 3 Math Grade 5 Science
May 16	Friday	Grade 3 Math Grade 5 Science
May 20	Tuesday	Grade 4 Math
May 21	Wednesday	Grade 4 Math
May 23	Friday	Grade 5 History
May 27	Tuesday	Grade 5 History