

# ESTABROOK UPDATE

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

(781) 861-2520

Principal: Martha Batten Volume 2 Number 29

Friday, May 16, 2008

**A Principal Notes**... Spring is mostly here! Since students may spend up to 45 minutes a day in the sun, you may want to apply sunscreen before children leave home and send hats. Remember that, for safety reasons, children may not play at recess or in gym if they are wearing backless shoes or flipflops. Because of the little rocks, sticks, and biting insects outside, we encourage parents of primary age children to consider not sending children to school with exposed toes.

I want to take a moment to thank parents for their support of the school this year. In the last few weeks we have been surprised every week by delightful treats and notes of appreciation in the faculty lounge. We love it!

Another way you support children is by volunteering to run the Big Backyard walks. This not only enriches experiential science learning – it also builds partnerships with teachers.

These are only 2 of many, many examples, including: serving on committees such as Site Council; maintaining the gardens; planning events such as the Estabrook Run of the Mill; being a room parent; designing a map of the rotary, etc. At Site Council we are in the process of designing a Volunteer Training Booklet. If you have any thoughts about the content, please email me. Thanks again.

## **Summary of Estabrook Community Panel on**

**Disabilities** On March 13, the Estabrook AntiBias Committee sponsored a vibrant panel discussion focused on disabilities. Parents of children with various challenges spoke to Estabrook parents and staff. Also, a high schooler who is an Estabrook alumnus was part of the panel and discussed her own challenge with depression. A few of the major points brought out were:

1. Thinking of these situations as challenges and differing abilities is more productive than thinking of them as disabilities. Everyone has challenges that need to be overcome.
2. Many disabilities are hidden. This can be particularly difficult as others don't understand the challenges an individual may have.
3. Do not judge individuals with differing abilities.
4. The challenge is not just for the person who has the disability but for family members as well. Support from friends, family and school is critical.
5. It is helpful if people focus on what the individual can do rather than on what they can't do. The individual is a whole person and not just the disability.
6. More education among children and adults about differing abilities is needed.

We thank those who were willing to spend their time and share their stories with us. We all came away with a better understanding of what it is like to face different challenges.

**Attention 3rd Grade parents!** As the 4th and 5th grade Math Olympiads Teams wind up for the year, we are looking for a few parents of current 3rd graders who would be willing to lead the 4th Grade Math Olympiads Team in the fall. If you enjoy math and are interested in working through problems with students, this could be the volunteer opportunity you have been waiting for!

Math Olympiads is a national program for elementary and middle school children. The aim of the program is to stimulate enthusiasm for mathematics, help develop strategies for problem solving, and strengthen mathematical creativity and ingenuity. The team meets once a week before school from 8-8:30 AM in the Estabrook library and students participate in five monthly contests during the year (during their regular practice time). During the practice sessions parents help students develop strategies for solving different types of problems and work together to arrive at solutions.

Math Olympiads is a wonderful program and all necessary materials are provided. If you are interested in helping with next year's 4th grade team or if you would like to know more about the program, please contact Kim Coburn at (781) 863-6285 or [thecoburns@aol.com](mailto:thecoburns@aol.com).

## **Calendar**

### **May**

- 18 5K Run of the Mill Race/Walk, 9 AM
- 19 BBY, Berenson, 9 AM
- 20 BBY, Quebec, 9 AM
- 22 Games Day, 9 AM-12 PM
- 26 **No School**-Memorial Day
- 30 Biography Party, Barker/Speros, 9 AM

### **June**

- 2 \_ day visit to Diamond MS for Gr. 5
- \_ Summer Reading visit from Cary Library, 9:15 AM
- 3 Pizza Night
- 4-6 Nature's Classroom, Grade 5
- 5 Family Friends
- \_ Colonial Crafts, Gr. 3, 9-10:50 AM
- \_ Incoming Kindergarten Visit, afternoon
- 6-7 Barnes & Noble Fundraiser
- 6 Whipple Hill, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade
- \_ Shelter Ramble/Wilson (or 6/13)
- \_ House Ramble/Quebec, 2 PM
- 9 AntiBias Meeting, 6 PM
- 10 Library Volunteer Tea, 9-9:45 AM
- \_ 1<sup>st</sup> Gr. Science Beach Trip, 9 AM-2PM
- \_ 5<sup>th</sup> Grade BBQ, 6-8 PM
- 11 Gr. 3 to Lowell Nat'l Hist. Park, 8:50 AM-2:15 PM
- 12 Staff Appreciation Lunch, 12:45 PM
- \_ Bound Bks. & Shelters/Wilson, 8:30 AM
- 16 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Moving Up Ceremony, 9 AM

## **MCAS Dates**

<b>May 20 &amp; 21</b>	<b>Tues. &amp; Wed.</b>	<b>Gr. 4 Math</b>
<b>May 23 &amp; 27</b>	<b>Fri. &amp; Tues.</b>	<b>Gr. 5 History</b>