

ESTABROOK UPDATE

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

Principal: Martha Batten

Volume 2 Number 4

Friday, September 28, 2007

A Principal Notes....

It takes a village...I believe that we must pull together and take joint responsibility for the safety of our children on and off school grounds. With the changes in our traffic, my role has changed to traffic officer during part of the day. You have probably noticed if you come by the school at the end of the day that over 21 teachers are outside taking extra duty to ensure that we are doing everything we can right now to safely dismiss our children. Overwhelmingly, drivers have been supportive, helpful, considerate, and safe as they drive on school property. We all appreciate your patience and love your kind comments. We have had more walkers and more parents parking safely on Eldred to walk their children in. We are hoping that when winter weather arrives, even more parents will avoid the driveway and take advantage of dropping their children on Eldred or parking there and walking.

We do need to remember a few safety tips while driving up to the circle, going around the circle, and exiting.

- Drive amazingly slowly.
- Do not use your cell phone while driving through the circle.
- Take turns and let other cars in and out.
- Do not pass cars on the two way driveway as you enter the school.
- Do not pass a school bus with its lights flashing.
- Take a deep breath.

As you know, we have been working with the Police Department and Facilities Department to address our traffic issues. We held two meetings where we invited Robinson Road neighbors to discuss the plan to have Estabrook Buses leave the school grounds via Robinson Road. We heard many concerns from these residents, including problems caused by parents parking on the grass or mud areas in front of their houses, blocking the fire hydrant, and speeding. They are concerned for their property and for the safety of children walking or biking on the road. We learned that some drivers park and leave their cars blocking the gate, which is an emergency exit from the school. Until we get a sign made for the gate, please remind drivers not to park in front of the gate if you are up there.

The police department is reviewing the issues raised and the traffic/road engineer will also be reviewing all options. Until this is determined, we will continue to have all traffic enter and exit the school through the main entrance. Although it may seem that we take one step forward and two steps back, then go forward again, we are moving toward a solution together.

School personnel and parent volunteers cannot improve this situation that is unsafe for our children and angers our neighbors without everyone's cooperation. Let's pull together and create the conditions that allow teachers and administrators to return to the focus on teaching and learning.



Helpful Web Links and Other Information:

<http://lps.lexingtonma.org/>

<http://lps.lexingtonma.org/bus/index.html>

<http://estabrook.lexingtonma.org/>

<http://estabrook.lexingtonma.org/Library/Library.html>

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Over 50 people - September Clean-Up Day!

Wow!! We had a great crowd up at the school for clean-up day. Lots of sunshine, snacks, water, many dirty hands and generous laughter made for a wonderful community event. A most heartfelt thanks to the many parents, children, teachers, and support staff who gave so generously of both their time and money. Many donated time but others who were not able to be there donated materials like mums and bulbs. We especially want to thank the members of the Junior Girl Scout Troup 1683 who joined us in cleaning out the greenhouse beds and barrels. When you get a chance, take a minute to walk around the school and enjoy the mums. Next spring take the time to notice where the bulbs are coming up; they will be all over the grounds.

Who we were and what we accomplished:

- Parents, relatives, teachers, support staff and friends.
- Many 1st- 5th graders
- At least 6 very busy kindergarteners
- Several future kindergarteners
- 10 bags of trash
- 1 bag recycling
- ~20 bags of yard waste
- 1 Butterfly garden weeded, raked and mulched
- 5 Greenhouse beds cleaned out and readied for winter (some decorated with mums and bulbs)
- 1 Skully board painted on the 4-5th grade playground
- 1 Wall Ball line and tag points painted
- Many, many rocks collected on the primary playground
- 100-200 bulbs planted
- Many mum plants planted
- Pine needles raked and plants cut back
- Many weeds whacked and dug up along the front circle

- Roots pulled up on the k-3 playground around the swing area
- 2 flower beds on k-3 playground cleaned up and planted with bulbs

Summer Box Tops Contest

As of Monday morning 9/24, we have collected 1,279, totaling \$127.90. The 3rd grade is in the lead with 398 and the 5th grade is catching up with 298. The contest ends today, Friday 9/28.

If you missed this contest, we will have another one soon so keep collecting those Box Tops. Many, many thanks to those who participated in this past contest. Any questions, please contact Liz Foley at elizfoley@comcast.net.

School Picture Day – Volunteers Needed

School Picture Day is Wednesday, October 10th from 9-12:30 and the PTA is looking for volunteers to fill 4 one and a half hour shifts and one 3-hour shift. Please contact Debby Everin (peverin@rcn.com) if you can help that day.

Attention 4th Grade Parents

We are looking for a co-chair for the YES – Youth Enrichment Science Program this year. YES brings Estabrook 4th graders and high school students together to work on kits from the science enrichment program. This is an 8-week program (one day after school from 3:30-4:30pm) starting in late January or early February 2008. Please contact Lisa Kling, lkling@partners.org, for more details on co-chairing this exciting program.

Estabrook Family Friends – Host Families Needed

The Estabrook Family Friends program pairs Lexington and Boston students for a

playdate 8 times during the school year. The children go home together at 12:15 on selected Thursdays after school and have a playmate until the Boston child is returned to Estabrook at 2:55 to ride the bus back to Boston. Long lasting friendships and bonds are created as children have relaxed, fun times together. This year we are in need of Family Friend host families for 1st grade and 3rd grade girls.

The Family Friends dates for the 2007-2008 school year are:

October 4, 2007
November 8, 2007
January 3, 2008
February 7, 2008
March 6, 2008
April 3, 2008
May 1, 2008
June 5, 2008

Please contact Rachel Cortez, 781-674-1182, catirama@aol.com or Terre Oram 781-863-2533, djoram@us.ibm.com for more information or to volunteer to be a host family.

Room Parent Update

If you volunteered to be a room parent all email notifications went out early in the week. If you have not already received a paper confirmation you should receive one shortly. If you volunteered and did not receive anything, please contact Ellen Phillips at estabrookroomparents@gmail.com or 781-862-1513, as we were able to accommodate all who wanted to volunteer.

Estabrook Big Backyard – Volunteers needed.

Thank you to everyone who has already volunteered to be part of the Big Backyard program and lead an outside walk this year! This is a great program that helps

instill in students an appreciation for nature, and is a fabulous opportunity for parents to get involved in their children's education. We are still looking for additional volunteers! Grades 4 and 5 are particularly low on volunteers at the moment.

We are currently coordinating with the teachers for each classroom to choose potential dates for the fall classroom walks, which are anticipated to start in mid-October and be completed by early November. By the end of this week, we anticipate having dates set for fall training sessions so that volunteers may attend to better prepare for leading the fall walks at Estabrook. If you are interested in finding out more information, please contact Jennifer Breen at 781 274-0702 or Maria Cue at 508 641-7433, or email us at estabrookbby@yahoo.com.

Gift Wrap Fundraiser – Deadline Extended!!

The new deadline for the Innisbrook Gift wrap fundraiser is **Wednesday, October 3rd**. Thanks to all who have sent in their orders. If you haven't had a chance, wished you had and thought you were too late – you still have time.

Help with Heights & Weights

Parent volunteers are needed to help with the Heights & Weights process during the yearly vision and hearing screening. We need people for the following dates/times for 1-hour shifts:

Monday, October 15: 9-12 and 1-2:30
Wednesday, October 17: 9-12 and 1-2:30
Friday, October 10: 9-12 and 1-2:30

Please contact Margaret Counts-Klebe, margck@yahoo.com or 781-862-4933, if you can help during these times.

Greenhouse – Teacher Liaison needed

The Greenhouse is up and running this year and ready for some exciting student projects. We have a lot of great ideas for classroom projects but need a committed parent to coordinate with the teachers and help get them off the ground (and into the Greenhouse!). This job does not involve running the mechanics of the Greenhouse as we are currently creating a dedicated watering crew. If you would enjoy watching things grow (kids and plants!), then this is the job for you. Please contact Margaret Counts-Klebe, margck@yahoo.com or 781-862-4933, if you are interested.

Estabrook Calendar

October

- 2 Math Olympiads, 8 - 8:30 am
- 4 Family Friends
- 8 Columbus Day - NO SCHOOL
- 9 Math Olympiads, 5th Gr., 8 am
- 10 Estabrook Picture Day
- 16 4th Grade Field Trip - Group 1
Math Olympiads, 5th Gr., 8 am
- 19 4th Grade Field Trip - Group 2
2nd Grade Field Trip - Drumlin Farms, 11:30 am - 2:30 pm
- 23 Math Olympiads, 8 AM
- 24 International Potluck, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
- 30 Math Olympiads, 8 - 8:30 am

November

- 2 4th Grade Pyramids & Pharaohs Presentation, 1:30 pm
- 6 Math Olympiads, 8 AM
- 7 1/2 DAY FOR CONFERENCES
- 8 Family Friends
1/2 DAY FOR CONFERENCES
- 12 NO SCHOOL-HOLIDAY
- 13 VOTING, 7AM TO 8 PM
4th Grade Field Trip to MFA
Math Olympiads, 8 AM
- 14 1/2 DAY FOR CONFERENCES
There WILL BE Lextended today.

- 15 1/2 DAY FOR CONFERENCES
- 20 Math Olympiads, 8 AM
- 21 **NO LEXTENDED**
1/2 Day for Students and Staff
- 22 & 23 NO SCHOOL-
THANKSGIVING BREAK
- 27 Math Olympiads, 8 AM
- 28 NO SCHOOL-Professional
Development

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