

ESTABROOK UPDATE

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

(781) 861-2520

Principal: Martha Batten

Volume 2 Number 9

Friday, November 2, 2007

A Principal Notes... we have gracefully survived a week of exhausted young Red Sox fans and Halloween. Thanks to the dedicated faculty, the week was smooth, joyful, and lots of important learning took place. Next week will be a tough week for many children, as the loss of an hour this Sunday is likely to disrupt sleep, increase grouchiness, and interfere with attention and focus. As adults we forget that children do not take disruptions to their biorhythms in stride and the effects linger longer.

Last night Christine Zende and I, and a number of Estabrook parents, attended the presentation by Sarah Ward on executive functioning. We are hoping to invite her to speak at a PTA meeting. She had many important things to say and great advice for parents.

I have been thinking for a number of years about the changes in children's pre-kindergarten lives and the effects we are noticing on behavior, attention, and organization. Sarah gave a striking example. She was explaining about the importance of "self talk" in planning ahead, problem solving, and tempering emotions. She discussed a decrease in young children talking to themselves and creating fantasies in play and how toys sometimes made the sounds, the motions, and created the characters and the conversation for them.

I do not know if that is accurate, but some of my strongest memories of my first born at age 3 was hearing him making truck sounds, crash sounds, talking like a fireman, sounding like a squirting hose, all by himself in his room during the time we called Self Time. This was during that dreadful period of development when the child often gives up the afternoon naps but is not yet able to make it through the dinnertime without meltdowns. If we had not invented his quiet Self Time, we also might not have made it without meltdowns!

Save the Date -- PTA Meeting -- November 7

Join us for the next PTA meeting on Wednesday, November 7, at 7:00 P.M. We'll have an update on events at Estabrook and a special guest, Kate Benson, Estabrook parent and Technology Specialist for the Weston Public Schools. She will speak to us on how to keep your kids safe on the World Wide Web and answer your questions on this timely topic. We hope you can come to this informative evening.

Kudos to Lana Simkovits, Sarah Horwitz, Megan Lepore, and Hayley Gambone!

These students walked to school today, which in itself helps the environment. In addition to this, they gathered litter along the way and managed to fill 3 bags full of trash! Way to go girls! You showed great initiative and helped keep Lexington beautiful!

November Half Day Reminders!

Please note that November 7, 14, and 21 are ALL half days. On these days, kindergarten students will be dropped off at their Thursday bus stops.

Estabrook Staff News: Mr. Jon Abrams will be filling in for our Music teacher, Kristine Matthews, while she is on leave. Mr. Abrams spent the past week or so co-teaching with Ms. Matthews. An alumna of Allegheny College, in Meadville, PA, Mr. Abrams spent the last year as a music teacher in the Lowell Public Schools. Please join us in welcoming Mr. Abrams to our school.

Estabrook Directory is Here

The Estabrook Directory is here! Copies were distributed last week and should have arrived home to every PTA member family (with your youngest child). If you have not yet had a chance to join the PTA, it's not too late. You can pick up a membership form in the main office. We'd also be happy to mail one out to you if you don't make it to school very often. Just reply to margck@yahoo.com with your preferred mailing address. Finally, if you have a correction for the directory, please e-mail it to margck@yahoo.com. We will publish a list of corrections at a later date. As always, please let us know if you have any questions.

Coats for Kids

This year Estabrook will participate in the *Coats for Kids* community service program sponsored by Anton's Cleaners. The *Coats for Kids* mission is to ensure that anyone who needs a coat gets one. Now through January 15, 2008 we will be collecting good quality coats and jackets of all sizes, with no rips, tears, broken zippers or permanent stains, for children, adults and babies. Look for a flyer we will send home next week with more details and start saving your out-grown coats now! The PTA is organizing this. Please contact Pam Hoffman pwhoffman@rcn.com to help out. Thanks!

Gift Wrap is Here

Your order has arrived. Please check carefully for accuracy! Please verify your order within 48 hours. Compare products received with your order marked on your catalog. Call or e-mail immediately if you have a discrepancy! Chitra Tissera- (781) 652-8823 or tissera@rcn.com or Diana Swift- (781) 862-5602 or diana-swift@comcast.net

Cary Library Children's Room presents "Pig Out on Reading" with Daisy the Pot-Belly Pig. Meet Daisy, a real live pig that loves listening to stories. Farmer Minor will read to Daisy, and share stories about her with the audience. Wednesday, Nov. 28, 11:00 A.M. and 1:00 P.M., in the Cary Library Meeting Room, for children in grades K through 5.

The Estabrook Library needs help!

We are still looking for some volunteers to fill open shifts in the library. Shifts are every other week. Volunteers check books in and out to students and staff, shelve returned books, straighten the bookshelves, and help our librarian, Jennifer Kuhn, with a variety of library projects. The days, times and regularly scheduled classes (if applicable) are listed below:

Week A

Monday 11A.M.-12:30P.M.
 Wednesday 8:30A.M.-10A.M.
 Thursday 9:30A.M.-11A.M.

Week B

Monday 8:30 A.M.-10A.M. (Ms. Horan's class) & 1:30P.M.-3 P.M. (Ms. Lam and Ms. Wilson's classes)

Tuesday 11:30 A.M.-1:30 P.M. (Mrs. Lieberman's class)
 Thursday 11 A.M.-12P.M.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Kim Coburn at (781) 863-6285 or by email at thecoburns@aol.com.

Children's Book Week Programs at Cary Library

Celebrate National Children's Book Week from November 12-17, 2007 at Cary Memorial Library. Vote for your favorite children's book, enter some children's book-related contests, try some book-related puzzlers, enjoy a book-making workshop, and take a "behind the scenes book-processing tour."

Tuesday, Nov. 13, 4:00-5:30 P.M.: Book-making workshop for children in grades 3 to 5. Space is limited to 15 participants. Registration begins on Monday, Nov. 5, at 7:00 P.M. Telephone sign-ups will be accepted beginning at 7:30 P.M.

Thursday, Nov. 15, "Behind-the-scenes" tour for children ages 5 and up. Learn how the Library prepares new books to be checked out. Tours will begin every 15 minutes, between 2:00 P.M. and 4:00 P.M., in the Children's Room. Each tour group will be limited to five children, ages 5 and up, and interested parents.

For more information, please call the Children's Room at (781) 862-6288, ext. 170, or check the Cary Library website at www.caryllibrary.org

Calendar

November

7 There **will be** Lextended Day today.
1/2 DAY FOR CONFERENCES
 8 Family Friends
 CONFERENCES
 LEF Trivia Bee, 7 P.M., Cary Hall
SCHOOL CLOSED-HOLIDAY
NO LEXTENDED DAY TODAY.
 12 National Children's Book Week Quiz
 13 VOTING, 7A.M. TO 8 P.M.
 4th Grade Field Trip to MFA
1/2 DAY FOR CONFERENCES
 There **WILL BE** Lextended today.
 CONFERENCES.
 15 AntiBias Meeting, 6:00-7:00 P.M.
 19 **NO LEXTENDED TODAY**
 21 1/2 Day for Students and Staff
SCHOOL CLOSED-
THANKSGIVING BREAK
 27 Picture Retake, 9 A.M. -12 P.M.
 28 **NO SCHOOL-Prof. Development**
NO LEXTENDED DAY TODAY!
 29 5th Grade Science Fair, 7 - 8 P.M.
 30 Elementary Term Closes

December

3 4th Grade Wingmasters Presentation
 AntiBias Meeting, 6:00-7:00 P.M.
 5 Site Council Meeting, 4-5 P.M.
 14 Report Cards go home.

MCAS TESTING SCHEDULE 2007-2008

MARCH 24 – APRIL 4

March 25	Tuesday	Gr.4 Long Comp
March 26	Wednesday	Gr. 3 Reading Gr. 4 ELA
March 27	Thursday	Gr. 3 Reading Gr. 4 ELA
March 28	Friday	Gr. 3 Reading Gr. 4 ELA
March 3	Monday	Gr. 5 ELA
April 1	Tuesday	Gr. 5 ELA
April 2	Wednesday	Gr. 5 ELA Gr. 4 Long Comp Make-up

MAY 12 - MAY 29

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