

ESTABROOK UPDATE

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

(781) 861-2520

Principal: Martha Batten

Volume 2 Number 12

Friday, November 30, 2007

A Principal Notes... Last night the fifth graders shared their science projects with parents. They were focusing on the concepts of isolating variables to test a hypothesis. There were many fascinating questions. Examples: How much salt does it take to float an egg? Would it be different if the egg were hardboiled? Which will soak up the most water—a sponge, cloth, or paper towel? Does putting food coloring in water affect evaporation? Does a hermit crab have a memory?

From the Nurse: It's hard to believe that it will be December this week. It certainly hasn't felt like it. Children go outside for recess unless the wind chill is below 18 degrees. It is time for my annual reminder about appropriate outdoor clothing. Please be sure your child does bring appropriate outerwear for gym and recess. If it turns warmer during the day than when he/she left the house, he/she can always leave off some of the clothing. However, if a child comes to school underdressed we have no warm outerwear to lend them. Our practice has been to call the parent during the day to bring the needed item to school. We know this is very inconvenient for parents but we are unable to allow children to "stay in from recess" because of a lack of outerwear or because he/she "has a cold, asthma etc." Ms. Batten encourages families to leave an extra pair of inexpensive snow pants & boots in school when possible. It helps reduce the hectic morning on iffy weather days.

Afternoon Dismissal In an effort to maximize the number of students that can be picked up at one time, we are asking that cars pull past the handicapped sign. There will be a staff member standing along the rotary to indicate where to stop. This will enable more students to be picked up at once. If you have a sign with your child's name in the passenger window, we can call for your child quickly.

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

Our school has been selected to represent schools across the Nation by participating in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). This assessment is given by the U.S. Department of Education and tells us what American students know and can do in key subject areas. The assessment will be given on Wednesday, January 30, 2008 to all children in our school who are 9 years old. A letter will be going home with additional information to all children who are selected to participate in the assessment. If you have additional questions, please contact Michelle Zottoli.

Food Kids Love Francis Gillespie is collecting HEALTHY recipes your kids love. She is collecting them up until Dec 31 and will then collate and email them to everyone interested. She's already received a bunch from Liz Weiss (Lexington parent, dietitian and cookbook author). Send in those recipes to fpjill@rcn.com and thanks Francis!

Fourth Graders Interested in Science Exploration –

Y.E.S! Youth Exploration in Science (Y.E.S.) program is a fun, extra-curricular science program that is run by High School student volunteers. This program allows the students to explore various areas of science with hands-on learning. A few examples of last year's experiments are: Deep Sea Divers (physics), Time Shadows (astronomy), Steady Hand Game (electronics), and Catch a Thief (chemistry).

The program will run for 8 consecutive Fridays from 3:15-4:15 P.M. starting on Jan. 25, 2008 through April 4, 2008 in the Estabrook Lobby. (Except 2/15, 2/22, and 3/21)

Parents must supervise at least 1 session. The cost of the program is \$48.00. Scholarships are available from the PTA. Please request one through Ms. Batten.

Be on the lookout for the registration form in your child's backpack.

Questions? Contact Lisa Kling at lkling@rcn.com or (781) 674-1313 or Bonnie Brown at bonbrown@comcast.net or (781) 274-1206.

Music Class by Soyoon, Grade 3

Yahoo! We have a new music teacher, Mr. Abrams! In music class third graders are learning how to read notes. We must learn how to read notes because we will play the recorder in the future. Music class is important to us because we want to learn more about music and be good at reading notes. Mr. Abrams is a very good teacher and he tries his best to teach us and it works! Estabrook School is lucky to have Mr. Abrams as our new music teacher.

LISTSERV: We will not be sending paper copies of this newsletter unless a parent requests it. If you are not signed up for the Listserv, we encourage you to do so. Emergency messages will be sent via Listserv, such as an unexpected closing of school.

To subscribe, send an email to: majordomo@silver.ci.lexington.ma.us Send it from the email address that you want to subscribe. In the body of the message, put only the following two lines:
Subscribe Estabrook-announcements
End

Calendar

November

30 Elementary Term Closes
Recycling Collection, 2:30 P.M.

December

3 4th Grade Wingmasters Presentation
AntiBias Meeting, 6:00-7:00 P.M.
5 Site Council Meeting, 4-5 P.M.
11 Voting, 7 A.M.-8 P.M.
14 Report Cards go home.
24 – 1/1/08 Vacation

5th Grade Math Olympiads every Tuesday at 8 A.M.
4th Grade Math Olympiads every Thursday at 8 A.M.

MCAS TESTING SCHEDULE 2007-2008

MARCH 24 – APRIL 4

March 25	Tuesday	Gr.4 Long Composition
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