

Earl D. Taft Elementary School

16 Granite Street
Telephone: (508) 278-8643

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Paula A. Montesi, Principal
Lori J. Fafard, Assistant Principal

Overview of Activities for September

On the first day of school, a representative from AAA came to address the students regarding Bus Safety. Through interactive discussion children learned important information to help keep them safe on the bus. This assembly was taped by Barry Giles and is currently running on the local cable access station.

Open House was held on September 12 & 13, 2007. This evening is designed for parents to come in meet the teacher and review the curriculum and expectations. We had a great attendance rate at all grade levels. The night began with a general session with the principal and then parents headed for the individual classrooms. I received much positive feedback.

Subject/Course/Classroom Activities

Many of our classes participated in walking field trips, establishing a link between school and the community, while connecting to content frameworks. Three classes walked to the library to register for a library card and check out books. This practice stresses the value of reading and how to access the resources available at the public library. Upon their return students will write thank you notes to the librarian.

Two first grade classes visited De Luna to study the rocks and minerals, and community. This walking field trip connects to curriculum frameworks in science and social studies, as grade one studies rocks and minerals as well as community helpers.

Another class visited Peaceful Pond, near Crown and Eagle, to observe the changing seasons. This trip will be repeated each season, as students observe trees, leaves, grass, and the pond. Follow-up activities are planned for their return.

Professional Development Activities

September 10 & 11th, 2007 – Michelle Kelly and Sharon Bruneau attended the first of a series of training sessions sponsored by Open Circle Training in Wellesley, Massachusetts.

September 13 & 14th, 2007 – Sharon Manz attended the first of a series of training sessions sponsored by Open Circle Training in Wellesley, Massachusetts.

September 24th & 25th, 2007 – Rosemary Campbell, AnnMarie Higgins & Deb Auciello attended the first of a series of training sessions sponsored by Open Circle Training in Wellesley, Massachusetts.

PTO Reports and Information

The PTO meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month. The Officers for this year are: Kim Demers and Lisa Devane, Co Presidents, The PTO held a back to school ice cream social in the Taft Cafeteria.

Members of the Taft PTO worked in late August to install new playground equipment. Taft PTO also sponsored a Town-wide Yard Sale to raise money to replace the surface on the playground. We had over 50 families participate in this fundraiser. This year they are earmarking a percentage of each fundraiser for this project. The committee has researched rubberized mulch as an alternative to the wood mulch. In their research they have found that while the wood mulch needs to be replaced/refreshed every few years, the rubberized mulch lasts for 20 years. Since this is such a large expense, fundraising will be ongoing.

Fall fundraiser was held during the first two weeks of school. In addition the PTO is selling Taft School Spiritwear.

The next meeting is on October 11th, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Taft Cafeteria.

General School/Department Information

Arrangements were made for a visit from the Fire Department during Fire Prevention Week, the week of October 8, 2007. This annual visit from Steve Tancrell and other members of the department reminds students about the importance of fire safety.

School Council Meeting Elections were held at the June PTO meeting. PTO representatives to school council are Melissa Fischer and Lisa Ahern. Joining the new parent representatives, were teacher representatives, Diane Henries and Susan Lukowski. The first meeting was held on Tuesday September 18, 2007. Next meeting October 9, 2007 in Taft School Library at 3:45 PM.

The principal has been working with a parent, Nancy Winters, to coordinate a volunteer program at Taft. To this date, we have received 56 forms from interested parents and assigned parents to help out in the library and at recess. Another volunteer has been located to work with a Grade 2 teacher to provide some extra help with a fall project. The principal will meet with all volunteers to review their responsibilities. Parents will be contacted to help out as the need arises. Nancy has done a wonderful job in organizing this program and I am grateful for her help.

Mr. Catalano, PE teacher, has proposed a Leadership Club for fourth graders. After a fourth grade kick-off assembly, interested students will write an essay containing the answers to the following questions...What is your definition of leadership? What makes a person a good leader? Explain why you want to be a member in the Taft Leadership Club. Give two ideas you would contribute to the Leadership Club and Taft. A team made up the principal, assistant principal, and Mr. Catalano will review the applicants and, with input from the fourth grade teachers, decide on the sixteen members of the club. Meetings will be held during recess.

Upcoming Events

October 5, 2007 – Professional Development Day – No School

October 8, 2007 – Columbus Day – No School

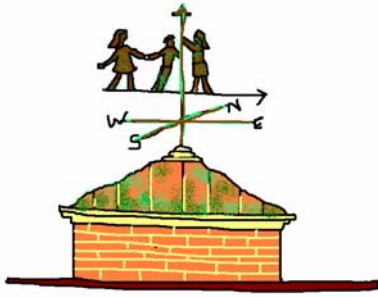
October 10, 2007 – ABC Fair Planning Meeting
Photos for Grades 1 & 2
Family Math Night

October 11, 2007– Photos for Grades 3 & 4
PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m.

October 16, 2007 – Grade 3 Museum of Science Field Trip 9:00 – 4:00 p.m.

October 20, 2006 – Annual ABC RIF Fair 10:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by
Paula A. Montesi,
Principal
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Agenda Staff Meeting September 10, 2007

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| I. | Energizer | M. Catalano |
| II. | Leadership Club | M. Catalano |
| III. | Best Practice/Food for the Mind | |
| IV. | Curriculum Update | P. Montesi |
| V. | Sunshine | J. Remillard |
| VI. | Curriculum Summaries | P. Montesi |
| VII. | Open House | P. Montesi |
| | What do you want me to cover? | |
| | What do you usually cover? | |
| | Curriculum Summaries | |
| VIII. | Adminis"trivia" | P. Montesi |
| | Dates for First Friday Breakfast | |
| | Lavs | |
| | Tiger Tales/Student Newspaper | |
| | Website Updates | |
| | Report Card Update | |
| | Extra Help Night | |
| | SRI Update | |
| | Goals (September 15) | |
| IX. | Looking Forward | P. Montesi |

Next Meeting:

October 1, 2007

Save the Date