



Earl D. Taft Elementary School

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Paula A. Montesi, Principal
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Overview of Activities for October

Title I Open House was held for parents on October 3rd. Title I is a federally funded program. Children are referred by teachers, screened by the Title I Director, and taught by reading specialists within the classroom setting. In addition to the in school services, Title I sponsors MCAS preparation in the spring and summer school.

Four fire safety assemblies were held for students on October 11th. Captain Steve Tancrell and other member of the fire department were on hand to educate students as to pertinent fire safety tips and field questions from the audience.

After a selection process, the 22 member Leadership Club has met weekly with the teacher advisor, Mr. Michael Catalano. In the upcoming months students will have an opportunity to demonstrate their leadership qualities in a number of ways.

School Photos were taken on October 10 & 11th. A staff photo was taken as well. Retakes are scheduled for November 7, 2007.

ABC Fair was held Oct. 20, 2007. This is an annual event and benefits the Reading Is Fun Program, which distributes three free books to all students each year. RIF is managed by the PTO.

The Spirit Day for the month of October was Pick a Buddy Day. Teachers were given a menu of ideas for the day including writing activities, (Write five words to describe your buddy and write a short story using these words) to distribution of caring coupons where the child pledges to do something nice for their buddy and presents them with a coupon.) Prior to each Spirit Day, one class creates an infomercial to air on the public access channel. This month's infomercial was done by Mrs. Lukowski's class.

October's Faculty Meeting was conducted by Dr. Haughey who reported on Response to Intervention. RTI is included in the Strategic Plan and is used during the pre-referral process for students at risk.

School Council Meeting was held in October and centered on the review of the School Improvement Plan that was written last year. We will review our progress toward those goals, and then eliminate, revise, or add to create a SIP for this year.

Last year some of our students took part in a district-wide art contest called Art Gives Hope (AGH). Students created posters to portray the effects of bullying and to send anti-bullying messages. The winning posters are being showcased at each building and this month they were displayed in the front hall at Taft. In conjunction with this event, Mrs. O'Donnell, Library Media Specialist, and Mrs. Jansson, Computer teacher, used books and video to expand upon the anti-bullying message with students in Grade 3 and Grade 4. Students also signed a pledge, which is on display in the front hallway.

We had a visit from Open Circle consultant who demonstrated lessons in Mrs. Higgins' room and Ms. Bruneau's room. Mrs. Manz and Mrs. Kelly observed the lessons in those rooms. In addition, Mrs. Auciello and Mrs. Campbell observed Mrs. Quintiliani. She is taking additional training in Wellesley to become an Open Circle consultant.

Mrs. Dinoi, School Adjustment Counselor, held a series of 5 evening workshops with parents aimed at helping them with conflicts at home.

I have instituted a new program to promote literacy called Read to the Principal. Each morning I read one on one with a student who volunteers after practicing their book at home. Children are given a bookmark and pencil to encourage their efforts.

Subject/Course/Classroom Activities

October 3, 2007 – Mrs. Gallo and Mrs. Ethier's classes took a walking field trip to DeLuna, downtown Uxbridge.

October 16, 2007 – Grade 3 took a field trip to the Boston Museum of Science. Grade 3 will visit a community resource that provides them with opportunities to conduct hands-on investigations in the domains of life, earth, physical science and technology and engineering.

October 17, 2007 – Grade 2 classrooms took a field trip to the Boston Museum of Science. The children saw the 3-D movie Bugs, which fits in nicely with their insect unit.

October 23, 2007 – Mrs. Hazard's class took a walking field trip to DeLuna, downtown Uxbridge.

October 24, 2007 – Mrs. Harcourt's class took a walking field trip to the Uxbridge Public Library. The children discovered the services and resources provided by the Public Library, as well as obtaining Library cards.

Mrs. Davis, with the help of a parent volunteer, has initiated a program called Mystery Reader. Each week the students are read to by someone from the school community or from their parents. Anonymity of the Mystery Reader helps to generate some suspense each week. I was honored to be the first mystery reader.

Professional Development Activities

October 2nd & 3rd, 2007 – Open Circle training was held at the Stone Center in Wellesley, Ma. This is the first of six training sessions. Teachers being trained this year include Debra Auciello, Rosemary Campbell, Sharon Manz, Annmarie Higgins, Sharon Bruneau, and Michelle Kelly.

October 9, 2007 – Paula Hansel, Rosemary Campbell, Lori Fafard, Rosemary Harcourt, Michelle Kelly attended Test Wiz training at the Taft School Computer Lab with Elaine Ford.

October 12, 2007 – Carol Vogel, Kathleen Fletcher and Paula Montesi attended paraprofessional training entitled *Effective Teaching Strategies for Paraprofessionals* at MSSAA in Franklin.

October 12, 2007 – Janet Iannuccilli attended a workshop –Who’s Running the Show? Executive Dysfunction and How to Help the Disorganized Child. The workshop was held in Warwick, RI.

October 12, 2007 – Marcie Chiuchiolo attended a workshop that explores power mobility for children. The course will cover assessment to determine if a child is appropriate candidate for a power wheelchair, how the child will access or operate that wheelchair, choosing the best power wheelchair base for a child and mobility training to optimize driving efficiency, independence and safety.

October 18, 2007 – Lisa Ferrelli attended the Fall 2007 Educators’ Training Session for MCAS Alt. in Mansfield, Ma.

October 19, 2007 – Milford Federal Savings Bank kicked off the Savings Makes Sense program with a visit from Ernie DeGregorio, former Providence College basketball player. This optional program is in its second year at Taft School and offered to our third and fourth grade students to promote mathematical skills in conjunction with learning about saving for the future.

October 24, 2007 – Linda Benoit attended the Fall 2007 Educators’ Training Session for MCAS-Alt. in Westboro, MA.

PTO Reports and Information

See Attached Newsletter from the PTO

PTO is sponsoring the Donate a Book to Taft Library. This program is designed for parents, relatives, and community members to donate a book on behalf of a student to commemorate a birthday recognize a special teacher, celebrate a graduation, or honor the loss of a loved one. Mrs. O'Donnell generates a list of book, which are purchased ahead of time. Parents receive the list and purchase one of the books, priced between \$12.00 and \$25.00.

General School/Department Information

The Taft Volunteer program is in full swing with assistance from Nancy Winters, a Taft School parent of two children in Grades 1 and 4. We had over 70 people offer to give some of their time to support our teachers, students and programs. A number of volunteer programs are all ready up and running including recess volunteers, literacy corner volunteers, library volunteers, and special projects volunteers. In November Mrs. Lundberg will be training parents to help out as Literacy volunteers. I have 8 teachers who are interested in having parents work with children one on one to support their reading.

Upcoming Events

November 6, 2007 – Curriculum Day – Dismissal @ 11:45 a.m.
Staff Training New Report Card

November 8, 2007 – PTO Exec. Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.
PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m.

November 9, 2007 – Scholastic Book Fair Begins Ends November 19.

November 9, 2007 – Leadership Club Officer Election

November 12, 2007 – Veterans' Day

November 14, 2007 --- Mix It Up at Lunch (Grade 4)

November 14, 2007 – Literacy Volunteer Training Mrs. Lundberg

November 15, 2007 – Parent Teacher Conferences – Evening
Principal's MCAS Presentation 6:30 PM

November 16, 2007 – Parent Teacher Conferences – Afternoon – Dismissal 11:45 a.m.
Principal’s MCAS Presentation 10:00 AM

November 20, 2007—Grade 4 Math Facts Basketball Tournament

November 21, 2007 – Thanksgiving Recess – Dismissal @ 11:45 a.m.

November 22 & 23, 2007 – No School

November 27, 2007 – PTO Giving Tree Assembly @ 6:30 p.m.

November 30, 2007 – Wacky Hat Day
Principal’s Coffee Hour 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Report Cards Sent Home

Administrator,

Paula A. Montesi,
E.D.Taft Elementary School Principal