



Earl D. Taft Elementary School

16 Granite Street
Telephone: (508) 278-8643

Uxbridge, Massachusetts 01569
FAX: (508) 278-8646

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

Overview of Activities for November

Parent Teacher conferences were held on the evening of November 15 and the afternoon of November 16. Teachers reported 241 afternoon conferences and 415 evening conferences. In addition they saw 26 parents before school and held 19 telephone conferences. We are always proud of the turn-out at our conferences. Parents and school=Success.

Parents were trained on November 14, 2007 to be Literacy Tutors by Mrs. Lundberg, K-6 C and I leader for Literacy. Teachers request help from the volunteer program and volunteers are matched to them. These parent volunteers supplement teacher instruction to provide additional one on one time, this enhancing literacy skills. Sometimes just that little extra attention makes all the difference in the world.

Teachers were trained to mark the newly designed report card. This report card was developed during the spring of 2007 with input of all our teachers. Teachers use the iPass student management system to mark their cards. When completed, the cards are printed by the office and returned to the teachers. The report cards will be distributed on November 30, 2007.

Students and teachers were trained to use the MCAS preparation software, Study Island. Students took the pre-test during computer class and will go through the individual lessons with their teachers on a weekly basis. The pre-test allows us to assess student growth over time. Students can access Study Island from any computer, allowing them to practice at home or at school.

Mrs. Montesi met with parents at two workshops during parent conferences to discuss the MCAS results for Taft School and AYP. Although there was not a large turn-out, over 60 parents indicated that they would be interested in the handouts from that session. Those packets went out on November 26, 2007.

A Scholastic Book Fair was held in the Taft School Library. Students pre-viewed and bought books during library classes. In addition, extended hours allowed parents to attend to purchase books. Teachers created wish lists that allowed parents the opportunity to donate books to individual classrooms. Additional books were purchased from the proceeds of the book fair. New this year....On Friday, Nov. 16th from 6:30-8:30pm the

Book Fair will feature a Pajama Party for preschool and kindergarten students and their families. Join us for hot cocoa, cookies, and a story time featuring a guest reader, Mr. Scott Sherman, Kindergarten teacher!

Veteran's Day was celebrated in two ways, with a fundraiser and a fourth grade assembly. Several fourth grade students participated in a Veteran's Day Spell-a-thon. \$840.10 was collected and presented to Mr. Dan Stack at a Veteran's Day assembly by Adam Wright, a fourth grade student. The money will go to the Disabled American Veterans. Mrs. Cutler, Taft School Music teacher, directed the musical selections. Six veterans were on the panel.

Subject/Course/Classroom Activities

Grade 2 students in Mrs. Bandstra's and Mrs. Davis' rooms went to the Uxbridge Senior Center on November 13, 2007 to present a Harvest Concert to the seniors gathered there. Songs included Skip to My Lou, Turkey in the Straw, Yankee Doodle, and Over the River (and Through the Woods). Mr. Bill Albin videotaped the performance to be aired at a later date on the Uxbridge cable access channel.

Fourth graders participated in a Mix It Up at Lunch Day on November 13, 2007. Students were randomly assigned tables and they made new friends.

The Leadership Club held its elections. President, Casey Roche, Vice President, Sophia Lynch, Secretary, Elizabeth Simonds Treasurer, Allison Cotter, Historian, Tori Selvidge. The Leadership Club meets weekly under the direction of Mike Catalano.

Grade 4 students will be participating in math multiplication facts Basketball Tournament. The tournament was held on Tuesday, November 20, 2007. Mrs. Brothers' class was this year's winner.

Professional Development Activities

11/05/07 Dr. Janet Iannuccilli attended a conference entitled, View From All Sides.

11/05/07 and 11/06/07 Bonnie Dimmick, Mike Catalano, and Pam Seagrave attended the MAHPERD conference.

11/12/07 Margy O'Donnell attended the Massachusetts Association of School Librarians Conference

11/13/07 Carla Mason attended a conference entitled,

11/14/07 Mary Ellen Jansson attended the MassCue conference.

11/16/07 Gretchen D'Andrea, Mike Catalano, and Lisa Hartman attended Open Circle Training for Specialistt

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.

General School/Department Information

Upcoming Events

December 5, 2007 Holiday Shoppe Taft Cafeteria and Gymnasium 6:30
December 11 and 12, 2007 Grade 3 Field Trip to Slater's Mill in Pawtucket, RI.
December 13, 2007 PTO Meeting 7:00 Taft Cafeteria

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