



Taft Elementary School

Tiger Tales

Volume 2 Issue 3

November, 2007

A Letter From the Principal

Principal's Message

As we prepare for Parent Conferences, I want to remind you that you are your child's biggest cheerleader. Thanking you in advance for attending this important event—you are truly a partner in your child's education. See parent conference tips included in this newsletter.

Mrs. Montesi

IMPORTANT DATES

- 11/6 CURRICULUM HALF DAY (11:45 DISMISSAL)
- 11/8 PTO MEETING TAFT CAFÉ 7pm
- 11/9 LEADERSHIP CLUB OFFICER ELECTIONS
- 11/9-11/19 SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR
- 11/12 NO SCHOOL VETERANS' DAY
- 11/14 MIX IT UP AT LUNCH DAY GRADE 4
- 11/15 PRINCIPAL'S MCAS/AYP PRESENTATION 6:30
- 11/15 EVENING CONFERENCES
- 11/16 PRINCIPAL'S MCAS/AYP PRESENTATION 10:00
- 11/16 AFTERNOON CONFERENCES (11:45 DISMISSAL)
- 11/21 THANKSGIVING RECESS BEGINS (11:45 Dismissal)
- 11/22-23 NO SCHOOL
- 11/28 GIVING TREES ASSEMBLY NIGHT 6:30
- 11/30 WACKY HAT DAY
- 11/30 PRINCIPAL'S COFFEE HOUR 9:30-10:30
- 11/30 REPORT CARDS DISTRIBUTED

Taft Volunteers Support Our

Thank you to everyone who completed a volunteer form. 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. Please join us in recognizing some of the wonderful contributions our volunteers are making.

Recess Volunteers are helping our 1st and 2nd graders play safely on the monkey bars. Thank you to:

Amy Colella , Lisa Devane, Gwen Farrell , Maria Lowe , Laura Neill, Beth Rancourt, Elizabeth Smith, Karen Spencer and Kara van Lingen

Literacy Corner Volunteers are maintaining the Literacy Corner inventory as well as the check-out and return processes. Thank you to:

Lisa Ackerman and Kim Rexford

Library Volunteers are helping the Librarian by performing various administrative task including re-shelving books. Thank you to:

Tina Allard, Gwen Farrell, Diane Kraich, Linda Kuros, Susan Landry, Donna Lawence, Erin Morvan, Mary Jo Murray, Beth Rancourt, Judy Salzberg, Kallie Spaulding and Rachel Wright

Special Project Volunteers worked with Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Henries to create a beautiful 2nd grade Hallway. Thank you to:

Lisa Ackerman, Kathy Cyr and Elizabeth Frick

Home Project Volunteer, Karen Mageas assembled construction paper folders for Mrs. Davis.

Mrs. Quintiliani will be giving a short presentation on Open Circle at the November PTO meeting.

Bus Safety Reminders

Please make an effort for someone to greet your son or daughter when they get off the bus in the afternoon. Too many students have had to come back to Taft School lately because there is no one home when they are dropped off. Thank you for your time and support with this bus safety tip.

Stay tuned to the local cable access station to see Mrs. Lukowski's class in an infomercial about PICK A BUDDY DAY.

Next Month: **Wacky Hat Day November 30**

Parent Conferences Are Coming!

Given that you have a very limited time with your child's teacher, being prepared always helps. I have always appreciated when parents arrive with specific questions. Here are a few tips from Family Education regarding parent conferences.

- Ask your child if there is anything that he/she would like you to discuss with the teacher.
- Make a list of questions or topics you would like to address. (See link below.)
- Avoid lengthy conversations regarding topics not related to the conference. Address them at a separate time through a note or email.
- Be open-minded to suggestions from the teacher.
- Take notes to share with your child later.
- Do not stay beyond your allotted time.

Here is a link to a great website that allows you to customize questions according to your concerns.

<http://school.familyeducation.com/parents-and-teacher/parent-teacher-conferences/38579.html?detoured=1>

Musical Notes

In the month of October, students in music classes have been applying new knowledge of music basics such as dynamics, beat and rhythm to the class songs. Ask your child to sing the *Taft School Song* and *Rap* (composed by fourth graders of the class of 2004), and you are sure to enjoy it! We have also begun the Kodaly/Curwin hand signs for the pitch syllables (do, re, mi, etc...). Ms. D'Andrea's classes in grades 2-4 are also singing patriotic songs and Americana folk songs such as Yankee Doodle complete with authentic lyrics.

Encouraging your child to use his or her singing voice whenever possible, establishes positive foundations for future musical experiences. Remember to be lavish with praise for any effort your child delivers!

Basketball Tournament

Grade 4 students will be participating in a math multiplication facts Basketball Tournament. The tournament will be held on Tuesday, November 20, 2007. Students should be studying their math facts through 12x12 at home. Homerooms, not individuals, will compete against each other.

Art "Effects"

The Art Room is buzzing with activity. Now that the children and I have gotten to know one another we are beginning to tackle some very creative projects. The first graders are continuing to learn about the Elements and Principles of Art. We will do projects exploring color, line and pattern. Along with the Second graders we will be looking at the world around us and the beauties of nature as a vehicle to strengthen drawing skills. The Third grade classes have done beautiful leaf sculptures and are going to explore the medium of watercolor. The Fourth graders are getting creative. They have begun one of my favorite projects called "Shoe-Biz". Where they turn an ordinary shoe into something extraordinary. November will be an artful month. We are always looking for "odds and ends" in the art room. If you have old silk flowers, yarn or anything that you think would help us out send them in with your child or drop them off in the office.

Classroom Happenings

Grade 1

Our first grade classes have been learning about community, and the people and businesses that make up a community. Some classes have walked to the Public Library, and met Ms. DeYoung, our children's librarian. Other classes have visited DeLuna, a rock and mineral store in our community, as a way to enhance our science curriculum.

A reminder to all families to keep practicing your weekly sight words, and remember to turn in your reading logs. We are enjoying seeing what books you read at home with your family!

Grade 2

On October 17th the second grade went to the Boston Science Museum. This was a great start to the year for our science units. We saw the 3-D movie BUGS! This will tie in nicely with our life cycle unit on butterflies and other insects. The second grade wing has a wall entitled Seasons of Learning. Throughout the year we will be displaying different work. Currently, there are our Tree Detective pamphlets for our science unit on plants/trees. There will be other areas of our curriculum displayed during the "Seasons", come check it out!

Taft Elementary School

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We are now online.
Come visit at
www.uxbridgeschools.com



Computer Bytes

The computer classes will be moving into room 205 soon! We are very excited to use the new computer lab. We have ordered software and have a new curriculum to follow.

I have a webpage and on it I have listed LINKS to fun and "teacher approved" websites. We are using some of the websites in class. Others would be fun to use at home. My website address is:

<http://teacherweb.com/MA/TaftElementarySchool/Computer/>

I will be adding new websites and pictures of the new computer lab shortly.

During conferences, Mrs. Jansson will be in the new Computer Lab, room 205, so parents can meet Mrs. Jansson and view new lab.

Library Corner

Hello from the library! This month in the library we have been discussing and reading FABLES AND FAIRY TALES-ask your child what characteristics each has. I will be reading multiple versions of fairy tales each month. This month... we're reading "Jack and the Beanstalk". We are talking about "who is an author" and "who is an illustrator" in library this month. Finally Scholastic Book Fair comes to the library November 9th. See additional article in this newsletter for further information on this topic.

During the week of October 14, Mrs. O'Donnell read books related to bullying to third and fourth grade children. Later interested children signed an Anti-Bullying pledge. The pledge is hanging in the front hall and will remain there through the parent conference dates.

Let's Get Physical

Grade 4 completed Lacrosse skills and are now playing Speedball.

Grade 3 Physical Education classes learned to play Speedball and are beginning the Ultimate Frisbee Unit. Grades 1 and 2 concentrated on their throwing and catching skills playing Frog in the Pond and aiming at a target. Tag games included Five Little Pumpkins, 'Mrs. Witch, What time is it?' and Pumpkin Tag.

Fall weather is coming. Students need to dress for outdoor activities. Coming up: Soccer, Football, and Hula hoops

TAFT KIDS CLUS

Child Care is open on Tuesday, November 21st for Breakfast Club Only. There is no after school care on November 22 & 23rd. Child Care is closed.

It's Never Too Late to Learn Your A, B, C's....

A B Cs Of Student Success

H is for HOMEWORK.

Homework provides practice, and it enables parents to know when a child is having difficulty with schoolwork. Parents can support a school's homework policy by...

- providing a "homework area" that is well lit and free of distractions.

- setting a daily "homework time." Some parents call it "schoolwork time" so kids know the "I have no homework" excuse won't work.

- offering a snack or play break before homework; or using it as a homework-completion incentive.

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From the Nurse's Desk

FALL....leaves are falling and outdoor temperatures should be dropping soon so please make sure students wear appropriate clothing to go out to gym and recess. No jacket....no play.

Taft Mother's Walking Club!!!!..... When: Every Tuesday morning from 8-8:45 a.m. Meeting place: Cafeteria. Why: Volunteers are still needed to distribute SWISH! Please put on your sneakers and join in the war on cavities. Meet other moms and get to know the Taft staff! Please join us.

Wet and Dry....Frequently students require clothing changes at school. Please launder and return loaned clothing as soon as possible.

Last but not lice.....It's that season again and as in all schools students get head lice. They just do. I often ask students if any of their pets get fleas. Hands shoot up in the air and everybody starts talking at once about "bombing their houses" etc. Dogs and cats get fleas. Kids get head lice. They just do. But moms and dads can help by encouraging students to tie long hair back (think of it as lice ladders), avoiding sleepovers during the next few weeks and frequently checking heads for critters and their hair-clinging eggs.

The school nurses in conjunction with the Uxbridge Board of Health have developed a comprehensive policy for dealing with Pediculosis (Head Lice) in the school setting. Included in the policy is that parents are responsible for notifying the school nurse that lice or their eggs (nits) have been found before the child returns to the classroom. This allows the school nurse to review treatment with the parent, to screen classmates to avoid treated child being exposed to an active case of head lice and examine the child's hair before returning to class. The nurses and Board of Health support a "No Nits" policy, which states that a child must have all nits (eggs) manually, removed before returning to school. The absence of nits is the only way we can monitor for infestation. Exposure to head lice can happen anywhere. Please encourage your child to avoid sharing hats, combs and hair accessories. Please check your child's hair frequently. If you have any questions please call me at 278-8647. Our Head Lice: An Itchy Problem video is also available for viewing.

A number of health-related videotapes are available from the school nurse. The titles include "Wash Those Hands", Head Lice: An Itchy Problem, Bloodborne Pathogens and Other Traveling Germs, Manners Matter, and "Whatsa Hygiene?".

We also have Just Around the Corner – For Girls and Just Around the Corner – For Boys . These videos present a positive attitude towards the changes that come with puberty. They may be borrowed by parents to view with their child at home.

Full transcripts of all videos are available for review in the Nurse's Office.

Next month: Preventing the spread of head lice, healthy snacks, and more!

BOOK FAIR

The Uxbridge Elementary PTO will host a Scholastic Book Fair on November 9th, 13th, 14th and 19th from 8am-4pm, Nov. 15th from 8am-8pm and Nov. 16th from 8am-4pm then 6:30pm-8:30pm at the Taft Elementary School Library. The Book Fair will offer specially priced books and educational products, including new releases, award-winning titles, children's classics, interactive software, and current bestsellers from more than 150 publishers. Families, teachers, and the community are invited to attend the Fair, which will feature a special Arctic theme – Book Fair Blizzard! 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 special guest! Profits from the Book Fair will be donated to literacy programs at Taft and ELC and the playground fund. Several volunteers will be needed for this event. If you can give an hour or two of your time it would be greatly appreciated. Look for information coming home in your backpack mail soon! Please contact Kallie Spaulding at 508-278-8085 or bkspaulding@verizon.net for more

Several fourth grade students participated in a Veterans' Day Spell-a thon.

Daniel Rice, Robert Wondolowski, Danielle Giroux, Christian Pasichny, Ethan Toomey, Brooklyn Anderson, Cody Alves, Caroline Labonte, Makenzi Ethier-Polequin, Beau Nestor, Chelsea Proehl, Conner Schieber, Lucas Pomeroy, Alex Rosado, hannah Belanger, Brittany Ruiz, Hannah Ryan, Taylor Lennoz, Taylor Walsh, Tyler Durran, Douglas O'Brien, Brian MacDougall, Mitchell Bruneau, Patrick Aldrich, Jordan Tancrell, Jessica Lam, Sharon Wallace, Madison Clement, Jackson Wright, Zachary Dagle, Elizabeth Simonds, Jared Robert, Brendon Winters, Kyle Suchanek, Emily Roxo, Joshua Bell, Zachary Mages, Allysia LaBonte, Maura Wilson, Cailee King, Bobby Lizotte, Spencer Laverne, Tyler Thomas, Sean Creighton, Adam Wright Jr., Cameron Sullivan, Margaret Calvo.

Proceeds will go to the Disabled American Vets and will be presented at an upcoming assembly. Thank you to Miss Fafard for organizing this event.