



# Earl D. Taft Elementary School

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For a general overview of all activities for March, please see the PTO newsletter and the Tiger Tales.

## **Subject/Course/Classroom Activities**

March 11, 2008 Our third grade students traveled to Whitin School to participate in Celebrating the Arts Day. Parents were invited to attend the three concerts featuring different classes. The Music portion of the program was presented by Gretchen D'Andrea and Nicholas LaPete. In conjunction with the concert over 30 pieces of Taft School artwork were hung for viewing by the visitors to the Celebrating the Arts Day. The art show was directed by our art teachers, Diane Henries and Henry Skillern.

Grade 1 Field Trip - Stadium Theatre, Woonsocket *Seussical*, a Dr. Seuss musical.

Animal habitat dioramas were created by grade 1 students and displayed for parent and staff. In addition, Mrs. Gallo, Mrs. Stankevitz, and Mrs Ethier created a PowerPoint presentation for parents showcasing the diorama and the child reading their animal report.

## **Professional Development Activities**

March 13, 2008 Grade 1 teachers, Pattie Stankevitz, Nancy Michelson, Christine Gallo, Joann Landry and Lisa Hartman attended a Grade 1 Empowering Writers workshop in Providence.

March 7, 2008 Sharon Bruneau and Michelle Kelly attended the last of their Open Circle training at Wellesley College.

March 12, 2008 Linda Benoit attended a DOE training session on MCAS-Alt.

March 19, 2008 and March 20, 2008 Lori Fafard attended MEMA training in Worcester.

March 20, 2008 Sharon Manz attended the last of her Open Circle training at Wellesley College.

March 27, 2008 and March 28, 2008 Gretchen D'Andrea attended the All-State Massachusetts Music Educators Association conference in Boston.

### **PTO Reports and Information**

Teachers and students are collecting contributions for themed raffle baskets. Each teacher hosts a basket which is filled and arranged by a group of parents. Those baskets are on display during the conferences and Bubblemania. Winners will be announced at the Wine Tasting Party.

#### Upcoming Events

April 10, 2008	PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m.
April 11, 2008	Family Fun Night Bubblemania
April 12, 2008	Basket Raffle and Wine Tasting

Held this year at the Community Center Congregational Church  
PTO Report Attached.

### **General School/Department Information**

On March 7, 2008, a curriculum day was held to review two Reading series, Storytown and Imagine. All classroom teachers, reading teachers, and special education teachers attended the two hour presentation. As a result of these presentations and the reflective checklist, teachers agreed to eliminate Imagine (from SRA) from our list of possible choices. We will be listening to our last presentation, Treasures, on April 7, 2008.

The second report card was sent home on March 14, 2008. This is our first year using a computer-based report card through I Pass, although Whitin and UHS have been using it for years. After several meetings last year to decide on the criteria, a long summer of inputting the data and working with IMG to format the card, we are pleased with the results. Parents have given us much positive feedback.

MCAS Tests were given during the latter part of March. Students in Grade 4 took the Long Composition Test and Grade 3 students took the Reading Comprehension test on March 26-28.

March 28, 2008 Taft School Spirit Day, **Favorite Book Day**. Students participate in activities geared toward a appreciation of books and reading.

## **Upcoming Events**

April 2, 2008	Make-up Grade 4 Long Composition Test
April 1, 3, 4	Grade 4 MCAS Reading Tests
April 10, 2008	PTO Meeting 7:00 Taft Cafe
April 11, 2008	Parent Conferences 12:45-3:00
April 12, 2008	2nd Annual PTO Wine Tasting Party and Basket Raffle
April 21-25	April Vacation

Submitted by  
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Principal  
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