



# Earl D. Taft Elementary School

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## Overview of Activities for April

Taft School celebrated GO GREEN week. Tips for going green were announced on the intercom each day. Ms. D'Andrea's chorus sang an Earth Day song on the intercom with several soloists highlighted. The children decorated bags from Hannafords which will be distributed to shoppers on Earth Day. Mrs. Lukowski's class cleaned the grounds of the school. Mrs. Pacheco and Mrs. Adams collected water bottles and milk cartons from the cafeteria for recycling. When the bags of recycled materials were weighed at the end of the week, the tally was 28 pounds of water bottles and 36.4 pounds of milk cartons. Finally we collected GREEN products to be donated to the People's First Food Pantry.

Grades 3 students took the MCAS Reading Comprehension tests on March 30 and April 1 and 2. Grade 4 students took the Long Composition on April 1 and the ELA Test on April 6, 7, and 8. The children enjoyed the addition of the MCAS Rally hosted by UHS cheerleaders. Thank you Mr. Catalano for arranging it for us!

Due to interest from parents and children, Mrs. Knapik added a LEGO Club to the list of after-school activities. What started with one class of 25 children has blossomed into 3 classes due to the overwhelming response from students. We just couldn't turn them away and were pleased to offer this opportunity to our students.

101 Dalmations was performed by Taft School students in the UHS auditorium. There were four shows on April 4 and all were packed. The key to its success was the organization of the program. Mrs. Mason directed this production and organized rehearsals of two casts. She was assisted by the parents of children in the play. Several staff members gave up their time to help including Ms. D'Andrea, Mrs. Henries, Mrs. Silbor, Mrs. Grenon and Mrs. Emerick.

Our Destination Imagination Teams were noted at a recent competition. The Elementary Team (including Grade 5) under the direction of Kay Klos and Karin Knapik won Second Place overall. Taft members include: Jayce Knapik & Lucas Horan. Our youngest team, the Rising Stars, under Roann Karns' direction were awarded the DaVinci Award. Members include: Daniel Klos, Bretton Knapik, Abby Karns, Tom Karns, Dan Salzberg & Madeline Schleinitz. The Elementary team, under the direction of Laura McGee, received a Renaissance Award. Members include: Joey DuBois, Sara McGee, Rachel McGee, Garrett Holzer & Alex Farrell.

The Leadership Club is collecting loose change from fourth grade students and their families in the Pennies for Patients Program which benefits leukemia patients. They recently assisted Mrs. Watt in a survey that was sent to all Taft families regarding the school lunch program.

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

Three classrooms in the 1952 wing were tiled over April vacation. Three more classrooms in that wing will be tiled after the school year ends.

It's all about safety. The Uxbridge Fire Dept. conducted a fire drill on Friday, April 17. The Taft School Crisis Team will discuss the drill at our next meeting and provide feedback to staff. Bus evacuation drill will be conducted on April 28, 2009 as the children enter in the morning.

### **Professional Development Activities**

April 21 & 22, 2009 - Kathy Hurst and Joan Barrell attended the Massachusetts Reading Association's annual conference which was held in Sturbridge, Massachusetts.

April 22, 2009 – Lisa Hartman attended the Massachusetts Reading Association's annual conference which was held in Sturbridge, Massachusetts.

Mrs. Hartman and Mrs. Hurst are Reading Specialists at Taft. Their conference fee was paid under the Title I grant.

### **PTO Reports and Information**

The Taft Playground Committee will be holding the desk auction on 6/6 from 10-2 rain or shine either on the Town Common or Community House adjacent to the common. In addition to the auction, there will be kids' games, crafts, and refreshments. The committee have plans for adding to the playground equipment when their budget allows.

PTO Carnival will be held at Taft School on May 31 from 11-2.

The PTO continues to collect Box Tops for Education and Tyson labels to get money to support programs for our students. Thank you to Nancy Lemire for her dedication and her creativity in garnering and maintaining interest in the Box Top Program. We'll miss you next year.

The next PTO meeting will be held on May 14 at 7:00 in the Taft Café and scheduled to hold elections for the 2009-10 school year.

**Upcoming Events**

May 1, 2009	Grade 4 Field Trip EARTH, the movie, and a picnic at River Bend Farm
May 5, 2009	Grade 4 Chorus Concert with Ms. D'Andrea
May 7, 2009	Kindergarten Move Up Day (Part 1) Kindergarten Parent Night 6:30 Taft Café'
May 8, 2009	Kindergarten Move-up Day (Part 2) Curriculum Half Day
May 11, 2009	Math Day Grade 3
May 12 & 13, 2009	MCAS Grade 3 Math
May 14, 2009	PTO Exec. Board Meeting 6 p.m. Meeting 7:00 p.m. Exec. Board elections
May 18, 2009	Math Day Grade 4
May 19 & 20, 2009	MCAS Grade 4 Math
May 21, 2009	International Fair 9:00 and 10:00
May 22, 2009	Memorial Day Assembly Flying Squadron Time TBD
May 25, 2009	Memorial Day No School
May 30, 2009	PTO Spring Carnival

Submitted by,

*Paula A. Montesi*

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