



March 2010 Newsletter

Message from the Principal

Spring seems to be finally here! We began March by having a wonderful visit with children's poet Robert Pottle. All the classrooms have spent time reading, writing and illustrating his humorous poetry. Robert entertained all of us with a hilarious assembly to start our day and then he met with each class for a small group presentation. He shared many of his secrets to writing an interesting poem with grades 3-6 such as using exciting verbs and repeating the same letter sound in a line. In PreK- gr. 2 classes Robert shared with us the rhythm and rhyme of poetry. Special thanks to the PTO for sponsoring our visit with Robert Pottle!

I would like to welcome our two new teachers to Farmington River. Mrs. Karen Lehtinen has joined us as our new special education teacher. She has many years of experience teaching in elementary and middle school. Karen will be working with children in grades 4 and 6. Miss Barbara Arpante has joined our school as our new art teacher. Barbara has many years of art teaching experiences. Please join me in welcoming these two excellent additions to our teaching staff.

March also brings our first round of MCAS testing. Children in grade 3-6 will be taking the English Language Arts MCAS March 22-30. The tests ask children to read all kinds of literature and answer multiple choice questions as well as open response (essay questions) questions. The fourth grade also has an additional test that requires the children to write a lengthy essay. We work on these skills all year long and have also been doing practice MCAS questions to prepare for the test. This practice helps children understand what to expect on test day. Some children may become anxious about MCAS testing. At school we are emphasizing the importance of taking your time, checking your answers and doing your best. Parents can also help by making sure children get a good night's sleep and eat a healthy breakfast on test days. I have also found it's important to keep your sense of humor as well. I had a student a few years ago that told me that she loved MCAS test days. All the children looked at her as if she were crazy as I asked her why. She quickly replied, "Because mom makes me eggs, bacon and pancakes for breakfast!" Out of the mouths of babes! - *Mary Turo*

When dropping off children in the morning,
Do not park in the drive way—
Please use the Visitor's Lot.
Thank you!!

IMPORTANT DATES

March 11 - Spring Pictures

March 12 - NO SCHOOL-Prof. Day

March 14 - Daylight Savings Begins

~ Remember to *Spring Ahead*

March 19 - Spirit Day

Crazy Mixed Up Day

March 22 through March 30:

MCAS Testing - Grades 3 - 6

LOOKING AHEAD . . .

April 2 - NO SCHOOL

April 19-23 - NO SCHOOL

April 28 - Mobile Dentist

REMINDER:

Please remember to call the school by 9:30 on days that your child is absent or will be arriving late.

MCAS Testing Dates

Grade 3 March 22 and 23

Grade 4 March 23, 25, 26

Grade 5 March 24 and 25

Grade 6 March 29 and 30



Picture Day Is Coming!!

March 11th is picture day. Look for the flyer to come home with your child showing a choice of poses and backgrounds to select and siblings and/or parents may be photographed together.

This Spring, a proof sheet of the photo will be sent home along with an order form. The completed order form and payment must be returned within one week to ensure picture packages are delivered in time for Mother's Day.



Second Quarter Honor Roll

- * Grade 4: Allyssa Annecharico, Ava Bocchino, Will Green, Ariana Saporito
- * Grade 5: Zoe Bean, Janey Beardsley, Mario Castro, Jeffrey Crandall, Charles Kuzmech, Isabelle Morley, Lyssa Richard, Delanie Rybacki, Valentina Suarez, Lydia Vreeland
- * Grade 6: Brittany Farina, Paige Gray, Anna Snyder



Congratulations on your achievement!