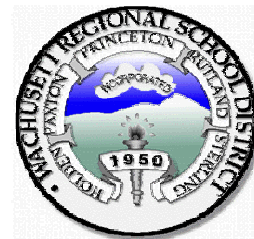


PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

DAVIS HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mark Aucoin
Principal

Jay Norton
Assistant Principal



October 2009

MCAS 2009

The State of Massachusetts's MCAS test scores are now official. I am sure that many of you have seen the results in the Telegram and Gazette. As a State we have demonstrated some improvement, as a District we had very good scores, especially at the High School level.

For Davis Hill in particular, our scores were very good. At the third grade level we averaged higher than the district and state in all areas. In grade four, we averaged with the district and state, and in grade five we were above both in reading and significantly above both in math.

I will explain in detail our school's MCAS scores at the next PTA meeting on October, along with an analysis of how we did compared to similar school systems across the state.

PRINCIPAL'S COFFEE

I would like to remind all our parents and guardians that each month I hold a "Principal's Coffee" at 6:30 on the same nights as the PTA meetings. The purpose of this time is to be able to ask me anything related to school in a more causal setting. I try to answer all questions as long as they are not related to a specific teacher or child. If I don't have the answer at that time, I will get back to you.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

During the winter months at Davis Hill I am going to move forward with plans for afterschool programs that will enable our students

to have fun, and at the same time be better writers, more physically fit, and achieve higher levels on the MCAS test for 2010.

The first of the three after school programs will be the MCAS remediation program for ELA (English Language Arts). This will be by invitation only and I am identifying students who are on the cusp of one category and the next. Just under or over needs improvement/ proficient/ advanced. This program will focus on the skills that the individual students is lacking and will target those skills.

The program will be advertised in November of this year and will be by invitation. It will run from January to March, two days per week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 3:30pm to 5:00pm. It will be taught by teachers from this school and will be for students in grades three, four and five.

The second after school program will be called Cardio Kids. This will be a six week cardio-vascular program to promote both healthy choices and building your stamina and heart rate. It will be for students in grade three and be run by Mrs. Howell our physical education teacher. There will be a cost for this program that has not been determined yet. Students will apply and it will be first come first serve.

The last after school program will be "Kids Are Authors" for students in grades One to Four. This will run one day a week for seven weeks. The purpose will be to author a book that will go into circulation in our library. I want to develop an Author's Corner with books by students of Davis Hill. These books would be put into circulation in our library for this year and

for year in the future.

BEFORE SCHOOL DROP OFF OR WALKERS

We are getting several students dropped off or are walking to the school too early in the morning. No student may be outside the building before 8:45am. There is no coverage and it is too early for kids to be waiting. Please make sure your child is not here earlier than that time.

REMEMBER....

- Students may not ride bikes to school unless they have submitted a parent note to me requesting that they ride to and from school. I will then decide to approve or not. If I approve, you will get back a note from me stating so. They may not ride until they get that note.
- Parents who drive their children to school must wait with your child in your car until staff are in place at 8:50 in order to maintain safety.
- No students should be outside the front doors before 8:45am.
- A note from the parent is always required to change any dismissal process. If a child does not have a note, they must go home the way they normally do.
- We are working everyday on **Respect** in our building. Students are taught to address adults with a "Hello" or "Good Morning/Afternoon". Hats may not be worn in the building. They must be respectful of each other in and out of school. Most importantly we want students to have self respect. We will build on these concepts as the year moves forward. As of October this has worked out very well. We really do have such wonderful kids here. Next month we are going to focus on bus and hall way behaviors.