

Dawson Elementary School Newsletter

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ SIMCO
- ◆ PTA
- ◆ Martin Luther King Jr.
- ◆ Report Cards 1/29/10 K-5
- ◆ Early Release- 1/13/10 @ 12:20pm

Principal's News

Happy New Year! Here it is, January 2010! May you all find this to be a healthy, happy, and prosperous one for you and all those that you care about. This year ended much differently than last year. We have had only one snow day which means our last day of school will be the 17th of June.

The December Holiday Helper program was a success. The children enjoyed shopping for their family and friends. It was a joy to watch grade 1 and their parents make decorations. Thank you all for your commitment to your children.

Many of you wondered why we did not have a holiday program. As we did last year we will be having a winter program in February. It is a great way to break up the winter and gives you the opportunity to see what your children are learning in music. More information will be heading your way soon.

Dear Parents

As we move into the New Year, I am beginning to look at our accomplishments since September. Writer's Workshop has begun in all grades. Kindergarten will begin to implement this program in January.

Each grade has been working hard to plan and implement lessons in all curriculum areas that will challenge and engage your child. I would like to thank the many parent volunteers who help in the classrooms. Your support is always appreciated. Just a reminder that if you have an interest that you would like to share with your child's class please let your child's teacher know. Your interests and travels help to enhance the curriculum.

As many of you have heard the Governor has rescinded his decision

to reduce funding for regional transportation. This was a very pleasant way to end the year and begin a new one. I would like to thank all of you who took the time to contact the governor to voice your concerns as I did.

Although this is good news, we will need to continue to monitor the state and local budgets to see how this impacts our school. As new developments arise I will do my best to keep you informed.

I would like to thank many individuals who initiated and supported community service activities in December. Coordinated by Mrs. Louder, activities began with a gift drive for the "Why Me" foundation. Over \$2500.00 in gifts were given to this cause.

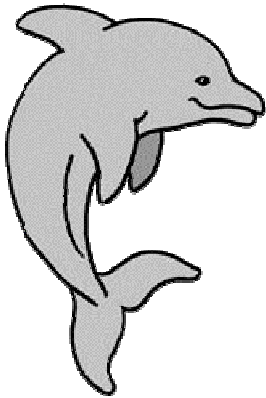
Mrs. Johnson, our school nurse is heading up a Pet Food Drive for the Wachusett Pantry for families who are having a difficult time taking care of their pet's needs. Information is heading your way.

Ms. Delorme's grade 3 classes headed-up a Generosity Drive to collect infant toys, sippy cups, and matchbox cars and were given to Pediatric unit of Tufts Floating Hospital. 1,746 items were donated! Wow! All of this truly demonstrated the IALAC philosophy! Thank you all!

I want to remind you that January 13th is a professional development day. There is no afternoon Kindergarten. January 18th there is no school in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Report cards will be issued for all grades on January 29th.

Please be reminded that if weather permits we will have outdoor recess. The children are able to go into the snow if they are dressed appropriately.



Generosity

“for thinking of others before yourself. You are generous with your thoughts as well as in your deeds. You care for others without being asked or for asking for anything in return.

IALAC

December’s theme was Generosity. Students and families were generous in giving, not just with gifts or money, but with our words, thoughts, and deeds. It is the way we give to our family, friends and even our pets!

January’s IALAC theme is Attitude. Attitude is important because it can either positively or negatively affect the people that are around you. Our attitude shows up from day to day and it is a choice that we have to make regarding it each day. Having a positive attitude affects your performance in school and at home. Excelling is not a skill it is an attitude.

A very famous and influential man named Winston Churchill once said, **“Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference.”**

Upcoming Events

Watch the school and PTA calendar for upcoming events as they are always changing. Visit the school website for updated news! As of now.....

January 13th Early Release 12:20 No PMK

January 12th PTA meeting at 7 PM in the library

January 22nd Discovery Museum program for Grade 3- Magnets

January 18th - Martin Luther King- no school

January 19th SIMCO 7PM in the library

January 29th Report cards K-5

Attached please find an MCAS calendar. I urge you to please **not** schedule activities that might interfere with the dates your child will be taking tests.

Curriculum

Teachers and students have been working hard these past months. The Writer’s Workshop model of writing has begun in all grades and will now begin in Kindergarten. As always the lessons are engaging, goal specific and differentiated to meet the individual needs of the students.

Areas focusing on comprehension, vocabulary development, and decoding skills are being taught and reinforced through reading and other content area subjects. Students are also being challenged with critical reading and writing skills.

As you are aware the ability to read and write is important in order to master other content areas and to be able to communicate what is learned. Read often to improve fluency and comprehension.

Practice math facts for fluency. Having a firm foundation in basic skills will help with problem solving, computation and overall math improvement.

This Month’s Study Tip

Research shows that most children learn and study best in a quiet environment. With that in mind find a place where there will be minimal distractions. Turn off the TV and radio and, if that is not possible, turn the volume down as low as possible.

I wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

Yours in IALAC,

Patricia Scales, Principal