

# Dawson Elementary School Newsletter

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## Upcoming Events

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## Principal's News

February is a short, but very busy month! This month we have many enrichment programs planned. We will have a presentation on Flight for grade 5, a visit from a meteorologist for grade 4, Laura Ingalls Wilder for all grades, and a presentation on Light to grade 2. These programs are curriculum based and enhance our program.

All of these programs were coordinated by Heather Tarantino, Enrichment Coordinator and sponsored by the PTA. Thank you all for your continued support through the school fundraising programs.

Dawson will continue to have a full-day Kindergarten program next year. It was very successful and I look forward to another successful year. Kindergarten registration and other information will be coming to you soon.

## Dear Parents

Thank you for taking time to fill out the parent survey. This survey is used to help guide the council in developing goals for the upcoming year. I value your input and feedback about our school. If you have misplaced yours you will find another copy on the school website.

Budget time is looming and as we all know from the news, this year is one where many families and communities are finding it difficult to be financially set. As the year progresses you will be reading more and more about where we are with regards to our school. The Superintendent will be visiting our school on February 9<sup>th</sup> to talk about our budget situation. I hope many of you are able to join us at 7:00 PM in the school cafeteria.

Report cards were given out on

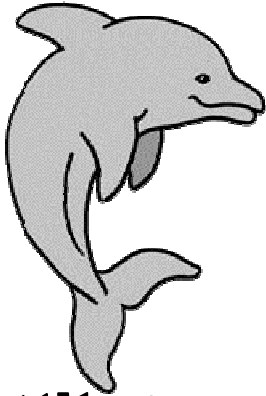
January 29<sup>th</sup> to all students. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

Teachers have been working very hard planning instruction for the Writer's Workshop. Children have been working very hard this year learning new strategies. As I walk into the classrooms I am very impressed by the amount of writing that the children are engaged in. These strategies allow students to work at their own levels through differentiation of instruction and conferring. Reading is also implemented in the same fashion. Students are excited by this writing program and are quite eager to share their work with other students, parents, and the school.

Math instruction continues to be implemented in a variety of methods. We continue to use Everyday math in most grades and provide supplemental materials as needed to enhance the program. Our grade 3 program from the University of Connecticut has been implemented. The teachers are supplementing their current program with new materials.

As we move into the spring, I will be developing the School Improvement Plan with the help of the School Council. Our current school plan is on the school website. I will be working with the School Council, using the results of parent surveys, teacher input and administration to develop this plan to present to the School Committee. I use this plan to help direct the school towards meeting district and state requirements. Dawson parents are always invited to attend the meetings and share in the discussions about our school. The updated plan, once approved, will be on the website in the spring.

As you all are aware we will be having our Winter Concert on Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>. To avoid confusion in the parking lot, please park across the street at the Dawson Pool area. Thank you.



## Attitude

“in recognition for demonstrating a positive attitude. You work hard to be optimistic, able to cope with problems more easily and make others around you happier.

## IALAC

This month's IALAC theme was Attitude. Attitude is very important in reaching success. It helps us focus on the positive and keeps us from being negative. It has a direct impact on the activity that you are working on.

This month's theme is **Kindness**. During the month we will be talking about the merits of being kind. **Kindness** is an important quality that each person should display in school and at home. We are reminding our students that Kindness is helping others, saying hello, sharing, lending a hand, being tolerant, or just sharing a smile. There are three things we need to remember as we work with others, the first is to be kind, the second is to be kind, and the third is to be kind.

Just remember, "**No act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted.**"

Author: Aesop

## 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.....

**School break is Feb. 15-19<sup>th</sup> See you all on the 22<sup>nd</sup>!**

**Feb. 4- IALAC-2:00 PM**

**Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>- Discover Museum-Grade 5 Flight**

**Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>- Winter Concert- 10:00 and 2:00- (snow date Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> same times)**

**Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>- Historical Perspectives-**  
Laura Ingalls Wilder- all grades. K-2 9:15, PM K is invited and 3-5 at 10:15

**Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>- PTA meeting @7:00 in school cafeteria-** Dr. Pandiscio will be attending.

**Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>-deadline for parent surveys and book orders.**

**School vacation Feb. 15 - 19- See you all on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

**Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>- Grade 4 program-Weather, Wind and Water**

**Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>- Discovery Museum program on Color-Grade 2**

**Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>- Discovery Museum program**

## Building Better Readers

One of the most important skills your child can develop is reading. I have attached a newsletter entitled the Reading Connection. It gives some helpful hints that you can use at home. We are working hard here and your help at home is important in developing all curriculum areas.

As we continue revising and enhancing our reading program we will be looking at ways to enhance our classroom libraries. If you have any books that are grade appropriate and in good shape that you would like to share with your child's class, please send them in. We can always use books for independent reading, classroom libraries, indoor recess, and other classroom activities.

## This Month's Study Tips

**It's okay to struggle.** New concepts and some subjects can be difficult and frustrating at times. It is part of the learning process so **keep a positive attitude and don't quit until you figure it out.** Don't be afraid to ask for help at home and in school. Always try your hardest and try to do your best! It is the effort that counts and shows your determination to be a good student!

Practice your number facts for fluency. A firm foundation in math skills makes harder skills easier. A few minutes everyday is the key to strong math fluency.

Are you remembering your homework? Homework is intended to reinforce those skills being taught in school. Homework also helps build strong workstudy habits and responsibility.

Keep up the hard work and always try your best!

Yours in IALAC,

**Patricia A. Scales, Principal**