

Dawson Elementary School Newsletter

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Upcoming Events

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- ◆ Gr. 5 to MTV
- ◆ MCAS testing begins Mar. 23rd
- ◆ Gr. 4 to Museum of Science

Principal's News

Can you believe that we are now into March! It seems like the year is flying by. We celebrated 100s day in February. That means that we are more than half way through the school year.

It was so nice to see so many of you at our winter concert. The children did a wonderful job singing Earth Songs. They worked very hard learning their songs and Mrs. Patterson really brought out the best in musical selections. Music is such an important part of their education and I feel fortunate, as I am sure you do, to have this program for our children.

I want to thank you all for sending in the random acts of kindness hearts for your children. I read each and every one to the children at their lunch. It is wonderful to be able to share that together. They are very proud to be recognized in front of their peers. It really shows that our children are IALAC in and out of school. If you can, visit the cafeteria to see our display. In a recent interview with a grade 4 student they asked me what the best part of my job was. I told him that was easy, it is the kids! Check the website for **Honesty**.

Dear Parents

I would like to extend my thanks for all your continued support this year. We have had many fundraisers and this has helped support many of our enrichment programs. We all recognize that this is a trying time for many families so any support, including volunteering is always appreciated. If you have any special interests, talents, and time I would like to encourage you to share it with your child's class. Please consider contacting your child's teacher.

As we move towards spring the weather becomes very unpredictable. I would encourage you to dress your child for this weather. You know the saying, "In like a lion and out like a lamb." It is important that the children get fresh air and the chance to run around. I have been trying to

send the children out more but it can get cold when it is only 20 degrees out. At indoor recess, when the gym is available we have been allowing the children in grades 3 and 4 to play in small groups on one side of the gym. If you have any games gathering dust and would like to send them in we could always use them. It won't be long and we will be looking at green grass again!

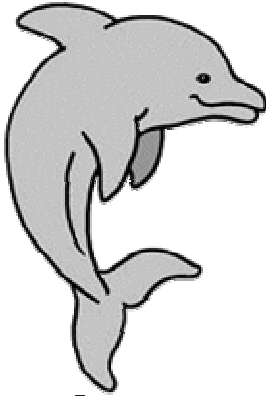
As you are aware March testing for grades 3-5 begins. I have every confidence that our children will do well. Please have your child well-rested, eat a good breakfast, and encourage them to try their best. It is important for them to come to school on time.

Grade 5 is touring MTV on March 10th from 9:15 to 1:45. This is an exciting trip for them as they begin to plan for their middle school years. They will even experience eating lunch there!

A meeting for all grade 5 parents will be held at MTV on March 16th. Information regarding this program will be sent to you. It will give you the opportunity to ask questions about curriculum and middle school expectations.

Please remember to check the lost and found for articles of clothing. We have quite an assortment of hats, gloves, coats, and other assorted articles.

Thank you for sending in your school surveys. I read each one individually and take all of your comments and suggestions seriously. I am always open for suggestions and I am always willing to listen. I will be sharing the information with the School Council, parents and teachers. My goal is use the information to build our school improvement plan for the upcoming year.



Kindness

“in recognition for demonstrating the qualities of kindness. Kindness is sharing a smile, brightening someone’s day, doing a favor, using encouraging words, and thinking of others before yourself.

IALAC

February’s IALAC theme was on **Kindness**. During the month we have been 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

The theme for March is **Honesty**. Honesty means being sincere, trustworthy, honorable, fair, genuine, and loyal. When you are honest you gain a reputation for being truthful, a trait that most people value.

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.....

March 9th - Art show at WRHS- 5-6 PM selected Dawson Art work will be on display

March 9th - PTA meeting @7:00- library

March 10th - Grade 5 to visit MTV

March 11th - Grade 4 field trip to the Science Museum

March 12th - Grade 2 Matter Day

March 16th - Grade 2 Discovery Museum program on Matter

March 17th- Early Release no PM K.

March 19th - Tanglewood Marionettes K-2@9:15- PM K is invited

3-5 at 10:45

March 23rd - SIMCO @ 7:00 in library

March 27th - Pancake Breakfast- See you all there!

March 23rd MCAS testing period begins and ends on April 12th.

Curriculum Update

As we move forward through the second half of the year, I would like to share some of what we have done so far and where we will be heading for the remainder of the year.

This fall we implemented a change in the instruction of writing. As you can see from your child’s work, instruction in writing is focused on a specific skill. Each day children receive instruction on skills such as finding important details, using dialogue, and expanding ideas. Kindergarten began implementing the Writer’s Workshop Model in January.

Reader’s Workshop continues each day, too. My goal is to start building more books into the classroom libraries next year.

We continue to use Everyday math as our basis for instruction. Earlier grades also use Successmaker, too. Teachers in grade 3 are incorporating Everyday math with other instructional materials from the University of Connecticut. Grade 4 is developing unit plans and assessments. Grade 5 is developing a math pacing guide that incorporates the best of Everyday math and other instructional materials. Grade 1 and 2 continue to plan together in all curriculum areas.

Science and Social Studies is incorporated in a variety of methods. While the upper grades use texts, the younger grades use a more hands on approach to what they are learning. Enrichment programs support the entire curriculum at different grade levels. We will continue our efforts in all of these areas. We will continue to plan our instruction to meet your child’s needs.

Thank you for all your continued support in and out of school.

*Yours in IALAC,
Patricia A. Scales, Principal*