

# Welcome Back to School!

Dawson Elementary School  
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From Patricia A. Scales, Principal  
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*"Developing our students' knowledge, skills and talents to the fullest so they can make the world a better place for all."*

On behalf of the entire Dawson School community I would like to welcome you back to the 2011-2012 school year! Clean desks, shining hallways, new books, bright cheery rooms, and new adventures await your children as they begin another year at Dawson Elementary.

We have no major changes to our building this year. Many classrooms have a fresh coat of paint this year and the gym floor has been refinished. Thanks to our hard working custodial staff we have cleaned all areas of the building and it looks great!

This year we will have one full day kindergarten, and 3 half sessions. We will have 3 grade 1 sections and 4 in grades 2-5. We will continue to have all specials and support personnel.

We have a few new staff changes this year. Mandie Sullivan-Flynn will be our new half-time Kindergarten teacher. She is from Westminister, MA where she taught Kindergarten previously. Ms. McCormack is now a full-time Kindergarten teacher at Naquag. Mrs. Rasku has retired this year. Amy Consiglio will be here full time with us as she filled a one year teaching position. Mrs. Johnson, School Nurse, has retired and Mrs. Gina Brown will be joining us. She has been a school nurse in a few different schools, most recently from Auburn. Mr. Ryan Engebretson will be our new music teacher. Mrs. Patterson has resigned and has to move to Georgia where her husband will be attending school. We will miss her but I know you will welcome all our new and returning staff to Dawson.

Dawson School continues the tradition of striving for educational excellence. This year we will be modifying our Math and Science Curriculum. The staff has been busy planning for the 2011-2012 school year using District-wide trajectories. In the past we used Everyday Mathematics with our students but we will not be using this program this year. This year we will be using the State and Common Core Standards to set our goals for the year. Teachers have mapped the curriculum in Math and Science and developed plans based on trajectories set by the District. This will allow us to focus on what needs to be taught while building a solid understanding of mathematical concepts by using a variety of instructional and hands-on materials.

The Dawson PTA leadership team has had another very busy summer planning to once again carry out a tremendous program of providing enrichment opportunities and special family oriented events in the upcoming year. Please consider being part of the Dawson PTA. You can find additional updated information on the PTA website. There you will find information regarding school and community family events. Our school is a place where parents and teachers work together to enhance the educational as well as social emotional well-being of our children.

Our school is immersed in a social skills program, IALAC, (I Am Loving and Capable) that strives to enhance our school mission. Each month our school works on a new social skill. Posters identifying these social skills are hung in the school to remind us that we need to treat others with respect and to act responsibly. These skills are discussed in and out of class. At the end of the month we have an assembly to award those children or adult who have been identified by their teacher or another adult of their successes in achieving our school-wide goal. By the end of the year all children will receive an award to recognize their hard work.

In conjunction with the IALAC program our school spends a good deal of time talking about bullying. We do this through reading, programs, and other teachable moments. Each classroom will develop a classroom constitution that will be posted in the classroom. We have schoolwide programs to help eliminate bullying and teach children what to do if they see bullying in or out of school.

The Dawson School Council meets once a month to develop and discuss the goals of the school. Each month we meet at 7:00 PM in the school library. If you are able, please join us.

At the beginning of each month I put together a newsletter to keep you informed of school related events. You are also informed of events through connect-ed or memos. In addition to montly news I will share results of our school survey with you dealing with Communication, Curriculum, Health and Safety. You have received a calendar/handbook. Please keep this in a convenient place. It gives you a "heads-up" of important scheduled events. Although we try to schedule events that are not conflicting, the dates are subject to change. The handbook has important information regarding school and district policies. Please read them over and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call.

The entire school community is committed to provide the best educational and personal development experience that we can, given the resources we are provided, for the students of Dawson.

I look forward to meeting with all of our new and returning students and staff and working with the parent community to continue the path of excellence in the upcoming school year.

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