

Dawson Elementary School Newsletter

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Upcoming Events

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- ◆ Grade 3 Field Trip
- ◆ Vision and Hearing
- ◆ Early Release-
Oct. 28th- 12:20
NO PM K

Principal's News

September whizzed by and now it is October and we are well underway! It was nice to see many of you at the Curriculum Night/s that you attended to learn more about the curriculum and meet your child's teacher.

Fall Festival was another successful event! I am truly amazed when I watch the community come together in such a caring way.

We have continued our endeavors to enhance our reading and writing program. This year we will be implementing Writer's Workshop. It is the next step in a balanced approach in literacy instruction. You will hear more about this as the year progresses.

We have had one enrichment program so far for our Kindergarteners. Mother Goose came for her annual visit and truly enchanted everyone she spoke with. Heather Tarantino, our school enrichment coordinator, also scheduled many other programs for our students! Thank you Dawson PTA and parents for your continued support!

Dear Parents

Parents in grades 3-5 have now received their child's MCAS scores. Teachers will be analyzing these results and the test to see how we can enrich areas of strength and address areas that may need additional support. One of our goals this year is to work with students in providing direct instruction in answering the open response questions.

I would like to thank you for avoiding office parent pickups at the end of the day. This has eased the congestion in the front of the building and in the office. Thank you for your continued support in this area.

I would like to address early dismissals. If at all possible, please do not dismiss your child from school for reasons other

"Developing our students' knowledge, skills and talents to the fullest so they can make the world a better place for all".

than medical. We need to give our students every advantage of a full day for them to have as much instruction as possible. I am sure you will agree that there is a lot to learn and we consider time on learning to be of utmost importance. This also includes being late to school.

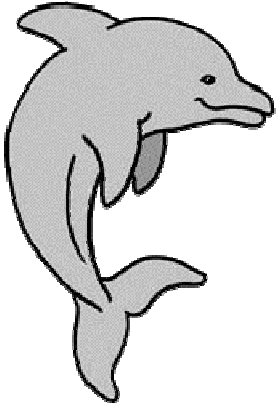
Everyone knows how difficult it can be in the morning, but when your child is late it starts them off behind as they miss early announcements and the daily itinerary. In many cases we start instruction at 9:00 AM.

I just want to remind parents that due to the many food allergies students have, we will not be celebrating birthdays with snacks. You do have the option of bringing in something in honor of your child such as a book for the classroom or library, pencil, or other school related item. If you choose not to do this your child will be recognized by their teacher and the school at an IALAC assembly.

September's IALAC theme was Friendship. This is a valuable theme to start the year off as we work together to build strong classroom and school communities. All students who are recognized are given awards and their names are posted on the IALAC bulletin board outside the cafeteria. I met with all students in K and 1 to talk about friendship and how they can "fill a bucket." If you have a child in K or 1 ask them what it means. =-)

Our first early release day is October 28th at 12:20. There will be no PM kindergarten. **There is no school on October 9th.** This is a furlough day for all teaching staff in the district.

Friendship



“demonstrating an understanding that all people have value; being kind, loyal, supportive, honest and accepting

IALAC

Our theme for October is **Cooperation**. This social skill is important as we educate our children to live happily and successfully in our diverse world.

Cooperation is:

- Listening carefully to others.
- Sharing and taking turns.
- Making other people feel needed

How to be Cooperative...

- Treat other people the way you want to be treated.
- Be courteous and polite.
- Listen to what other people have to say.
- Don't insult people, or make fun of them, or call them names.
- Don't bully or pick on others.
- Don't judge people before you get to know them.

Please talk to your child about the meaning of cooperation as we work on this in school.

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.....

October 2nd- Gr. 1 trip to the Orchard

October 6-8th Vision and Hearing

October 8th- Smokey the Bear visits K

October 9th- No school for students and teachers. This is a furlough day for all teaching staff.

October 12th - No School- Columbus Day

October 13th- PTA meeting 7:00 PM in the school library

October 14th - School Pictures (info to follow)

October 20th SIMCO- 7:00 PM school library

October 20th- Jay Banks program- Stamp Out Bullying K-2 (TBA)- PM K is invited to AM session 3-5 (TBA)

Oct. 22nd Gr.3 Field trip to Plymouth

Oct. 28th- Early Release- 12:20- **NO PM K**

Study Tips

October's Study Tips HOMEWORK

Homework is your child's responsibility, so you should just stay out of the way, right? Not necessarily. With a little support from you, homework can be a positive experience for your child - one that enriches learning, reinforces daily classroom lessons, and fosters lifelong organizational skills.

Wherever your child chooses to do his or her homework, it's important to make sure that the workspace is:

well-lit

comfortable

stocked with school supplies such as pens, pencils, paper, stapler, calculator, ruler, etc., as well as references such as a dictionary and thesaurus

quiet and free from distractions - TV, video games, phone calls, or chatting with other family members

Just a reminder:

Please be sure to check the expiration date of your CORI badge. Your badge lasts 3 years. If you are not sure when it expires check with our school secretary. It can take up to 5 weeks for a badge to be approved.

I trust that your child has had a smooth transition to their next grade. It always takes a little time, but from my observations I have seen many positive and happy faces in the classrooms and out at recess.

Yours in IALAC,

Patricia A. Scalos, Principal