



February 2009-2010 Newsletter

Woodland Elementary School

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It is hard to believe that half of the school year has already been completed. I can't say it enough; I just don't know where all the time goes. All I know is that it's all too fast for me. I am trying to slow things down a bit, but I'm afraid I am not meeting with success. If you have any suggestions, I'm listening!

Last week it was shared with the students that they have now reached the 8,000 mark for books read. They are two thirds of the way in meeting the first goal. Please encourage continued reading, even on the weekends!

As a reminder, Wednesday, February 3rd is a Collaboration Day with a 12:00 dismissal. The collaboration activities are district-wide and are primarily focused on the curriculum of content specific areas. Staff across the district, from each of the schools will be working together with a mutual purpose of creating common vocabulary lists, reviewing text and materials, sequencing the delivery of instruction, and pacing units.

Lastly, the teachers will be wrapping up with the annual assessments. The information gathered will be shared with families at the parent/teacher conferences in March. With this information, we will be able to monitor the individual growth of each child.

Stay safe and stay warm!

Southwick Public Library February Vacation Activities

Tuesday, February 16—Time for Two's Story time, 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, February 17—Bedtime Story time, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 18—Bagalope Workshop, Grades 4-6, 10:30 a.m.

Grades 7-12, 2:30 p.m.

Friday, February 10—Healthy Choices, with Mime Robert Rivest, 1:30 p.m.

All ages!



COUNCELORS' CORNER

The Woodland Elementary School Safety Council is rehearsing for their Spring play "My Bully". "My Bully", a play about a student being bullied at school and what he, his friends, and school do to stop the bullying, will be presented on March 5th to all Woodland students.

Students in the 4th grade classes have been continuing to participate in Steps to Respect, a Bullying Prevention Program. Students have been learning friendship skills that help protect them from bullying like finding and making friends & joining a group. They have also been learning about recognizing bullying and the different types of bullying. In the latest lessons students have been learning about refusing to be bullied by speaking out when it is safe. By refusing to be bullied, students are learning to:

1. Keep your feelings in control/appear calm
2. Use assertive behaviors
 - Stand or sit tall
 - Hold your head high
 - Look straight at the person who is doing the bullying
 - Say clear, strong words that mean "Stop!"
 - Label it: "That's bullying."
3. Walk away calmly

In June, Woodland 4th graders will be participating in a Career Day to learn about careers available in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math fields. I am looking for community members working in these fields to volunteer to talk with students on this day. If you are interested in being part of this event please contact Nicole Fernald at nferald@strsd.southwick.ma.us or 413-569-6598.

Pennie Sibley, School Adjustment Counselor & Nicole Fernald, School Guidance Counselor

LOST AND FOUND

Please check the table in the main lobby for lost and found articles. We have an abundance of winter clothing, etc. that will be donated to the needy if not claimed by Friday, February 12th.

RESPECT

Our civility theme this month is respect. We focused by becoming 'defenders of our planet' by sharing ways we can show respect for our Earth. Children have shared that they have planted flowers, have picked up litter or by conserving electricity and water. They have listed their ideas on 'helping hands' which have contributed to a "Defenders of our Planet" bulletin board.



EVERYONE IS WELCOME

To the
Southwick Tolland Regional School District PAC
(parent advisory committee)
For families of children with special needs.

Help a stranger or a friend.

Knowledge = Power
Bring your knowledge.
We need to empower our parents and children.

We Need you! People who care. We need your input.

Please come sit in at our meetings.

Powder Mill Middle School Community Room

February 24th @ 10:00 am
Topics discussed-Speech, OT, PT

March 18th @ 6:30 pm
Topics discussed-Bullying

SPRING PICTURES



Spring pictures will be taken on Friday, February 26th at our school. All children will be photographed and a "proof" will be sent home for families to review. If you wish to purchase your child's picture, please send in the appropriate amount of money for the packet you wish to buy. A flyer will be going home, before this date, with more information for you.

MCAS

Third and fourth grade students will be having MCAS testing this year according to the following schedule. Please take a moment to mark your calendars for these important dates.

Grade	Test	Dates	Sessions
3	ELA Reading	March 22, 24	3
4	ELA Reading	March 26 & 30	3
4	ELA Composition	March 23	2
4	ELA Composition (Make-up)	April 7	2
3-4	MCAS- Alt Assessment	April 1	NA
3	Math	May 12 & 14	2
4	Math	May 11 & 13	2

Please make every effort to avoid doctor appointments and vacation plans on the dates listed above when your child will be tested. Participation in these assessments is required by state and federal law.

Pennies for Patients



Once again Woodland School will be collecting pennies and spare change for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Monies will be collected from February 22nd to March 12th.

Leukemia is the leading cause of disease-related death among children. An estimated 785,829 Americans have a blood cancer, and every five minutes, someone new is diagnosed. Since 1992, millions of dollars have been raised in pennies and other spare change by more than 12 million elementary, middle and high school students nationwide. The mission of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society is to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and to improve the quality of life of patients and their families.

Woodland School efforts will help local patients and their families along with funding blood cancer research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston's Children's Hospital, New England Medical Center and Massachusetts General Hospital along with 13 other institutions throughout Massachusetts.

Keep the pennies coming!

2009-2010 School Year!

Woodland Elementary School Lunch Program

Things to Know:

The Manager and Assistant are
"Serve-Safe" and C.P.R. Certified.

Free/Reduced Student Lunch
Applications are available throughout the year.
Please call the Food Service Office for an application
569-6870

All information is confidential.

"REMINDER"

If your child is eligible for Free/Reduced lunch
He/she is entitled to Free/Reduced breakfast daily.

Prices: Student lunch \$2.00

Reduced Lunch \$.40

Ala Carte Milk\$.50

Paid Breakfast \$1.00

Reduced Breakfast \$.25

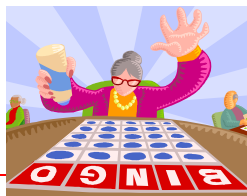
Lunch Tickets sold @ \$40.00 for 20 day ticket.

Please put students name and room number on checks/envelopes

Assorted Snacks are sold between .25 -\$.75

BOOKS FOR BINGO

Mario game night! Everyone wins a book!!! This event is free and open to all Woodland families; however, all children must be accompanied by an adult. Every child will be provided a beverage and snack. Bingo will be on March 5th from 6:00—7:30 pm in the Woodland cafeteria. If you would like to volunteer or help with this activity, please contact Judy Longhi at ja-longhi@comcast.net or 569-2083.



School Council

The School Council met in January and discussed the current budget, the NAEYC Kindergarten Surveys that were sent out and work began on the Woodland's School Improvement Plan. The Council will be meeting again on February 11, 2010 at 6:00 in the library to continue their work on the School Improvement Plan. The public is always welcome.

REMINDERS

Please update your child's emergency cards if any of your information has changed, phone numbers or addresses.

If you are wishing to chaperone on a field trip or volunteer in the school you will need to make sure that your cori check is current.

BUS STOP SAFETY

Meeting friends at the bus stop in the morning is always exciting. As children enjoy this time, please review some general safety rules with your child.



NO RUNNING

NO PUSHING

NO FOOLING AROUND

STAY AWAY FROM THE ROAD

BE ON TIME

The Southwick-Tolland Regional School District, 86 Powder Mill Road, Southwick, MA, is committed to maintain and promote a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, creed, religion, color, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, veteran status, marital status and national origin. This policy incorporates by reference and where applicable the requirements of the Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended; the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1988; the Civil Rights Act of 1991; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and pertinent statutes, regulations and executive orders; directives of the Massachusetts Department of Education and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and other applicable local, state and federal statutes.