



# JANUARY 2009-2010 Newsletter

Woodland Elementary School

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Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! With the hustle and bustle of the holidays behind us, and coming back from the winter break, students and staff are rejuvenated to work hard and accomplish much during this month. January is a month with minimal distractions! Besides providing the opportunity to cover a solid chunk of the curriculum, it is also a month that teachers complete numerous assessments to document students' growth in reading, writing and math. With this information, we are able to determine our next steps in meeting student needs. This collected data will be shared with you at our next parent/teacher conferences in March.

<u>Kindergarten</u>	<u>Grade 1</u>	<u>Grade 2</u>	<u>Grade 3</u>	<u>Grade 4</u>
DIBELS -Letter Naming Fluency -Initial Sound Fluency -Phoneme Segmentation Fluency -Nonsense Word Fluency	DIBELS    -Phoneme Segmentation Fluency -Nonsense Word Fluency -Oral Reading Fluency	DIBELS      -Nonsense Word Fluency -Oral Reading Fluency	DIBELS        -Oral Reading Fluency	DIBELS        -Oral Reading Fluency
	High Frequency Spelling Words	High Frequency Spelling Words	High Frequency Spelling Words	
	Writing Prompt	Writing Prompt	Writing Prompt	Writing Prompt
Scott Foresman Reading	Scott Foresman Reading	Scott Foresman Reading	Scott Foresman Reading	Scott Foresman Reading
Everyday Math	Everyday Math	Everyday Math	Everyday Math	Everyday Math

## DIBELS

**Letter Naming Fluency-** On this assessment, students are presented with a page of upper- and lower-case letters arranged in a random order and are asked to name as many as they can. Students are told if they do not know a letter they will be told the letter. The student is allowed 1 minute to produce as many letter names as he/she can, and the score is the number of letters named correctly in 1 minute.

**Initial Sound Fluency-** This subtest measures a child's ability to identify, isolate, and pronounce the first sound of an orally presented word. The examiner produces a sound and the child must find which of four pictures begins with that sound. The child is also asked to orally produce the beginning sound for an orally presented word that matches one of the given pictures. The score is the number of correct initial sounds given per minute.

**Phoneme Segmentation Fluency-** PSF is a direct measure of phonemic awareness. The examiner gives the child a word or syllable with three or four phonemes and asks the child to say the individual sounds that make up a word. For example, the examiner says *sat* and the child says /s/ /a/ /t/. The score is the number of correct phonemes produced in 1 minute.

**Nonsense Word Fluency-** NWF measures the ability to link letters with sounds and use that knowledge to decode three-letter syllables that alone are nonsense words (*sis, sil, com*). The child reads randomly ordered words and receives credit for pronouncing individual sounds or the correct sounds in a whole syllable read as a unit.

**Oral Reading Fluency-** Benchmark passages at each grade level are used to measure accuracy and speed in the oral reading of graded passages. Passages are calibrated for each level. Students read each of the three passages aloud for one minute. The student's score is the median correct words per minute from the three passages.

## High Frequency Spelling Words

Students in grades one through three are given a spelling assessment using a list of grade level high frequency words. A student's score is based upon how many words were spelled correctly out of the total.

## Writing Prompt

Students in grades one through four are given a prompt in which they must provide a written response. Using a rubric which focuses on topic development and conventions, each written piece is scored.

## Scott Foresman Reading

This Benchmark Test is designed to measure a child's progress based on the comprehension skills and strategies taught at each grade level. Each test has multiple choice and short-answer formats. These items test reading comprehension, critical thinking skills, grammar, and phonics.

## Everyday Math

This assessment measures students' progress in the mastery of math skills taught the first half of the year.



Pictured are some of the 23 members of the fourth grade Safety Council

## **THANK YOU**

The safety council sends out a big thank you for the generous donations of nonperishable foods items donated during our holiday concert. The Southwick Food Pantry came to pick up the hundreds of pounds of items that were donated at the concert.

## **REMINDERS**

When school is delayed for inclement weather, breakfast is not served.

Report cards will be going home on Monday, February 1st.

Preschool screening will be held on January 15th.

# HOLIDAY CONCERT

The gymnasium was filled with holiday spirit on Wednesday, December 23rd as our students performed seasonal songs for parents and guests. Children for kindergarten through fourth grade danced, sang and entertained under the direction of our Music Teacher, Mrs. Baillargeon.





# School Council

The School Council did not meet in December, but will start the year with a meeting on Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 in the school library. Information will be shared about this and next year's budget and the Council will review the NAEYC Family Surveys which will be sent home to all kindergarten families sometime this month. With the remaining time, the draft District Improvement Plan will be reviewed. The public is always welcome.

## FAIRNESS

One hundred and seventy two students have signed our graffiti peace sign as a result of their continued participation to our fairness civility theme during the month of December. Our civility theme for the month of January will be respect.



Henna Carr

Maura Wurster

**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.

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

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.

