



March 2009-2010 Newsletter

Woodland Elementary School

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Believe it or not, March 20th signifies the first day of spring. For schools, spring also signifies the start of MCAS testing. To assist families, the exact testing dates for third and fourth grade ELA assessments are presented below. English Language Arts testing begins first thing in the morning to allow sufficient time for the students. A good night's rest and healthy breakfast is helpful during this time. Please make every effort to have your child to school on time and avoid doctor appointments and vacation plans as participation is required by state and federal law.

Grade	Test	Dates	Sessions
3	ELA Reading	March 22 & 24	2
4	ELA Reading	March 26 & 30	2
4	ELA Composition	March 23	1

Also, due to parent/teacher conferences, there is a half day scheduled for March 4th and March 12th.

Thursday, March 4th

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Dismissal: **11:30**

Friday, March 12th

Post Conference Day

Dismissal: **12:00**

School Council

Due to the cancellation of school on Wednesday, February 10th, the Council did not meet. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at 6:00 in the library. Work on the School Improvement Plan will continue. The public is always welcome.

With the assistance of the School Council, a School Climate survey was created and all third and fourth grade students gave us feedback about aspects of their school day. The results are below.

	This is true about me.	Often	Sometimes	Never
1.	I have made friends at school.	62%	36%	2%
2.	I feel safe in school.	80%	18%	2%
3.	I am treated nicely by other students.	60%	37%	3%
4.	I like coming to school.	48%	42%	10%
5.	I feel safe on the bus.	74%	23%	3%
6.	I am treated well during lunch period.	79%	17%	4%
7.	My teacher cares about me.	91%	8%	2%
8.	I am comfortable using the school's bath-rooms.	51%	38%	11%
9.	I am praised for good work.	61%	36%	3%
10.	The work I do in class makes me think.	67%	30%	3%
	This is true about me.	Often	Sometimes	Never
11.	I understand the school rules.	89%	10%	2%
12.	I am comfortable asking questions in class.	68%	28%	4%
13.	My best work is expected at my school.	81%	16%	3%
14.	Students are treated fairly by teachers	83%	15%	2%
15.	Students are treated fairly by the people on recess duty.	70%	27%	3%
16.	I am safe from bullies.	68%	25%	7%
17.	I get help at home with home work.	51%	41%	8%

In reviewing the results, we felt improvements were needed concerning the school's bathrooms. Maintenance work was completed to remedy some issues and the school is looking at ways to continue to address bathroom concerns. We also want to improve students' interaction with each other regarding friendliness and respect. Beginning efforts have involved staff training at faculty meetings, dissemination of information, sharing of strategies and an activity for students to complete. The Safety Council will also perform *My Bully*, a play written by Woodland's guidance counselor, Mrs. Sibley. Furthermore, the counselors will continue to deliver Second Step lessons in each classroom to supports these ideals.

The students were also asked what they liked about school and what they wished was different. Numerous students responded that they like their teachers, enjoy their specials classes, look forward to the annual reading challenge, and in particular, like recess and lunch. It was rather humorous reading their responses to what they wished were different. Of course they wished they had more recess, less homework and fewer days of school, this was to be expected. The staff particularly liked their idea of a spa!

Counselors' Corner

Friday, March 5th, the 4th grade Safety Council will be staging this season's play, "My Bully" for Woodland Elementary. This play is being performed to teach students about what they can do if they or someone else is being bullied. The Safety Council will teach students to:

- Tell someone you are being bullied
- Get some friends to help you
- Use a firm voice to speak to the bully
- Don't play near the bully
- Tell the bully to stop
- Have your friends tell the bully to stop
- Avoid the bully
- Report bullying to an adult
- Bullying has consequences

Second Step is beginning in 3rd grade classrooms this month. In the first lessons students will be learning about empathy, active listening skills, and using I messages to communicate with others.

Steps to Respect, a bullying prevention program, will be wrapping up in March. Students have been learning about reporting bullying to an adult and bystander power. We are discussing that when bystanders speak up and act when bullying is happening, it gives the message that bullying will not be tolerated at Woodland Elementary School. Bystanders can do a variety of different things to support someone who is being bullied, they can:

- Report the bullying to an adult
- Refuse to let others be bullied
- Refuse to watch a bullying situation
- Talk to someone privately who's being bullied and offer to help
- Try to get other bystanders to do something to get involved and help stop the situation
- Hang out with someone who is being bullied and form a protective group
- Save a seat on the bus or at lunch for the person being bullied
- If the person doing the bullying is a friend, tell them to stop

Bystanders have a choice to be part of the problem or part of the solution. When bystanders speak up and act it can stop bullying.

Pennie Sibley, School Adjustment Counselor, 413-569-6598 x159

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LET THE GAMES BEGIN

The Woodland Gymnasium was transformed into the "Van Woodland" Canadian Olympic Venue for the opening ceremonies of the 4th grade's 2010 Winter Olympic Games. After a brief introduction of the history of the Olympics, the host country of Canada led 140 athletes holding flags high, representing 24 countries, around the gym. Student Olympians read the creed, recited the oath and raised the Olympic flag. The gym was dim but came to light when the torch bearer walked around the gym, handed off to the caldron lighter who climbed the ladder, put the torch to the caldron and proclaimed, "Let the Games Begin". Students will participate in Olympic-like events ranging from curling to bobsledding over the next 5 weeks.



4th Grade Principal's Service Group



Periodically, Woodland School partakes in fundraising activities to support organizations nationally and locally. When an activity is planned, the teachers are asked to nominate one or two of their students who consistently put forth effort, are good classroom citizens and deserve to be recognized. The 4th grade students involved in the current **Pennies for Patients** fundraising are: Austin Davis, Alyssa Glynn, Amanda LaCombe, Jameson Secovich, David Sheehan, Caroline Wilcox.



On Thursday, February 25th, the Principal's Group hung posters, delivered collection boxes and classroom goal sheets, and made an announcement signifying the start of the fundraising. Since then, morning messages have been delivered and will continue up until March 12th.

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

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.