



OCTOBER 2009-2010 Newsletter

Woodland Elementary School

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Dear Parents,

The students are off and running to meet my reading challenge this year. The children have already read 1,120 books! Parents, I want to thank you for overseeing nightly reading and reading to your younger children who are not yet readers. As I have told the children, you have to practice to become better and reading is no different.

I am happy to report that we now have a part-time librarian. Her name is Mrs. Kara Welch. She, along with parent volunteers, has begun the task of cleaning and reorganizing the library prior to the arrival of children. A gigantic thank you goes out to parents Mary Stratton, Jennifer Whalley, Margo Chapski, Maria Seddon and Dianne Houle for pitching in and pitching out! Ms. Winters, the librarian assistant we're sharing with Powder Mill, will be joining us in a couple of weeks or so, once Powder Mill hires their librarian. Soon classes will be scheduled for the library.

As reported in the newsletter last month, both Ms. Osterfund(PE) and Mrs. Baillargeon(Music) have not been able to start the school year with us, but will be back when able. We started the year with Mrs. Pignatare filling in for Ms. Osterfund and Mr. Phillip Crouch for Mrs. Baillargeon's classes. I would now like to inform you that Mr. Dan Whalley is filling in for Ms. Osterfund and Mr. Richard Quinn is covering for Mrs. Baillargeon. Mrs. Pignatare and Mr. Crouch did a fantastic job with our students at the start of the year and Mr. Whalley and Mr. Quinn have jumped in with ease and the children are enjoying their time in these specials.

Fall has officially hit the Saso household. With the inside temperature reading 63°, I broke down and turned on the heat. I was putting this off as long as I could, but the time had come. As you can tell, I'm begrudgingly accepting summer is gone. I still have my hanging baskets and planted window boxes, but they are looking rather pathetic. I think I've picked my last cucumber, tomato, eggplant and pepper. I'm struck with the reality that even more leaves will be accumulating on my lawn and screaming to be picked up. Oh well, I can now set my sights on the brighter aspects of fall; the crisp air, fall colors, apple picking and of course, apple pies! Enjoy fall in your own way!

Sincerely,

Kim

Hats On Day

Children diagnosed with pediatric cancer often wear hats to cover up their hair loss resulting from treatments, such as chemotherapy. For 50 cents, Woodland students were allowed to wear a hat to school. Money raised went to The Foundation for Children with Cancer. The mission of the foundation is to provide financial assistance to families so that they have a greater opportunity to focus on their child's treatment and recovery. \$233.00 was raised.



Our Principal's Service Group made posters to display throughout the school to inform the students about Hats on Day. They also collected and counted the money that was donated to The Foundation for Children with Cancer. Members of our group are from left to right- Sam Willis, Samuel Mackey, Apryl Carey and Jocelyn Biathrow. Missing from picture is Noka Warren.



School Council

The School Council met on September 9th and reviewed preliminary MCAS data. The Council's next meeting is on Wednesday, October 14th at 6:00 PM in the school library. The group will be reviewing climate surveys and will decide which questions to include or change. The public is always welcome.

MCAS TESTING SCHEDULE

Grade	Test	Dates	Sessions
3	ELA Reading	March 22 & 24	2
4	ELA Reading	March 25 & 26	2
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

2009-2010 Testing Dates

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.

SCHOOL SAFETY



Fire drills are practiced regularly throughout our district. At Woodland, these evacuations happen quickly and quietly and we are able to account for all children and adults in a timely fashion once we are outside. If in our school at time of evacuation, please meet secretarial staff in front of school for accountability.

We've had a comprehensive crisis plan in place for several years and will continue to practice "lock down" procedures this year as well.

In a "lock down" everyone remains in class, all doors are locked, window shades are drawn and everyone remains out of sight and waits quietly until the drill is over.

What's Happening in our Communities

Join other members of our community to gather information on available services and fun opportunities for you and your children, grandchildren and children in your care.

Make new friends, reconnect with old friends and enjoy a light supper along with free babysitting. Door prizes will be offered along with a free children's book to share with your child, grandchild or children in your care.

The event is being held in the Lower Level of Town hall (by the Family Support Coalition) on Wednesday, October 28th, from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., and is hosted by the Coordinated Family and Community Grant, sponsored by the Dept. of Early Education and Care. **CHECK IT OUT!!**

Shriner's Hospital



As many of us already know, Shriner's Hospital helps many children who need medical help from doctors and nurses. This help is given free to children. The children at Woodland Elementary School are saving aluminum pop tops from soda cans in order to be able to help. One of our community members, Mr. Robert Miller, has been very instrumental in helping to make our efforts successful. Today we received a large donation from two of our students, Reece and Avery Couture.

Target- Take Charge of Education

As a result of supporters participating in Target's Take Charge of Education Program, Woodland School received a check in March for \$119.29. If you are a Target shopper please consider enrolling in this program.

Here's how it works:

1. [Apply](#) and get approved for a REDcard.
2. Enroll in Take Charge of Education and choose Woodland School.
3. Start shopping with your REDcard.

If you already have a REDcard you can go to Target.com/tcoe or call 1-800-316-6142 to select our school to receive a percentage of your purchases.

News from the Art Room

Projects: Our first sets of projects are almost complete. Most will be sent home to be placed in portfolios or hung and some will be hung here at school on our bulletin boards. Some photos will also be placed on my webpage.

Donations: Wipes, wipes, wipes...

Thank you very much for your donations. We now have plenty of magazines; however, we are still in need of hand/wet wipes. With 30 classes (about 700 students) each week, our supply is quickly diminishing. We will need them all year long, so please keep them coming. The wipes are a much quicker and easier way to cleanup saving us valuable time in the art room.

Volunteers: Thanks to the many who offered to volunteer. I now have several people coming in each week to help out. I think we're all set for now, but I still have the list of people and if something comes up I'll let you know. Thanks.

Happy October,
Kim Christenson

Thank you

The Safety Council would like to give a big THANKS to everyone who donated canned and non perishable goods to the Southwick Food Pantry . We collected 21 bags of food at the Open House.



Winner's of the box top store raffle are from left to right- Jake Ritrosky, Aaron Sherlin, Mariah Herbert and Chad Bannish.

BOX TOPS

Woodland School continues to participate in the Box Tops for Education program. You can help by clipping the Box Tops off of participating products and sending them to school with your child. These Box Tops can be found on the packaging of your family's favorite General Mills products. And now, you can find Box Tops on Ziploc® and Kleenex® products.



SCHOOL PICTURES

School Pictures will be on Tuesday, October 13th. Look for flyers coming home in your child's backpacks with more details.

HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARADE



Each year our kindergarten students get to participate in a costume parade on the day of Halloween. This year our parade will be on Friday, October 30th. For the safety of the children, I have one request. If your child's costume involves a mask, I ask that the mask be left at home. Often these masks hinder visibility and I do not want anyone to get hurt. If you do not want your child to participate, please let the teacher know in advance. Thank you for your support.

LABELING

Please label all student's clothing, lunch boxes, etc. with their names to ensure the return of misplaced items either left on the bus or at school. Thank you!

COLLABORATION DAY

On September 30th, staff participated in various collaborative activities. Faculty in grades one through four utilized this time to score the September writing prompts for all students in each of these grades. Information gathered from this assessment will be used to drive instruction and strengthen deficit areas. Kindergarten and preschool gathered documents for their classroom portfolio to serve as evidence in meeting NAEYC's standards and objectives. The remaining staff members worked on data entry, computer programs, lesson planning and developing activities to meet individual student needs.

Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for **Thursday** evening, **October 15th** from 5:00 - 8:00 PM and **Wednesday** afternoon, **October 21st** from 12:00 -3:30 PM. **OCTOBER 15TH IS A FULL DAY OF SCHOOL.** These meetings are an important time to share information about the education of our children. Report cards will go home on **November 16th.**

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.

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.