

Estabrook Newsletter

November 6, 2009

Greetings!

Thank you to our families for joining us at parent / teacher conferences. It has been an excellent opportunity to check-in on student progress and form goals for the coming weeks.

As we move ahead with the curriculum, we are continually monitoring and adjusting student learning based on each child's formative assessment. (Formative assessment includes student work samples, observation and brief assessments that help us guide learning.) "Differentiated instruction" is a term widely used in education to mean personalized or customized ways of learning. In practice, it means that we offer students multiple pathways of learning new information and varied opportunities to share what they are learning. You will see many examples of this at Estabrook School. Science experiments, technology opportunities, writer's workshop, math manipulatives, singing songs and shared reading are all excellent examples of differentiated learning tools and experiences at work.

Our teachers regularly adapt learning to challenge each student. Each child's learning profile, interest and achievement levels are taken into account when we plan and teach a lesson. This process helps students meet success along the learning journey. Differentiated learning practices in the classroom also build acknowledgement among peers that learning differences are part of what makes each of us unique. Teachers regularly adjust content, process and product to fine tune the curriculum for each child. Students benefit from multiple learning methods and student-centered approaches. Differentiated learning is what makes learning exciting for all students!

Please Note!

Principal Coffee

Tuesday, November 10

Veterans Day-No School

Wednesday, November 10

Picture Retake Day

Wednesday, December 9

This past Wednesday, we had a very successful Safe Routes to School Day and the children enjoyed turning our school pumpkin into a turkey! We were treated to the Safe Routes to School State Coordinator who visited us that day – a former Estabrook and Lexington graduate! Special thanks to Suzie Barry for her coordination and the many parent volunteers who helped make the day a success.

Congratulations to the **Estabrook Kle-bees Team**, the winning trivia team at last night's *Lexington Education Foundation Trivia Bee!* Special thanks goes to the "Three Bees," another Estabrook trivia team who made it to the final round and our "Queen Bees" team as well. I had the honor of serving as a judge last night and it was a great time for a great cause!

Today, we had some difficulties with our telephone system. We were able to call out, but not receive calls in. This was the result of a telephone company problem and they have been working hard to resolve the issue. We sent out a listserv notice that our calls could be directed to Central Office. Central Office is able to contact me via cell phone to ensure that communication flows smoothly. Thank you for your understanding during this temporary difficulty.

Next week, the P.T.A. and I are holding our next Principal Coffee on Tuesday, November 10th at 8:45 a.m. With news of a new playground next year and a new school in the future, there is much to catch up on! We hope you can join us.

Enjoy the weekend. Until next week...

Warmest regards,

Sandra A. Trach
Principal

METCO Extended Day Program

Meg Colella, the Coordinator of the METCO Extended Day Program, has developed an impressive website to communicate with parents. The website is <http://teacherweb.com/MA/LexingtonPublicSchools/MELP/apt7.aspx>