

ESTABROOK UPDATE

Joseph Estabrook Elementary School, 117 Grove Street, Lexington, MA 02420

(781) 861-2520

Principal: Martha Batten

Volume 2 Number 22

Friday, March 7, 2008

A Principal Notes... This has been a week of mourning and a week of caring at Estabrook School. On Thursday we said goodbye to Ellen Hauser, our beloved third grade teacher. The support of parents and District personnel during this sad time has been deeply appreciated. Parents have brought flowers, treats, or coffee. Counselors and administrators in the District have visited and pitched in. Starbucks has donated huge tanks of coffee and treats, several times.

For those of us who want to contribute to Ellen's memorial fund, David Hauser would greatly appreciate contributions to the Ovarian Cancer Research/Dr. Ursula Matulonis, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, 10 Brookline Place West, 6th floor, Brookline, MA 02445. We will have an envelope at school and will be collecting checks to make a donation from faculty, staff, parents, and students from the Estabrook school community until next Friday, March 14. Also, we are adding to a memory book to give to David Hauser. If you would like to add comments, please submit them next week on a journal size piece of paper and we will paste them in.

Some parents have asked about whether the school would have a memorial service. Maria Trozzi, who founded The Good Grief program, has written about the place of commemoration when there is a death at school. She says that it is important that students be a part of the planning and that, as much as possible, the ideas come from them. She also advises that this step should not be rushed; it may take a period of time. As the idea comes up, a member of our caring team will be available to staff and students to help with the planning of the commemoration.

This weekend is the beginning of Daylight Savings. This is the harder of the two time changes on children (and adults, actually) because our bodies "lose" an hour. Sleep patterns are disrupted. Sometimes it can be a cranky week!

Lexington Council for the Arts The Grade 2 team wishes to thank Lexington Council for the Arts for the generous grant that helped fund their trip to the North Shore Music Theatre coming up on Tuesday, 3/25/2008. They are looking forward to seeing "Charlotte's Web".

Mother Goose Visits Kindergarten Classes

"Mother Goose" visited each Kindergarten class on Tuesday morning, delighting them by reciting some of her famous nursery rhymes in Old English and others in song as the children joined in with laughter. "Mother Goose" came in her long dress, apron, hat and pointy-toe shoes - just as she appears dressed in her books. The children participated in circle games, asked and answered questions, and then watched and listened as she retold the "Little Red Riding Hood" story. The children also learned how people and geese use goose feathers, and everyone had a chance to see and feel a real goose feather. This unique Characters Education Theatre event was sponsored

by the PTA's ACT Committee.

Box Tops - Congratulations Estabrook \$243

- We did it! The Winter Box Tops Contest raised an additional \$243, exceeding our goal of \$170. In the last week we raised not 179 Box Tops - but over 1,000! Our 5th grade won with an amazing total of 703.

Here are the final results:

- 1st Place - 5th grade with 703 Box Tops
- 2nd Place - 4th grade with 357 Box Tops
- 3rd Place - Kindergarten with 308 Box Tops
- 4th Place - 3rd Grade with 257 Box Tops
- 5th Place - 1st grade with 224 Box Tops
- 6th Place - 2nd grade with 201 Box Tops

Thanks to all who participated in this contest. Please keep saving and send those Box Tops in. It is a FREE easy way for us to help fund the programs that benefit our children.

RUN OF THE MILL! - May 18, 2008

Mark your calendars! The 1st Annual Run of the Mill will take place on Sun., May 18th at Estabrook! All Estabrook families, staff, and friends are invited to join in this healthy, fun, and exciting community event. To kick off the day, there will be a Kids Run at 10AM, followed by the main event - a 5K Run/Walk that will begin at 11AM. Starting at Estabrook, the course takes runners and walkers through the beautiful Turning Mill neighborhood, finishing back at the school. After the race, participants and spectators are invited to join in the post-race 'Food Fest'. Proceeds from the race will benefit Estabrook.

New to running? Never tried a 5K before? Want help creating a plan to walk a 5K? This **Tuesday** night, **March 11**, the Greater Boston Running Company, www.greaterbostonrunningcompany.com, located in Lexington Center, is hosting a 'Run of the Mill Training Night'. Beginning at 7 P.M., interested runners and walkers are invited to bring a friend and get tips, training programs, information and even some new shoes (at a discount) from two great guys - Steve and Alex. They will be happy to help you set up a program that's right for you and get you ready for May 18th!

By now, you probably have received a flyer with lots of info about this new, exciting Estabrook event in your student's backpack. For more information or to register for the race, please go to the website: <http://www.coolrunning.com/applications/08/basic/RunoftheMiMay18.html>.

Registration forms and course maps will be available in the office and online.

For more information go to the website or email Estabrook5K@gmail.com. You can also contact Gretchen Reisig at 781-652-8169.

Estabrook Book Drive Thank you very much for your continuing support for the ongoing book drive. Over 500 books have been donated to this book drive this year so far! The books will be delivered to children and parents who are in need of books in the Chelsea area. Please drop off any children's books and parenting books you and your children have outgrown in the cheerfully decorated yellow collection box near the front entrance of Estabrook. Chapter books are most appreciated! If you have any questions, please contact Miko Brais 781-860-9196, mikoimai@rcn.com.

CELEBRATE HOLI AT CARY LIBRARY

Celebrate the springtime Indian holiday of *Holi* on Thurs., March 27, at 2:30 P.M., for children ages 4-8.

KhelMel, a community group that brings Indian culture to families and children, will present a short, interactive puppet show based on a traditional Indian tale, teach an Indian folk dance (bhangra), and introduce children to some Indian crafts.

Space is limited. Free tickets available in the Cary Library Children's Room, beginning Monday evening, March 17, at 7:00 P.M. Telephone reservations will be accepted at (781) 862-6288, ext. 170, beginning at 7:30 P.M.

UKRAINIAN EGG DECORATING at CARY

LIBRARY Children in grades 4 and up are invited to celebrate springtime by making Pysanky, eggs decorated in the Ukrainian tradition, at Cary Library.

The Library will offer two free Ukrainian egg-decorating workshops on Saturday afternoons, April 5 and April 12, from 1-5 P.M. Extra time will be available for those who need it, on Saturday, April 19, from 1:00-4:00 P.M.

Attendance is limited to 12 in each session. Registration will begin on Monday March 24, at 7:00 p.m., in the Cary Library Children's Room. Telephone registrations will be accepted after 7:30 P.M. Call 781-862-6288, Ext. 170.

Family Math Nights Just before the February Break, Estabrook families enjoyed another successful season of Family Math Night.

On Tues., Jan. 29th, 50 (!) Kindergarteners and 1st graders and their families enjoyed an evening of one-on-one math games ("openers") and group games. Some of the games were a challenge, but everyone had fun. We had a really great turnout and the halls were at maximum capacity!! A special thanks to our Kindergarten coordinator, Kim Coburn and First Grade coordinator, Luis Cortez. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped out: Anne Ricci, Debbie Bartfeld, returning Estabrook graduate Daniel Ron and Mary Rose Scozzafava.

On Wed, Feb. 6, 40 3rd and 4th graders juggled pennies, flipped cards and made estimations as they played their way through an evening of family math. The third graders even took a surprise phone call from Ms. Batten, who made a suggestion on the next move in a game of Fiddle-Faddle-Flop. Special notes of appreciation go to Than McIntosh and Jim Courtemanche, who coordinated

the evening. Thanks also to volunteers Jennifer Hewitt and Mark Cincotta, who helped make the night a success.

The Family Math Night program was completely revamped for the 4th and 5th grades this year, with a new format and new and more challenging games. On Wed., Feb. 13, 25 4th and 5th graders made a trip in time and space to play math games from ancient cultures such as the Far East, Egypt, Greece and Medieval Europe!! Kids were encouraged to come in period costume and the evening was full of visitors from Camelot, the Parthenon and even an Egyptian Pharaoh!! Children had fun collecting stamps in their 'passport' as they visited each land and completed the math challenges they found there. A very special thanks to the tireless efforts donated by a dedicated group of parents, Sulochana Devadas, Mary Lockshin, Ari Moses, Michael Salpulkas, Mary Rose Scozzafava, and Joe Blatt. Their creativity and hard work was rewarded by the enormous positive feedback we received from kids and parents alike. A special thanks to all the volunteers who helped out on game night, including Ilona Griner, David Vogel, Than McIntosh, Meeta Kansara, Tom Chaput, Margaret Counts-Klebe and returning Estabrook graduates Rachel Kling and Sheila Devadas.

Calendar

March

- 7 Read Aloud Day
- 7, 14, 28 Y.E.S., 3:15-4:15 P.M.
- 10-19 Spring MEPA for ELL students
- 10 Antibias Meeting, 6 PM
- 12 Site Council Meeting, 4 PM
- 13 Kindergarten Orientation, Harrington School, 7 PM
- Primary Concert, Grades 1 & 2, for families, 9-10 A.M
- 21 Good Friday – No School
- 25 MCAS-Grade 4 Long Comp North Shore Music Theatre, 2nd Grade, 8:45 – 11:30 AM
- 26 MCAS-Grade 3 Reading, Grade 4 ELA ACT Nora Dooley
- 27 MCAS-Grade 3 Reading, Grade 4 ELA
- 28 MCAS-Grade 3 Reading, Grade 4 ELA
- 31 MCAS-Grade 5 ELA

5th Gr. Math Olympiads every Tuesday at 8 A.M.
4th Gr. Math Olympiads every Thursday at 8 A.M.

MCAS DATES can be found on the Estabrook School website, <http://estabrook.ci.lexington.ma.us>

