

## ESTABROOK UPDATE

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

(781) 861-2520

Principal: Martha Batten

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**A Principal Notes...** Now that we have all adjusted to a week with one less hour, we can look forward to more daylight, more mud, and more sunshine! Other than being overtired, the children had a great week at Estabrook. We had a delightful first and second grade concert, a visit by the Museum of Science, a visit from Mr. Magnet, a Big Backyard walk, the first graders visited Drumlin Farm, and the fourth grade project of creating an alien. You will just have to ask a fourth grader to figure out what that project is about!

Once again, we want to thank families for all of your kindness and caring during the past weeks. Mr. Banks is still in intensive care and has had some additional medical procedures to help him breathe and eat. We sent him more cards this week and a CD of children and staff talking to him. Mr. Farias, our Physical Education substitute, will take over the fourth and fifth grade after school sports, beginning on Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>.

Report cards are coming home on Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. Parent conference signups are hanging in the lobby if you prefer to sign up in person.

**Nonfiction writing in first grade:** I thought you might enjoy reading this sample of a research report on an animal. Each student read two sources about the animal, drew a picture labeling the parts, made a fact web, and then wrote a short nonfiction report. In the report, students needed to have a topic sentence, write in complete sentences, and use describing words.

Here is the typed version of Alex P's delightful report, showing creativity and also the increasing use of standard spelling. You will see that he has not simply copied his information. This is a marvelous example of the quality of writing a first grader can produce!

*Squirrels belong to a family of mammals called rodents. Squirrels can live in Lexington. They live in trees and in nests. They build their nests with leaves, mud, sticks. Squirrels love to eat nuts, bugs, seeds, fruit, and leaves. They look for nuts and fruit. They also hibernate in*

*winter. They climb trees. Squirrels have a good sense of humor. Squirrels balance on telephone wires and clotheslines. Squirrels can be trained to be hand fed. The squirrels you would usually see in a park would be a gray one. Some names of squirrels are American red flying and black squirrels. In fall you might see squirrels gathering food and storing it away so there will be enough during winter.*

**Run of the Mill, May 18, 2008! Volunteers are needed** to make this exciting new event a success! If you can help, please contact Gretchen Reising at 781-652-8169 or email [Estabrook5K@gmail.com](mailto:Estabrook5K@gmail.com). We need people to help with traffic, signage, the post-party and other parts of the day! Even if you're participating, we can still use people before and after the race.

Thanks to everyone who turned out for Run of the Mill Training Night at the Greater Boston Running Company. We had a terrific turnout and received good info about the right shoe and starting a running or walking program. Everyone there also received a 20% discount! If you couldn't make it and are interested in learning about a training program, stop in the store and Steve or Alex will be happy to give you one. They'll also give you a 10% discount if you mention the Run of the Mill.

**20<sup>th</sup> Annual Read Aloud Day** On Friday, March 7, we held Estabrook's **20<sup>th</sup> Annual Read-Aloud-Day**. Readers came in all day long beginning at 9AM and ending at 3PM. We had a wonderful assortment of readers from our Lexington community who volunteered their time to come in and read to our children for \_ hour. They talked to the kids about what they do/did for a living; they read and then answered questions either about the book or their professions. This wonderful event promotes the importance of books and reading while also exposing the children to individuals from all different professions in life.

### **Flatbread Pizza Night/iPod Raffle - \$893**

Thanks so much to all who bought raffle tickets, ate at the restaurant or picked up their dinners to eat at home. The turnout was excellent and the restaurant almost ran out of pizza dough! It was a great night to see many Estabrook friends out and about!

### **Library Programs for Older Children**

#### **Dance Dance Revolution, Grades 4 - 6**

Come dance up a storm to this popular music video game.

Sat., March 15, 10:30 AM-12:00 PM. A signed permission slip from a parent/guardian is required. Permission slips are available online at [www.carylibrary.org](http://www.carylibrary.org) or in the Children's Room.

#### **Knitting with Phyllis, Grades 4-8**

A four-week course for children in grades 4-8, who already know how to do the knit stitch. Wednesdays, 3:30-5:00 PM, April 9, 16, 30, May 7.

Sign-ups begin on Mon. March 31, at 7:00 PM in the Children's Room. Telephone sign-ups will be accepted beginning at 7:30 PM at (781) 862-6288, ext. 170.

#### **HOLI. Celebrate this Indian holiday. Ages 4-8.**

Thursday, March 27, 2:30 PM. *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 Children's Room, beginning Mon., March 17, at 7:00 PM. Telephone reservations will be accepted at (781) 862-6288, ext. 170, beginning at 7:30 PM.

#### **Ukrainian Egg Decorating. Grades 4 and up.**

Celebrate springtime by making Pysanky, eggs decorated in the Ukrainian tradition. Saturdays, April 5 and April 12, 1-5 PM Extra time will be available for those who need it, on Saturday, April 19, 1:00-4:00 PM. Attendance is limited to 12 in each session. Registration will begin on Mon., March 24, at 7:00 PM, in the Children's Room. Telephone registrations will be accepted after 7:30 PM. Call 781-862-6288, Ext. 170.

### **April Vacation Programs. No registration required. All ages.**

1. "Family Crafts" on Tues., April 22, 2:30-4:00 PM
2. "Picnic Dinner & a Family Movie" on Wed., April 23 at 6:30 PM. Guess the name of the movie: it stars a rat named Remy who yearns to become a great French chef.

#### **Meet the Author during Children's Book Week.**

**For grades 1-3:** Meet author Jennifer Goldfinger. Listen to her newest book, "My Dog Lyle", and learn how she wrote and illustrated it. Thurs., May 15, 2:00-3:00 PM.

**For grades 4-6:** Meet one of the creators of the Beacon Street Girls. Learn how the books are created, help brainstorm ideas for future books, get a sneak peek at a brand new "Beacon Street Girls" book, and

participate in a trivia contest about the series.

Thurs. May 15, 4:00-5:00 PM. For both of these programs: space is limited. Free tickets will be available beginning on Mon., May 5 at 7:00 PM. Telephone reservations will be accepted beginning at 7:30 PM. Call (781) 862-6288, ext. 170.

### **Calendar**

#### **March**

- 14, 28 Y.E.S., 3:15-4:15 P.M.
- 10-19 Spring MEPA for ELL students
- 20 Report Cards go home.
- 21 Good Friday – NO SCHOOL
- 25 MCAS-Grade 4 Long Comp  
North Shore Music Theatre, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, 8:45–11:30 AM
- 26 MCAS-Grade 3 Reading, Grade 4 ELA  
ACT Nora Dooley-1<sup>st</sup> Gr. only
- 27 MCAS-Grade 3 Reading, Grade 4 ELA
- 28 MCAS-Grade 3 Reading, Grade 4 ELA
- 31 MCAS-Grade 5 ELA

#### **April**

- 1 MCAS-Grade 5 ELA  
Minuteman Park/Hartwell Tavern,  
Gr. 3, 8:50 AM – 12 PM  
PTA Meeting, 6-9 PM

**MCAS DATES** can be found on the Estabrook School website,

<http://estabrook.ci.lexington.ma.us>

