

ESTABROOK UPDATE

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

Principal: Martha Batten

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(781) 861-2520

Friday, March 28, 2008

A Principal Notes... Nora Dooley, a children's author, visited our first graders again this year. After her workshop, she told me that the children were the best prepared and most respectful audience she had worked with. She was impressed with how thoughtful students' questions were and how much they knew and enjoyed about writing. Of course, I see this respect, focus, and enthusiasm every day so sometimes I forget how special it is. Thank you to the teachers who are committed to fostering a love of learning and a respectful learning climate. And thanks to parents for your support of programs like this through PTA dues.

I have been working with a committee of fifth graders to improve relationships and behavior in the dining lobby, while also giving fifth graders a chance to choose where they sit. One of the important learnings in fifth grade is balancing more privileges with more personal responsibility for your own behavior. When the group is ready, they will share the proposal with the rest of their classmates. Honestly, this work with small groups to problem solve and to share responsibility for change is one of my most favorite parts of being a principal.

Estabrook Adult Hangout Night–Sat., March 29.

All Estabrook adults welcome! Food, Drink, Music-What more could you ask for? Sat., March 29, 7:00-10:00 PM at the Bedford Old Town Hall, 16 South Rd., Bedford. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Hope to see you there! - If you have any questions, please contact Jen Geller 781-862-6270, jentg@verizon.net or Rachel Cortez 781-674-1182, catirama@aol.com.

The Estabrook Book Fair - (April 14-17, 2008)

It's Spring and that means the Annual Estabrook Book Fair will be here soon. This year's Book Fair will take place beginning on Mon., April 14th and continue through Thurs., April 17th. We will also be open on Tues. evening, April 15th, during the Family Fun (Bingo) Night. During the day, children will attend with their class, and as always parents are invited to stop by anytime.

This year, *Book Ends* from Winchester will be our vendor again. They provide a wide selection of books for children and adults and a generous incentive that will make our library even better!

The Library will receive \$500 extra dollars for books if we reach \$12,000 in sales! This is a great opportunity to stock up on April vacation and summer reading while helping to support your Estabrook Library.

We will be accepting credit cards (adults only) as well as checks and cash. You can also purchase gift certificates. Please see the online form for purchasing gift certificates.

The Book Fair Chairpersons: Bonnie Brown, Liz Foley and Tricia Rowe look forward to a successful event. See you at the Book Fair!

Gift certificates are available in any denomination. Yes, ANY denomination. Perfect for teachers, students, family, and friends! Great idea for Birthdays, Gift bags and Holidays!! **Certificates help prevent lost cash and checks.** 25% of all proceeds go directly to the purchasing of new books for our library. Gift Certificates may be purchased by completing the form which you can print off the Estabrook website

http://estabrook.lexingtonma.org/EstaInfo/2008_bookfair_form.pdf or e-mail your request to

the6rowes@aol.com Checks payable to Estabrook PTA must be included with your order. Any questions?

Contact Tricia Rowe at 781-929-8224 or

the6rowes@aol.com

Lexington Special Education Advisory Council– April 3 at 7:30PM at LHS Rm. 147

Have you ever heard about a therapy or intervention for a disability and wondered if it would benefit your child? Would you like to talk to others who have utilized different interventions and get their feedback or hear about their experiences? If so, please join us for a discussion of interventions for disabilities (which augment those provided by the school system) on Thurs., April 3, at 7:30 PM in Rm. 147 (Library Media Center of Lexington High School). At this meeting, parents will share information and their experiences with interventions they have used such as therapies, therapists, social groups, tutors, books, CDs, software programs, and other media. In order to facilitate the discussion, it would be helpful to know in advance of those who have information to share. If you would like to speak about your experiences, you can email the PAC co-chairs at lexingtonspedpac@gmail.com or call Dale Hernquist (781-862-8363) or Kevin Johnson (781-863-1186). Please come even if you don't contact us in advance. We hope to see you there.

Ellen Hauser Scholarship If you would like to pay tribute to Ellen Hauser, you may make a donation to a High School scholarship fund in her memory. This scholarship will be awarded yearly to an Estabrook graduate. You may make your check payable to the Town of Lexington (Hauser Scholarship) and send it to school. Donors should indicate in the memo field of their checks that the donation is for the *Ellen Hauser Scholarship*. All contributions are tax-deductible.

International Family Dance Night, April 10th, 7-8:30 PM

Come dance with us! All Estabrook families are invited to attend the International Family Dance Night, in the Estabrook gym, in honor of Mr. Banks. We are fortunate to have volunteers from our school community as well as the Folk Arts Center to host the evening for us. All families are welcome to attend. Due to the short notice, we will not have a registration list. This event is cosponsored by the Anti-Bias Committee and the Estabrook PTA.

Raising Resilient Children and Adolescents

presented by Dr. Robert Brooks, on Apr. 8, 7-8:30 PM, Jonas Clarke Middle School Auditorium, hosted by the Lexington PTA/PTOs. Dr. Robert Brooks has lectured nationally and internationally to audiences of parents, educators, mental health professionals, and business people on topics pertaining to motivation, resilience, self-esteem, family relationships, the qualities of effective leaders and executives, and balancing our personal and professional lives. He has also written extensively about these topics.

In this presentation, Dr. Brooks describes factors that help children and adolescents to deal more effectively with stress and pressure and become resilient. He discusses (a) the importance of empathy in understanding and responding to children, (b) why some children from birth have a more difficult time developing a positive self-image and resilience than other children, (c) the importance of identifying and reinforcing each child or adolescent's "islands of competence," and (d) specific strategies for nurturing self-discipline, self-esteem, responsibility, caring, hope, and resilience in our children.

Calendar

March

28 Y.E.S., 3:15-4:15 P.M.

April

- 1 Minuteman Park/Hartwell Tavern, Gr.3
No 5th Grade Band (MCAS)
- 2 _ Day for conferences.
- 3 Conferences & Family Friends
Lexington Special Education Advisory Council
Meeting, 7:30 PM, LHS, Rm. 147
- 4 Y.E.S., 3:15-4:15 P.M.
- 7 5th Gr. to Concord Museum, 9:30 AM-2:00 PM
- 8 4th Gr. to Berklee Performance Center,
11:15 AM- 2:30 PM
Raising Resilient Children & Adolescents,
7-8:30 PM, Clarke Middle School
- 9 _ Day for conferences.
- 10 International Family Dance Night,
7-8:30 PM
Conferences.
- 14-17 Book Fair
- 14 AntiBias Meeting, 6-7 PM.
- 15 Family Bingo Night, 6-9 P.M.
- 16 5th Gr. Mr. Magnet; ACT Poetry in Motion, Gr. 2/3
- 18 Biography Sharing, Ms. Durkin's Rm.,
9-9:30 AM
- 21-25 NO SCHOOL

MCAS Dates

March 31	Monday	Grade 5 ELA
April 1	Tuesday	Grade 5 ELA
April 2	Wednesday	Grade 5 ELA Grade 4 Long Comp Make-up
May 13	Tuesday	Grade 5 Math
May 14	Wednesday	Grade 5 Math
May 15	Thursday	Grade 3 Math Grade 5 Science
May 16	Friday	Grade 3 Math Grade 5 Science
May 20	Tuesday	Grade 4 Math
May 21	Wednesday	Grade 4 Math
May 23	Friday	Grade 5 History
May 27	Tuesday	Grade 5 History

