

ESTABROOK UPDATE

Joseph Estabrook Elementary School, 117 Grove Street, Lexington, MA, (781) 861-2520

Principal: Martha Batten

Volume 2 Number 6

Friday, October 12, 2007

A Principal Notes...

I enjoyed reading Elaine Mead's piece in the Harrington Herald & decided to share it with you. The research on the impact of praising effort rather than talent or "smartness" is quite intriguing. In a radio interview on NPR, Po Bronson, author of a New York Magazine article, "How Not to Talk to Your Kids: The Inverse Power of Praise," shared the research of Carol Dweck, among others, who studied the impact on student performance when praised about their intelligence versus being praised for their effort. I found the ideas very thought provoking and confirmed my belief that students who work hard and seek a challenge will achieve great things. The findings discussed on the program were compelling and I invite you to think about your views about praise and how that helps or hinders your child. Do you believe praise and self-esteem are closely linked?

Dweck's research demonstrates the power of our belief system. She found that students who connected their success with being innately smart were more likely to give up or become highly stressed when they faced learning challenges or made mistakes. These students, who were praised for their intelligence, frequently avoided higher-level courses and at times resorted to cheating to avoid not appearing smart. These students believed that high levels of effort signaled a lack of ability and were inclined to avoid something new. Grades mattered more than learning.

In contrast, students who saw their brain as a muscle that could be strengthened enjoyed a difficult problem and were willing to persevere. These students felt good because they were in control. They connected working harder with success. The students who believed intelligence could be developed were more invested and ultimately performed at much higher levels than those who believed that intelligence is fixed and innate. The interview and the article prompted me to read Carol Dweck's book, Mind Set. I encourage you to go to the NPR link to hear the interview that aired on 2/16/07 during the "On Point" program. There is also a link to the article on this site.

<http://www.onpointradio.org/shows/2007/02/20070216bmain.asp>



Site Council

We have openings on the Estabrook Site Based Council. The council is composed of faculty and parents. The council's role is to advise the principal in setting school improvement goals and on other related matters. The Massachusetts Education Reform Act of 1993 requires that every public school in Massachusetts have Site Based Council. The Estabrook Council meets approximately 7 Wednesdays per school year, from 4:00-5:00 PM. If you are interested, please submit a statement to Ms. Batten. You can email your statement to Ms. Batten @ mbatten@sch.ci.lexington.ma.us In the subject line of your email, type "Site Council Statement". Elections will be held in the next few weeks.



Gifts Wrap Raised \$6,322

"Thank You" to everyone for being so generous and enthusiastic about this fundraiser! We sold a total of \$12,643, raised \$6,322 for PTA programs that enrich the education of our children & the orders are still coming in. We are all winners when we raise this much! Your orders will be delivered by 11/15/07.

The following people are the winners for the "Guesstimation" game held during the 'Back to School Night'. There were so many eager participants. For all the participants the winning number is 990. The winner for the Gift Basket is Shaydah Ghom from Mrs. Durkin's class. There are 4 more winners - Rayla Lasovick, Maya Fray-Witzer, Daniel Hoffman, & Madeline Reynolds.

Congratulations to Mrs. Robertson's class who had the highest sales & won the 'Batten 5000.'

We also want to thank everyone who helped us in many ways, but especially Suzie Barry & Jen Minasian for bringing in their expertise to make sure that there was 'Fun' in this 'Fundraiser'.



Big Backyard

The training for the 2nd & 3rd grade fall walk was held on October 4, & the training for Kindergarten, 1st grade, & 5th grade was held on October 11. Thank you to everyone who was able to come to the training! If you were not able to attend the training but would still like to lead a walk, please contact the coordinators below for a copy of the written material outlining the walk for your child's grade.

We are still in need of parent volunteers for the following classrooms: 5th Gr.-Silberman/Zottoli & 1st Gr.- Mrs. Ray. If you are a parent in one of these classes & could spare an hour to lead a walk for your child's class, please contact us ASAP.

The dates for the classroom walks are currently being assigned based on coordination with the classroom teachers, & the parent volunteers will be notified of the day & time for their walk in the near future. If you have volunteered for the Big Backyard but have not yet been contacted by us, please call or email us so that we can assign you to the appropriate classroom walk.

Jennifer Breen (781) 274-0702 or
Maria Cue (508) 641-7433 or
Email us at: Estabrookbby@yahoo.com.



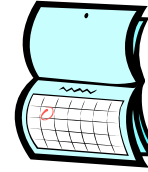
Morning Drop-Off

When dropping students off in the morning, PLEASE pull your vehicle all the way forward, as directed by staff. This allows a greater number of vehicles to enter the school grounds, making drop-off go much quicker! As always, please remember to drive slowly on the school grounds and to refrain from using any cell phones while driving. Thank you for your continued support and understanding.



Brrrrrr!

It's sad but true...the weather is getting colder and it's time to dig out the cold weather gear! Please make sure your child is dressed properly for outdoor recess and gym. Each child should bring a jacket to wear outside. Thank you!



Calendar

October

- 16 4th Gr. Field Trip - Group 1-Taddeo & Catalfano
Math Olympiads, 5th Gr., 8 am
- 18 Math Olympiads, 4th Gr., 8 am
- 19 4th Gr. Field Trip-Group 2- Bourret & Lee
2nd Gr. Field Trip - Drumlin Farms,
11:30am - 2:30 pm
- 22 - 31 Fall MEPA Administration for ELL Students
- 23 Math Olympiads, 5th Gr., 8 am
- 24 International Potluck, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
- 25 Math Olympiads, 4th Gr., 8 am
- 26 Coffee Chat with the Principal, 8:45 am, in the Lextended Day Room
- 30 Math Olympiads, 5th Gr., 8 am

November

- 1 Math Olympiads, 4th Gr., 8 am
- 2 4th Gr. Pyramids & Pharaohs Presentation, 1:30 pm
- 6 Math Olympiads, 5th Gr., 8 am
- 7 There **will be** Lextended Day today.

CONFERENCES

- 8 Math Olympiads, 4th Gr., 8 am
Family Friends
1/2 DAY FOR CONFERENCES
- 12 **SCHOOL CLOSED-HOLIDAY**
NO LEXTENDED DAY TODAY.
- 13 VOTING, 7AM TO 8 PM
4th Grade Field Trip to MFA
Math Olympiads, 5th Gr., 8 am
- 14 1/2 DAY FOR CONFERENCES
There **WILL BE** Lextended today.
- 15 1/2 DAY FOR CONFERENCES
Math Olympiads, 4th Gr., 8 am
- 20 Math Olympiads, 5th Gr., 8 am
- 21 **NO LEXTENDED DAY TODAY**
1/2 Day for Students & Staff
- 22 & 23 **SCHOOL CLOSED-THANKSGIVING**
BREAK
- 27 Math Olympiads, 5th Gr., 8 am
- 28 **NO SCHOOL**-Professional Development
- 30 Elementary Term Closes

December

- 5 Site Council, 4-5 pm

