

ESTABROOK UPDATE

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

(781) 861-2520

Principal: Martha Batten

Volume 2 Number 14

Friday, December 14, 2007

A Principal Notes ... All in all our snow arrival and dismissal has worked well! Almost no cars are trying to line up before 10 after the hour at the end of the day which is helping keep vehicles from backing up on the hill even before children are out. The DPW and the custodial crew have been fantastic and the driveway and sidewalks have been as good as they get in this weather. Thank you for your cooperation and appreciation. If you are in the building, stop by and read the personal narratives on the wall by the library. The quality of the fifth graders' writing is remarkable. Thanks to our LEF grant (funded by your donations), we have initiated the Units of Study writing program, which I shared at our last PTA meeting. I wonder if you have noticed changes in your children's writing or if they have talked to yet about the difference between a "seed" story or a "watermelon" story.

Save the Date – January 11 -- Family Movie Night!

Mark your calendars now for the Estabrook PTA Family Movie Night! Come join us in the gym on January 11th at 6:30 P.M. to watch the Disney/Pixar movie *Ratatouille* (rated G) about a French rat with gourmet taste buds. It promises to be a fun night for all. We'll provide the popcorn and you bring your coziest picnic blanket or sleeping bag. Best of all it's free!

Fourth Graders Interested in Science

Exploration - Y.E.S! Registration is due 12/20/07!! Youth Exploration in Science (Y.E.S.) program is a fun, extra-curricular science program that is run by High School student volunteers. This program allows the students to explore various areas of science with hands-on learning. A few examples of last year's experiments are: Deep Sea Divers (physics), Time Shadows (astronomy), Steady Hand Game (electronics), and Catch a Thief (chemistry).

The program will run for 8 consecutive Fridays from 3:15-4:15 P.M. starting on Jan. 25, 2008 through April 4, 2008 in the Estabrook Lobby. (Except 2/15, 2/22, and 3/21). Parents must supervise at least 1 session. The cost of the program is \$48.00 (Scholarships are available from the PTA. Please contact Ms. Batten for info.).

Registration forms went home last week. Questions? Contact Lisa Kling lkling@rcn.com 781-674-1313 or Bonnie Brown at bonbrown@comcast.net 781-274-1206.

Big Backyard News We had a very successful season of fall BBY walks for the Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th grade classes. Thank you to all of the parents who volunteered their time to help the teachers lead all of the walks. The following dates for winter training have been set:

1st Grade – Tuesday January 8 at 9 A.M.
Kindergarten, 2nd Grade and 5th Grade – Thursday, January 10 at 9 A.M.

BBY classroom coordinators are now in the process of working with teachers to schedule dates for winter walks for Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd and 5th grade. The dates for the individual winter classroom walks will be available at the following website as they are scheduled:

<http://calendar.yahoo.com/estabrookbby>. The winter and spring training dates can also be viewed at the website, and spring dates for individual classrooms will be added as they are scheduled. The next BBY walk for 3rd grade will be a ponding walk in the spring, and 4th grade will have one late winter walk in March. Information regarding training dates for late winter and spring walks will be forthcoming and will also be added to the website. If you have any questions, please feel free to email us at estabrookbby@yahoo.com, or call either of us - Jennifer Breen (781 274-0702) and Maria Cue (508 641-7433).

Google Settings Just a reminder that there are useful subscriber settings that allows you to adjust the frequency with which you receive messages from the Estabrook Community. You can choose to receive:

1. No email at all (and read messages on the web,)
2. Receive each message as it arrives (the default,)
3. Receive a summary of new activity each day, or
4. Receive all new messages in a single daily email.

If you would like to change your setting, please log into the Estabrook Community Web Page <http://groups.google.com/group/estabrook-community> and follow the "Edit my membership" link at the right. If you have difficulty, please email Dana your preferred new setting (1, 3, or 4) and she will update your account for you. Thanks Dana -- dana.kuszmaul@gmail.com

DECEMBER VACATION PROGRAMS AT THE LIBRARY

Craft program for children of all ages
Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2:30-4:00 P.M., in the Cary Library Meeting Room. No registration is necessary.

Family movie and picnic dinner

Thursday, Dec. 27, 6:00 - 9:00 P.M. Bring your own picnic dinner, and spread out a blanket in the Library's cozy Meeting Room. The Meeting Room will open for picnicking at 6:15 P.M., and the movie will begin at 6:30 P.M. guess the name of the movie: an award-winning film about a ten-year-old boy named Elliot, who befriends an extra-terrestrial who wants to go home.

Dance Dance Revolution, for students in grades 4-6 & 7-12. Saturday December 29 in the Cary Library Meeting Room. Pre-registration is necessary. 4th – 6th graders will play from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 P.M., and 7th -12th graders will play from 1-2:30 P.M. DDR parental permission slips and fact sheets are available at the Children's Desk and at the Reference Desk, or may be downloaded from Cary Library's website, www.carylibrary.org DDR is a safe and fun game; however it is strenuous, and participants play this game at their own risk. Cary Memorial Library cannot be responsible for participants' health or fitness.

For questions about these programs, please call the Cary Library Children's Room at (781) 862-6288 ext. 170.

Calendar

December

14 Report Cards go home.
24 - 1/1/08 Vacation

January

3 Family Friends
4 5th Grade Read-a-thon

5th Gr. Math Olympiads every Tues. at 8 A.M.
4th Gr. Math Olympiads every Thurs. at 8 A.M.

MCAS TESTING SCHEDULE 2007-2008

MARCH 24 – APRIL 4

March 25	Tuesday	Gr.4 Long Composition
March 26	Wednesday	Gr. 3 Reading Gr. 4 ELA
March 27	Thursday	Gr. 3 Reading Gr. 4 ELA
March 28	Friday	Gr. 3 Reading Gr. 4 ELA
March 31	Monday	Gr. 5 ELA
April 1	Tuesday	Gr. 5 ELA
April 2	Wednesday	Gr. 5 ELA Gr. 4 Long Comp Make-up

MAY 12 - MAY 29

May 13	Tuesday	Gr. 5 Math
May 14	Wednesday	Gr.5 Math
May 15	Thursday	Gr. 3 Math Gr. 5 Science
May 16	Friday	Gr. 3 Math Gr. 5 Science
May 20	Tuesday	Gr. 4 Math
May 21	Wednesday	Gr. 4 Math
May 23	Friday	Gr.5 History
May 27	Tuesday	Gr. 5 History