

March Newsletter

MASON ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 2010/11

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Theodora Dono

Kindergarten registration was held on Thursday, January 20th and Friday, January 21st and we currently have 92 students enrolled. We still have many students that are listed on the census who are age appropriate and have not registered. Registration forms are available in the office during the hours of 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Thank you to Mrs. Giroux for assisting Mrs. Gagnon with the registration process.

Preschool registration forms are now available in the office. Your child must be 4 years of age prior to September 1, 2011. **Applications must be accompanied by proof of age (birth certificate),*proof of residency ((3 forms- see policy #5118 on the District website www.dcrsd.org), and the health insurance information form when submitted. Registrations will not be accepted unless all required documents are presented.** A lottery number will be assigned at this time.



Boost your child's self-esteem

Let's face it: nobody's perfect. But to positively accept that "we are who we are" is a lesson that's learned – or not-very early in life. Children begin to develop self-esteem, or the sense of how they feel and think about themselves, in the very first months of their lives. Self-esteem is the lens through which we view life's challenges, rewards, and disappointments.

Self esteem is formed from the traits that your child is born with, as well as from outside influences like family, friends, coaches and teachers. It's developed through a combination of feeling competent and feeling loved.

Children thrive when they feel safe, secure and accepted by their peers and their family. These feelings help kids to develop a positive self-identity and express themselves comfortably. Some children, however, may feel at odds with themselves and others, and express it in different ways. They may become withdrawn or act shy, or they may be bossy or bullying. Some may have trouble making friends or getting involved in school activities. By being

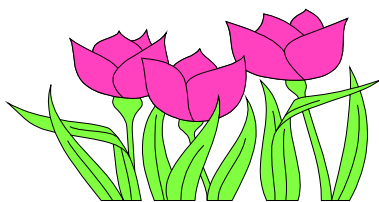
sensitive to our children's feelings, we can offer them support and encouragement as they weather life's challenges.

As parents, it's important to help your children develop a positive sense of self as early as possible. Give your child frequent and honest praise. When you're proud of his or her efforts and accomplishments, let your child know it. Just don't overdo it! Your child can figure out when your words aren't from your heart.

Encourage your child to set realistic goals and standards when it comes to schoolwork and after-school activities. If your child loses self-confidence by not getting on the team or by receiving a low grade on a test, make sure you let him or her know that you focus on the effort and don't expect perfection.

And remember, your child looks up to you and often mimics how you treat and express yourself. Believe in yourself and show it-and your child will, too.

Steven Friedman, Ph.D., Clinical Manager, Beacon Health Strategies, LLC.



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Happy Spring to Everyone

- ❖ April 1 – Mrs. Dono's Lunch Club
- ❖ April 1 – P.T.O. Presentation of the Pumppernickel Puppets for Kindergarten & Grade 1

- ❖ April 5– P.T.O. Meeting at Mason Road School at 6:30 p.m.
- ❖ April 7 – Early Release at 12:15 p.m. – Professional Development
- ❖ April 7 – Massachusetts Day in Kindergarten in the cafetorium
- ❖ April 11 - Grandparents Day! (please see schedule) Bag Lunch
- ❖ April 12 - P.T.O. Presentation - Zoo Show for the Kindergarten
- ❖ April 13 - Parent Math Meeting – Library from 9:00-10:39 a.m.
- ❖ April 13 – School Committee Meeting at Shepherd Hill at 7:00 p.m.
- ❖ April 14 – No Reading Club
- ❖ April 18-22 - ` Spring Vacation – No School
- ❖ April 22 - Earth Day
- ❖ April 24 - Easter
- ❖ April 25 – School Council Meeting Conference Room at 3:45 p.m.
- ❖ April 27– Preschool Open House at 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
- ❖ April 27 – School Committee Meeting at Charlton Middle at 7:00 p.m.
- ❖ April 28 – Preschool Olympics – cafetorium
- ❖ April 29 – Preschool Olympics – cafetorium (a.m. only)
- ❖ April 29 - Kindergarten Field Trip - Hanover Theater
- ❖ April 30 - Mrs. Dono's Lunch/Reading Club

ATTENTION CRAFTERS!! If you would like to participate in "Shepherd Hill Regional High School's 20th Annual of Crafts" on November 19th, applications are now being taken and are due by May 31st. You may obtain an application by downloading it from our website at www.shmpa.org and clicking on the "craft fair" link. If you have any questions, you may contact Lori Proulx at www.craftfair@shmpa.org.

A Message from Preschool

March is safety month in preschool. The children learned about calling 911, fire safety, stranger safety, and much more. The children practiced crawling under smoke, Stop, Drop, and Roll, and calling 911. The children were excited to have visits from the Dudley Fire Department and the Dudley Police Department. We extend our sincere "Thanks" to Sergeant Pamela Daniels as well as Firefighter David Konieczny for taking the time to come and speak with the preschool students about safety.

During the month of March, we began our "Preschool Read-a-thon." This is a group effort of all preschool children and their families to set time aside each day or night to sit down and read. This year, our read-a-thon goal is to read 1000 books.

"Perhaps no other activity contributes so much to literacy as the story-reading experience. Children who literally grow up with books never face a struggle in learning to read." (Schickedanz, Judith-More than the ABC's)

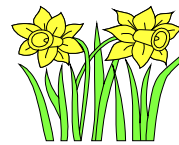
Literacy doesn't take place only in school. It begins much earlier at home. Ways to help your child include:

- ❖ Play games with your child. Go on word hunts, read signs, make shopping lists, read menus, read food labels, read recipes and cook together.
- ❖ Allow your child to be exposed to and experience writing. Inspire your child to write. Always keep markers and paper available. Help your child write cards and thank you notes. Label items around your house.

- ❖ Together make up silly sounds, sing, use funny words, and emphasize key words and phrases that are repeated often.

It is also important to read and write in front of your child. Be good role models.

We will reach our goal! Have fun reading!!!



A Message from Kindergarten

The month of March began with "Read Across America Day" on Friday, March 4. Each kindergarten class had a special guest reader and listened to a story written by Dr. Seuss. A wonderful celebration was held afterwards in the cafeteria with cake and milk in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday.

On March 10, our Parent Teacher conferences were held with an excellent turnout. PTO provided a wonderful dinner for all the teachers and included many tasty desserts as well. The Kindergarten staff would like to express our appreciation and say thank you to all the parents for the delicious food that was prepared for us. We greatly appreciated your time and effort! In addition to the dinner, PTO held a book fair which was also a great success. Many thanks to our PTO for all they do for us!

Our new Character Education trait for the month of March is "Cooperation." Each week a new quote is introduced

and discussed as well as the song “Why Should I Cooperate?”

St. Patrick’s Day on March 17, was another fun-filled day. Students enjoyed hearing stories, participating in activity centers, and learning about Ireland. After a long, cold, snowy winter, we welcomed the first day of spring, and were happy to see the flowers beginning to bloom in Preschools gardens.

On March 23, the Mobile Dentist Smile Program was available to students in the Media Center. For many children, this was their very first experience seeing a dentist.

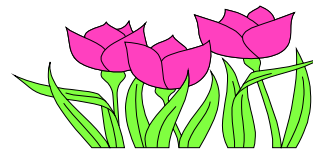
In Math, we explored coins and their value. Students used a variety of hands-on activities to help in their understanding of money. We also worked with two and three dimensional shapes and are continuing to practice counting by 2’s, 5’s, 10’s. Triangulation and number stories are being practiced and students are becoming more and more familiar with addition and subtraction problems.

In the area of Science, we learned about simple machines through stories and by exploring with materials such as levers, pulleys, and inclined planes from our new science kits. We also learned about the characteristics of plants and animals in addition to learning about life cycles.

Our Language Arts theme was “Down on the Farm.” Some of our activities included: animal booklets, dioramas, and writing descriptive words to describe farm animals and farm settings. The students also created charts to graph their favorite animals and to match animal families. Literature and other

genres were used to enhance the learning experience.

In Social Studies, the students learned many facts about Massachusetts and had many opportunities to learn about important characteristics of our state and its symbols. As April approaches, we will be moving from studies about our state to studies about our home town of Dudley.



A Message from First Grade

Welcome spring! This month has gone by so quickly and we have been very busy in first grade. Here are some of the things we have been doing.

In our Houghton Mifflin reading program we started a new theme called, “We Can Work It Out”. We read some fun stories involving people and animals and how they solved their problems. We practiced reading and writing new words and learned new spelling rules for words with the long vowel sounds in them. The children practiced sequencing events and reviewed the difference between reality and fantasy. They also learned how to use a graphic organizer to practice writing their own stories. To wrap up the theme we focused on the genre of plays and learned how plays are meant to be performed.

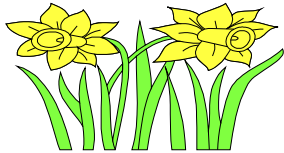
This month in math the children were introduced to geometry and attributes. They had many opportunities to sort attribute blocks by color, size, and shape. They reviewed two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes, learned

about polygons, and did some fun activities involving symmetry. Of course they continued to practice fact families, telling time, and measuring objects using inches and centimeters.

We celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday this month and enjoyed community readers who read some of his wonderful stories. St. Patrick's Day provided us with some fun learning opportunities and we welcomed spring and the warmer weather it brings. We also learned about how unpredictable March weather can be. The children were so excited to finally be able to go outside and play during recess.

It was nice to see so many of you at Parent/Teacher Conferences providing us the opportunity to talk with you regarding your child/children.

As always, the first grade team appreciates all you do and thanks you for your ongoing support.



**A Message from the Art Teacher-
Catherine Dube**

March was very busy in the art room getting ready for Grandparents Special Day. Kindergarten and first grade students made Jazz Three Bears book marks to present as gifts to their grandparents. Children also learned a special song about the life cycle of a butterfly to sing for their grandparents. Monday, April 11th is the big day! Can't wait to see all the children and

their grandparents having fun and learning together!

**A Message from the Physical
Education & Health Teacher -
Janet Strazzullo**

The game called Messy Backyard is what the students have been learning and playing the past few weeks. This involves overhand throwing and following directions. If the level of laughter was any indication the students had a great time. During health, classes have been learning about making good decisions. Now they just need to practice what they have learned.

Just a quick reminder, that the students should be wearing sneakers to class. The winter weather seems to be gone (hopefully) and boots are no longer needed. Girls should wear their sneakers to school. Wearing dress boots may be fashionable but it takes away time either from the classroom teacher or myself when they must change into sneakers.

Please consider this when dressing your child on physical education day. Thank-you for your cooperation.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at school.

**A Message from the Reading
Specialist- Laura Teczar**

Writing is Everywhere!

Here are some playful activities that will nourish your child's natural fascination with writing:

Everywhere you look. Help your children become aware of the writing that surrounds them. Read aloud stop signs, favorite restaurant signs, the S on Superman's cape, and other interesting print you encounter in the course of your daily activities.

Props for pretend play. Given a marker and a pad, little doctors can scribble their prescriptions and waiters can take orders. Opportunities for playtime writing are endless: restaurant menus, store signs and price tags, tickets for a show or a train ride, etc. Some children may ask for help in writing real words; others are satisfied with their own marks or drawings.

Post office. Equip a play post office with paper, envelopes, and cards. Save stickers and stamps from junk mail for pretend postage stamps. (One parent's trash is another child's treasure!) Reply promptly to mail that is delivered to you.

Taking dictation. Be your children's secretary and take down word for word the stories they tell. These stories can be read back again and again. When you inquire about a drawing, write down your child's response as a title or caption.

Yummy alphabet. Cook up fun ways to help young children learn the letters of the alphabet. For example, help them shape letters out of pretzel dough or cookie dough. Show them how to write in a tray of pudding or squirt whipped cream letters.

Homemade books. First books are often stories told in pictures on folded pages, perhaps with a few words or captions. You might introduce beginning

writers to comic strip format, so they can add words in voice balloons and thought clouds to their picture stories. Young children also like to make their own A-B-C books by drawing or pasting pictures on pages labeled for each letter of the alphabet.

Journal writing. A gift of a journal or diary is a way to get young people into the habit of writing daily. A journal begins the writing process, and may be the source of ideas for a new poem or story. Journals also provide a private outlet for emotions.

Letter writing. Encourage your children to correspond regularly with long distance friends and family, or become pen pals. Supply them with stationery (or the materials to make their own), envelopes, postage stamps, an address book, and a box for saving letters.

Gifts of writing. Greeting cards with personal messages and poems are more meaningful when they are homemade, rather than store-bought. An older child may enjoy the challenge of writing a poem or song lyrics in honor of a special someone or occasion. Homemade books and calendars also make nice gifts of writing.

Family Writing
Although writing is usually an individual effort, some writing projects can invite family collaboration. Here are a few ideas that encourage family involvement:

Family newsletters. Some extended families keep in touch through a family newsletter. Perhaps your family can volunteer to become reporters and gather news and photos by phone or mail from

your relatives. Your “staff” writes up news stories, assembles the newsletters, and makes photocopies to send out to other family subscribers.

Scrapbooks and photo albums. Keep souvenirs of your family activities in an album. Ask your children to help you write in dates and captions.

Travel journal. When you take trips for a day or longer, keep a journal of where you go and what you see. Have your children contribute written descriptions and drawings to the journal.

Writing to each other. Encourage personal correspondence within your family. For example:

- Write to your children at camp, or when you travel without them.
- Leave notes with jokes or reminders in their lunch boxes.
- Have the tooth fairy leave a receipt.
- Write each child a birthday letter or poem.
- Create a certificate of achievement for swimming across the lake, or being very cooperative during a trying week.

More than anything else, be an enthusiastic audience for the writers growing up in your family. Encourage them to share their writing with you, while respecting their need to keep some writing private. Comment on their writing in ways that are thoughtful but uncritical. Make your children feel confident that, as writers, they always have your interest, admiration, and support.

(Source: RIF Parent Guide Brochure--
Reading Is Fundamental)

Literacy Quote for the Month:

“Education is not filling a pail but the lighting of a fire.” ~William Butler Yeats

A Message from the Title 1 Teacher
– Michelle Gray

It was terrific to meet with so many families of Title One students during parent-teacher conferences. Your continued support and involvement with your child’s academic growth is a necessary part of your child’s overall academic advancement. If you did not have the opportunity to discuss your child’s progress with me, I would be happy to meet with you at your convenience.

If your child’s classroom teacher thinks that your child would benefit from receiving Title One services for the 2011-2012 academic year, your child’s teacher would have discussed the process with you and had you sign a permission slip. If you were unable to attend conferences your child’s teacher will send the appropriate paperwork home with your child.

Eligibility testing will begin after April vacation. Dudley Elementary School will notify you in September if your child is eligible to receive Title One Services. If you have any questions about the testing or referral process please feel free to contact me and I would be happy to answer any questions.

Please continue to work at home with your child including reading to and listening to your child read and practicing basic math skills including telling time, counting money, simple addition facts and counting money. I wish you all a safe and happy spring vacation!

A Message from the Technology Teacher – Kelly Frederico

My Kindergarten classes finished working on all the modules of Sammy's Science House this month. We worked on our sorting skills, ordering scenes from a movie and all about recycling. In KidPix, the students worked learned how to add textboxes to their work. They now are typing their names on all their projects. We also created pages that contained their names and matched up stamps for each letter of their name that began with the same initial letter.

Our First Grade classes worked in some new software. We used Math Blaster and Reading Blaster. The students really love working in this program as they get to print trading cards when they complete new levels. We also learned how to use the cutting tool in KidPix. The students then created a person using their cutting tool to add the body parts to their person.

Both grades are doing a great job!



A Message from the Music Teacher – Julie Winans

This month, we've sang our hearts out! We're in the beginning stages of preparing for the upcoming spring shows (Kindergarten on Wednesday, May 18th and first Grade on Thursday, May 19th – more details to follow!) and the students are having a ball! It's enjoyable to see the progress they've made with their voices since September and I'm sure you'll all be impressed when you hear the difference from their first shows to their second!

Happy Spring!

A Message from the Speech Pathologist– Jessica Davis

The Importance of Rhyme

Research is showing that learning how to manipulate words through rhyming and word games is an important, if not crucial, reading skill. Students who struggle with reading often have a difficult time breaking words down into their individual sounds, and even in hearing each of these sounds. Here are some ideas to help develop this critical reading skill.

Help your child memorize nursery rhymes. Repeat them over and over. Enjoy the rhythm and rhyming patterns. Find the word families like dock and clock, spoon and moon, or Peep and sheep.

Memorize a tongue twister. Enjoy the alliteration of Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.

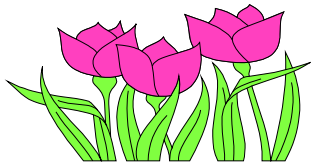
Speak in Pig Latin. This gives kids and adults alike the chance to take words

apart and hear the beginning sound separate from the rest of the word.

Make up your own rhyming verses. Kids especially love to create. They don't even have to write them down. Saying the rhymes out loud helps a student hear and identify the sounds.

Make up "Hink Pinks." This is a fun car game and develops a critical reading skill. Kids can really get into this game as they make up riddles such as, "What is a plate for tuna?" A fish dish. Or, "Name a small, stinging insect." A wee bee. A fun book to help you get started is *The Hink Pink Book* or *What do you call a Magician's Extra Bunny?* By Marilyn Burns. Also see the "Web Tips" section of this newsletter for an Internet site with fun word and poetry games.

<http://www.bridgerlandliteracy.org/FamilyFocus/developreading/rhyme.html>



***A Message from the Team
Chairperson – Pamela Boyle***

3 Steps to Improve Your
Child's Behavior

By [Kimberly L. Keith](#), About.com

All children have episodes of bad behavior, some more frequently and severely and others less. Using these three steps will improve your child's behavior and reduce the frequency and severity of any child behavior problem.

1) Relationship

A loving, stable relationship between parents and children is the basis for the child's healthy social development. Tell your child you love him and show your love by taking time to listen, to play, and to teach. The parent-child relationship is built on the words you say and the tone of your voice. It is strengthened by the laughter you share and the games you play together. It is forever bonded by the values and skills you pass on to your child every day.

2) Planning

Planning is the secret of good parenting. Watch your expectations so that you plan for good behavior rather than dread the bad. Most children's behavior problems occur during times of transition and adjustment. Since childhood is by its nature a continual process of transition, and adjustment to rapid development, it's easy to see that bad behavior is a natural reaction to challenges that the child doesn't yet have the skills to accomplish.

Planning involves knowing your child, her temperament and skills, and knowing the challenges of her environment. Use direct instruction, guidance, and practice opportunities to teach the skills she will need to cope with new challenges in the journey of childhood.

3) Response

Attentiveness and response are the tools for improving your child's behavior. An understanding of behavior modification principles will help you plan your responses to improve behavior. It all

comes down to actions and consequences. When a child's action elicits positive reinforcement, it will be repeated over time. When an action elicits punishment, it will eventually be extinguished.

Children learn to make the connection between an action and its consequence when the reinforcement or punishment is immediate and logically related to the action. Parents don't always have to provide the consequence; most consequences occur naturally. Parents can help make the connection by talking to the child about what they did and why it lead to a certain consequence. But, as parents, our responses to our child's actions are powerful consequences, either rewarding or punishing and therefore, shaping his behavior. In the context of a positive parent-child relationship, your approval or disapproval is usually enough of a response to reinforce or punish a behavior. When more intensive [rewards or punishments](#) are needed, parents should choose those that work for their family.

The key is to attend to your child's attitude, moods, and behavior; and then, respond to both good and bad behavior quickly. Learn to recognize when bad behavior is being reinforced or good behavior is being extinguished, and adjust the consequences to turn it around. This requires that we be attentive to our child and make the right response.

***A Message from the School
Psychologist – Theresa Veilleux***

The Importance of Outdoor Play

Finally!!!! The snow has melted, and warmer days are on their way. After being cooped up inside for a very long winter, it is time to get outdoors and play! You will see improved moods, health, and behavior.

The average fifth grader, given a choice, prefers to stay inside, close to electrical sockets and all the entertainment sources they power.

But your grandmother was right: Kids need fresh air and exercise. We all do. Families who find ways to be outdoors together nurture not only their bodies, but their connection to all of life -- and to each other. Kids who spend time outside in nature, research shows, are:

- **Calmer** -This is particularly important for ADHD kids because it lowers their need for medication, but fresh air soothes the senses of all children.
- **Happier**- Studies show sunshine, fresh air and physical activity all encourage good moods and reduce tendencies toward depression.
- **Less likely to be overweight** - Pediatricians recommend at least an hour of play during childhood to protect against obesity and diabetes.
- **Healthier** - many kids who don't get enough

time outdoors are Vitamin D deficient, causing health risks. Indoor air is also usually less healthy. And kids who play outdoors more even have better vision and less need for eyeglasses, presumably because they stare at screens less.

- **Better students-** Research shows that kids who play outdoors actually have longer attention spans, more frustration tolerance, and do better in school.
- **More creative-** Outdoor play is often less structured than what kids do indoors with technology, so kids exercise their imaginations as well as their bodies.

Many parents resist the idea of an outdoor "expedition," but spending an afternoon as a family in nature -- hiking, playing tag, biking, simply walking together in a beautiful place -- allows a family to regroup and get back in sync like little else. Even better, it's a great workout for everyone.

It doesn't have to be a big production. If you're lucky enough to have your own yard, you have unlimited options, from gardening together to kicking a ball around to camping out in a tent. But

every city has public parks, and every family can find something to do outside that feels fun.

*excerpt taken from :Aha!Parenting.com

A Message from the Library **Coordinator- Laurie Jankowski**

Spring is in the air (course as I am writing this they are calling for snow!!) and as the season approaches many of us get that spring cleaning bug (or at least hope to get it!). Have your kids outgrown of some of their books at home? Are you looking for a new home for these books? Why not donate them to our library? We are always accepting gently used books from families. Thank you to all those families who have donated books throughout the school year. The children are continuing to enjoy them!

We were able to add a number of new selections from the recent Scholastic book fair held during parent teacher conferences. I think the children will be quite pleased with the new additions. I ask for their input throughout the year as to what books they would like to see in the library that we do not have and take that into consideration when purchasing new books for the library.

As always, thank you to our parent volunteers for their continued support. The children enjoy seeing you each week and your help is appreciated! I hope everyone has a happy and healthy spring!!



**A Message from the School Nurse –
Maureen Gagnon**

It has been noted that there is a rise in childhood obesity along with a decrease in physical activity. If these trends affect you or a family member, perhaps it is this time to think about some important changes in your lifestyles.

Recent statistics over the past decade show that 1 out of every 4 children meet the clinical definition of overweight (20 pounds above ideal weight) while twice the rate of obesity or at risk has been reported. Obesity is defined as 40 – 50 pounds above ideal weight. Some of the reasons for these trends include:

Sedentary Lifestyles: Kids are not running and playing as in the past. The average 6 – 11 year old child watches 25 hours of television weekly; add video and computer games and the inactivity increases.

Fast Foods/Super Sized Portions: More and more families are relying on these convenience meals because of being “on the go”. Unfortunately, the high calories and fat intake eaten on a regular basis poses risks.

Junk Food and Soda: Sales of these products are skyrocketing.

These are only a few of the researchers’ findings. Every one should think about childhood weight concerns. Studies show that inactive kids become inactive adults. Nutrition Specialist suggests that one of the keys to helping overweight children is by adjusting family attitudes towards food. Families need to support one another while they review the weekly grocery lists and activity levels. Remember, it is not only healthy for children to be active, but also for adults!!

As you are aware, we are running the Healthy Snack Program until April 18th. This is the perfect time to talk with your children about healthy eating. Encourage children to take part in planning healthy diets. Some suggestions would be to have your children cut out pictures of healthy foods from the weekly supermarket papers. If your children go shopping with you, have them bring the pictures and pick out their healthy foods. This will be the beginning of a life time of good nutrition.

Body Mass Index and BMI Percentile are a requirement per the Massachusetts Department of Public Health/DESE Laws and Regulations effective this year for students in grades 1, 4, 7, and 10. This is screening tool to provide you with information about your child’s growth pattern, as well as to increase awareness of the importance of healthy eating, physical activity and optimal health. The result of your child’s growth screening is strictly confidential and if you do want your child to be included, you may request in writing that your child not participate in this program.

**A Message from the Dudley Fire
Department –
Captain David Konieczny**

Last month we told you spring would arrive and it has! Hopefully you all have completed your home inspections and got rid of all combustible items that may cause or contribute to a fire.

We also remind you this time of year about gas grill use and storage. Remember that propane storage is prohibited above the first floor in

buildings used for habitation, including exterior porches. Propane containers should be stored out of direct sunlight. If these containers heat to a sufficient temperature to over pressurize them, you may hear a hissing sound which indicates the relief valve is operating. This can be cooled with a garden hose but use caution and always notify the fire department to investigate. Caution: propane vapors are *heavier* than air and can be explosive if they come in contact with an ignition source.

Lawn mowers can cause serious injury if not treated with respect. Remember when the chute gets clogged with grass, DO NOT put your hands in to clean it out. Shut the machine off and use an object of sufficient length to clean it out. The blade may still have tension on it so when you remove the obstruction it may spin at a high rate of speed and cause injury. Also store gasoline for these machines away from any heat source.

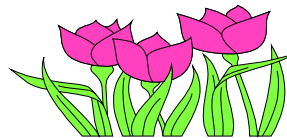
A Message from the Dudley Police Department – Chief Steven Wojnar

School bus safety is important to remember at all times during the school year. When the warmer weather of spring makes its grand appearance (we hope in force soon), children are often more energetic. The result is a greater amount of activity. There are times when this is good and other times when it can be a problem. Be sure to remain seated on the bus at all times and do not create distractions for the driver. This could be by yelling, pushing, or many other unnecessary acts. It is a difficult enough task for bus drivers to drive a

large vehicle while monitoring the normal traffic. Added distractions may lead to accidents.

Also, remember to enter and exit the bus safely. While waiting for the bus, do so in a safe place such as on a sidewalk, lawn, driveway, or other off road location. Do not approach the bus until it has stopped fully and the lights are activated. Most important, remember to look for cars traveling on the streets. There are times when they may not see you or the bus lights. Just because the bus lights are on does not mean the vehicles will stop.

All of these reminders will help to keep children safe and prevent accidents and injuries. Drivers who commit bus violations can be fined anywhere from \$250 to \$2,000 and can also have their license suspended, depending on the number of offenses. If everyone observes simple safety rules, the chances of injuries and accidents can be minimal.



A Message from the PTO

Dudley PTO News – April

**The Dudley PTO needs a new President and Secretary, Please call or email Debbie for more details!

Please visit our Website available through your school webpage for updated information, reminders, and involvement opportunities!

Upcoming/Current Events

Winter Fundraiser: Yankee Candle, Remember pick up night Thursday May 5, 2011 at Dudley Elementary 5:30 - 8:00pm! ***This is a change from Pick-up at Mason Road!***

Square One Art will be going home via backpack in April!

Red Sox Raffle Mid-April through May, you can make copies off of the website!

If you have any questions please call Debbie at 508-459-8803.

Things to know

The Dudley PTO is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a "non-profit charity". Our 501© (3) status designates us as exempt from sales tax and donations to our PTO are tax deductible.

Check out the website for our monthly newsletters, information and updates.

Do you know we have enough members that if everyone only volunteered once or twice a year we would never have to ask for volunteers?

If you do not find the fundraisers attractive, and wish to make a cash donation, please make checks payable to Dudley PTO and send it in an envelope with your child to school.

Meetings

Please join us for our next meeting;

Tuesday, April 5, 6:30pm at Mason Road School

Tuesday, May 3, 6:30pm at the Dudley Middle School

Tuesday, June 5, 6:30pm at the Dudley Elementary School

ATTENTION CRAFTERS!! If you would like to participate in "Shepherd Hill Regional High School's 20th Annual of Crafts" on November 19th, applications are now being taken and are due by May 31st. You may obtain an application by downloading it from our website at www.shmpa.org and clicking on the "craft fair" link. If you have any questions, you may contact Lori Proulx at www.craftfair@shmpa.org.