



## **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

*Theodora Dono*

I would like to extend my best wishes for a Healthy and Happy New Year to all of our families at Mason Road School! It was wonderful to see so many of you at the Holiday Shows performed by our Kindergarten and First Grade students. The children were terrific and we thank Mrs. Winans, Miss Valentine (music teachers) and Mrs. Dube (art teacher) for the preparation of the songs and the lovely costumes.

Kindergarten registration for the 2012-2013 school year was held on Thursday, February 2nd and Friday, February 3rd from 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m. Preschool registration will be held in March 2<sup>nd</sup> and March 3rd. Please be assured that we will be sending home additional information and entering the dates and times on the website in the very near future.

Just a reminder – please have a plan for your child if there is early dismissal due to inclement weather or an emergency. Also, thank you for bringing your children to school on time (no later than 8:40 a.m.) Being tardy is uncomfortable and embarrassing for your child and it

also causes a disruption in the morning activities for the teacher and the other students. Your cooperation is sincerely appreciated!

### **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

**February 1 - Commerce Banking Day**

**February 2 -- (in the cafetorium)–  
Kindergarten Registration –from  
9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

**February 3 - (in the cafetorium)–  
Kindergarten Registration–from 9:00-  
11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

**February 3 – No Lunch/Reading Club**

**February 3 - Wear Red Day – Heart  
Association**

**February 7 – 100<sup>th</sup> Day (contingent upon  
additional snow days)**

**February 8 – School Committee Meeting-  
Shepherd Hill at 7:00 p.m.**

**February 10- Mrs. Dono's  
Lunch/Reading Club**

**February 14 – Happy Valentine's Day!!**

**February 15 – Commerce Banking Day**

**February 17 – Grade 1 “Friendship Day”**

**February 17- Mrs. Dono's  
Lunch/Reading Club**

**February 20-24-Winter Vacation**

**February 27 – School Council Meeting at  
3:45 p.m. in the Conference Room**



### **A Message from Preschool**

During January—our theme was Winter. All of our songs, games, stories and art projects centered around this theme. Our fine motor skills have steadily improved and we were all excited to learn how to make folded, cut, snowflakes and snow people. We decorated our rooms transforming them into a Winter Wonderland.

A few of our favorite stories were The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats and Going on Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen. We also compared and contrasted the stories The Three Bears By Paul Galdone and The Three Snow Bears by Jan Brett. The hallway bulletin boards reflected the 2 stories.

We learned about bears and how they hibernate during the winter. We celebrated with a Teddy Bear Picnic. We baked Teddy Bear bread which we ate on the blanket in our rooms, pretending we were actually at a picnic. We are learning our numbers through games, songs and stories.

The preschool children continue to work on concepts such as numbers, letters, writing their names, counting, rhyming, and opposites.

Thank you to all who contributed to Gazette Santa. We collected \$80.00. Thank you also for contributing to our Mitten Tree to benefit the New Hope Center and our community. They were overwhelmed with the support and generosity of the families at Mason Road School. Happy New Year to all!!!!



### **A Message from Kindergarten**

Happy New Year! The winter break is now behind us and we are leaping into a New Year full of learning! In kindergarten, we enter 2012 with high expectations and a strong enthusiasm for learning.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a great civil rights leader and our students have learned a great deal about his goals and achievements through literature and center activities. The students have been learning about respect and honesty, which tied directly into Dr. King's philosophy on equality. We explored what makes a good friend and how important it is to be honest and to always be the best person you can be to yourself and to those around you.

Our literature theme for the month of January was "Let's Count". We have been exploring a variety of counting and number/number word recognition activities through Big Books, writings, graphs, and within dramatic play. The children are really enjoying these activities and you can see this within the projects displayed throughout the kindergarten hallway.

In science, we have been learning about the solar system. The children have explored a variety of topics including stars, constellations, the phases of the moon, the sun, and the planets through whole group and center activities. We have also been talking about weather and the seasons and how our environment is effected and changes during these times.

This includes temperature readings, weather observations, and science experiments within the classroom.

A variety of snowmen books were read to the classes and snowmen were created with recycled goods. The children absolutely loved this activity and were proud to see their creations displayed within their classrooms and hallway. The snowmen are so unique to each child.

Please remember that our goal is to have outdoor recess as long as the weather permits. Please make sure that your child is dressed appropriately with warm jackets, hats, and mittens. Thank You! We appreciate your support!



### **A Message from First Grade**

Happy 2012 to all! We've been very busy this month and are off to a great start for the New Year despite the snow! This month's Houghton/Mifflin reading theme was entitled "Home Sweet Home". As the year progresses skills are becoming more challenging. The children have learned the digraphs sh/th/ch/wh (also known as "The "H" brothers). They have also learned that the letters "c" and "g" also sound like the letters "s" and "j". The children have practiced reading and writing words ending with "nd", "ng", and "nk". We have started learning long vowel sounds and how a silent "e" at the end of a one syllable word makes the first vowel in the word say its long

name sound. So many rules...so little time! We also read fun stories about hermit crabs, maps, and the weather. As always, we continue to learn new high frequency words as well as new spelling words. Children should be able to read the high frequency words, but should be able to read AND spell each week's spelling words. We also expect the children to apply taught spelling words in their everyday writing. They should also know to begin each sentence with a capital letter and end it with appropriate punctuation.

The children have been just as busy in math, too. They have learned about relation symbols greater than, less than, and equal to. They have practiced writing number stories and number models that relate to them. Place value has been introduced and practiced using "rods" and "cubes" to help understand this concept. Several games have been played to reinforce this concept and we will continue to practice place value as the year progresses. The children have been introduced to telling time to the quarter hour. They have been counting pennies, nickels, and dimes and are solving "more or less" number stories using coins. We have been working with turn-around addition facts, doubles facts, facts to the sum of 10, and fact families. Whew!

The month of January also presented us with the opportunity to learn about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and how he cared about all people and fought for equal rights.

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

Another new year! I wish my students and their families a wonderful 2012!

Kindergarten and first grade children spent most of January creating colorful favorite drawings for the PTO for the "Square 1 Art" fundraiser. Information about this project will be sent home with your children in a few weeks.

Happy winter to all, happy shoveling and please stay WARM!

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

Our Mason Road students will be participating in a Jump Rope for Heart event sponsored by the American Heart Association. This will occur during their Physical Education class the week of February 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>. A parent letter and pledge envelope was sent home previously. If you are interested in making any donations please put them in the envelope and return to school before February 13<sup>th</sup>. It should be a lot of fun for everyone.

**A Message from the Title 1 Teacher – Michelle Gray**

We have had a great start to the New Year! In Language Arts we are on Theme 5, Home Sweet Home, in our Houghton Mifflin reading program. We continue to read Phonics Library Books as well as Leveled Readers to improve reading fluency and

comprehension. Please listen to your child read every day and practice the high frequency and sight words often. Even if for just a few minutes a day, every minute helps! I will continue sending home the *I Love Reading* books for additional practice. We will be making a home version of the Moose game. Ask your child to explain to you, how the game is played. It will be going home prior to the February vacation and can be played at home, on vacation, or in the car.

In math, we have been practicing time to the nearest half-hour and the nearest quarter-hour. We have learned and practiced place value for tens and ones using base-10 blocks. Students have had fun learning about relation symbols including greater than, less than, and equal to, along with using them to represent number relationships. We will continue to work on number stories. Students apply many skills in writing number stories. Students read and identify important information in a number story and then create a number model to represent what is told in the story. Repeated practice at home with basic math skills including counting, identifying numbers, counting coins, telling time and basic addition and subtraction will help students become more secure in their number sense skills which are so important as math concepts get more challenging.

**A Message from the Technology Teacher – Kelly Frederico**

The children have really been learning a lot the past two months. In Kindergarten, we spent time finishing up

Millie's Math House, Sammy's Science House and Bailey's Book House. The Kindergarten classes also worked on their sorting skills in the program KidPix. The classes have worked in KidPix learning about the paint bucket tool and also how to choose backgrounds to color. This is always a favorite for the children. They also spent some time in KidPix learning some new tools like the trapezoid tool. We need this tool to create triangles other geometric shapes. We ended the month by using this skill to create slices of pizza. Finally, we have begun to use websites. The website that we visited was [www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com). This is a great beginner language website as it is age appropriate and easy for them to maneuver.

The First Grade classes spent time in KidPix learning how to edit and create their own rubber stamps. The students were very creative with the graphics they design. We also learned about animation and sound in KidPix. Then we spent some time using the website [www.spellingcity.com](http://www.spellingcity.com). This is a great website for the children to practice their spelling words. They are able to enter their spelling list and then after taking a quiz, they are rewarded with many games like hangman and word searches that are created using their spelling words. Just make sure that the words are entered correctly or else all the other items will be created using the misspelled words! Next, we visited some math websites which assisted them in reinforcing some of their math fact skills.

I hope that you all were able to view the slideshows of the children before the Holiday Shows. Creating the slideshow

is a project that I enjoy and hope you all enjoyed seeing your child's face on the big screen.

I hope you all had a happy holiday season!

### **A Message from the Kindergarten Music Teacher – Julie Winans**

I'd like to extend my congratulations to all of the kindergarten students on a job well done at their holiday music show in December. I'm sure you'll agree that they are stars in the making!!

We began a unit on dynamics (volume) this month. We are learning to use loud and soft singing voices as well as body percussion through games and fun activities. Also, now that the weather has (finally) gotten colder, I know that the students probably aren't getting outside as much so I'm trying to incorporate some gross motor movement activities in music classes. We're all having a great time!

I wish all of my students and their families a very happy new year!!!

### **A Message from the First Grade Music Teacher – Kaitlin Valentine**

In the first grade music room, the students have returned to Rhythm Band! I've been very impressed with their professional musician behavior. They're making great strides in their abilities to respond to the music notation, even progressing to following the music without needing me to point and help them follow along. Toby, the Old English sheepdog, also came back for a

visit and the students used their singing voices, improvising the music to answer his questions. Singing voices and the sounds of rhythm band seem to be pouring out of the music room these days!



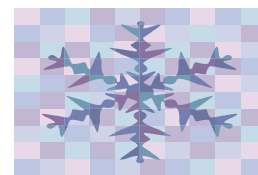
**A Message from the Reading Specialist— Linda Hackenson**

I hope that everyone is enjoying reading to your children as part of the District Reading Initiative. This time spent together reading is so very important in assisting your child in learning that reading can be fun and the more they read the better readers they become. Please remember to return the District Reading Calendars each week for your child to be recognized on the main bulletin board in the lobby. The children are excited to share with teachers the amount of time they are reading. If your child should lose their calendar, just send in a note with the amount of time you read and request a new calendar. The reading can consist of your child reading to you or someone else, having them listen to you read to them, along with having them read information on a cereal box, the comics, a menu at a restaurant, or any other engagement in reading. **The main idea is for your child to be exposed to reading, either by being read to or having them read to**

**someone or to themselves.** Your time and effort is greatly appreciated by all of us and helps to provide your child with a wonderful advantage, as they become better readers.

In addition to reading storybooks, poetry is always fun to share. Some great poets you may want to consider are Jack Prelutsky, Mary Ann Hoberman, Roald Dahl, Andrew Fusey Peters, and Shel Silverstein. Hope you find some wonderful poetry to enjoy. Please share the names of other authors with us as you enjoy the varied works of the poets.

What a great response from many kindergarten and preschool parents who are planning to attend the upcoming Family Literacy Night to be held on Thursday, February 9, 2012 with a snow date of Thursday, February 16, 2012. We are looking forward to this special evening with many fun activities for you and your child to enjoy.



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

Happy New Year to you all! I hope everyone had a happy holiday season. Here at the library we are continuing to receive donations of gently used books. Thank you very much!! The children are enjoying them and I have a number of new titles that I am hoping to get out on the shelves over the next few weeks. If your New Year's resolution is to get

organized (like mine!) feel free to donate any books your family has outgrown to our library. We happily accept donations!!

I wish everyone a healthy and Happy New Year!!

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

#### **The importance of sleep**

Sleep is important to everybody. When we sleep, we rest and gain energy for a new day. But sleep does more than that. When we dream, we process all the events of our daily life.

After a night without enough sleep, one feels exhausted and irritable. But after a good night's sleep, one feels rested, refreshed and full of energy. No wonder that it is so important to parents that their child sleeps through the night. It influences the entire family's life and wellbeing.

#### **How much sleep does my child need?**

- Sleep is important for the child's well-being.
- At night, the body produces more of the hormone that stimulates growth. So sleep is important for your child's development as well.
- Newborn babies sleep up to 16 hours per day. At first, they wake up every two or three hours to feed.
- From four months old, babies often start to sleep for longer periods of time.
- From six months old and up to one year, they often sleep five to six hours continuously.
- Children between one year and five years old sleep up to 12 hours each day.
- A pre-school child may still need to sleep 10 to 12 hours each day.
- A schoolchild sleeps about 10 hours each day.
- It is important to remember that each child's sleeping pattern is different. If a child is one year old and sleeps 10 hours each day, it is perfectly OK, as long as the child is happy and healthy.

Before parents start to worry about the amount of time their child sleeps, it is a good idea to look at the sleeping patterns of other family members. There might be a connection.

If your child has a difficult time falling asleep start your bedtime routine earlier. Try soothing strategies such as a warm bath before bed, relaxing music, etc. Good sleep is essential to your child's emotional, behavioral, and academic well-being. Keeping with a routine on a regular basis will help to alleviate sleep problems and provide your child with consistency and security.

Excerpt from: Christel Bech, R.N. and Vibeke Manniche, Paediatrician, Phd.  
[www.netdoctor.co.uk](http://www.netdoctor.co.uk)



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

The Mobile Dental Program is coming to Mason Road School! Permission slips have been sent home with the children. This is a great program and one that benefits children across the board. The dental team comes into the school and sets up a complete dental treatment area in our Media Center. Services that will be provided are dental cleanings and exams, fluoride treatments, sealants and x rays. All children are eligible and no child is ever turned away based on the inability to pay. Generous grants are available for children without Medicaid, private insurance or sufficient financial resources. **Our date at Mason Road School is Wednesday, March 21, 2012.** We have also begun our Fluoride Rinse Program for the 1<sup>st</sup> graders. This is also a great program for the children's oral health. If you have any questions regarding either of these programs, please feel free to contact me here at the school.



**A Message from the Dudley Police**  
**Department –**  
**Chief Steven Wojnar**

Police officers are often asked to give presentations to children and parents about “stranger danger” and safety

awareness. A major priority in all parents' lives should be protecting their children from harm. We as police officers are often asked by parents to assist them in explaining these dangers to their children.

It is important for parents to remember most children do not have the same concept of “strangers” as an adult does. It is difficult for children to understand who is and who is not a “stranger.” The priority focus, when teaching your children about this subject, is to concentrate on three main feelings they know well. These are scared, confused, and uncomfortable. These are easier to describe to children and they know when they feel them. The symptoms may include such things as a nervous stomach. These feelings can apply in many situations, and not simply when met by “strangers.” They can then be taught to get out of a given situation when they experience these feelings.

It is also important for children to feel comfortable talking with their parents about ANYTHING without the fear of trouble. This is difficult, but they must have the confidence they can tell you of a “bad” experience without suffering consequences. Unfortunately, parenting is not an exact science and flexibility is often an asset.

I encourage parents to take advantage of internet and child safety programs whenever they are available. A great deal of new and valuable information can be found at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's web site at [www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com). Feel free to contact our department if you need assistance or have additional questions and we will be glad to provide you

whatever information or assistance we can.

**A Message from the Dudley Fire Department –  
Capt. David Konieczny**

In last month's article we discussed the *Keep Warm, Keep Safe* campaign and how it relates to proper maintenance of your heating system in order to prevent fires in your home. Another area that comes to mind that requires periodic maintenance is your clothes dryer.

In recent years statistics indicate that over half of all dryer fires occurred in 1 & 2 family homes. You can prevent dryer fires by following these safety rules. Clean the filter screen after each load. This will help keep the vent hose clear of lint. If accumulated lint clogs the vent hose, the dryer could overheat causing a fire. Also clean the hose that vents to the outside at least twice a year. Make sure there is not a lint build up on the outside vent cover. Vacuum around the motor area to remove excess dust and lint build up. Don't leave clothing or other combustibles too close to the dryer. The heat from the dryer may be sufficient to ignite them. Never leave a dryer in use unattended. Always turn off the dryer before leaving the house.

Also a reminder the open burning season for brush has begun on January 15<sup>th</sup> and ends May 1<sup>st</sup>. The open burning regulations along with the permit that is required is available at fire headquarters.

**A Message From Dudley PTO**

Please visit our Facebook page, Dudley PTO or on the District website

for updated information, reminders, and involvement opportunities!

Upcoming/Current Events

Anyone still wanting to make Auction basket donations please have them into school by Wednesday, February 1.

Pizza Fundraiser Pick Up Night will be at Mason Road School on Friday, February 3 from 4:30-8p.m. Several volunteers are needed to fill orders in preparation of orders being picked up. If you are available to help please contact Jane Malboeuf at [cjmalboeuf@verizon.net](mailto:cjmalboeuf@verizon.net) or (774) 452-3431.

Big screen TV Raffle tickets are on sale through Friday, February 10. The winner will be pulled at the Auction Saturday, February 11!!

Dinner Auction at Point Breeze Restaurant in Webster Saturday, February 11 starting at 6p.m. Tickets can be purchased for \$25/person. Please contact Heather Bowes at [bowes96@yahoo.com](mailto:bowes96@yahoo.com) or (508) 949-7235.

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. 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, February 7 at Dudley Middle School at 6:30pm in the Auditorium.