

May Newsletter

MASON ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 2010/2011

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Theodora Dono

As this school year comes to a close, there are several people that I would like to acknowledge. First of all, the P.T.O. Board members and all of the wonderful parent volunteers who have given endless hours this year. So many wonderful programs, book fairs, dinners, and family events! Thank you to the Mason Road School Council for supporting our educational ventures and preparing the School Improvement Plan for the 2010/2011 school year. A big thank you to Mrs. Janet Strazzullo, our physical education teacher, for a fun filled "Field Day". Special thanks to our dedicated staff for their commitment to "advancing the knowledge and well-being of our children and community."

I would like to take this opportunity to also thank Mrs. Julie Winans, our music teacher for the spectacular spring shows that were held on May 18th and May 19th.

I sincerely thank our parents/guardians for another wonderful year at Mason Road School. I extend my best wishes to all of you for a spectacular summer and I look forward to the 2011 – 2012 school year.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

June 1 - Kindergarten Field Day (10:00a.m.)-Shepherd Hill

June 1 -Grade 1 Class Trip - Capen Hill Nature Sanctuary (Rms. 21, 20, 17)

June 2- Grade One Field Day –(10:00-11:30) at Shepherd Hill (raindate-6/9)

June 2 & 3 Preschool Packets are distributed in the office (Please bring in Physical Forms and checks paid out to Dudley Charlton Regional School District)

June 3-Grade 1 Class Trip - Capen Hill Nature Sanctuary (Rms. 19, 18 16)

June 7-Grade 1 Step Up Day at DES

June 7-Bubblemania for Kindergarten – PTO Presentation -1:45 p.m. in the Cafetorium

June 7-School Council Meeting – Conference Room at 3:45 p.m.

PTO Meeting at Dudley Elementary School at 6:30 p.m.

June 8-Field Day –Raindate for Kindergarten (10:00-11:30) at Shepherd Hill

June 8-Grade 1 Class Trip - Capen Hill Nature Sanctuary - Raindate

June 8-School Committee Meeting – Shepherd at 7:00 p.m.

June 9-Field Day –Raindate for Grade 1 (11:30) at Shepherd Hill

June 10-Grade 1 Class Trip - Capen Hill Nature Sanctuary -Raindate

June 13-17 “Spirit Days” (see schedule)

June 15-Grades Close

June 15-Switcheroo Day (AM)

June 16-Water Safety Program in the Media Center - see schedule

June 16-Preschool Shows – 9:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. (last day of Preschool) in the cafetorium

June 17-Preschool Shows – 9:30 a.m. (last day of Preschool) in the cafetorium

June 17-Spelling Bee for Grade 1 – in the afternoon

June 21-Last Day of the 2010-2011 school year! – Dismissal at 12:15 p.m.

Progress Report Go Home

Summer begins!



A Message from Preschool

It is hard to believe that another year of Preschool is quickly coming to a close. It is rewarding to see how the children have matured. They have gained confidence, made friends and developed wonderful readiness skills. We hope we have provided the children with a great first year experience.

We will conclude the year with our Last Day Celebration...Down In The Garden. We will be performing songs and poems. All families and friends are invited.

We want to take this opportunity to thank all the families for their support during the year. As the children progress through school, we ask parents to please stay involved in their education. The schools need your support and the children will benefit from your involvement. After all, education is a team effort between home and school.

We want to wish all our families a safe and healthy summer. Hopefully, you will have time to relax and enjoy each other. Vacations are an opportunity to build a sense of family togetherness without the pressures of everyday life. Where you go and how long you stay is not important, but planning the best vacations around the interests and developmental levels of children are. Remember that children need and like routine. Try to keep naptimes, mealtimes, and bedtimes as close to normal routine as possible. Also, a survival kit helps minimize irritability and crankiness during long hours of driving. Pack healthy snacks, books, crayons, markers, paper games and a tape recorder and tapes. Have fun and treasure the moments together.

Thank you again for a terrific year! We enjoyed working with your wonderful children!

Have a wonderful and safe summer.



A Message from Kindergarten

Throughout the month of May the kindergarten students have been learning about plants, landforms, rocks, and various living and non-living things. We studied different kinds of seeds, sorted seeds, and learned how a seed can become a beautiful plant. Classes made booklets and posters of landforms including the Grand Canyon. Students also classified items as living, non-living and once living.

In Social Studies we continue to learn about the people and places in our community. On May 3rd, 4th, and 5th our Kindergarten classes walked to the Dudley Post Office. They learned about how mail travels, P.O. Boxes, and all the jobs a mail carrier does. They also got to put a stamp on their letters that they wrote with love and mailed them at the Post Office. We hope it was a special day for everyone!

On May 18th and 19th the kindergarten classes performed their Spring Show. The show is directed by Mrs. Winans, who continues every year to do a wonderful job with the Kindergarten children. The children loved learning and singing their patriotic songs. The students also learned about Memorial Day through many activities that teach the children about honoring and

remembering the men and women who fought for our country.

Our character education trait for the month of May was Sportsmanship. This characteristic will play a large role when we travel to the Dudley Middle School for our field day in June.

On May 27th we ended a very busy month with a special program called Slapstick Science. Dr. Quark entertained us all with the wonders of physics and the natural world. What a show!



A Message from First Grade

Spring is finally here and it is hard to believe that this will be our last newsletter this year! Where has the time gone? The children have come so far since that first day of school last August. They have worked very hard and we are proud of the progress they have made!

May has been another busy month in first grade. The children have been introduced to many new stories and skills in our Houghton Mifflin reading program. Animals have been compared and contrasted, and friendly letters have been written. Prefixes (un-/re-), suffixes (-ful/-ly/-y), and new endings (-es/-ies) for base words were taught. They have learned about vowel pairs (oi/ oy/ aw/au) as well. New spelling words and high frequency words were also taught.

In Everyday Math we have worked with fractions, learning how to identify parts of a whole and how to label the parts accordingly. We have worked on finding tens and ones patterns on the number grid as well as adding/subtracting tens and ones. The children have started adding and subtracting two digit numbers by using rods and cubes then applying skills to written work. We continue to review counting money, telling, time, and finding rules/missing numbers.

This month the children were treated to an exciting presentation called "Biomes". They were fascinated by the animals that live in the ocean. Speaking of animals, the first grade team is SO proud of work produced by the children for their animal research projects. Thank you for your help and support, working to bridge the connection between school and home. We thank all who were able to volunteer in our classrooms to help. It was wonderful that so many of you were able to attend the presentation of the research projects!

We are looking forward to our field trip to Capen Hill Nature Sanctuary next month. Thank you Mrs. Marrier for planning this memorable day! Many thanks also go out to the PTO for sponsoring educational shows and field trips for the children.

On behalf of the first grade team, we want to thank you for your support during the 2011-2012 school year. Please continue reading and practicing math skills with your child during the summer break. We hope you a safe, restful summer and wish the children great success in their bright futures.

A Message from the Reading Specialist— Laura Teczar

The following are some ways to generate reading enthusiasm:

1. Scout for things your children might like to read. Use their interests and hobbies as starting points.
2. Leave all sorts of reading materials including books, magazines, and colorful catalogs in conspicuous places around your home.
3. Notice what attracts your children's attention, even if they only look at the pictures. Then build on that interest; read a short selection aloud, or simply bring home more information on the same subject.
4. Let your children see you reading for pleasure in your spare time.
5. Take your children to the library regularly. Explore the children's section together. Ask a librarian to suggest books and magazines your children might enjoy.
6. Present reading as an activity with a purpose; a way to gather useful information for, say, making origami, finding the recipe for tonight's dinner, or planning a family trip.
7. Encourage older children to read to their younger brothers and sisters. Older children enjoy showing off their skills to an admiring audience.
8. Perhaps over dinner, while you're running errands, or in another informal setting, share your reactions to things

you read, and encourage your children to do likewise.

9. Set aside a regular time for reading in your family, independent of schoolwork, the 20 minutes before lights out, just after dinner, or whatever fits into your household schedule. As little as 10 minutes of free reading a day can help improve your child's skills and habits.
10. Encourage your child to read aloud to you an exciting passage in a book, an interesting tidbit in the newspaper, or a joke in a joke book.
11. On gift-giving occasions, give books and magazines based on your child's current interests.
12. Set aside a special place for children to keep their own books.
13. Introduce the use of a bookmark. Remind your child that you don't have to finish a book in one sitting; you can stop after a few pages, or a chapter, and pick up where you left off at another time. Don't try to persuade your child to finish a book he or she doesn't like. Recommend putting the book aside and trying another.
14. Treat your children to an evening of laughter and entertainment featuring books! A joke book, a story told in riddles, or a funny passage read aloud can reveal another side of reading.
15. Extend your child's positive reading experiences. For example, if your child enjoyed a book about dinosaurs, follow up with a visit to a natural history museum.

16. Offer other special incentives to encourage your child's reading. Allow your child to stay up an extra 15 minutes to finish a chapter; promise to take your child to see a movie after he or she has finished the book on which it was based.

17. Not all reading takes place between the covers of a book. What about menus, road signs, food labels, and sheet music? Take advantage of countless spur-of-the-moment opportunities for reading during the course of your day.

(adapted from an article found at www.education.com)

Please don't forget to make time for reading this summer! In June we will host the Children's Librarian (Miss Kathy) from the Pearle Crawford Memorial Library. She will speak about the summer reading program at the library. I will be sending home a summer reading packet with information on the library program, reading suggestions and our monthly reading calendars for July and August. The monthly reading calendars (we started at the beginning of the school year) are a great way to continue reading throughout the summer.

Literacy quote for the month:

Your children need your presence more than your presents. ~Jesse Jackson

A Message from the Title I Teacher
- Michelle Gray

It is so hard to believe that we are approaching the end of the school year. I would like to thank all of the families of Title One students for your support of

this program. We are so pleased with the growth and development we have seen in the children.

Eligibility testing for the 2011-2012 school year began in April. 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.

As we approach summer I would like to encourage all families to continue to work with your child during summer vacation. Activities including reading and math are critical to help your child continue to develop and not lose what they have learned this school year. The Dudley Public Library is a great resource where families can borrow a variety of books. Reading to and listening to your child read for 15 minutes a day goes a long way. Math can be practiced anywhere. Practicing simple addition facts in the car, having your child tell you the time, counting change you find in your pocket or purse and skip counting by 2, 5 and 10 are just a few ways to quickly get in math practice.

I will send home summer packets with the children to provide you with materials and ideas on how to continue to support and advance your child's academic progress. It has been a terrific year and I am so grateful to have worked with your children. I am so proud of them and what they have accomplished this year. It has been a pleasure to meet so many caring and dedicated families and I wish all of you the best.

A Message from the Technology Teacher – Kelly Frederico

As the school year is coming to a close, I have had many requests from students and parents about using some of the programs and websites that we use in class over the summer at home. I will be sending home a flyer before the year ends that will include some of the software titles that we use in school as well as a list of educational websites that we use.

The First Grade classes have been busy working in KidPix to get ready for second grade. They have been brushing up on all the tools used as well as reviewing saving and opening pictures. They also worked in Stationary Studio to complete a special project for their teachers. We even did some work in Microsoft Word to type a page of their Animal Research projects.

The Kindergarten classes have been working on their KidPix skills. They reinforced what they have learned in their classrooms about symmetry by drawing symmetrical shapes. We also went on a scavenger hunt in KidPix, the students were asked to complete a picture as close to the sample I gave them. They had to find specific colors and stamps to add to their picture to make it match mine. This is a fun project for the kids, and also a great review of their skills.

I hope you all have a wonderful, safe summer vacation!



A Message from the Music Teacher – Julie Winans

It has been my pleasure to teach the children in Kindergarten and First Grade at Mason Road School this year. The children all have grown so much and I look forward to continuing their journey with them next year, be it at Mason Road again or at Dudley Elementary School.

I congratulate all of the students on a job well done at their spring performances in late May. They brought smiles to everyone's faces and even tears in many eyes!

Have a wonderful summer!

Message from the Team Chairperson – Pamela Boyle

In a recent issue of the Special Ed Advocate, Pete Wright, the father of two boys with ADHD and learning disabilities, shared his Four Rules for Raising Children. You'll find tips that will help your child become a special person because of his differences, not in spite of them.

Four Rules for Raising Children

We often allow children with a neurobehavioral disability like ADHD or specific learning disabilities to misbehave and get away with bad behavior because we believe they cannot control their behavior. This is not true! Because a child has disabilities, we often lower our expectations. If we do not expect them to control their behavior and their impulses, they won't.

#1. The child had to work

Children need to learn that their work contributes to the welfare of the family. When a child was young and we went to the store, the child had to carry a bag or two into the house. When they were a little older, they didn't ask - they just picked up bags and helped. When they grew tall enough to reach the sink, they had to help wash the dishes. When they were teenagers, they had to earn their spending money. They cut grass, did odd jobs in the neighborhood, delivered pizza, you name it.

#2. No Telephone or Television in the Child's Room, Ever!

In addition to a bed, each child's room had a desk, bookcases, and lots of books.

#3. The Child Had to Learn to Touch-Type at Home

Each child learned to touch-type at home. We used a typing software program like Mavis Beacon for 15-30 minutes a day. It took about three months for the child to learn to type 30 words per minute. This is an excellent activity for the summer. Use a chart to graph the child's progress in typing. Charts make progress real. When the child reached intermediate goals, they received small rewards. After they could type 30 wpm consistently, typing lessons ended. Do not expect that the child will learn to touch type at school. Teach this skill at home.

#4. Never ask "WHY?"

When my children misbehaved or messed up, I never asked them "WHY did you . . . ?" Why did you come home an hour late? Why did you come home with alcohol on your breath? Why didn't you clean up your room? Why did you leave a mess in the kitchen? Why didn't

you finish your homework? Why did you finger-paint on the walls?

When the parent asks a child WHY?, the child learns to create good excuses, shifts blame onto others, views himself or herself as a "victim of circumstances" -- and not does not learn to take responsibility for his or her behavior. Talking about WHY the child misbehaved will not teach the child that he has control over himself, his environment and his future. This will not teach him to take responsibility for his actions. When you ask "Why," it's easy to slip in some guilt - "Why did you do this? You upset me so much. You made me feel terrible." Stay away from guilt.

Before my first child was born, I worked in juvenile training schools. I read a book called Reality Therapy by psychologist William Glasser. Dr. Glasser wrote: "Eliminate the word 'why' from your vocabulary in dealing with child behavior. So often, children don't know 'why.' They acted because 'I felt like doing it' and they don't really know why. You should never ask 'Why?' Ask these four questions instead:

- What did you do?
- What are you going to do about it?
- To ensure that this does not happen again, what should we do to you now?
- If this does happen again, despite your good intentions now, how much more severe shall the punishment be next time?

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

The students in Kindergarten and Grade One have been attempting many

different manipulative skills. Some of these include velcro balls and mitts, frisbees, paddles with sponge balls and scoops with sponge balls. The skills involved were catching, hitting and throwing. This helps to develop hand-eye coordination. These are done with partners, small groups and individually.

Also, although the calendar says it is spring the weather does not always cooperate. The students still need to wear sneakers and play clothes. Crocks, sandals and flip flops are not safe for physical education class.

I hope to see many of you at Field Day. It should be a lot of fun for all. Keep an eye for any notices that come home and if they need to be signed please don't forget!

***Message from the School
Psychologist— Theresa Veilleux***

Can you believe the end of the school year is already here? We are winding down another wonderful school year at Mason Road. It has been a pleasure to work with your children. Here are some ideas to keep your little ones entertained and intellectually stimulated during the summer months. Enjoy your time together!

Enjoying Stress-Free Summer Activities

It's summertime, school is out, and many families are at their wit's end about how to fill three months of their children's free time. Images of summertime are usually cast in a light of hot, lazy, relaxing days by a lake, but the reality for most working families is the

struggle to balance the demands of adult work schedules with providing safe activities for children. This dilemma often results in hectic, stress-filled days comparable to those during the school year. While summer camp is an option for some, the cost of day and overnight camps can be too expensive for many families' budgets. Structured activities are beneficial, but parents and caregivers should also keep in mind the advantages of unstructured time for children.

So what do we do to keep young children busy, yet also allow them to enjoy the summer months? Whether your child is a preschooler or school-age, a wealth of opportunities for fun, educational, and even relaxing activities are possible. Here are some tips that may be useful for families and caregivers:

Visit the library

Until recently, libraries offered little or nothing for children below the age of three, but in the past few years, many have introduced programs for toddlers. Children and adults can participate in activities that may include reading aloud, storytelling, fingerplays, rhymes, and songs. Preschoolers usually enjoy the group activities offered by libraries, where they can participate in puppet shows and arts and crafts activities. For elementary school children, there are variations of the read-alouds and storytelling hours that often include discussions and presentations by the children themselves, as well as summer reading programs. Many public libraries also offer training courses for children in using different software or educational programs.

Discover geography

What makes a place special? What are the physical characteristics of your hometown? Take children for a walk around your neighborhood and look at what makes it unique. Point out how it is similar to other places you have been and how it is different. If you live near a park, a lake, a river, a stream or a creek, take your children there and spend time talking about its uses. Read stories about distant places with children or sing songs to teach geography, for example "Home on the Range" or "California, Here I Come." Make a wish list of places you would like to visit with your child. Look them up on a map and plan a trip there--real or pretend.

View and create collections

Go to a children's museum to view hands-on exhibits or suggest that your children start a "collection" and build their own museum. They can collect natural materials, such as acorns and leaves from a local park or sea shells from the beach.

Nature's best

Older children can learn about weather by using a map to look up the temperature of cities around the world and discovering how hot each gets in the summer. Watch cloud formations and imagine. Do the shapes look like horses, ducks or other animals?

At night, children can collect fireflies in jars, or depending on their age, camp out in a tent in the back yard. Create a treasure map for children to find hidden treats in the yard. Read about your state bird and state flower, and if possible, bicycle ride to a nearby park to find them.

Use community resources

Watch for special events, such as free outdoor music festivals or concerts. Many communities host evening concerts in local parks--pack a picnic dinner and enjoy time with your family. People are resources too--collectors, painters, and backyard naturalists may live in your neighborhood, eager to share their knowledge with children.

Rainy day activities

Summertime often brings thunder clouds. On days when outdoor activities are not possible, you can share family history and photos with your children. Pull out the old videotapes of past family gatherings and events. Prepare an indoor picnic with your child or cook dinner together.

Whatever the activity, children can enjoy and appreciate the summer months in ways that are both educational and stress-reducing for all involve

Credits

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A Message from the Library Coordinator – Laurie Jankowski

It is hard to believe that the school year is coming to an end. It has been a great year in the library. We have received a

number of new books through donations as well as from the PTO Scholastic Book Fair, and from school purchases. I am truly excited for the students and all of these great new books the students will be enjoying in the fall.

I wish all the first graders the best of luck as they move on. They will be truly missed. I have enjoyed them in the library throughout the past two years here at Mason Road. I am sure they will all do great as they move on to Dudley Elementary in the fall!!

Our volunteers have been wonderful and many have stepped in to help out at a moments' notice. Thank you so very much for all of your help this year! Our library program would not be successful if it weren't for all of you!

I wish all of you a healthy and happy summer vacation!! I encourage all of you to continue reading with your child. Studies have shown that children can lose up to 20 percent of their reading skills over summer vacation if they do not continue to read over the summer. Get out and enjoy the nice weather this summer but don't forget to keep reading!!

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

The school year is coming to an end and I would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents and guardians to pick up any medications by the last day of school. Also, if you know that your child will need medication during the next school year, you may want to pick up the medication forms at this time to be filled out by your family physicians.

There is also a parent form that needs to be filled out. This way, everything will be ready for the first day of school in the fall.

For all students entering Kindergarten in the fall...Please remember that all students must be fully immunized and have had a current physical exam. Proof of this **MUST** be on file in the nursing office for the first day of school. Without this, your child will not be allowed to begin school. This procedure is according to **Massachusetts State Law**. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the nursing office.

Just one last reminder—everyone get outdoors and enjoy this beautiful weather! Show an act of kindness to someone and enjoy each other's company. A happy person is a healthy person!

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

With summer vacation approaching, more people will be outside enjoying a variety of activities. Along those lines, I have received a great deal of questions about the use of bicycles on the road. Bicycles are allowed on most roads in the state. They may be used practically anywhere off roads, with the permission of the property owners.

As a general rule, bicycle riders must observe the same safety rules as cars. These include traveling with the direction of traffic, observing signs, signaling turns, etc. In addition to these, bike riders must ride in a single file fashion. Also, any passengers must be

carried on a seat or in a trailer towed behind. Bicycles may not be pulled by any motor vehicle.

Perhaps most important rule is use of helmets. Helmets are required by anyone under age sixteen. They must be approved helmets and must be fastened during use.

The laws governing bicycle use are in place to provide for additional safety. Car drivers may not see a bicycle, in much the same fashion as a motorcycle. When riding, assume no one can see you. Stay to the side of the road and stop if necessary. By observing some basic safety rules, you can limit accidents and prevent injuries.

On behalf of everyone at the Dudley Police Department, I wish all of you a happy, healthy, and safe summer vacation.

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

As the school year comes to an end, summer activities will now take place. As always this time of year we offer reminders related to warmer weather activities.

Heat related emergencies are obviously associated with this season. If you must work in high heat and humidity, do so in short duration and rest periodically. Drink plenty of liquids to prevent dehydration from excess fluid loss through sweating. If you experience heat exhaustion or heat cramps, rest in a cool place to avoid progressing to heat stroke which can lead to serious complications.

We also respond to emergencies involving severe allergic reactions to insect bites. A person may carry their own medication to counteract this reaction. Even though this medication is administered emergency medical care must still be given to this person.

Swimming related accidents and injuries occur every summer. A common rule you must follow is *never* swim alone. Swimming can cause leg or stomach cramps which may require assistance in getting out the water, Always be aware of young children's activities when in or around water. It takes only seconds for an accident to occur. Before diving into any water make sure you know the depth. Striking your head on the bottom of a pool or pond can cause permanent spinal cord damage.

We wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer season!

A Message from the Dudley PTO

Dudley PTO News –June

June Meeting – Tuesday, June 3, 2011 at Dudley Elementary School. The Red Sox Raffles winners will be drawn at the meeting.

PTO information for next school year:

Election for Board Members for next year will be at the next meeting Thursday, August 2nd at Dudley Middle School at 6:30 p.m.