



East Fairhaven News

Message from the Principal

Here at East Fairhaven we think of January as another beginning, the beginning of the second half of the school year. Since we have had a two week break there is definitely a sense of rejuvenation and excitement. It is a time to refocus on all the teaching and learning we have yet to accomplish and in essence it puts us back on track after the holidays.

Since we came back with a renewed energy it is the perfect time to teach our children about our Character Education Virtue for this month, perseverance. Our children are growing up in a time when everything is fast paced, changes frequently and video games and the web encourage immediate results. Therefore, we will be discussing with our students how perseverance is important and "fast is not always best." We need to teach children the feeling of accomplishment when you've worked hard and know you have put forth your best effort. Please encourage our virtue of perseverance at home as we know children learn best when school and home work together.

Winter Concert

As you know our typical holiday concert was moved to January this year. The theme of the concert is "Seasons of Love". There will be two performances. The morning performance will begin at 9:30 and end no later than 11:00AM. The afternoon performance will begin at 1:00 PM and conclude by 2:30 PM. All the children, along with the band and string students, will participate at both performances. In order to provide seating for everyone we ask that you attend the *morning concert* if your last name begins with *A-L*. If your last name begins with *M-Z* please join us during the *afternoon* performance.

If you are at the afternoon performance and want to dismiss your children immediately after please write a note to the classroom teacher and you will need to report to the office to meet your child and sign them out.

Please be polite and refrain from leaving the concert early as it is disruptive to the students, the performance, and other guests.

MCAS Testing

MCAS testing time can be stressful for students and parents, too. Preparation, is ongoing in our classrooms from the first day of the school year. At this time of year we stress strategies for answering open response questions and short answer questions similar to those on the test and we practice what a typical testing session will be like. We encourage our students to do their personal best; remain focused, persevere and follow-through and use all the strategies they have been taught. Our goal is to have our children well prepared academically from our daily instruction but also comfortable and confident that they can do well.

You, as a parent, play an important role in your child's success. When you let them know education is important and show them that you have confidence in them they will rise to your high expectations. As we tell them, "This is your opportunity to show what you can do!" (*Testing Schedule on the back*)

January 20, 2010

Important Dates

- ◆ Jan. 12- PTO meeting @ 6:30
- ◆ Jan. 15- Winter Concert- @9:30 AM and 1:00 PM
- ◆ Jan. 22- Grades Close
- ◆ Jan. 22nd- No PM Pre-school class. Friday AM preschool classes begin.
- ◆ Feb. 1- Report Cards go home

School Council

The School Council is a committee consisting of teachers, parents, the principal and community members. The goal of the School Council is to set goals for the school and to monitor progress toward those goals. The goals set by the committee become part of a School Improvement Plan which is submitted to the School Committee each year for approval.

Currently our two community representatives are Edith Silva from the East Fairhaven Improvement Association and Dan Waltz, President and CEO of Southern Mass Credit Union.

At this time we do not have any parent representatives on the committee. Meetings are conducted once a month on Wednesdays @ 3:15 in the conference room at East Fairhaven. If you would like to be a part of this committee please join us at our next meeting this Wednesday, January 6th at 3:15 or call 508-979-4058 or email me at glucas@fairhavenps.org.

MCAS TESTING SCHEDULE Grades 3, 4 and 5

March 22 and 24—grade 3-ELA
March 23—grade 4 Composition
March 25 and 26—grade 4- ELA
March 29 and 30—grade 5-ELA
March 31 and April 1—Make-ups
April 7—grade 4-ELA comp -Make-ups.



Emphasizing the Importance of Reading

- ▶ Parents who read usually have children who read.
- ▶ Reduce TV viewing time and videogame time, and increase reading time.
- ▶ Set aside a time each day when you and your child will read.
- ▶ Read aloud to your child. Reading with expression shows a child that you love books and that you enjoy reading to them.
- ▶ Share what you have read with your child, and ask your child to do the same with you.

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Web sites for learning and fun --
for kids and parents together..

This week's Site to See:

Math Flashcard Game
<http://www.surfnetkids.com/games/math-fc.htm>

Add, subtract, or multiply to
beat the clock. (Grades 3-up)

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Money's Worth

Give your child a chance to answer riddles such as "I have three coins in my pocket. They are worth 7 cents. What do I have?" For older students, ask more challenging questions such as "I have six coins in my pocket. They are worth 30 cents. What could I have?" or "The coins in my pocket total 11 cents. How many coins could I have?"

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C is for CHOICES.

According to Jim Fay, author of *Becoming a Love and Logic Parent*, giving children choices is more effective than making demands. He suggests...

- Never give choices if it might cause problems for you or anyone else.
- Give only two options for each choice, both equally okay with you. For example, *Would you like peas or carrots?* or *Do you want to do homework now or in 15 minutes?*
- If the child doesn't decide within 10 seconds, make the choice for him or her.

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