



# East Fairhaven School

## Back to School Newsletter

September 1, 2009

### Welcome Back

Can you believe it? Yes, the start of another new school year. This is the beginning of our third year at the new East Fairhaven School and I still look around in amazement at how lucky we are to have such a beautiful school with all that it can offer. As I took some new families on a tour I found myself commenting, "Now, the library is really my favorite place in the whole school." But with an art room, project room, music room and an unbelievable gym what is not to like? A school is not great just because of the building. What makes a school great is the staff, students and parents working together as a community to help all children succeed. Success is measured not only by academic achievement but the growth of the whole child socially, emotionally.

So as we begin this new school year I invite you to be partners with your child's teacher, our staff and myself in making this the best year ever for your child and all the children of East Fairhaven.

### Summer Reading Program

I hope everyone was reading over the summer. Remember to return your completed reading list. Each grade level will be making a paper chain to show all the books that were read. Don't forget each class had one book assigned for summer reading. Teachers will be using these books for lessons in the upcoming weeks.

### Staff Changes

Almost every year there are a few changes in staffing. This year due to budget constraints we have lost some very important people along with the services they provided. We no longer have a library assistant so now we will need parent volunteers to help. Our full-time technology assistant was also eliminated along with one of our cafeteria monitors.

On a positive note we have some exciting news to share; Jill Dagwan, one of our fifth grade teachers, was married this summer and is now officially Mrs. Bandarra. ☺ We have two paras who were transferred to East Fairhaven to be part of our team, Cheryl Washington and Lisa Abrantes...Welcome! Mrs. Taylor, one of our first grade teachers, had a beautiful little girl, Kate, in March. Mrs. Taylor has decided to take a leave of absence for a year to be with her new daughter. I'm excited to say that Kayla O'Malley will be our new first grade teacher this year. She taught first grade at Rogers School last year and she did a fantastic job!

### Clip and Return

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Yes, I want to volunteer for: (Circle One)    Cafeteria    Library

I am available: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_



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### Health News

H1N1 virus is the news of the year with daily updates in the media. The administrators are working closely with our health professionals to keep you informed during the year. Please visit our website for updated information. Our nurse and all the staff are stressing the importance of hand washing frequently with all our children.

### Parent Teacher Conferences

This year for the first time we will be having parent -teacher conferences in November for all students preschool through fifth grade. Dates have not been confirmed yet but you will sign-up for appointment when we have Open House.

### Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers for our library to check books out when classes come to visit. Can you spend a couple of hours one morning or afternoon a week?

How about being a volunteer in the cafeteria? Less than two hours (11:00-12:45) one day week! We need your help! If you can help please call the office or clip and return the Volunteer Slip.

### Grandparents/Grandfriends Day

For the last two years we have hosted a Grandparents Day for each grade level in the cafeteria. This year we have something new planned that we know you will enjoy!

Grandfriends Day will be on the same day as Field Day with a picnic outside. More details will be available in the spring.

### Open House

- Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup> for grades 3-5 from 6:00-7:30PM.
- Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup> for preschool- grade 2 from 6:00-7:30PM.

### New Dismissal Procedures

- Kindergarten walkers will be dismissed from the side door near the circular driveway.
- All parents must come to the door to get their child if they are walkers. Children will not be allowed to run toward the parking lot.

### Website

Come visit our website for newsletters, important dates, health information, calendars, and school closings. Go to [www.fairhavenps.org](http://www.fairhavenps.org) and click on the East Fairhaven link.

### MCAS Dates

MCAS testing for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade is mandated by the Department of Education. All students must take this test. Vacations are not acceptable excuses only medical documentation from a physician is an acceptable excuse for non participation. Testing will be done from March 22<sup>nd</sup> to April 12<sup>th</sup> and again from May 10<sup>th</sup> to May 27<sup>th</sup>



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