

L.L. Wood News

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February 2011



Important Dates

PTO Meeting @ 6:30pm	2/8
School Council Meeting	2/14
SMCU Banking Day	2/2 2/16
Winter Vacation Begins	2/21
After School Programs are scheduled to begin this week!	2/28



School Council News

The Wood School Council is meeting Monday, February 14, 2011. Our council meets monthly to plan school improvement. Parents and community members are always welcome to join us. If you have any questions or suggestions please feel free to contact the LeRoy Wood School office at (508) 979-4073. Thank You!

Principal's Message

"And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count.

It's the life in your years."

~Abraham Lincoln

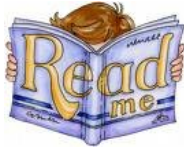
It's hard to believe February 1st is tomorrow. I still catch myself writing 2010! I am really hoping that Punxsutawney Phil does not see his shadow on Wednesday and winter ends early this year. With February vacation right around the corner we desperately need a full week of school!

This month a major decision will be made that will affect the future of elementary education in Fairhaven. The School Building Committee is meeting Tuesday evening at 6:30pm at East Fairhaven Elementary School. Currently there are two proposals for the school building project:

- One school building on the Rogers School site for all Wood School students and Rogers school students to attend. Wood School would be closed.
- One school building on the Wood School site for all Wood School students and Rogers School students to attend. Rogers School would be utilized in another way.

On Tuesday evening the School Building Committee will vote and make a final decision regarding the site for the school project. This is a very important decision that will affect every elementary student in Fairhaven. As usual, the agenda includes a time for questions and concerns from the community. I urge you to attend the meeting Tuesday evening at 6:30pm at East Fairhaven Elementary School.

Please be sure to see an important request regarding our much loved After School Programs on page four. Have a wonderful month and be sure to make everyday a great one!



What is this DIBELS we've been talking about at Wood School?

We are committed to helping your child become a successful reader. As part of this commitment, our school has chosen to use a test called DIBELS to help us examine how your child is doing in learning important reading skills.

DIBELS stands for *Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills*. DIBELS tests five skills that are necessary for learning to read. Children who learn these skills become good readers. The skills are:

- **Phonemic Awareness:** Hearing and using sounds in spoken words
- **Alphabetic Principle:** Knowing the sounds of the letters and sounding out written words
- **Accurate and Fluent Reading:** Reading stories and other materials easily and quickly with few mistakes
- **Vocabulary:** Understanding and using a variety of words
- **Comprehension:** Understanding what is spoken or read

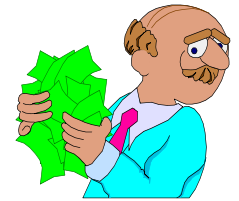
DIBELS is made up of seven short individual tests, called subtests. Each DIBELS subtest focuses on a different skill and takes about 1 minute to do. Your child may be given two to five of the DIBELS subtests depending on his or her grade level.

Each DIBELS subtest takes only about one minute to do because they are used as *indicators*. Much like using a thermometer to take a child's temperature is an indicator of overall health, each subtest is an indicator of how well a child is doing in learning a particular early reading skill. DIBELS is used with millions of children throughout the United States. A child's score on a subtest tells us whether the child is likely to be "on track" for learning to read, or whether that child may need some help in learning important reading skills. Your child's teacher will use the information to better help your child. For example, the DIBELS test may tell us that we need to spend more time teaching your child how to "sound out" unknown words.

DIBELS is used to identify children who may need extra help to become good readers and check up on those children while they receive the extra help to make sure they are making progress. We also use our DIBELS results to measure the progress of students reading at and above grade level. It's important for us to be sure all children are moving forward regardless of where they begin. We also use these results to make decisions about how well our school's overall reading program is working for all children.

We are working hard at Wood School to make sure that every child is on target for success, and we thank you for your efforts at home. Together, we will help your child become a successful reader and a lover of learning!

If you are wondering what you can do at home to support your child please contact your child's teacher. We have so many great ideas to share!



February Programs at the Millicent Library

45 Center Street
Fairhaven, MA 02719

Storytime Session III continues through February 11th:
Toddler Storytime on Tuesdays from 10-11 a.m. Age 1-3.
Big Kid Storytime on Fridays from 10-11 a.m. Age 3-5.
Baby Storytime on Fridays from 11:15-11:45 a.m. up to 18 months.
After a two week break, Storytime session 4 will run from February
28
through April 8.

February Teen Advisory Group (Milliwizards) meets Tuesday, 2/8
from 2:30-5 p.m. Gr. 6 and up.

FEBRUARY CRAFTERNOON Wednesday, February 16th 3-5pm

February Vacation Programs at the Millicent:

Tuesday, February 22nd from 2-5 p.m., crafts for all ages!

Wednesday, February 23rd 2:30-4:30 Fancy Nancy Party!
Age 4 and up. SIGN UP with Ms. Jane, please!

Thursday, 2/24 3-4 p.m. Yoga with Stephanie. Age 4 and up.
SIGN UP with Ms. Jane, please!

Friday, February 25th from 3-5 p.m. Lego Party! Ages 5 and up.
SIGN UP with Ms. Jane, please!

Hi Everyone,

I hope you all enjoyed your holidays!

Did you know that our School Savings Program in the year 2010 had over 350 students, WOW!

So, if you're not in this program please be sure to sign up, its fun, educational and you save money!

Our Afterschool Programs NEED YOU!!

Do you have as little as 4 hours to donate to Wood School? We are hoping to once again offer two 4 week sessions of afterschool programs to our students. Last year our community came together and provided over 15 different afterschool clubs for more than 150 children!

Do you have a hobby or talent you'd be willing to share with Wood School students? Are you available to volunteer an hour a week for March and April? Parents, grandparents and community members are invited to lead afterschool programs. You could start a club with your own idea or we could help you with an idea! If you are interested please contact after school program facilitator, Kerrie McNamara, at kerriemc@comcast.net.

We can't do it without YOU!!

