



Jacobs School Blue Notes

Notes for the week of October 5, 2009

Dates To Remember

Picture Day – K - 5 – October 2nd - Preschool Pictures and Make Up Day – November 19th
Columbus Day – October 12th – School Closed
PTO Meeting – October 14th, 7PM at the Jacobs School
Math League Parent Training, Grades 3-5 – October 15th at 7PM in the Jacobs Library
Pajama Story Hour – October 21st 6:30-7:30PM

Notes from the Principal: I had my first Principal's Coffee this week and many good ideas and suggestions came up. The feedback from the open house was very positive and some good suggestions for next year were offered. Questions came up about the use of the playground. The monkey bar portion of the playground is still closed, however students are allowed to use the area as well as the fields around the playground during school hours. Many times we have recess out back where there are basketball hoops, jump ropes, balls, sidewalk chalk, etc. The fourth and fifth grade students typically have recess at the back of the school, while the students in preschool - grade three have recess on the playground or grass area. This year, the younger students have also been enjoying recess time at the back of the school. The parents present, offered their suggestions for the needs of the school and what they would like to see restored in the coming years of the budget situation improves. I appreciate the suggestions and feedback and look forward to meeting other parents at future Principal Coffees. MCAS results went home to all current 4th and 5th grade students. You should have received your results in the mail. If you did not, please contact the school office. Last evening, Maria Trozzi, the Director of the Good Grief program at Boston Medical Center, presented a parent workshop on Promoting Resilience: Works, Strategies, and Wisdom to help children and families face life's speed bumps. Unfortunately, not many parents took advantage of this program. Those who did attend gave very positive feedback. If you have suggestions for future parent workshops, please let me know. Today is a half day for Professional Development: Teachers will be working with Stephanie Harvey, co-author of *Strategies that Work - Teaching Comprehension for Understanding and Engagement*. Last year, Mrs. Harvey presented an overview of her work to teachers. Yesterday, teachers had the opportunity to see model lessons, explore the Comprehension Tool Kits, and work more closely with Ms. Harvey on classroom reading strategies and instruction. They will continue this work today during our 1/2 day. Funding for this Professional Development is provided through our Professional Development Grant.

Last week I mentioned in the Blue Notes that a Parent Volunteer form would go home, unfortunately, I neglected to attach the form. It is included in this week's Blue Notes (**pink form**).

Health Information

We have experienced a small outbreak of head lice (28 cases) at the Jacobs School. We have checked all students and the one found positive for lice were sent home for treatment and return only after clearing through the nurses office. We have sent Fact Sheets home with all children. Parents should be vigilant with routine checks at home and communication with the school nurse if anything is found. We have made progress, as most of the children have returned to school. We need your help to continue to work against future outbreaks.

A few parents have asked about H1N1 precautions. The teachers are reminding students throughout the day to wash their hands and to cover their nose and mouth with their elbow when coughing. One of the best ways to prevent the spread of illness is through hand washing. If your child shows any symptoms of the flu, please keep them home. Children need to be fever free for 24 hours, without medication, before they return to school. At this time, we do not have any confirmed cases of children with the H1N1 virus.

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Jacobs After School Program for Enrichment and Recreation

Dedicated and creative instructors are needed for one afternoon a week, 3:00-4:00PM. Please see the attached **yellow** form if interested in teaching a fun enrichment activity.

Need Some Help With Homework?

The Hull Parent/Caregiver Forum is providing an opportunity for your children to participate in a structured environment to help complete homework or research projects. Parent volunteers are available on Monday evenings from 6pm - 7:30 pm at the Jacobs School Library. Students can work on projects, use the computers for research, and have parents available for help if needed. This will be an encouraging and supportive environment for you and your child. If your child takes advantage of this opportunity, we do ask the parents to volunteer to support the program at least one session throughout the course of the year. All parents are welcome to participate by staying with your child or volunteering throughout the program. Contact Sherry Kearns at cskearns1@verizon.net.



Mr. Shaw's Health Tip of the Week

In New England, autumn is synonymous with the apple harvest. Rich in antioxidants and dietary fiber, apples are a delicious and nutritious snack that can be enjoyed any time of day. Studies have shown that apples can help reduce cholesterol. Not only are apples healthy to eat but also picking apples with the family could be a fun and healthy activity to do over an upcoming weekend. An apple a day keeps the doctor away!



A Special Thank You to The Golden Living Center

Colleen Reid, the staff and resident families of the The Golden Living Center in Cohasset selected the Jacobs School in their back to school drive. The Center donated many terrific items including: balls, jump ropes, sidewalk chalk notebooks, pencils, and reward tokens, to be used by Jacobs School Students. We appreciate their support.

Donna Tobin, Principal
Christine Cappadona, Assistant Principal

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