

AITKEN TO KNOW

A Newsletter for parents, teachers and students at Aitken School

The mission of Mildred H. Aitken School, in partnership with children and families, is to maintain a safe, nurturing environment in which responsibility, mutual respect and high academic standards are achieved.

DATES TO REMEMBER

April

- 04/06 RIF Free Book Day
- 04/07 Grade 5 MOS Sleepover
- 04/12 PTO Meeting 6:30
- 04/13 Early Release 12:45
- 04/14 No School
- 04/17 - 04/21 School Vacation
- 04/28 Sweetheart Dance

May

- 05/09 Aitken School Council
3 p.m.
- 05/12 Mother's Day Plant
Sale
- 05/18 PTO Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- 05/23 Blood Drive 3-7 p.m.
- 05/24 Elementary Band
Concert - 7p.m.
- 05/25 Used Book Swap
- 05/29 No School
- 05/30 Polished Dental
- 05/31 Book Fair

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

Our last trimester of the school year began on March 10 th . With approximately 30% of the school year remaining, we look forward to an exciting and productive spring!

Report Cards

K-5 report cards for the second trimester were sent home on March 21. If you would like to schedule a conference with your child's teacher, please call to schedule an appointment (508-336-5230).

Spring Clothing

It is beginning to get warm once! Please remind your child not to wear clothing that is too revealing. Extremely short shorts or skirts, spaghetti straps and muscle shirts are not appropriate school clothing especially for our older students. Please also remember that flip-flops are not the best shoes for playing on the equipment.

Early Release Day, Good Friday & Spring Vacation

Thursday, April 13, is an early release day for students in full day kindergarten through grade 5. Students will be released at 12:45 so the staff can attend an in-service workshop. There is no afternoon preschool or kindergarten. On Friday, April 14, there is no school. Spring vacation for students is the week of April 17-21. Have a great week!

Grade 3 Wax Museum - April 27

The Wax Museum presentation by grade 3 will be on Thursday, April 27, from 6:30-7:00. You will be absolutely amazed as our historical wax figures come to life with a push of a button!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL CONTINUED

Sweetheart Dance – Friday, April 28

Mark your calendars for this special dance at Aitken, Friday, April 28. Always a wonderful evening for the girls!

MCAS Spring Testing Schedule Reminder

Students in grades 3-5 will take the MCAS ELA and math tests on their Chrome Books. Grade 5 students will also take the paper/pencil MCAS Science & Technology tests. To find out more information, you may visit the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Please also feel free to give a call to your child's teacher or me if you have any questions.

MCAS Test Schedule – April 25-May 19

Grade 3 – May 8, 10, 11, 16 & 17

Grade 4 – May 1, 4, 5, 18 & 19

Grade 5 – April 25 & 26 and May 2, 3, 9, 12 & 16

Elementary Band Concert

Aitken and Martin Schools under the orchestration of our band teacher, Mr. Anderson, will hold a combined band concert this spring! The performance will be on Wednesday, May 24, and will begin promptly at 7 P.M. in the Martin School gymnasium. You will truly be impressed!

As always, please feel free to call if you have any questions or concerns. We value your input!

Yours truly,

Nancy Gagliardi



HELP YOUR CHILD SELECT A “GOOD FIT” BOOK

By: Lynn Owens & Joanna Rioux

Parents often ask us how to help their child pick good books to read. They struggle with finding books that are at an appropriate level of difficulty. They wonder if the book is too hard or too easy. The “five finger rule” is a good way to check if a book is a “good fit” for your son or daughter. When selecting books your children should do the following:

1. Choose a book that they think they will enjoy.
2. Open up the book to the first or second page.
3. Have your child hold up a finger for each word he or she is not sure of or did not know.
4. If there are five or more words your child did not know, they should choose an easier book.
5. On the other hand, if your child knows all of the words on the page, the book may be too easy.

If you still aren't sure if the book is a good fit after the first page, try the five finger rule on another page or two. Children should be reading a variety of texts. Magazines are always fun too!

5 FINGER RULE

What To Do: Pick a book. Open the book to any page. Put one finger up for each word you don't know.

- | | |
|------------|----------------|
| 0-1 | Too Easy |
| 1-2 | Perfect Choice |
| 4 | Give It A Try |
| 5+ | Too Hard |



AN ARTICLE OF INTEREST SHARED WITH YOU BY
KAREN CICATIELLO, THE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

Executive Functioning and self regulation skills are essential for learning and doing well in school. This month's article is an overview of executive functioning and self regulation skills as they relate to a child's learning. An online link to a brief video giving an overview of these skills is provided as well. You can access the video and the article online by going to the Aitken to Know website at <http://blog.aitkentoknow.com/blog/>

IN THE LIBRARY WITH MRS. LAMAR

March lesson plan overview:

This month we learned about Dr. Seuss, nonfiction text features, author's purpose, and fables, myths and fairy tales. We read "Love That Dog" by Sharon Creech in fourth grade and fifth grade did a country research project involving Google Slides.

Technology:

As of the week of March 20, itinerant classes switched. Classes now taking technology include: Mrs. Medeiros, Mrs. Jodat, Mrs. Lane, Mrs. Trudeau, Mrs. Lacroix, Mrs. Sansoucy, and Mrs. Ward-Smith.

Student work:

Here are links to some student work. Fourth grade created book trailers using Adobe Spark. I think they did a fantastic job! See for yourself!

<https://spark.adobe.com/video/cquVil9A6j5HQ>
<https://spark.adobe.com/video/YXKLrbKjJGMey>
<https://spark.adobe.com/video/DVrVJyDyKfVYm>
<https://spark.adobe.com/video/5Lplax5GUWxea>
<https://spark.adobe.com/video/ScN6ERJ9gscyn>
<https://spark.adobe.com/video/zAxGUkqTq2XtE>
<https://spark.adobe.com/video/72PXA05tVDjV6>
<https://spark.adobe.com/video/zWAzTGqHyaMjr>
<https://spark.adobe.com/video/T1Hnllvtd9XEE>

PE NEWS



"SWEAT AND SMILES" AT AITKEN MEANS MOVEMENT FUN FOR EVERYONE

by Mr. Queenan

Jump Rope for Heart was during the month of February. The students were encouraged to raise money for children who are sick and dealing with heart problems. The money is used by the American Heart Association to save lives. Participation was greatly appreciated. Mildred H. Aitken School was able to raise \$4,474.90!!

An Awesome year, once again!! Our team will be receiving zoo animals in the near future. Great Job Aitken Rockets!!!!

MUSIC NOTES

Spring has sprung! At least it's trying to. And, we are springing into step. Fourth and fifth grades have been moving by doing rhythmic body facing movements to music. Grades two and three are learning do-si-do, sashay, movements and box formation.

Grades one and two have been reviewing the four basic ways we use our voices: speaking, whispering, singing, and calling. We have also been working with simple melodies and their corresponding musical sign language motions.

The upper grades will review and discuss the various instruments of the orchestra and their characteristics and tone colors. Also, they will critique how composers use these tone qualities when writing tone poems or symphonic stories. We have also been discussing some basic concepts such as tempo, dynamics, form, vocal tone qualities and registers. We have been enjoying the talents of a favorite, singer Bobby McFerrin.

Karen Roderick
Music



FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE

Reminders



4th grade physical exams:

All students who enter the 4th grade in August 2017 are required by Massachusetts School Law to submit a current physical exam to the school nurse. Please make it a priority to have your 4th grade student physical to the school nurse at or before that start of the 2017-2018 school year. The exam can be dated September 1, 2016 or later. If you have it now I can take it.

Vision & hearing screenings:

The screenings school wide are completed (except pre-school). I am sending notifications home for those students who did not pass a screening. I do write the results of the failed test on the notification. Some of the failed tests are at the very low range of not passing, whereas others scores are at the very high range of not passing. It is recommended that your pediatrician test during an exam and refer if necessary to a specialist. I have re-tested the students who failed any portion of the screening. If you have any questions, please feel free to call my office @ 508-336- 5230 and ask for the school nurse or Laurie Soares.

Height, weight & BMI (body mass index) screening:

The 1st & 4th grades will be screened in the month of April.

Postural (scoliosis) screening:

The 5th grade will be screened in the month of May.



PTO NEWS

SAVE THE DATE:

The Annual Mother's Day Plant Sale will be held on Friday May 12th in the school Lobby. Students will have the opportunity to visit the sale during the day. There will be a great selection of plants to choose from. Look for details coming home soon.

AMAZON SMILE:

Next time you shop amazon.com shop through smile.amazon.com and support the Mildred H. Aitken School PTO.

SWEETHEART DANCE:

The Sweetheart Dance committee is looking for help. Please join them April at 5:30pm on April 12, 2017.

RESTAURANT FUNDRAISER:

The next Aitken PTO restaurant fundraiser will take place at Not Your Average Joe's in Seekonk. Rather than one day, NYAJ's will support our cause the whole month of April by offering 15% of sales back to us every Tuesday in April! Flyers will be sent home as the date gets closer. Thank you for supporting our restaurant fundraisers throughout the year.

**OUR NEXT PTO MEETING IS
APRIL 12, 2017 AT 6:30 PM.**

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO JOIN US!

DIFFERENTIATION NEWS

Please remember that if you ever have any questions about what we are doing with differentiation, I can be contacted at manickasb@seekonkschools.org or at 508-336- 5230. I also have a webpage on the Aitken School website that has interesting information for parents of all students.

Grade 2: We are practicing place value skills using "Today's Number" activities and games. Addition and subtraction of larger numbers is also being practiced.

Grade 3: The third graders are reviewing area and perimeter standards. Story problems involving real-world situations helps students to understand the importance of this skill. I also use literature to aid understanding. I am also conducting reading conferences in one third grade class.

Grade 4: All fourth grade groups are reviewing fraction skills. As usual, I also provide practice with the four operations on a regular basis. The students are also solving multi-step problems. I am conducting reading conferences in one class



TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION

Students in grades 3-5 had a wonderful visit from the folks at ZSpace. They were able to visit Aitken and provide the students with a look and some practice with a 3D computer! It was incredible to see an extensive variety of everyday things come to life, they experienced computers like never before. I hope they told you about it. We are fortunate to have a Z Space computer in the Seekonk School District. Right now it is visiting Aitken school and I hope that all students will get a little experience using it. Even Mrs. G joined in the experience. The girls are "dissecting" a human heart (their choice).

TEST TAKING STRATEGIES

By Tara Haggerty

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This is the time of year in which students start to talk more and more about having to take tests in school. Some students are nervous about assessments and some are excited. When a student asks me why they have to take tests, I tell them that the teacher needs to know what you have learned and what you need to keep working on. Here are some tips to help your child become a more effective test taker.

At home:

When your child knows there is going to be a test it is important to plan ahead. Cramming to study the night before a test often times leads to anxiety. Cramming can also cause a failure to retain the material for the assessment as well as for the future. Ten to thirty minutes a day (depending on age) is a good amount of time to be spent studying per day. It is also important for your child to get a good night sleep and a nutritious breakfast to ensure success. I also recommend wearing comfortable clothes on test day to reduce distractions.

During the test:

The most important recommendation that I give to kids is to try and relax. Sometimes this is easier said than done. Remind your child that they have to take tests so that their teacher knows what they have learned and what they are still working on. During the test I also tell students to try and use strategies such as belly breathing and positive self-talk. Another test taking skill that is important to use is pacing. It is important to go at a medium pace. Encourage your child to skip questions that they don't know and go back to them later (but tell them to make sure that they go back). It is important to encourage your child to stay focused and to read as well as listen to all of the directions. Finally, urge them to review all of their work when they are finished and make sure that they have tried to answer all of the questions to the best of their ability. This is a time for them to shine.

Source:

<http://pbskids.org/itsmylife/school/teststress/article10.html>

<http://www.greatschools.org> - test taking tips

<http://peers.aristotlecircle.com/uploads/Study%20Tips%20For%20Elementary%20School%20Students-2-1375717237.pdf>

