



Aitken To Know



A Newsletter for parents, staff and students at Aitken School

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

June, as always, is a month filled with learning, culminating activities and many extras! This newsletter as well as your child's classroom newsletter will provide you with all of the details.

Thank you!

The entire Aitken staff truly is thankful for everything that the parents and students did to show their appreciation during Aitken Staff Appreciation Week. Thank you for pampering us and treating us so royally!

Another big thank you!

Thank you to the Aitken PTO for another outstanding year of support for the students, staff and school. We truly appreciate all you have done throughout the year!

A final note of extreme thanks is extended to the PTO officers Delia Jeffrey and Shanna Marszalkowski-Krawitz, our co-presidents; Danielle Mahoney and Meaghan Mahoney, our co-vice presidents; Mike Lastrina, our treasurer; & Shannyn Nelson and Tanya Romani, our co-secretaries. Their commitment and dedication to the students, staff and Aitken community has been outstanding and has truly been appreciated! Thank you!

Next year, the staff at Aitken School as well as the Aitken PTO look forward to having many new faces involved in strengthening our parent partnership initiatives for our students. Please let us know if you would like to help in some way – it takes a village. ☺

Dress Requirements

The hot weather is here, please review the dress code with your child that is contained in the handbook. The specific article that should be discussed is: "Attire that is not acceptable is articles of clothing such as tank tops, halter tops, pants worn below the waist, etc. which are revealing in nature. Any student in violation may be sent home until more appropriately attired."

Field Day

Field Day for grades 1-5 is scheduled for June 15 with a rain date of June 18. The students are looking forward to an exciting, sports-filled days!

Move Up Day

Students in grades K-4 will move-up on Wednesday, June 20, and have an opportunity to meet their next year's teachers and classmates. It is a very exciting and fun event enjoyed by everyone!

Calendar

The Seekonk Public Schools' school calendar is attached to this newsletter.

DATES TO REMEMBER



- 06/08 - Grade 5 Promotion Ceremony
- 06/13 - Pre-K Promotion Ceremonies
- 06/14 - Kindergarten Graduation
- 06/15 - Grades 1-5 Field Day
- 06/19 - AR Award Ceremony
- 06/20 - Last Day of School - Early Dismissal @ 12:45



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL CONTINUED...

Preschool Promotion, Kindergarten Graduation and the Fifth Grade Promotion Ceremonies

How quickly they grow!!! Our Fifth Grade Promotion Ceremony will be held on Friday, June 8 at 9:45 AM and students will be receiving class tee shirts on Thursday, June 7, to wear for the ceremony.

Our Preschool Promotion Ceremony will also be held on Wednesday, June 13 at 1:45 PM.

Our Kindergarten Graduation Ceremony will be held on Thursday, June 14 at 10:00 AM.

New Kindergarten Parent Orientation

On Tuesday, June 5 there will be an orientation program for parents of students entering kindergarten in September. It will begin at 6 PM promptly and will be held in the Aitken gym. Please let your friends and neighbors know about this date if they haven't already registered their children for kindergarten.

Update Your Email Address

The online Emergency Information Forms and Parent Consent Forms will be sent out to parents at the end of August. If we do not have your current email address, please contact the school by phone, email or note prior to the end of June so you can be sure to receive this information.

In August, we are hoping that most parents will complete the forms online and not need hard copies. It is also important that students and parents sign the Responsible Use Policy for technology. Students will not be permitted to use any of the school's computers, laptops and/or ChromeBooks until this form is signed.

Dates to remember:

Last day of school – June 20 and it's an early release day! Students will be dismissed at 12:45 and there is no afternoon preschool. Report cards will be issued at the end of the day.

First day of school for grades 1-5 – Tuesday, August 28, 2018

Kindergarten Orientation/Open House at 9:30 AM – Tuesday, August 28, 2018

First day of school for kindergarten – Wednesday, August, 29, 2018

Pre-school Orientation/Open House by appointment – Wednesday, August 29, 2018

First day of school for preschool – Thursday, August 30, 2018

Open House for grades 1-5 students & parents – Wednesday, September 12, 2018 – 6:30 PM



New Principal

Aitken School is proud to announce that Mr. John Haidemenos will be the new principal of Aitken School beginning on July 1. He comes with high recommendations and received the National Distinguished Principal's Award in 2006 while he was employed in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. He is currently an elementary principal in Framingham, Massachusetts.

Summer Learning Activities

Your child's teacher and the town librarian have made suggestions for enriching the summer with learning experiences. Summer is quick, but can be too long if your child does not read and have other opportunities to extend learning. Try setting some time aside each day to read and do hands-on math and science activities. Students may continue to practice their math facts using Reflex. Please visit the Aitken library page if you would like to investigate some other educational sites. Enjoy your summer!

Bus Registration

Please be sure to register your child with the transportation office this summer for bus transportation next year. Forms were already sent home and are also available in the transportation office or on-line at the Seekonk Public Schools' website.

It is hard to believe that I am in my last month of being the principal of Mildred H. Aitken School. I have been so fortunate to have had this position for the last 18 years and will truly miss the students, staff and parents. It has been my honor to be a part of the lives of so many wonderful students and I wish each and every one the best in all their future years.

All of us at Aitken School wish you and your family a fun and safe summer! Have a wonderful time and the teachers & staff look forward to seeing you in September! Good luck to the 5th graders as they begin their middle school years!

Reminder – all dates to be included in the Aitken Elementary School Calendar Handbook are due by Friday, June 8th. ☺

Yours truly,
Nancy Gagliardi

P.E. NEWS

AT AITKEN MEANS MOVEMENT FUN FOR EVERYONE

by Mr. Queenan

All Classes this month are having an emphasis on working together. Showing respect and competing cooperatively. Students are being reminded to work hard regardless of the circumstances. They are also trying to encourage their teammates regardless of losing or winning the game or activity. Older classes are evaluating outcomes to determine necessary actions to improve performance of self and others without placing blame. They are also being encouraged to acknowledge outstanding performances by teammates and opponents, regardless of the outcome. Good competition is when you show respect for others. Younger students are practicing how to say kind words to each other while participating in a given activity.

FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE

This month we recognized Food Allergy Awareness week, May 14-18th. The school did a dress down wear teal day on Thursday for a \$2.00 donation. The donation will go to FARE~ Food Allergy Research Education. The bulletin board in the nurse's office was decorated in teal and blue with educational information on food allergies. The students were educated on the importance of not sharing food with friends and classmates. Thank you to all who participated in this effort.

The next and final blood drive is on May 22, Tuesday from 3-7pm in the Aitken school gym. Please consider donating a pint to save 3 lives. I would love to beat last drive's numbers.....

The end of the school year is fast approaching and I have medications that need to be picked up or I can send them home with your student if you approve. Psychotropic medications like Adderall and anti anxiety medications need to be picked up by a parent by the last day of school. School medical forms will be sent home at the beginning of the school year to complete and send back to the nurse office. It is important that the nurse have the forms at the beginning of school year so that over the counter medications can be administered without a call to you during work etc.....

Thank you for your continued support.

AITKEN HEALTH

Things we've learned this month in Health:
Third Grade studied Things that you catch

- We learned new vocabulary words like **Communicable** (contagious and can be passed between people) and **Non-communicable** (our body develops a problem or illness, but it can't be transferred to other people).
- We watched a video on how the **Immune System** works with the different types of **White Blood Cells**.
- We learned how our body prevents germs from entering our body:
 - our eyes water to remove dirt and germs
 - our saliva kills germs
 - our stomach acids kills germs
 - our nose hairs catch germs and dirt
 - our skin stops germs from entering our body (so cover up those cuts and scratches)
 - our ear wax catches germs and keeps them from getting inside our ear
- And we discussed various Communicable diseases and how to prevent catching them: a) washing hands frequently, b) washing fruits and vegetables before eating them, and c) don't touch others blood.

Our next topic of discussion is BONES.

Fourth grade studied HIV/AIDS:

- We learned new vocabulary words like **Immuno**, **Deficiency**, **Acquired**, **Communicable**, **Non-communicable**, **Virus** and **Bacteria**.
- We watched a video on how the **Immune System** works with the different types of **White Blood Cells**.
- We learned that HIV is a communicable disease that can be caught through blood, pregnancy, and sharing needles.
- We discussed the White Blood Cells and the job of the **T-cells** and **B-cells**, and how HIV affects them.

Our next topic of discussion is HEARING.



JUNE DIFFERENTIATION NEWS

Mrs. Manickas

It is hard to believe that summer is almost here. There is so much going on at the end of the year. I will continue to see students in grades 2-5. 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. It is hard to believe that summer is almost here. There is so much going on at the end of the year. I will continue to see students in grades 2-5.

Grade 2: We are reviewing important skills needed for third grade. Addition, subtraction, number sense, and place value are key to success in math. These concepts are practiced using money, time, larger numbers and story problems. Another class is working on word work with tiles, word hunts, and editing their writing.

Grade 3: The students in grade three are also reviewing this month. They are practicing skills through word problems and projects.

Grade 4: One group is working on word study practice. We complete word sorts, use letter tiles, work on a word hunt, and edit writing each week. Other students are working on individual skill practice. Each student has a list of math standards they need to practice.

Grade 5: Some students are working on individual skill practice. Another group is working on a STEM project. If we have enough time, I will try to switch out groups so more students can experience the STEM project.



PTO SPOTLIGHT

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Field Day - Field Day is around the corner on Friday June 15th. We will be looking for a lot of help. If you are available please check out this link for available spots: <http://signup.com/go/duDJsOn>

Accelerated Reader Awards - the 2017/2018 AR session is now officially closed. Due to so many students participating this year, some of the prize levels need to be re-ordered and all prizes will be disbursed by the Awards Ceremony on June 19th.

Summer Reminders - Please remember to keep clipping those box tops and using Amazon Smile when possible! :-)

PREVIOUS EVENTS:

Annual Mother's Day Plant Sale - The plant sale was a great success, the leftovers were used to plant around the school and we also donated 30 plants to Doorways. They were very grateful for the donation and were able to give them away to their patrons for Mother's Day.

Book Fair BOGO! - At the time of writing this article we are currently preparing for the last Book Fair of the school year. This is always a great sale for students and parents to stock up on summer reading. Funds collected from the book fair are used to support the school with books for the classrooms as well as supplying our new MakerSpace program.

Staff Appreciation Week - It was a fantastic week filled with Breakfast, Uncle Tony's, Donuts and a Nacho bar. The staff loved it. Thank you to our donors Knead in Providence, Dunkin' Donuts on Rt. 44 and In Bloom at Quality Fruitland for their beautiful flowers.

Creative Awareness Week - Thank you to all the volunteers who helped put the artwork up in the halls and assisted with the Talent Show. It is so great to see all the talent there is at Aitken. We will be finding a spot outdoors for "Mrs. Gagliardi's Garden" where we can display all the kindness rocks.

Accelerated Reader - This year Aitken Students read a total of **135,975,223** words! Absolutely amazing everyone, let's see if we can beat this number next year. Tests can be taken over the summer at the Seekonk Library and will go toward the 2018/2019 school year numbers.

Elections - We held our elections at the last meeting the only spot that changed was our Treasurer. The office seats are as follows:
 President: Shanna Marszatkowski-Krawitz
 Co-Vice Presidents: Meaghan Mahoney and Danielle Mahoney
 Co-Secretaries: Tanya Romani and Shannyn Nelson
 Treasurer: Delia Jeffrey

If you have any questions or comments please email us at aitkenpto@gmail.com. We are also on Facebook @aitkenpto and visit our site aitkentoknow.com for updates as well.

Thank You to everyone who helped make this year awesome!

From the Technology Desk

Ahh, summertime. The kids are home from school, warm/hot weather is upon us, vacations and day trips are planned. What do the kids do on those rainy days or days when you need to collect yourself? As much as I believe in restricting screen time, there are sites that can be both entertaining and educational, that you can all agree is worth the time. Here are a few that I find worthy to check out over the summer. I promise, they are good finds.

- Wonderopolis wonderopolis.org Explore a world of Wonder! This has been a favorite website of mine for a couple of years. If the kids wonder about it, there's a good chance they'll find the answer here. Here are a few Wonders available, How does Soap Clean You?, How do fish breathe underwater?, Why is the sky blue?, What makes your brain wake up? You can subscribe for daily wonders sent right to your inbox.
- Amazingly, students have loved working with Spreadsheets! Have them create a Pixel Art portrait. Here is a blank copy...they have to make their own copy to edit: [Click Here](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1TnD2c1I4M3mHThnASaqv4f5bfOjLNnRn6HcOvEXPEpQ/edit?usp=sharing) <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1TnD2c1I4M3mHThnASaqv4f5bfOjLNnRn6HcOvEXPEpQ/edit?usp=sharing>
- Try a CrashCourse on Youtube! For the older students and adults. Learn the history of film, Mythology, Physics, Computer Science and so much more! There are some for the younger students too. Try a course in Matter, Water, Gravity, Food Chains, and many more. Go to YouTube and search Crash Course or Crash Course for kids!
- For the music lover, try [Music Theory.net](http://MusicTheory.net). There are lessons and Interactive Practice Exercises. Learn to read music, scales, chords, etc.
- Then there's [Watch Know Learn.org](http://WatchKnowLearn.org). Videos for every subject and age group. There are over 50,000 free videos on every topic imaginable. I know you'll find something interesting for your student and it is safe for kids.
- Khan Academy always has curriculum for all grades and subjects.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer. I look forward to hearing what you learned over vacation.

Mrs. Keough

<http://techtanktools.weebly.com/>



AITKEN ROCKETS UPDATE

BY, TARA HAGGERTY

I am pleased to announce that there were 95 Aitken students who were lucky enough to win Pawtucket Red Sox tickets for the April 20, 2018 game. The students earned tickets throughout the day for demonstrating positive behavior. These tickets were put into a raffle for Pawtucket Red Sox seats. Not only were these students able to attend the game, but they were also honored on the field. It was a cold, but wonderful evening. There are more prizes to be raffled off throughout the rest of the school year. Please encourage your child to reach for the stars and continue to earn raffle tickets. Congratulations Paw Sox winners!

SUMMER READING

From your Reading Teachers: Lynn Owens and Joanna Rioux

Another school year is quickly coming to an end. Even though your kids are away from school, PLEASE don't let them be away from books!

Research shows that children who don't read during the summer can lose up to three months of reading progress and that the loss can have a long term effect. Everyone has worked hard all year. Please keep your children reading all summer. We want to make sure that they don't lose the skills they have gained. After your child reads a book, ask them to tell you something that happened in the story, describe a character, or make a connection. Keep their minds active!

Every year the Seekonk Public Library has a Summer Reading Program with great incentives and prizes. Be sure to check it out when you visit the library. Stop in each week and get some new books for your kids to read! It is essential that students in all grades continue to read daily over the summer in order to keep them on track and progressing.

So....whether your children take a book to the beach or sit in the air conditioned library, make sure your kids are reading each and every day. This way they will keep up all of their skills and be ready to go in September!

We hope you have a safe, fun-filled summer filled with good times, good friends, and of course, good books!!!



LIBRARY NEWS WITH Mrs. Lamar



Reminder: The last day for book check out from Aitken Library is May 31st, 2018. Please remind your child to return all library books before the last day of school.

If your child has lost a book, please send payment in the form of a check to the "Town of Seekonk" so that we may replace it. Please feel free to contact me for replacement costs.

Motivate your reluctant readers without forcing them to read this summer. Try one or all of these ideas.

1. Choice is essential. Let your child choose what she reads, even if it's magazines.
2. Time to read. Do you have a chunk of time in you day to read?
3. Read aloud to your child, even older kids. Read at a meal or bedtime.
4. "Read" audiobooks. They count as reading for a variety of reasons. Try Playaways or Tales2Go .
5. Read comic books. They count, too.
6. Read with a headlamp and stay up late. Breaking the rules is fun!
7. Get help. Ask a librarian or bookstore employee for suggestions.
8. Start a parent-child book club. Let your child pick the book. Socialization can be very motivating.
9. Get him a library card to use voraciously. (Hint: don't limit the amount of books!)
10. Use bookstore money as a reward.

This year's book check out stats:

August: 131
 September: 2168
 October: 1861
 November: 1362
 December: 1173
 January: 1089
 February: 1044
 March: 1213
 April: 865

That's **10,906** books checked out this year! (not including May and June) Wow!!

It's been a wonderful year! Enjoy your summer!

FROM THE ART ROOM WITH MRS. GLUM

As we wrap up an amazing year in the art room here at Aitken, I must take a moment and say how much I have enjoyed working with the incredibly talented students of our school. Looking at the art on the walls from the art show, I am filled with pride knowing that each of our students is truly an artist. I feel privileged to be here, and truly lucky to have such dedicated families working alongside the teachers to create an environment where the arts are celebrated and supported. I thank all the amazing parent volunteers that made our art show such a success. I am so thankful for all you do.

With the summer around the corner, it is sometimes a struggle as a parent to keep our kids involved in the creative pursuits. Videogames, television, and many summertime distractions can be fun, but not necessarily the best way to keep our young artists creating. (I have a fourth grader who would sit in front of a video game for hours, if I didn't create opportunities for him to use his own imagination to create.) Encourage your child to keep a sketchbook throughout the summer. Draw weekly using both imagination based projects, and also using YouTube for drawing videos. The series Art Hub For Kids is an AMAZING series that is totally appropriate, educational, and helps young artists gain confidence through step by step instructions to draw. Even better, make art with your kids, and show them that anyone can make things as long as they try. So many parents say, "I can't draw!" Please be mindful how you speak about your art experience, as it can easily influence how a child feels about their own creations.

There are many camps in our area that specialize in art instruction. Here are a few of my recommendations. There are camps taught by our very own ceramics teacher at Seekonk High School at her private ceramics studio. Handbuilding, pottery and more will be explored. Go to www.weirdgirlcreations.com for more information. There is a different art material and theme based art camp through the Artists' Exchange in Cranston. There are too many to list. Go to www.artists-exchange.org. Lastly, we are fortunate to live near one of the world's best art schools RISD. Every art media you can think of including but not limited to animation, sculpture, screenprinting, painting, ceramics, and videography are offered through RISD summer camps. Go to <http://ce.risd.edu/summer-young-artists-camps-and-courses> for more information.



Lastly, A SUMMER CHALLENGE!!!! Any student who brings back a sketchbook with 20 or more sketches the first day back at school in September will get an art prize!! In order to qualify, each sketch should take AT LEAST 10 minutes to create. Happy creating! Have a wonderful summer!!!

HURLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL INTRODUCTORY BROCHURE

Shared with you by Karen Cicatiello, School Psychologist

Good Luck to all the fifth graders who are moving on to middle school. We know that this is an exciting time, but we also know that the change and transition from elementary to middle school can bring on a lot of uncertainty and anxiety. Not to worry, this is totally normal. This month I am sharing an introductory brochure that was created by a school psychologist intern. Included in the brochure are some tips on how to prepare for the transition and alleviate some of the stress that can go along with it. Have a great summer!! We will miss you fifth graders!!!