



# Aitken To Know

A newsletter for parents, teachers, and students at Aitken School



## Message from the School Administration

Dear Parents,

Welcome! The staff of the Mildred H. Aitken School welcomes you and your child to the 2018-2019 school year! We are all very eager and ready to launch into another great year at Aitken School. We have some new staff members to introduce to you. First, I am also a new member of the staff as your principal, Mr. John Haidemenos, Jr. I would also like to welcome our new assistant principal, Mr. David Graf; our new grade 4 teacher, Mrs. Lori McNally; our new music teacher, Ms. Brandi Poirier; Mrs. Erin Cetenich, Grade 5, and our new school nurse, Mrs. Jessica Devane.

### Student Arrival & Dismissal Information

-Students should arrive at school between 8:45-9:00 a.m. **\*Please note that there is no supervision before 8:45 when students are allowed to enter the school.**

-Please be mindful of other drivers and children during student drop-off and pick-up. You need to either pull into a parking space or pull against the curb in the parking lot by the basketball court.

-Students in grades pre-K-3 should enter through the left rear door of the school by the basketball courts.

-Students in grades 4-5 should enter through the right rear door entrance by Rye street.

Dismissal is at 3:05 p.m. Students are dismissed out of the same doors at the end of the day. As in the morning, there is no supervision of the playground after 3:05 p.m. and therefore, walkers must go home at the close of school.

### Aitken Website

Our school's website is always updated and provides information for parents including our calendar of events. Many teachers also added pages on the website:

[aes.seekonk.sharpschool.com](http://aes.seekonk.sharpschool.com) Please check us out and put us on your list of favorites.

### School Breakfast, Lunch & Milk

The price of school breakfast & lunch will remain the same this year. The cost for breakfast, which is served daily from 8:45-9:00 a.m., is \$1.25 (reduced cost for qualified families is \$.30). The lunch cost is \$2.75 (reduced cost for qualified families is \$.40) which includes milk. Milk purchased separately is \$.50 (there is no reduced cost for milk).

## Dates to Remember



- 27th: Teacher's Meeting Day
- 28th: First Day of School Grades 1-5;  
Kindergarten Orientation  
11:30-1:00 pm
- 29th: First Day of Kindergarten;  
Pre-K Orientation 9:30 & 1:00
- 30th: First Day of Preschool



- 3rd: Labor Day No School
- 12th: Open House Grades 1-5 6:30 PM
- 19th: PTO Meeting 6:30 PM
- 21st: Aitken Back to School Social  
7:00 PM
- 29th: "Pumpkin Somethin'" event  
10:00 AM-3:00 PM

## Message from the School Administration Continued

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### Aitken PTO

The Aitken Parent Teacher Organization is an integral part of the success of Aitken School. There are monthly meetings and numerous opportunities throughout the year to become involved in your child's school. The PTO is not a club and there are no fees. It is simply a great organization to get involved in where you will learn more about our school's programs and help support your child's school experiences as well. The first meeting is on Wednesday, September 19th and will begin promptly at 6:30 PM and end at 7:30 PM. We hope to see you there!

### Aitken School Council

The Aitken School Council assists the principal in:

- 1.) Adopting educational goals for the schools
- 2.) Reviewing the annual school building budget
- 3.) Formulating the School Improvement Plan and
- 4.) Completing tasks which the school committee may determine.

Council members are elected to 2-year terms and the meetings are open to the public. Once we hold our first meeting, we can determine where the openings are and hold elections. The Aitken School Council will meet at 3:15 PM on Tuesdays on October 2nd, December 4th, February 5th, 2019, March 26th, and May 7th.

Please come and see us!

Our doors are always open to you. Please don't hesitate to speak with your child's teacher or us if you have any questions or concerns (508-336-5230).

We look forward to a great year!

Yours truly,  
Mr. John Haidemenos, Jr.  
Principal  
Mr. David Graf  
Assistant Principal  
*"Aitken Rockets Reach for the Stars!"*



## From the Nurse's Office, Mrs. Devane

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### School Nurse Reminders:

It's that time of year again.....welcome back to all of the students and families from the office of your Aitken school nurse. Hoping that you all experienced a fun, rejuvenating, and healthy summer. In the first few weeks of the 2018-2019 school year there are a few items in regards to health records that are important to please remember:

Health forms are being sent home the first week of school-

- Please return health forms as quickly as possible. One of the forms that you will need to return is the over the counter medication protocol form which gives me the ability with your permission to administer Tylenol, Motrin, and hydrocortisone cream on their summer bug bites and much more....

-Students who have prescription medications to be administered during the school day- a form which acts as the doctor's order will need to be completed and signed by the student's physician who is ordering the medication. The medication needs to be brought to school in its original prescription bottle with the pharmacy label attached displaying the correct dosage amount and administration instructions. Without all of the required information, I cannot administer the medication to your child

-The same goes for inhalers and Epipens. Please have the forms completed by the ordering physician and return them with the medications as soon as possible. Medications will need to be brought to school by a parent, not the student

The start of the school year can still be warm and humid. Keeping the students hydrated is important for their performance in school and overall wellbeing. You may still want to apply sunblock before school as the sun may still be shining bright in September.....although recess isn't long they will be exposed to the sun....

Please do not hesitate to call the nurse's office with any questions or concerns that you feel need attention while your child is at school- [508-336-5230](tel:508-336-5230). We are all looking forward to a healthy school year with you and your children.

Mrs. Devane, School Nurse



## Differentiation News With Mrs. Manickas

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I am the Differentiation Instructor for math and reading at Aitken School. My role is to identify (along with the classroom teachers) students' individual learning strengths, needs, and interests. Once identified, students come to me in small groups where I deliver instruction that is personalized by content, process, and/or product.

At the beginning of the year, I typically provide opportunities for students to review and practice previously learned skills. As the school year begins, classroom teachers and I will be forming differentiation groups.

If you have any questions about what is going on with differentiation, please contact me at (508) 336-5230 or email me at [manickasb@seekonkschools.org](mailto:manickasb@seekonkschools.org). Also, read my short article in the Aitken To Know each month to find out what's happening with differentiation.



## Welcome to the Aitken School Library!

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Welcome to our school library! I am very excited to share our school library with you! At Aitken our students are challenged academically to reach their full potential and become life long self-directed learners. At the library, we will work to accomplish this goal throughout the year by conducting daily classes for each grade level, promoting children's literacy and sponsoring special events like the Scholastic book fair, book tastings, and after-school LEGO clubs.

### Rules for Borrowing:

- Each class has a regularly scheduled, weekly library class.
- Students in kindergarten through second grade may borrow one book a week.
- Third through fifth grade students may borrow two books per week.
- All books are due ONE WEEK from checkout. Students should bring books back to the library to renew them.
- Students who forget their book on their regularly scheduled day may choose a book to be put on hold until their next library class.
- Fines are not charged for overdue books.
- Replacement fees ARE charged for lost or damaged books.

### How do I help my child become a better reader?

If they are reading a **Fiction** book ask them....

Who are the main characters and what traits can you infer about them?

How have the characters changed during the book?

What questions do you have as you are reading?

Is the story written in first or third person point of view?

What is the author's purpose? Persuade, Inform or Entertain?

What is the problem in the story? How do you think it will be solved?

What do you predict will happen next?

Could the story happen in real life?

How are you similar to the characters? How are you different?

What is the theme of the book? What lesson did the characters learn?

Write a summary of the story using Somebody, Wanted, But, So, Then...

What was your favorite part and why?

Did you like the ending? If not, how would you change it?

Write your own ending.



If they are reading a **Non-Fiction** book ask them.... What do you think you will learn from this book? What do you already know about this topic? What questions do you have as you are reading? What is the main idea of the text? What is the author's purpose? Persuade, Inform or Entertain? What text features were used in this text? How did they help your understanding? What did you learn from this text? Do you have any questions after reading this? Were there any unknown words in this text? How did you find out their meaning? Where could you find more information on this topic? Write a summary of this text- remember to include the main idea and supporting details.

Mrs. Lamar

## Easing the Transition to School, Helpful Suggestions for Parents

By, Tara Haggerty

Transitioning students back to school after a fun summer vacation can be a challenge for parents. Some children become worried about the upcoming year, nervous about the workload, or sad that they will not be able to spend as much time with their families.

Here are some ideas that may ease the back to school transition:

1. Routines – Having a consistent school week routine allows the child to have a sense of security of what to expect during the week. It is especially important to establish a regular homework and bedtime routine. Being prepared for the next day at school may alleviate any feelings of nervousness. When children get enough sleep, they are better able to cope with feelings of anxiety or worry.
2. Ask your child about their day – Get to know their school routine so you can remind them of what to expect during the next school day. This also sends a message that school is important.
3. Find friendly faces. - If your child can identify a friend to enter the school with, they are more likely to have a positive transition into the classroom.
4. Prepare for school together – Let your child take charge in what they need for the next day. This will build confidence.
5. Plan ahead and arrive on time for school – Rushing around in the morning will often times lead to feelings of nervousness and sets a negative tone for the day.
6. Find a quick special way to say goodbye - This is a good way to reassure your child. Just be sure to keep it quick.
7. Allow your child to bring a small transition item to school- Just make sure it is not going to be a distraction for the day.
8. Be positive – Children often times feed off of what their parents are feeling. When your child expresses negative feelings about school, encourage them to point out the positives (friends, after school activities, subjects they enjoy).

## Mrs. Glum's ART ROOM

Welcome Back Aitken students and families! I hope that you all had wonderful summers filled with creative opportunities for play and artmaking. This school year in the art room is going to be an exciting adventure creating through drawing, observational painting, exploring experimental material, clay, sculpture, printmaking, and many opportunities for community based collaborative art! I can't wait to jump in!

Last year, as a school community we built our amazing robot Mr. Reboot Beepbop 75! It was a fun and exciting time in the art room. This year, we will FINALLY put those plastic bottle caps to use by creating a large scale mural using the bottle caps on plywood. I am hoping to make this a large community event where families can join in the art making at the Pumpkin Something event in October, so until then, please continue to bring in those bottle caps!!

As your children find out their schedules, please try to remember that on art days, dress your child accordingly. This is not the day to wear a brand new Vineyard Vines shirt! Although 90% of the materials I use are stain free and washable, there are instances where specific types of fabric don't react well to any products. If we are using acrylics, 4-5th grade only, I tell the children ahead of time. I have aprons available for painting days.

There will be times that your child gets paint or art products on their skin. I encourage creative play in my class, and unless there is a sensory issue do not allow gloves. Art is about touch, and tactile exploration involves getting dirty. Children who explore in art class are more likely to develop independent skills in other areas of their lives, so if your child comes home with a smudge of pastel on their hand, ask them about the amazing things they created!

Alongside art projects that reflect learning in social studies units from the core curriculum, STEAM opportunities for building and inventing, art history, and basic art elements and design principles, I am hoping to incorporate a new art education philosophy called TAB. TAB or Teaching for Artistic Behavior is a choice based curriculum which believes that art can have its biggest impact when students have more choice over their projects. While I believe that art techniques and skills are valuable and necessary for our younger artists to learn our visual language, I believe that our older students can largely benefit from having choice within the framework of our state and national core art standards. I am excited about this new concept and will provide information for all families at the Open House.

Lastly, I ask that parents remember that like all things, art takes practice. Although our goal is to create students that have a strong skill set in using visual language to communicate ideas, art is also an amazing expressive tool for students to use daily! Just like reading nightly, or practicing a sport daily helps our kids to be smart and healthy, just 10 minutes or drawing daily can have massive positive results in confidence, emotional well being and expression! Can't wait to see you all at Open House, and until then, happy creating!!!

## A New Start

By your reading specialist, Joanne Rioux

Here we are at the beginning of a new academic year. Classroom routines are beginning. There are higher expectations and more involved concepts to master. Here are some tips to support your child's reading so that they can get off to a strong start-

**How to help** - Providing a quiet space at home free of distractions is ideal. This could be anywhere in your house. The most important factor may be comfort. Who likes to read sitting in a hard chair at a desk? That's great for written homework, but reading is a completely different activity. Also, being comfortable while you read will make it more enjoyable and that's a great way to encourage a child.

**Where** - Nothing fancy is needed. The bed, couch, rocking chair, any place that your child likes to be is probably the perfect setting for reading a book. If your house is not typically quiet and there aren't a lot of options for getting away from the noise, headphones are helpful. Just wearing them unplugged to dull outside noise works well.

**What** - There are so many options. Reading material could include story books, chapter books, informational books, magazine articles, comic books, e-books, etc. Choices depend in large part on the goal. For example, if you're aiming for your child to simply read more and like it, then it's all about finding something they like. If it's for an assignment and you need to find a book on a particular topic, then finding an age-appropriate book at your child's reading level may best be done with the help of the children's librarian at the public library, the school librarian, the classroom teacher, or the school's reading teachers.

**How to read** - Likewise, how to read the book once you've gotten it varies as well. Reading a book for enjoyment can be shared. For example, taking turns reading chapters and talking about the characters and events together is a wonderful positive experience. On the other hand, letting your child read aloud to you can boost confidence. Conversely, if the reading is for learning information, then guidance is better than sharing. For example, reading small portions aloud to someone and deciding together what seems most important might be a better method.

**Who** - No matter the situation, always remember that your best resource is your child(ren)'s teacher. They can help with ideas and suggestions. Please don't forget that I am more than happy to help as well. As Aitken School's Reading Reading Specialist, I have some tricks up my sleeve, too! Please feel free to email, send a note, call, or stop in the Reading Office. Let's work together and get everyone off to a strong start!

## PTO Spotlight

### Welcome back students, teachers, and staff!

We are looking forward to another fun and fantastic school year with many new faces and awesome events in store!

There are many great events planned for this year and we will always be looking for volunteers. So please keep an eye out for the PTO Welcome Packet outlining what we do and how you can help.

#### Upcoming Events:

**Pumpkin' Somethin'** will be held September 29th rain or shine from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering please be on the lookout in your child's backpack for more information shortly.

The **Back to School Social** will be held on Friday, September 21st from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. held on school property out in the field. All families, teachers and staff are welcome to come out and meet other families in your child's new class. Details on this event will be sent home very soon.

The 2018-2019 PTO Board is as follows:

**President:** Shanna Marszalkowski-Krawitz

**Co-Vice Presidents:** Meaghan Mahoney and Danielle Mahoney

**Recording Secretary:** Tanya Romani

**Corresponding Secretary :** Shannyn Nelson

**Treasurer:** Delia Jeffrey

We can be contacted by email at [aitkenpto@gmail.com](mailto:aitkenpto@gmail.com).

Remember to check out [aitkentoknow.com](http://aitkentoknow.com) as well as visit, like and share us on Facebook at Aitken School PTO.

#### UPCOMING MEETING:

September 19th at 6:30 p.m. in the school library - babysitting provided in the gym by the Key Club.



