

Alton Elementary School

22 Argyle Rd. Alton, Maine 04468

January 22nd, 2010

Feb. 8th - 12th - Spirit Week

Daily themes to be announced soon.

Feb. 15th – 19th – February Vacation!!!

SCHOOL CALENDAR CHANGE!!!!

March 12th – NO SCHOOL – Teacher in service

March 19th – SCHOOL IN SESSION

Principal's message

Since returning from the holiday break we have been very busy here in Alton.

Students in grades 2-5 have been taking the NWEA test over the past couple weeks. This computer- based testing has been administered in years past. However, this was the first year that second grade was added into the testing. I am very proud of all the students throughout the grades. They really worked hard on these tests. Great work!

The Kindergarten class has been doing some mid-year testing as well. The progress they have all made since the start of the school year is becoming very evident! Keep up the good work!

This past week we sent home a fundraising opportunity for the school. This fundraiser was a fairly simple one. There were postcards that needed to be completed in order for the students to earn prizes. We have made a conscious effort to keep the amount of fundraisers to a minimum. We understand that these are difficult financial times for everyone. Any money raised from fundraisers at our school all goes directly to support the students. We will be having one more spring fundraiser and a book fair in April. More info will be sent home as we get closer to those events.

The In-Service day scheduled for March 19th has been moved to March 12th. March 12th will now be a Teacher In-Service Day and the 19th will be a student day. Please make a note of this change on your calendar.

Just as a reminder, we do go outside daily for recess. Students need to come prepared with outside clothing in order to play in the snow. Thank you.

Have a great weekend!

~Mr. Dyer

Kindergarten

We welcome the New Year in with various literacy assessments. We were tested on our letters, sounds and sight words. I was very impressed with the results

We started our reading groups. Watch for the small reading books to come home and practice reading them every night.

In math we are getting closer to the hundredth day of school. We have been counting every day. We learned to count by 10's recently and also by 5's. If there are no snow days the Hundredth Day of school will be February 10th.

We just finished up our Science Unit on Penguins and the kids learned many interesting facts about all the different kinds of penguins in our world.

Valentines is also coming soon we will be having a sweethearts breakfast in our classroom. Look for a sign up sheet to come home in your child's folder.

Miss Morrill our student teacher graduated from Husson University in September and is currently substitute teaching in surrounding area schools. We enjoyed having her "practice Teach" in our classroom through November and December. She is looking forward to having her baby in March. We are excited to have her come and visit after her baby is born.

Mrs. Wilcox



Secretary's corner

Its 2010! We continue into the New Year at breakneck speed! Please help me keep the lunch accounts up to date. I am still working on faster and better ways to communicate balances to parents. If you have a question on your child's lunch account please do not hesitate to call.

Box Tops are piling up and it's almost time for me to count them up and send more off to Box Tops For Education. If you would like to volunteer to come in and count up some box tops or labels for education please call the office at 394-2331.

Mrs. Hamilton

Alton Elementary School



Grades 1st & 2nd

Dear Friends and Families,

We have been extremely busy these past two weeks doing mid-year assessments. The students have tried very hard to show off what they have learned. In science, we are learning about matter. By identifying the characteristics of each phase of matter we have been able to name them in our room. We have started sorting out solids, liquids, and gases and look forward to some fun explorations next week.

In addition we have been studying the continents and the oceans of our world. We will soon move on to the earth and our solar system.

In writing, we have been working to expand our stories in our journals. The students are having to focus to find create a beginning, middle, and end to their stories. We have had some very creative ideas with some exceptional characters and settings.

Within our literacy centers the students have been working to read for meaning. We have been focusing on comprehension and understanding of the main characters, setting, conflicts, and resolutions in each of our stories.

In second grade math we are branching into multiplication. The students are very eager to learn more about this process. We start this process by using word problems and arrays to introduce the key ideas. We will soon practice multiplication facts daily. In first grade, we just started learning the "What's My Rule" process. This gives us an opportunity to look and patterns and practice addition and subtraction facts.

Thank you for your continued support at home.
Have a great weekend!

Miss Andrews

Grades 3rd & 4th

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

We have had a great week! Our autobiographies are slow and coming, but they will be all typed by the end of next week!

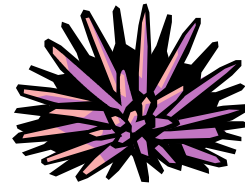
Our class was fortunate to have a tidal pool kit stay during the week. In the kit we were able to look at sea cucumbers, sea urchins, starfish, sand dollars, and mussels. We invited the fifth grade class to our room and observed the sea creatures. We took notes on how the critters felt, smelt and looked! The first and second graders visited and we paired up with them and taught them what we had learned with the fifth graders! When the kindergarten class came in, we were able to enjoy the critters and teach the kindergarteners some fun facts as well! Our room smelled like the sea shore, but we had a lot of learning fun!

The unit of Math we are in now will be a little tough for both grades, but we will spend extra time to learn the new strategies.

In Social Studies we are continuing to learn about the sixteen counties of Maine. Ask your child to sing you the song to the tune of Yankee Doodle. It will give them extra practice learning the county names.

Remember to check planners with your child and to make sure your child reads at least 20/25 minutes every night!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Raye



Alton Elementary School

Grade 5

From the Librarian's Desk

The fifth graders have been working hard on the NWEA testing that we have done for the past couple of weeks. They enjoy this testing a little more I think, since it is taken on a computer. The results are immediate and will help place them in groups that are most appropriate for instructional purposes. We are in the midst of our Ecosystem unit in Science. They have learned a great deal about various biomes, ecosystems and its inhabitants.

All of the kids are getting much more fluent in their reading. Our author of the month for January is Gary Paulsen. Much of the class was happy with this choice as he has written some of their favorites including: *Brian's Winter and Hatchet*.

In math we are wrapping up our unit on division. We have spent some time over the past few weeks reviewing our basic facts and going back over some material that may have been forgotten. We will begin Unit 5 next week.

I am sending home information regarding our classroom book orders. If you go online, I have set up a site just for our class. Ordering this way (online) will help our class earn extra books for the classroom library. Of course, you can always order as usual by sending in money and the paper copy. Book orders are due January 31.

Please remember to sign your child's planner each night!

Thank you.

~ Mr. Dyer



Testing 1 . 2.. 3..

This past month we have been very busy in the library. As you know we have been collecting books for the month of January. As of today we have collected 72 books! The kids should be very proud! We will keep collecting them for this month. If you have books to send in please do so! I also have introduced the Dewey Decimal system to the children in a very fun way. I decided that we would kick it off with our very own "Survivor Dewey". The kids really enjoyed this and were able to use call numbers to get the book they were looking for. I was very proud of them all. Please ask your kids about it, they really seemed to enjoy it and we will be playing "Survivor" again this month!

In the library we are also featuring Theodore Seuss Geisel as our author of the month. He is Dr. Seuss to most of us. There are many wonderful books that he has come up with that every grade enjoys!

As always I encourage you to read with your children, lifetime readers really begin at home! Please keep in mind that we have class every Tuesday and in order to take out a new book they need to return the one they have. They all enjoy getting to check out new books, so if you could help them at home to ensure that they return their books by Tuesday that would be great!

Thank you,
Mrs. Clark

Miss Saban

Don't Quit

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high,
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest, if you must, but don't you quit.

Life is hard with its twists and turns,
As every one of us sometimes learns,
And many a failure turns about,
When he might have won had he stuck it out;
Don't give up though the pace seems slow--
You may succeed with another blow.

Often the goal is nearer than,
It seems to a faint and faltering man,
Often the struggler has given up,
When he might have captured the victor's cup,
And he learned too late when the night slipped down,
How close he was to the golden crown.

Success is failure turned inside out--
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
And you never can tell how close you are,
It may be near when it seems so far,
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit--
It's when things seem worst that you must not quit.

- Author unknown

Alton Elementary School

February is National Dental Health Month. We will be holding a poster contest here at the Alton School. We will choose several winners from our school. Winners will receive special Dental Health Prizes that Mrs. Costello our school nurse is supplying for us. A poster for each grade category will be entered in the following National Contest. If your child would like to be considered for the national contest they will need to use the following rules for their poster. Good Luck!!!

2010 NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH POSTER CONTEST

Theme: "MAKE ME SMILE"

Instructions

- The poster should illustrate the importance of oral health and ways to keep teeth healthy.
- A basic understanding of good oral health concepts is a required. These can be reflected as illustrations of the theme, for example; that eating nutritious foods, having regular dental check-ups, and getting dental sealants, brushing and flossing every day, or using mouthguards are all needed to have a healthy smile. The grade level determines the appropriate topics.
- **The following information must be printed on the back of each poster:** *child's name, age, and grade, teacher's name, school name, SAD or school union number, school address and phone number.*
- *Posters should be colorful and easily seen from a distance.*
- All posters should be horizontally oriented and on white drawing or heavy construction paper that is 12" x 18". (Please, no other sizes unless you absolutely can't obtain this size.) Please try to see that the posters are not laminated or mounted on heavier stock – this makes it difficult for us to display them.

Contest Rules

1. **Number of entries:** Only four posters, 1 for the grade K, 1 for grades 1-2, 1 for grades 3-4 and 1 for grades 5-6 from each School Oral Health Program (SOHP) may be entered into the contest. Local contests will have to be initiated in order to choose the entry from the school district for the state-wide contest.
2. **Deadline:** All entries must be received at the Oral Health Program (address below) **by March 26, 2010**.
3. **Schedule suggestions:** Announce the contest as soon as possible, with a deadline about 3 to 4 weeks later. Display your posters locally. Select the winning entry for each grade level and submit it to the state-wide contest; so that it arrives at the Oral Health Program Office (see address below).
4. **Judging:** Representatives of the contest co-sponsors, the Maine Dental Hygienists' Association and the Maine Center for Disease Control & Prevention, will be the judges. Posters will be on display in the Maine Center for Disease Control & Prevention building where the Oral Health Program is located (286 Water Street, Augusta.)
5. **Winners and Prizes:** All entrants will receive a certificate of recognition. **Winners will be notified by April 30, 2010**. Prizes will be provided by the co-sponsors in each of the four judging categories (Grades K; 1-2; 3-4; 5-6) as follows:

<i>1st place</i>	\$25 gift certificate / bookstore
<i>2nd place</i>	\$15 gift certificate / bookstore
<i>3rd place</i>	\$10 gift certificate / bookstore
6. **Address:**
Send entries to: Oral Health Program, Maine CDC
11 State House Station, 286 Water St., 5th Floor
Augusta, ME 04333-0011
7. **Property:** Posters remain the property of the students who design them. However, the Oral Health Program may duplicate posters to keep on file or distribute copies, but in no instance will such distribution involve any monetary transactions. If a student (or parent) does not wish his/her poster to be duplicated, the words **"DO NOT DUPLICATE"** should be printed on the back of the poster along with the student's name.
8. **for more information, contact:** Maine Oral Health Program at (207) 287-3121 or (207) 287-3263

**If contest rules are not carefully followed, posters can not be entered in the contest.
They will be returned to you.**

Please follow contest rules carefully.

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