

Alton Elementary Newsletter

October 9th, 2009

- 12th – No School! Columbus Day
24th – Bus Driver Appreciation Day
28th &
29th – Parent-Teacher Conferences
30th - Fall Harvest Celebration
1:00-2:30 in Gym – Parents Invited!
Games and Fun in the gym. Please Sign up
with your child's teacher to bring in some
fun snacks for this annual event!



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The leaves are beginning to fall and so are the temperatures. It's that time of year again to make sure you are sending your child to school with a jacket or sweatshirt for recess. We do go outside each day and some days have been a little chilly.

The Alton Volunteer Fire Department was here this Wednesday to celebrate **Fire Prevention Week** with our students. The students had a question and answer session with their class and also had a chance to see what a smoke filled room would look like with equipment that the firefighters brought with them! Thanks to all of the crew for all they do for our community!

On October 28th & 29th we will be holding our Parent-Teacher Conferences at the Alton School. Conference times will be from 4:00-7:00 p.m. each of those days and a sign-up sheet will be sent home by your child's teacher. Please make a real effort to schedule a time. The school year moves along so quickly, and a great deal of information can be gained about your child in just a few short minutes during these conferences.

On October 30th, from 1:00-2:30, Alton will be holding our annual Fall Harvest Celebration in the gymnasium. All grades will be participating in various fall activities and games. If you are able to provide a treat for this celebration it would be greatly appreciated. A sign up sheet will be coming home for you to fill out and return. I encourage all parents who are able to join us on this day to do so! Just as a reminder... costumes are not allowed to be worn to school. Thanks for your cooperation and we hope to see you there.

I would like to congratulate all students in both Mrs. Raye's 3rd & 4th grade and Mr. Dyer's 5th grade class for doing an outstanding job on the NECAP testing this past week. You really put a lot of hard work into those tests.

I hope you all enjoy your three day weekend. Get outside and enjoy some fall weather! (I have heard rumor of the "white stuff" possibly next week....hope they're wrong...)

~Mr. Dyer

KINDERGARTEN

Fall is alive in the Kindergarten classroom!! We have been learning about leaves and apples so far. We completed a leaf sort by size of the leaf. Be sure to check out our graph hanging in the hall. We went to Treworgy's Apple Orchard with the first and second graders. What a blast!! We went on a hayride, picked a pumpkin in the patch, made apple cider and many other fun activities. Next week we continue our study with pumpkins.

In Word Work, we have begun learning our Popcorn Words. So far we have a, go, to, we. They have been added to our word wall and we have been finding them in books and poems. We have also started our daily reading groups. It is going well so far!

Norman Bridewell is the Author of the Month. He writes Clifford stories. We share a new story each day. We have learned about characters, illustrators, and the title page.

Mrs. Wilcox



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GRADES 1/2

Our dinosaur unit went out with a bang. At the end of September we had a dinosaur party where we celebrated a months worth of learning. We were able to share some of our favorite dinosaurs and dinosaur songs. In the afternoon we excavated our own dinosaur! It is in the library now, please feel free to come and see!

Last week we were able to extend our fall unit by visiting a local Apple Orchard. At the orchard, we learned about different types of apples and pumpkins. We were also able to enjoy different farm animals and a hayride. The students had a great time and polished off the trip with some delicious ice cream. We are studying owls and nocturnal creatures this week and have decorated the hall with some fantastic fall crafts!

The students have had their first math test of the year and will soon be having a second one. They have been working very hard within the classroom and on homework. They have already added a large amount to their mathematical vocabulary. In first grade, we have focused on making comparisons and finding similarities in numbers and objects. We also are becoming experts at time telling by the hour and half hour! In second grade, we are working on ways to develop our fact power. We have been practicing double facts, frames and arrows, and different subtraction methods.

I am very impressed with all of the at home reading done this year by the students! Keep up the great work and have a great weekend!

Miss Andrews



GRADES 3/4

Our third and fourth grade class has been busy! The past week they have been working hard on the NECAP tests! Thank you for all who volunteered to send in healthy snacks! The students were very appreciative of the kind gestures.

Before testing started, we began an Earth Unit in Science. Earth is a great place and I find it very exciting to see your children enjoy learning about it. In Social Studies we are learning about Community and Geography.

Math has been going smoothly. The fourth graders are learning new ways to add and subtract. Sometimes it is good to be able to pull out the file drawer in our brains and choose a different way to figure out a math problem. Some of the new methods include: partial sums, column addition, partial differences and trade first. The third graders are well on their way with number stories and what's my rule.

In writing, we are working on ideas and sequence. Next week, I hope to bring in some peanut butter, jelly and bread to make a sandwich while the students read me their 'How-to-Make a Pbj Sandwich' paper! It should be lots of fun!

I appreciate the communication in the planners! What a great way to keep in touch and work with each other to help your child's academics be successful.

Mrs. Raye



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From The LIBRARIAN'S DESK

As you know we have library every Tuesday. Please help your children remember their books so they can check a new one out. We have been doing some exciting things with library class this year.

The Kindergarten has been learning basic library orientation, rules of the library and routine of what we do each class. This week they got to make their own ABC books. Now they have become authors of their own books.

The First and Second graders have begun to learn and distinguish between Fiction and nonfiction books. They were very excited to make their own books as well. They also got to chose between a Fiction or Nonfiction story that they wanted to tell. They are also all "featured" this week as "Authors of the week" here in the library.

Third and Fourth graders have also been working on refreshing their minds about the differences between fiction and non fiction books. They had fun this week doing a scavenger hunt in the library trying to locate the different types of books, Next week they will be the "featured" authors of the week.

The Fifth graders have been going over the different parts of books, which is helping them learn how to locate the information they are looking for. They also have been filling out forms to be able to choose the author of the week based on their favorites. This past week we featured Author R.L. Stine. This is an author they all seem to enjoy. We will begin to learn the Dewey Decimal system this month as well.

I would like for all the kids to enjoy their library class and learn a lot of great things with it. After all this is the time of year to "fall" into a great book!

Thank you,



Mrs. Clark

GRADE 5

Testing...testing! My fifth grade class can breathe a little easier now that the NECAP testing has passed! This standardized test has replaced the MEA that typically is given during the month of March each year. We spent a good deal of time prior to this week preparing for the NECAP. Students were given numerous released (sample) items to give them a feel for what would be assessed. They all did a great job and really put in the effort this week. As a reward we will be having an Ice-Cream Sundae/ Popcorn/ Movie party next week to celebrate their hard work! Hats off to all of you!

We are moving along in Unit 2 in our Everyday Math program. This unit deals with the concepts of estimation and computation skills. In Unit 1, we became fluent in our understanding of factors, arrays, prime/composite numbers, along with many other concepts that we have added to our Math Museum. I would encourage all parents to review multiplication facts with your child at home. This concept in one that can really only be achieved fully by practicing, practicing, practicing. As we continue to move forward in our math units, this skill will need to be mastered in order to have success.

The fifth grade class has been fortunate to have the help of a "100 hr. Student" from the University of Maine in our classroom each Monday. Mrs. Demaris will be coming into our class throughout the fall season. It has been great to have her help. The students all some fun making "goop" with her on Monday as part of our Matter unit in Science.

Just as a reminder...planners are sent home each night with your child. The expectation is to have them signed by someone at home. Students who return them signed the next day, receive a check. An additional check is also given for completed (and returned) homework. At the end of the week, students who have checks for the week...receive a Dyer Dollar. These can be redeemed for various prizes in the classroom. If you would like to contribute to the prize box at any time...that would be AWESOME!

A homework assignment is typically given out each day, in addition to reading for 25 minutes each night. These assignments are written in the planners.

Have an enjoyable and relaxing long weekend! ~ Mr. Dyer

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Secretary's Corner

In this issue of our newsletter I would like to highlight Box Tops for Education! Box Tops are really very profitable for our school. Just 10 tops equal \$1.00 donated to our school. If every student brought in 10 box tops a month that's over \$50 Dollars. Box tops are everywhere! I clip at least 2 or 3 every week. I've included a partial list of products that have box tops on them. Please go on-line and register as a supporter of our school through Box Tops for Education at Boxtops4education.com! There you will also be able to see how much we have raised over the years and our current goals. There are links to arts and craft projects, recipes, coupons and shopping discounts.

Some of our other fundraising programs are:
Campbell Soup's Labels for Education
Purelife water bottle labels – Go Play!
Cartridgesforkids.com – Recycling program
Hannaford Helps School – Receipt collection

I will highlight a different program in our next newsletter. If you have any questions please give me a call at the office.

Mrs. Hamilton

Miss Saban's Room

Welcome to fall. We are off to a off to a wonderful year. The students have settled nicely into their routines.

USE YOUR IMAGINATION TO FIND SUCCESS

*Visualize what you want. See it, Feel it,
Believe in it. Your mind is a mental
workshop. You can build anything in it.
Make your mental blueprint, And begin to
build. The beginning is in your imagination;
First think, then organize your thoughts
into plans Then transform your thoughts
into reality by taking some positive action.
Use your imagination to perceive your
reality, Even when it is not fully
materialized. You must first see it clearly in
your mind Before you can do it. First
visualize and then actualize your way To
success. You really can live your dreams.
All you need to do is try.*

- ANONYMOUS

SAVE THE PLANET!

www.Cartridgesforkids.com

Cartridges for kids is a recycling program we use here at our school. Items can be dropped off at the office anytime during the school year. This company refunds our school for acceptable items recycled through their program. Best of all they even pay for shipping the items to them! This is a great way for us to earn money for our school and SAVE The PLANET!

Here is the list of items:

Used Cell Phones

Video Game Consoles

(include all accessories)

Video Games

(include all case)

Empty Inkjet Cartridges

Empty Laser Cartridges

Digital Cameras

Laptops (include Power cord)

PDAs/Palm Pilots

(include all accessories)

Ipods (include all accessories)

DVD Movies (include case)



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