

Alton Elementary School

22 Argyle Rd. Alton, Maine 04468

November 13th, 2009

Dec. 7th – Scholastics Book Fair!!!!

**The book fair is open every day from
Dec. 7th to Dec. 17th.**

Dec. 10th - Winter Concert 6:00-7:00pm.

Principal's message

It's hard to believe that we are already approaching the holiday season. November has been very active here at Alton School. I would like to thank all parents who attended our Parent Teacher Conferences on October 28th & 29th. If you were unable to meet with your child's teacher on those dates, just give the school a call. We will be happy to set up a separate time to discuss your child's growth and goals for this school year.

The Harvest Celebration on October 30th was a great deal of fun for the students, staff and all others who attended. Many thanks to all of those who helped make this event an enjoyable one!

On November 10th we held our first "Alton Honors Veteran's Assembly". It was a huge success! We had several veterans attend this event in addition to the OTHS ROTC Cadets, who presented the crowd with a great display of the hard work they do. Alton School plans to hold this event each year in honor of those who have given so much for our country.

As you are all aware, we have entered the Flu season in Maine. This year has had a few twists however. Two separate Flu Clinics have been held at the OTHS to administer the H1N1 (Swine Flu) vaccine. They have a third clinic planned for later in December. More information will be sent home as we receive it. The clinics are for all RSU #34 students only and are in response to the H1N1 epidemic, however the seasonal Flu Vaccine is planned to be available for the December clinic as well.

Alton Elementary staff has been and will continue to be very diligent in keeping our school environment as germ free as we can in response to the many viruses that are going around. We ask that you please keep your child home if they are showing any flu-like symptoms. This will help us to keep any sickness here in our building from spreading. Information is also being sent home today in order to help answer some questions and concerns that you may have about the H1N1 virus and basic precautionary measures for home.

I hope you all enjoy your weekend.

~Mr. Dyer

Kindergarten

Fairy tales are alive in the Kindergarten classroom!! We have read many examples of these fiction stories and completed a story map on each one. We have learned what makes a story a fairy tale: starting with Once upon a time, having a happy ending, and using some magic.

In math we have been counting our way to the 100th day of school. Today we reached the halfway point-50 days!! We are looking forward to reaching the special day. We are also measuring and learning numbers with our Monster Squeeze game.

We would like to welcome Ms. Morrill to our classroom. She is a student teacher from Husson University. She is completing her last 6 weeks of training. She will be with us until Dec. 18. If you see her, make sure you say hi!

Mrs Wilcox



Secretary's corner

With the Holidays quickly approaching this is a busy time of year for all of us and its been especially busy here in the office. Please remember to call the school in the morning if your child is not going to be attending that day. If you have any medical questions or concerns Mrs. Costello, the school nurse is here every Wednesday morning or she can also be reached at her office at OTHS at 827-1544.

Also please remember your child's lunch money which is due on Monday for the upcoming week. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me at the school and I will try to answer your questions or direct your call to someone who can.

Mrs. Hamilton

Alton Elementary School

Grades 1st & 2nd

Dear Friends and Families,

We have had a great few weeks in first and second grade. The students are really becoming *math masters* of their current math curriculum. They are very enthusiastic and excited about the material and love learning the new games that go along with it. We have been developing our "Fact Power" with daily addition and subtraction practice.

In science, we have been learning about different habitats. We have already covered the temperate forest and the rain forest, but plan on learning about others this month. We have been sharing facts about some of the creatures that live within these homes and where we might find these habitats globally.

We also just finished learning about fables. The students were excellent at predicting the moral of the stories. We learned lots of things from our stories and from each other during this unit. Our *Author of the Month* is Barbara Park. She writes the Junie B. Jones series. Many of the students are using her books now to experience chapter books.

It was wonderful meeting with you during conferences. Thank you for your continued help and support at home!

Sincerely,



Miss Andrews

Grades 3rd & 4th

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

We have had a great few weeks. It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving vacation is right around the corner. This month in Science we have learned about Earth's many landforms and in Social Studies we had a great unit about the timeline of the American Wars since the 1900s. We were able to use this information we learned in class at our 'Bring a Veteran to School' assembly. The assembly was wonderful. I think the students had fun learning about Veteran's Day.

In Math, both third and fourth grade have finished unit 3 which was multiplication and pre-algebra in 4th grade and perimeter and area in 3rd grade. Our next units include decimals and placement of decimals for 4th grade and multiplication and division for 3rd grade.

In our Writer's Workshop we are finishing our descriptive essays and we will be moving onto biographies. We will choose a famous person in history to write about.

Thank you for your support with our Veteran's assembly and I look forward to seeing you at our next school function!



Sincerely, Mrs. Raye

Miss Saban Quote of the Month

"A small trouble is like a pebble. Hold it too close to your eye and it fills the whole world and puts everything out of focus. Hold it at a proper distance and it can be examined and properly classified. Throw it at your feet and it can be seen in its true setting, just one more tiny bump on the pathway of life."

- Celia Luce

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Grade 5

It was great to have the opportunity to discuss how great your children are doing during our conferences last month. We are moving along in Unit 3 in our Everyday Math program, Unit 9 in Spelling, as well as making great gains as growing readers in the Fifth Grade classroom. Currently during our Writing Block, the class is working on writing biographies of famous people in history. There are several requirements to this on-going Social Studies Project. I will be sending home a rubric that explains what is expected on Monday. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at school.

I have said it many times, but it really bears repeating. Consistent review of multiplication facts with your child at home is strongly encouraged. The Everyday Math program is a great program aimed at teaching your child mathematical concepts as a whole. However, in order for your child to succeed to

their highest potential, eliminate stress and participate fully in class, repeated practice of these basic skills are crucial. Please take a few minutes at home whenever possible to help them get these facts into their memory banks!

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

A homework assignment is typically given out each day, in addition to reading for 25 minutes each night. When we return from Thanksgiving Break the reading time expectation will be increased!

Have an enjoyable and relaxing weekend!

~Mr. Dyer

From the Librarian's Desk

This past month has really gone by fast but we have been learning lots of things in our library class. Thank you for helping your child to remember that every Tuesday is Library Day and their books are due back on that day. It's always nice when they get to explore the library for a new book to take home to share with their families. I encourage you to read your child's library book with them.

Mrs. Clark

Knowledge is free at the library. Just bring your own container.

- Unknown

NOTE: Please remember all our collections programs... Hannaford Helps Schools ends December 18th. Please drop off all your slips here at school or at the store before the program ends.

Alton Elementary School

Parents/Guardians:

This letter is to inform you that our community is experiencing an increase in influenza-like illness consistent with novel influenza virus (H1N1). We would like to inform you of current recommendations for decreasing the spread of influenza.

Our focus is on prevention of influenza among school students, staff and families. We encourage all families and staff to take these steps to stay healthy.

- Stay home if you are ill.
- Cough and sneeze into your elbow, or into a tissue. Throw this tissue away.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, but especially after coughing and sneezing. Alcohol-based hand gels can also be used.
- Avoid touching your nose, mouth, and eyes. Germs can be spread by touching contaminated surfaces and then touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Avoid contact with ill persons.
- Get vaccinated with both seasonal influenza vaccine and H1N1 influenza vaccine.

Also, be aware of steps we can also take to identify early ill students and staff:

- A person who develops a fever of 100 degrees or above with either cough or sore throat, should remain at home.
- A person with these symptoms should remain at home until he/she is fever-free for a full 24 hours, without the use of fever reducing medication.
- A student or staff person may remain in school unless he/she becomes ill with a fever.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact the school, your healthcare provider, or the Maine CDC at www.mainepublichealth.gov or 1-800-821-5821. Resources on influenza for parents are also available at: www.cdc.gov/h1n1/parents/.

Respectfully,

Mr. Dyer

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