

# Alton Elementary School

22 Argyle Rd. Alton, Maine 04468

December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Kindergarten

**Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> -- Last day of the Book Fair!!**  
**Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> – Jan 1<sup>st</sup> VACATION**  
**Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> - First Day Back from Vacation**

## Principal's message

I hope that everyone had a great Thanksgiving. One holiday behind us and another just around the corner. Do you have your shopping all done?! December is such a busy month for everyone both here at school as well as in your families.

It has been brought to my attention that several students have been bringing "unhealthy" snacks to school. Alton Elementary does have a Wellness/Nutrition policy that encourages students to eat healthy. If at all possible, please try to encourage your child to bring something healthy to school for snack time. All students have snack in their classrooms each day!

The school day begins at 8:10. Several students have been arriving after this time and are being marked as tardy. Even if they are arriving only a few minutes late, not only does this negatively affect their attendance but it also can start their day off on a bad note. The first part of the school day is spent "setting the stage" for the students as well as "taking care of business" (attendance, signing up for lunch, morning meeting etc.) It is also distracting for the teacher and the other students when they enter the classroom after this time. Maine's laws require schools to report students who are habitually tardy/absent from school.

We do have the Book Fair taking place in the library until Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Students are allowed to purchase books each day. If you want to send in money with your child, someone can help them with their purchase. There are always some items that make great gifts for parents who wish to stop in as well.

The Winter Concert/Band Concert was held on December 10<sup>th</sup>. The concert was a great show of all the students hard work. As always it was great to have so many attend this event. Great job students!

This is a reminder that students are required to have proper clothing to go outside for recess. In order to leave the basketball court area, snow-pants, jackets, boots, hats and gloves/mittens are required. Students who do not have all of the items mentioned above, will still go outside, but will have to stay on the plowed basketball court. This will ensure that they have a dry, warm remainder of the day. We do have spare hats, mittens and gloves at the school should your child forget theirs. There is a limited supply of coats and ski-pants.

Winter Break begins on Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at the end of the day. School will resume on January 4<sup>th</sup> 2010! I hope that everyone has an enjoyable and relaxing Holiday!

~Mr. Dyer

One more week until Christmas vacation!! I can't believe it. The time has gone by so fast. We have done so much learning in these past months. We have learned to count to 100, mastered many sight words, and some of us can even read short stories!! We will be stepping it up a notch or two when we return for the New Year.

In these past two weeks of December we have been traveling around the world studying how different countries celebrate the holidays. We have visited Israel, Sweden, France, and Germany. Next week we will visit Africa and Mexico. It is interesting to learn about the traditions of others.

In Math, we have learned addition and some subtraction. We are still counting the days until we reach the 100th day. We are so excited!!

Have a wonderful holiday!!

**Mrs. Wilcox**



## Secretary's corner

Here in the office I'm looking forward to the 2 week break we have for the holidays this year! I know especially with the extra expenses during December it can be hard to keep up on bills and such. I would ask that you please keep the school lunch account on the top of your list! It is extremely important to us that the lunch accounts are paid in full.

I hope that you enjoy this holiday season and the extra time you'll get to spend together as a family. I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and we will see you all back here in 2010!!!!

**Mrs. Hamilton**

# Alton Elementary School

Grades 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>

Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>

Dear Friends and Families,

What a snowy start to December! The students have jumped right into the holiday swing. We have been studying several different holidays around the world and how people celebrate differently within this month. This has been an eye opening experience to all. In science, we are continuing our habitat unit; for our ocean study each student had to choose a whale and write a report about it. Following the report, they had to complete and create a poster showcasing their studies. We have just started to move onto the tundra.

In math, we have just started our fifth unit. The students have done a terrific job and are consistently hard workers. It is wonderful seeing them push themselves to become more knowledgeable learners. We are still working to develop our math vocabulary within the classroom through observation and comparisons with numbers, weight, and measurement.

We have been studying many things within our literacy groups. We have been working really hard to develop comprehension. We also have been studying antonyms and synonyms. We had our official writing prompt this week. The students had to write down a gift that they would give to someone and share why through their writing. The students did a really nice job with this. We are constantly working to encourage detail and development throughout their stories. The first graders have really started to develop as writers; our focus has been on conventions and writing techniques.

We will be having a small holiday celebration in our room on December 18<sup>th</sup>. On this day we will be making crafts, listening to holiday music, and sharing snacks. We would love to see you there! Please check folders for more information.

**Miss Andrews**



Dear Parents and Guardians,

It seems that this year is coming to a screaming halt! The time I spend with your children is going by fast! In that time, we have been hard at work. In Science, we have been learning about the human body. Some of the systems we have covered include the circulatory system, the reparatory system, and the nervous system. In Math, both grades are working on different strategies for multiplication and division. I hope that students practice their multiplication facts over our two week break! Lots of practice helps keep multiplication fresh on our minds. In writing, we will be finishing our biographies this week and on Thursday everyone will present them in front of the room during our Author's Tea.

In our Literacy Workshop, we continue to learn different reading strategies and work together in groups to stay on the reader's path to fluency and comprehension!

I hope everyone enjoys our well-deserved break and that everyone comes back refreshed and ready for learning!!

**Monica Raye**



# Alton Elementary School

Grade 5

From the Librarian's Desk

The fifth graders have been completing their biographies in class over the last week. We will wrap these up in the next few days before we head off for our Winter Break. Each of them have done some really good work looking up information on their famous person using a variety of resources. They have learned how to cite resources, summarize events and bring a piece of writing to its final form.

In science we have just begun our unit on Ecosystems. This week we will be exploring one or two of them and then jump right back into the rest when we return in January.

Our Author of the Month for December is Carole Marsh. She is the author of the "*Real Kids, Real Places*" books that many students enjoy. This week we will be finishing one of her books: "*The White House Christmas Mystery*" and completing some activities that tie into this story.

The fifth graders have really come a long way in Math so far this year. We are completing our unit on angles, line segments and rays and will be starting our next unit after break.

On Friday, December 18th, we will be having some snacks and making some crafts in our classroom in the afternoon. If you would like to send in something for the whole class it would be appreciated. Just let me know with a phone call or write it in their planner.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

~ Mr. Dyer



Library classes have been going great for all grades. Students are doing great with the regular routine in the library now. We have decided that with the holidays upon us that it might be nice to do something for others. So... we are going to be collecting books to give away to those who may not have books of their own. The books can be brought into the library at anytime and I will make sure to get them to the "group" that the kids have picked. We are still thinking about where we would like to donate them. I will be sure to let you all know who the children have decided to send the books to. This will be going on through out the month of January so, anytime you want to send them in would be great. Please keep encouraging your kids to return their book to the book return by Tuesdays so that they may check out another book! I also want to keep encouraging you to continue reading to your children at home. "The more that you read the more you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go" (Oh The places you'll go by Dr.Seuss)

Miss Clark



Miss Saban

**We grow great by dreams. All big men are dreamers. They see things in the soft haze of a spring day or in the red fire of a long winter's evening. Some of us let these great dreams die, but others nourish and protect them; nurse them through bad days till they bring them to the sunshine and light which comes always to those who sincerely hope that their dreams will come true."**  
--Woodrow Wilson

I wish you all the happiest of holiday seasons. Enjoy your time with friends and family.

Miss Saban

# *Alton Elementary School*



## **Collection Programs**

### **Box Tops for Education**

For more info go to [BoxtopsforEducation.com](http://BoxtopsforEducation.com)

Look for these box tops on Snack Bar boxes, Cereals, Frozen foods,  
Pull ups, Pillsbury products, Ziploc bags, Garbage bags, Suddenly Salad,

**Hamburger Helper and MORE!!!**

### **Labels for Education**

For more info go to [Labelsforeducation.com](http://Labelsforeducation.com)

Turn in the UPC Code from these participating products, Campbell's chunky  
soups, soup at hand, V8 soups, Prego Italian Sauces, Spaghetti's, V8 Splash, Francho American  
Gravies, V8 Juices, Chunky Chili, Campbell's Tomato Soups, Campbell's Bean products, and Many  
More!!

### **Cartridges for Kids**

For more info go to [Catridgesforkids.com](http://Catridgesforkids.com)

Empty Laser Cartridges, Empty Inkjet Cartridges, Used Cell Phones,  
Laptops, PDA's and Ipods. All products are to be brought into our school and we ship them to  
Cartridges for kids for Free. After products arrive they send us a printout of product payout prices  
and then they mail us a check.

### **Capri Sun drink pouches**

This program is not for our school. This is a collection program that  
Raises money for the K-kids at OTEs through the Knights of Columbus.

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