

# Alton Elementary School

22 Argyle Rd. Alton, Maine 04468

**February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**March 1<sup>st</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> – Pennies for Patients**

Fundraising effort to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. – Change boxes  
Coming home today.

**March 31<sup>st</sup> – Amy MacDonald – Author visit!**

Nationally known children's book author –  
Providing a rare opportunity to learn about  
writing from a published author.

Amy's books will be available to purchase from  
our school before and during her visit.

## **SCHOOL CALENDAR CHANGE!!!!**

**March 12<sup>th</sup> – NO SCHOOL – Teacher in service**

**March 19<sup>th</sup> – SCHOOL IN SESSION**

## **Principal's message**

This has surely turned out to be a true "Maine Winter"...little bit of this...little bit of that. For the most part, we have avoided adding any snow-days to the calendar. Let's hope we can keep that going. Spring is just around the corner. (23 days to be exact :)

Grades 3-5 have been taken the Cognitive Abilities test this week. It was administered to the students by Jon Doty, our Gifted & Talented Coordinator here in RSU # 34.

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, Alton School celebrated our 100<sup>th</sup> day of school this year. Students in Mrs. Wilcox 's Kindergarten class and Miss Andrew's 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade had a day full of exploring the # 100! This was also our Spirit week here at Alton. Students had lots of fun doing the daily themes: red day, sports, wacky hair, hats & shades & School Pride day. Each class will be rewarded according to their total participation percentage for that week. Good job to all the classes!

The end of the second trimester is next month. Students report cards will be sent home on March 26<sup>th</sup>. The results from the NECAP will be included for students in grades 3-5.

**Have a great weekend,  
~Mr. Dyer**

## **Kindergarten**

We have begun our next Science unit on Keeping Ourselves Healthy. This week we have been talking about Dental Health. We have learned many ways to keep our teeth clean and strong. We also have been keeping track of how many times a day we brush our teeth. Keep up the good work!! Next week we will begin discussing the Food Pyramid and how the colors affect our body's health. We are starting our Science Notebooks too. All of our food experiments and discoveries will be in our notebooks. It is an exciting change!!

In our Literacy Block we have been reading up a storm!! It is so impressive to see the improvements!! We have become such good readers!! We have also introduced some new centers. It was time to put away our beginning of the year ones and start the more challenging ones.

The 100th day of school was a big success!! I can't even count how many times we counted to 100 that day!! Everyone brought in a collection of 100 items to share. This year we had some different ones. It was great to see how they sorted them into groups of 5's and 10's. We played many games like Race to the Hundreds, M&M sort, Popcorn graphing, and making a necklace of 100 Fruit Loops. We ended the day with popping 100 balloons in the gym. It was a fun day!!!

## **Mrs. Wilcox**

### **Secretary's corner**

February has come and gone quickly and March will be an exciting month here at Alton.

We are sending home "change boxes" today for our students to collect change to donate to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. More information will be given during the week of March 1st to explain to our students the importance of helping people with these blood cancers.

We will also be sending home information in the coming weeks about Amy MacDonald coming to visit our school and teach the children about writing during the afternoon of March 31<sup>st</sup>. A set of her books will be available to preview in our library and book order forms will be going home during the month of March. Amy is willing to sign students copies of her books during her visit. One of Amy's most famous books is Little Beaver and the Echo. You can look up information about Amy at [www.AmyMacDonald.com](http://www.AmyMacDonald.com)

**Mrs. Hamilton**

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

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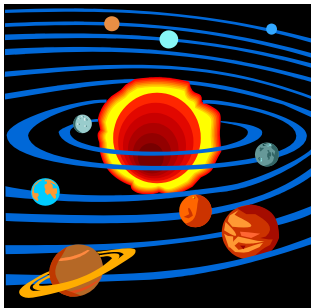
We are out of this world in first and second grade! This week the students and I have started our journey into outer space. We have explored the phases of the moon, the layers of the earth, and the planets of the solar system. The students are very excited about this topic and are interested to find out more.

Before vacation we had a whirlwind of activities to wrap up our week. We had a very fun and exciting time celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school! We were able to explore 100 through graphing, sorting, counting, beading, honks, exercises, and patterns. In an effort to develop our fact power we also did one hundred addition facts. We ended the day with a bang by popping 100 balloons with the kindergarten class.

In first grade math we are exploring shapes and attributes. Through several sorting activities, the students have really developed their observation skills and their ability to discriminate differences and similarities between shapes, colors, sizes, and textures. We have also been reviewing telling time by five-minute intervals. In second grade we have been learning a new game called *Hit the Target*. The students choose a target number that is a multiple of 10 and try to achieve that number with several addition and subtraction facts.

Sincerely,

**Miss Andrews**



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

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

I hope everyone had a great Winter break. It is always nice to take time out for oneself, yet it is also nice to get back in a routine! Our third and fourth grade class definitely had a great time getting back into "the swing of things". Monday through Thursday our class was able to take a Cognitive Ability test that will help the school educators to see who needs enrichment and challenge. The class did a great job for the test administrator. I was very proud!

In Math, third graders are working on basic multiplication and the use of parentheses. Fourth grade has started to look at fractions and their equivalent partners. Although this is a tough feat, the students are doing fantastic!

In Science, we are working on an Atom unit. By the end of the unit the class will know all about protons, neutrons, electrons, and how they all work together.

Our Literacy Block was put on a halt this week because of our testing, but we will start them again on Monday.

I was very happy to put students on the kindness board this week, and I would like you to ask your child what things they could do to earning a Helping Hand on the Kindness Board.

I hope the weather doesn't bring you down, Spring will be here before we know it.

Take Care,

**Mrs. Raye**

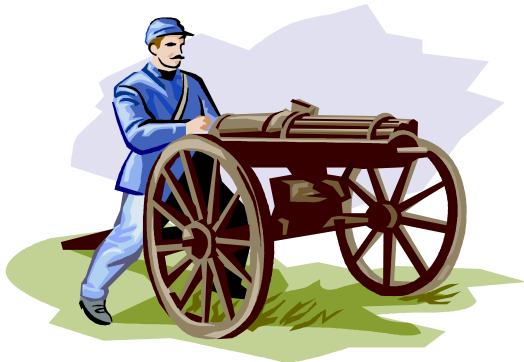
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## Grade 5

February is a short month, but always a busy one. The Fifth graders have been quite active in their learning prior to and after the return from break. In math we are doing a lot with graphing and fractions right now. I do ask that you please continue to review basic facts with your child whenever possible at home. Many students continue to struggle with those multiplication facts! Getting them into memory will make math less stressful on them each day. If you would like me to provide fact cards for home, please let me know. I would be happy to provide those for you. In science we will be starting a new unit on Weather Patterns next week. Civil War is the theme for Social Studies during the month of March. Students will be creating time-lines, as well as various writing and art projects throughout the month. Parents, keep signing those planners each night please. Also, we do have a Fifth Grade field trip planned for this spring. I will be sending home information regarding this as we get closer to that date. Have a a great weekend,

~ Mr. Dyer



### From the Librarian's Desk

This month in the library we have been doing lots of things even though we had a week off for vacation! The kids donated 135 books! We have decided that we are bringing them to EMMC for the children's floor. We all hope the kids that need to stay there will enjoy the books. Thank you to all who helped us with this! We have also still been doing our Dewey Survivor. All the students have really been enjoying that. The kids are learning the Dewey system quite well. We will also be starting a book club next week! I'm very excited to see how this goes having the students read the same book, it should be interesting! Please continue reminding your children to bring their books back to me by Tuesday so they may check out another one!

Thank you,  
Mrs. Clark



Miss Saban

Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush." Seems fitting for this weeks weather.

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