

Alton Elementary School

22 Argyle Rd. Alton, Maine 04468

March 19th, 2010

March 1st – 19th – Pennies for Patients

Any last minute donations can be received on Mon.

20th – 1st day of Spring ☺

23rd – Amy MacDonald Book Orders Due!!!

26th – Report cards coming home

31st – Amy MacDonald – Author visit!

Info and Book order forms coming home today.

Principal's message

Dare I say “Spring is here?!” The weather sure is improving as the weeks go by. However, if you have lived in Maine long enough, you know that can all change overnight. With that said, please make sure your child brings a heavy sweatshirt or jacket to school with them for recess.

The end of the second trimester is March 19th. Students who received a Helping Hand were rewarded with an ice-cream sundae party in the gym. Report cards will be sent home with students on March 26th. Grades 3-5 parents will also receive your child's NECAP results from the testing that was done earlier in the year. Congratulations to all students K-5 for all of their hard work so far this school year. You have really made some great gains!

On March 12th, Alton teachers took part in an In-Service day across RSU# 34. The 3rd - 5th grade staff attended the Compass Learning professional training at OTES.

This program has been purchased for the school and will be ready to start using in the classrooms very soon. We are excited to add this computer based component to our daily instruction in the weeks ahead. Teachers in

Kindergarten -2nd grade attended the Fountas & Pinnel training at the Viola Rand School in Bradley. There they learned more about this Literacy program and had a chance to work on the writing prompt scoring for their students. It was a very productive day for all staff.

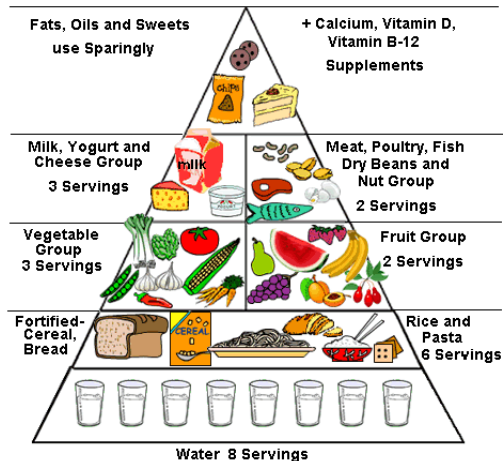
~Mr. Dyer

Kindergarten

March - One of my favorite months! Spring comes and it is Dr. Seuss' birthday!! We have been celebrating all month long! We had a great time on March 2nd for Read Across America Day. Thank you to all those who came in and read to us!! It made our day even more special. We also made green eggs and ham as well as voted for our favorite Dr. Seuss book.

March is also National Nutrition Month. We have been learning all about the food pyramid and how to eat healthier. We have begun the Healthy Snack Challenge. Each day we earn a sticker for bringing in a healthy snack. The students with the most stickers at the end of our Science unit, will receive a movie pass to Spotlight Cinemas. Happy Eating!!

Mrs. Wilcox



Secretary's corner

Welcome to Spring!! I think it came early this year. After a long winter this weeks weather has been very uplifting even with the busy pre summer schedules. I have a few updates and FYI's.

I sent in \$50 worth of box tops earlier this week. Great JOB.. keep sending those box tops in.

I will be sending Cartridges for Kids collections items in next month. If you have any Cell Phones, Game systems, ink cartridges, etc.. please send them in asap!

I am very excited about Amy MacDonald coming. I have been reading some of her books with my children and have found her books to be written with New England humor from a child's point of view. Amy's book are really quite funny and interesting! All the students have had various books of Amy's read to them here at school. Please order one of Amy's books for your child.. you will be happy you did once you get a chance to read them!
www.AmyMacDonald.com

Mrs. Hamilton

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Grades 1st & 2nd

We are blasting through this month of March! In science, we have been researching planets and writing reports. We are challenging ourselves to incorporate some nonfiction features, such as the table of contents, captions, and resources. This has been a wonderful time within our room. The students are not only learning many new facts about their planets but they are creating a book that will share all of those facts with their classmates.

In social studies we are focusing on national and state symbols. We have discussed what these landmarks and items look like, where they are located, and what they stand for. We just finished discussing the Statue of Liberty this week!

In math we just finished up the second trimester test! This assessment took items from the units that we have worked on this year and helped to highlight what the students had retained. The students did a magnificent job! We are currently focusing on fractions and making change within the classroom. We also have been doing daily math problems to help increase our math skills and speed.

Have a great weekend!

Sincerely,



Miss Andrews

Grades 3rd & 4th

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The third and fourth grade class has done a great job in all of their efforts! I am very proud of the good behavior and responsibility this class has been showing!

It is a pleasure for me to hear the fourth grade students say how much they are enjoying math. I think this Math unit is just right for this class. Learning formulas for the area of a parallelogram, square, and triangle can be very difficult and the students have caught on quite well!

The third graders are doing a wonderful job in learning fractions. If they could see that fractions are everywhere, they will understand why we have to work so hard to learn how to read fractions.

Our Literacy block is going well. We have reading groups, word work, and read aloud everyday and it shows how much reading this crew is doing by all the reading logs that are filled out! I am so happy to see those logs full of reading that is done every night for 30 or more minutes. In writing, we are learning how to write poems. Poems are fun and your children are finding that out for themselves!

Our theme work in Science and Social Studies includes building with k'nex and the 2010 census. Our Science Unit is Motion and Design and to learn these concepts we have been experimenting with vehicles built by the students with k'nex. Not only are these young scientists learning, but they are having fun as well!

The 2010 Census is taking place this month and we are learning everything we can about it during our Social Studies time. It is very neat to see young minds take such interest in knowing why the government does the things it does!

Well, I hope everyone gets to enjoy the wonderful weather we are suppose to have this weekend.

Take care,
Mrs. Raye

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Grade 5

March has been a busy month so far in the fifth grade classroom. The students have been practicing their skills in the area of fractions, multiplication and most recently, exponential numbers.

We are continuing our unit on Weather Patterns in Science. We will be completing a hands on activity to simulate cloud formation next week. For our Social Studies/Writing Block we will be creating time-lines, as well as various writing and art projects throughout the remainder of the month. The final project will be displayed at our Academic Night on April 9th here at the school. Parents are encouraged to attend and help create a piece of the project with your child on that night.

At this time, it looks like the Fifth Grade will be taking a mini- field trip to the Leonard Middle School in Old Town on March 29th to watch the 6th graders put on a presentation. There will be other trips to the middle school as well this spring to begin making connections with the staff and students they will be joining in the fall of 2010. The annual Fifth Grade Field Trip is still in the works. I will be sending home information regarding this as we get closer to that date.

Report cards will be coming home with your child next Friday, March 26th. With the report card will also be the results from the NECAP testing that was done in October. If you have any questions regarding the report card or the NECAP results, please contact me here at the school.

Have a great weekend & enjoy the spring weather!

~ Mr. Dyer



From the Librarian's Desk

This month has really gone by fast. We have been reading a lot of books from author Amy MacDonald as she will be visiting our school on the 31st. We have been learning a lot about her and her many books to get ready for her visit. The book club has also began, we have had two meetings so far. Please ask your child if they are in the book club and please encourage them to read at home as well. We will be doing a new book club once we finish our current book (The Family Under the Bridge) I would encourage anyone who wants to read more or just enjoys reading with groups to join up the next time! We do have lots of fun with it. I would also like to thank everyone for donating books to EMMC. We still have children bringing them in and I will make sure they go where they need to! Keep Reading
Thank you

Mrs. Clark

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