

Alton Elementary School

22 Argyle Rd. Alton, Maine 04468

September 18th, 2009

9/28 - Reader's Digest Fundraiser

Order's must be in by Mon. 9/28

10/2 - Picture Day!!!!!!

Bring your Smiles on this day!

10/4-10/10 – Fire Prevention Week

Alton Fire Department will be at our School for their annual Fire Prevention Day at our school.

Principal's message

The new year is in full swing here at Alton Elementary. The students have been very active in their classrooms since we started September 1st. It was great to see parents and students at our annual Open House this past Tuesday. I know the students were busy preparing for this night. The staff here in Alton were also very busy this summer preparing for the students return. As in years past, we offered Kinder-Kamp for our incoming Kindergarten students in August. This three day event allowed those students to engage in classroom routines, explore the school and begin some fun activities that carry through into the school year. We are very excited to share in their enthusiasm and welcome all our new families across all grades to Alton Elementary School!

With the new RSU #34 in place this fall, we are experiencing many new changes in the way we operate. You will notice numerous changes as well in regards to paperwork, our lunch program, medical issues, safety procedures just to name a few. There will also be some changes surrounding various activities, events and programming that is offered to our students. We are very excited with many of these changes, but with change, comes a learning curve for all of us, so we ask that you be patient as we work through some of these challenges together. If you ever have questions or concerns please feel free to contact the office and we will be glad to assist you in any way that we can.

Alton Elementary was fortunate to have added some new faces to the team over the summer. We have a new Ed. Tech/Library Aide, Kristie Clark, who is working in the classrooms as well as providing library services to the students on a weekly basis. Our maintenance crew has grown as well. George Madore now serves as our daily custodian; and we also now share some of the other maintenance crew that works in RSU #34. Together, we were able to make some great improvements to the school over the summer. Flooring projects, lighting work and

overall landscaping issues were all accomplished by the hard work put in by many over the summer months. The school looks great and we thank all those who took part in getting us to where we are now!

Fundraiser materials were sent home earlier in the week. These materials are due back September 28th to your child's classroom teacher.

With colder weather just around the corner, we ask that you please send your child with the necessary clothing for them to go outside. We do go outside daily and a sweatshirt or light jacket is probably needed now.

Alton Elementary is fully aware of the H1N1 virus as well as the "EEE" virus that seems to be a focus on the news as of late. We keep in close contact with the school nurse, CDC and Maine Department of Health. We have been and will continue to monitor any development and necessary action to insure that students are protected from these issues the best we can. We do ask that you also review proper hand washing procedures at home with your child as well. If your child is not feeling well enough to attend school, PLEASE KEEP THEM HOME. We need to have them here at school in good health, so as not to spread whatever symptoms they may be experiencing.

Lastly, please make sure that if you are bringing your child(ren) to school that they are not arriving too early or too late. Students may be dropped off at 7:45, no earlier. It is very important that your child be on time for school as well, to ensure that they can get the most out the school day and not be an interruption when arriving late.

Thanks for all that you do for our school and students!

Mr. Dyer
Principal

Alton Elementary School

Kindergarten

We are half way through the first month of school and Fall is coming soon! We are planning our annual field trip to Treworgy's Apple Orchard. It will be exciting to go on the hayride through the orchard and pumpkin patch.

Our class has been busy making friends and learning how to be kind. We look forward to Friday's to see who gets to go to Lunch Bunch.

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom has become our favorite story! Most of us can recite the book word for word. It has helped us to learn our letters and have a book we can read by ourselves. I am very proud of everyone for their hard work.

Mrs Wilcox

Secretaries corner

We are off to an awesome start to school year 09/10! The year has started off very busy here in the office. All of our paperwork has been updated to reflect our new RSU#34. Along with that are different routines and even people that are new to our school. With that I need to talk about our school lunch program. Hopefully you read all the paperwork that came home with your child over the past few weeks. Our school lunch program is overseen by the Food Service Director of the RSU, Paula Folster. Our lunch menu's are done by Paula and you may have noticed are now nutrition based, with all the nutrients listed on the menu. We have unfortunately had to give up our lunch computer system that tracked lunches for us last year as this program was part of a bigger program that we are no longer using. Lets hope that eventually we are able to find a new system that we can use. Until that time I will again be doing lunch accounts by hand. To make this process easier it would be helpful if you paid your child's lunch on Monday's in advance for the week. When you owe money on your lunch account it makes it so I have to send you a reminder slip. As a parent it is your job to keep track of your child's lunch account. The RSU has asked that people not owe any money for lunch. Please keep this in mind when planning out the week for your child by taking a look at our school menu and deciding what meals your child will be eating and pay accordingly.

Mrs. Hamilton

Grades 1st & 2nd

Dear Friends and Families,

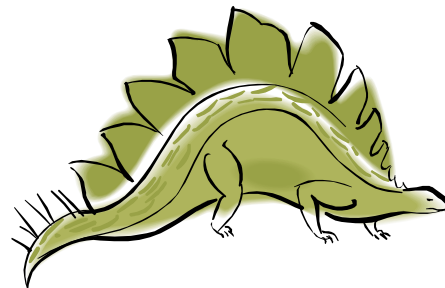
We are off to a great start this year! We've been working incredibly hard to establish kindness and teamwork within the classroom. Over the past few weeks we've had many friends in the Kind Box and some have even received Helping Hands.

We have a new spelling program this year. Over the last two weeks we have been reviewing our names, syllables and alphabetical order. The students had their first spelling test today (Friday) and did an excellent job. This week we focused on blends and clusters. The students are constantly adding to their written vocabulary from our word work and daily practice.

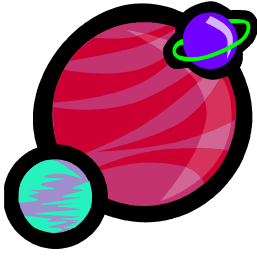
As many of you know, we have been studying dinosaurs in first and second grade. We have a "Dinosaur of the Day" and focus on each dinosaur's diet and features. We are currently finding and making comparisons of these creatures. As a class we are talking about carnivores, herbivores, and omnivores and how to identify each of these dinosaurs. Next week we will be focusing on fossils and skeletons and will wrap up this unit by the end of September.

The students have done an excellent job with their math and reading homework. Thank you for your help at home. Have a great weekend!

Miss Andrews



Alton Elementary School



Grades 3rd & 4th

Dear Parents,

I would like to thank all of you for coming to Open House. I was very happy to see you so involved with your child's academic progress!

These first few weeks we have jumped right into our studies. In Math, third graders have been working on reviewing money, number grids, and addition facts. Fourth graders have been reviewing geometric shapes and are also learning new ways to name a polygon.

Our first Science Unit has been on the Solar System. The whole class teamed up into five different groups, researched a component of the Solar System, made an informational poster, and presented the topic in front of the class. Standing in front of the whole class can be challenging, but they all did very well!

Their Literacy time is spent reading in groups, independently reading, conferencing, and writing about their summer. The beginning of the year always brings assessments and our class has been full speed in this area. I am very proud at the third and fourth graders for being in great spirits when I let them know we are having "another" assessment.

I look forward to having a great year of learning. Also, I feel that the pressures of being independent and responsible will come naturally and not forcefully in the months ahead!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Raye

Miss Saban

"Always be a first-rate version of yourself, instead of a second-rate version of somebody else." --Judy Garland

Grade 5

Whew! What a busy start to the school year. We have been spending a good amount of time over the past two weeks developing new routines and procedures to make our class run as smoothly as possible. With me as both their classroom teacher and their Principal, I am not going to allow them to stray off task for any amount of time this year. My hope is that this will prepare them for Middle School next year. We have built in some class reward systems and goals that we will continue working towards this school year. You can ask your child about the marbles that we can earn each day in the classroom!

We will soon be exiting one unit in math and moving into Unit 2, which deals with the concepts of estimation & computation. We have revisited some previous material and math strategies from last year as a refresher and are now getting pretty good with arrays, factors, divisibility as well as prime and composite numbers from Unit 1.

The class has been learning about the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. This week was set aside as Constitution week by the Maine Dept. of Education. Fifth graders have been working with the Preamble and reciting a play that dictates the Articles of Confederation.

In Science we have just begun a unit on Matter. Next week we will explore some hands on activities that deal with the various changes that matter can go through.

This class appears to have a love for reading as a whole! That's great news, as I will be completing our individual reading assessments next week and then putting students into appropriate groups for our Literacy work. Students are expected to read for at least 25 minutes each night in addition to any homework that may be sent home. Any homework that I give is always a review of what we do in class together and should be in no way unfamiliar or overly time consuming. Planners are also sent home each day and need to be signed and returned in order for your child to get a check for the day. Every Friday, I will "check" the "checks" and students who returned homework and signed planners will receive a "Dyer Buck" which can be used for various incentives.

Have a great weekend!
Mr. Dyer

Alton Elementary School

Important Information Regarding Flu Season

Flu season is among us so it is a good time to review information about influenza, better known as “the flu”. Influenza is a respiratory illness that causes such things as fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, and less commonly, diarrhea or vomiting. It can last 1 -2 weeks. Because “the flu” can easily be passed on to others, it is important to follow these guidelines for school:

Students with a fever of 100 degrees or greater and sore throat or cough need to remain home from school until the fever is gone for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing drugs such as medication containing Tylenol (acetaminophen) or Motrin (ibuprofen).

Here are some ways to protect your family:

- Check your children/self every morning for these signs of illness before coming to school
- Don't send children who are sick to school. Keep them at home. It is important to notify your child's school secretary as soon as possible if he/she has any of the above symptoms.
- Teach your children to wash hands often with soap and water for 30 seconds especially before eating, after using the bathroom, after coughing or sneezing, and when they are visibly soiled. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Teach your children to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or by coughing or sneezing into the inside of the elbow.
- People who are sick should avoid other people until they are better and not attend activities.
- Avoid touching the eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.

If you have any question, you may call Mrs. Costello, R.N. our school nurse at 394-2331 or 827-1544 ext. 308.



Alton Elementary School