

ALTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

22 ARGYLE ROAD, ALTON, ME 04468 394-2331

September 23th, 2011

9/19-10/6th - Yankee Candle Fundraiser

Order's must be in by Thurs. 10/6

9/29 - K, 1st & 2nd - Field Trip

Treworgy's Apple Orchard

10/7 - Picture Day!!!!!!

Bring your Smiles on this day!

Principal's message

The 2011-12 school year is in full swing here at Alton Elementary. The students have been very active in their classrooms since we started the school year September 6th.

It was great to see so many parents and students at our annual Open House on Monday. 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 important 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 AES!

With the start of another year, comes all the paperwork associated with it. I would ask that you please help us by returning any necessary paperwork to us in a timely manner so that we can get data entered into our system. 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 a new face to the team over the summer. We have a new Ed. Tech/Library Aide, Amy Peabody, who will be providing library services to the students of Alton on a weekly basis. Amy has worked for some time in the Old Town School and brings with her some wonderful skills and enthusiasm that will enhance the library experience for all of our students. We are extremely pleased to have her on board.

10/9-10/15 - Fire Prevention Week



We were able to make some great improvements to the school over the summer. Flooring projects 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!

Alton is now offering an After School Program run by the YMCA in Old Town. The students stay here on site each day and have the opportunity to take part in physical activities, get help with homework and do some arts and crafts. The program runs daily and has a flexible schedule that you can create, that works for you! If interested, please see the office for more information.

Fundraiser materials were sent home earlier in the week. These materials are due back October 6th to your child's classroom teacher.

With Flu season just around the corner We do ask that you review proper hand washing procedures at home with your child. 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 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. Any student who arrives after the 8:10 bell will be marked as tardy.

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

Mr. Dyer
Principal



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Kindergarten

The first few weeks of Kindergarten have been so busy! We started the year off with a great unit on my favorite children's book: Chicka Chicka Boom Boom. Most of us have learned all of our letters already! Make sure you ask your Kindergartener to sing the Chicka song to you. We had a lot of fun with that.

This week we focused on friends being alike and different. We shared Me Posters and Me Mobiles. We learned a lot about each other.

Next week we begin our science unit on Apples. We will be going to Treworgy's Apple Orchard and making homemade applesauce. Other activities will be graphing, tasting, and a few art projects.

In Math we are on our way to the 100th day! We started keeping track day 1. We are all excited to get our paper chain up to 100 links!

Mrs Wilcox



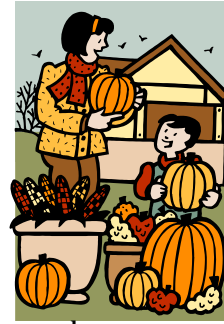
Secretaries corner

We are off to an awesome start to school year 11/12! The year has started off very busy here in the office. Believe it or not we've only been in school for 14 days now. We still have 162 more to go! Hopefully we've all fallen into a good routine that can be followed the rest of our school year.

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. As always you can call the office anytime if you have any questions.

If your child is going to be absent, please call the office in the morning so that we can excuse them from school. Also, please report any communicable illnesses to our office.

Thank you!!!
Mrs. Hamilton



Grades 1st & 2nd

Dear families and friends,

We have had a great start to first and second grade. We have been practicing many skills from last year and learning new things too. We have also started reading groups within the classroom and new books should be coming home every other day. Please make sure to check folders and bring books back daily.

We really enjoyed our Community Helper volunteers and visitors. Thank you to Josh D'Angelo (state trooper), Bob Duchesne (Maine bird watching presentation) and Tony Lagasse (firefighter) for sharing your careers and hobbies with us! We had a great time listening and learning from you.

In science we have ventured into the forest and have begun our fall life cycle unit. In class we will be doing leaf rubbings, classifications and experiments. We also will be building and painting bird houses for the school soon. If you would like to volunteer to help please let me know.

In math had our first test! The class did a great job. We will continue to review concepts from Unit 1 this year. In first grade we will be exploring time/money and in second grade we will be doing double facts/measurements. The class has done an exceptional job with their homework this year. Thank you for your continued support at home! Have a wonderful weekend!

Miss Andrews

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GRADES 3 & 4

With the official arrival of Fall this morning, the students seem to be "falling into a routine" again.

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

Our first Science Unit has been on Rocks and Minerals. The whole class has created some great replicas of sedimentary rocks and will soon be creating volcanoes as we explore igneous rock types. All of their research and writing is documented in our Science Notebooks that we will compile throughout the school year.

Their Literacy time is spent reading in groups, independently reading, conferencing, and writing about various topics. This class appears to have a love for reading. That's great news! In the coming weeks you will be receiving information regarding the reading expectations for them for this school year. Students will be expected to read each night in addition to any homework that will be sent home as part of their homework.

The beginning of the year always brings assessments and our class has done plenty of this so far. The fall NWEAS (Northwest Evaluation Assessments) are being given to your child this week and we are gearing up for the NECAP (New England Common Assessment) that will be administered the first week in October.

We have built in some class reward systems and goals that we will continue working towards this school year. Please look for your child's "Weekly Progress Note" in their folder each

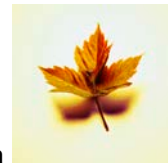
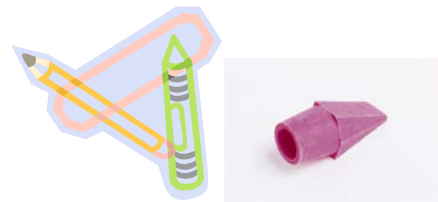
Friday, which will highlight their week in the classroom for you to review with them.

I look forward to having a great year of learning with your child!

**On a side note... prizes for our prize-box, tissues and basic classroom supplies (pencils, erasers etc.) are always welcomed if you are able to send any in.

Thanks for all your help,

Mr. Dyer



Miss Saban

Welcome back!! The year is off to a wonderful start. Here's a little rhyme to welcome the Fall.

"Come," said the Wind to the Leaves one day.

"Come over the meadow and we will play. Put on your dresses of red and gold.

For summer is gone and the days grow cold."

--Unknown

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Miss Dawson



Hello to everyone in Alton! I am a new member of the school community. My name is Dorothy Dawson.

I have the great pleasure of being an Ed. Tech. for Chapter 104 services in Alton, Bradley and Old Town elementary schools.

Part of my job is to provide small group activities and individual instruction for students who need material beyond the curriculum. Another large part of my job is to provide school wide enrichment opportunities for all grades. Lots of jargon there, all to say: I'm going to be in Alton every Tuesday doing fun things with the students. For example, we plan on starting up a LEGO robotics club

(more on that topic very soon). Other things that will be in place soon include foreign language learning (such as Rosetta Stone), extended math exposure, and worldwide arts and culture experiential opportunities.

All of these activities are in addition to the core curriculum, where time and interest permits. My goal is to satisfy the natural curiosity of the children. Is it an impossible goal?

Let's find out: allons-y!

Miss Dawson

Fundraiser Updates

Box Tops for Education:

www.boxtops4education.com

We just submitted \$105 worth of Box Tops to Box Tops for Education with Kendra Sanborn's help! She very kindly has offered again this year to count box tops for us! These box tops were collected since last Spring and over this Summer. Just 10 box tops is a dollar for our school and they really do add up. Keep Collecting!!!!

Hannaford Help Kids:

When you shop at Hannaford you receive money vouchers on your receipt that can be given by you to local schools. Please bring/send these in to school or they can be put in the tower at Hannaford in the Alton Elementary Slot!

Campbell's Labels for Education

www.Labelsforeducation.com

These UPC's with the Campbell soup man beside it are the part we collect. Currently we have 2,728 points banked in our account. I have another 2,767 points that I'm mailing out next week. I'm going to continue banking points until we have enough to purchase one of the bigger items that points can buy for our school!

CFK (Cartridges for Kids)

Recycling Program

Items can be dropped off at the school ie. Cell phones, digital cameras, PDA's, InkJet Cartridges, Laptops, GPS devices Game Systems, ipods, dvd's.