

AITKEN TO KNOW

A Newsletter for parents, teachers and students at Aitken School

The mission of Mildred H. Aitken School, in partnership with children and families, is to maintain a safe, nurturing environment in which responsibility, mutual respect and high academic standards are achieved.

DATES TO REMEMBER

August

08/30 First Day grades 1-5

08/31 Kindergarten

Orientation & Open

House 11:30 - 1:00

08/31 Pre-School Open House

9:30 & 1:00

September

09/01 First day of

Kindergarten & Pre-

School Orientation

09/05 No School Labor Day

09/08 Open House for

Parents AND

Students in Gr. 1-5

at 6:30 P.M.

09/16 Family Bingo 6:30 - 7:30

09/22 Aitken PTO meeting

6:30-7:30 pm

09/23 Walk-a-thon

09/27 Blood Drive 3-7 pm

Aitken Gym

October

10/01 Pumpkin Somethin'

10/04 Picture Day

10/06 RIF Free Book Day

10/07 Early Release 12:45

10/10 No School Columbus Day

10/19 Early Release 12:45

10/20 Early Release 12:45

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

Welcome! The staff of the Mildred H. Aitken School welcomes you and your child to the 2016-17 school year! We are all very eager and definitely ready to launch into another exciting year at Aitken School.

Aitken Website

Please check out our website including our calendar of events and put us on your list of favorites! Many teachers also have pages on the website.

aes.seekonk.sharpschool.com

NEW - Aitkentoknow.com is now live! This year we are introducing another way to stay connected and on top of things at Aitken School.

There will be a blog which will include weekly updates and reminders to keep you informed as well as an archive of Aitken to Knows! Please make this site a favorite.

Aitken PTO

The Aitken Parent Teacher Organization is an integral part of the success of Aitken School. There are monthly meetings and numerous opportunities throughout the year to become involved in your child's school. The PTO is not a club and there are no fees. It is simply a great organization where you will learn more about our school's programs and help support your child's school as well. The first meeting is on September 22 and it will begin promptly at 6:30 PM and end at 7:30 PM. Child care by the Seekonk High School Key Club is available in the gym. Hope to see you there!



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL CONTINUED

Aitken School Council

The Aitken School Council assists the principal in 1) adopting educational goals for the school, 2) reviewing the annual school building budget, 3) formulating a School Improvement Plan and 4) doing tasks which the Seekonk School Committee may determine. Council members are elected to 2-year terms and the meetings are open to the public. Currently there is currently one opening with the incumbent running for reelection. The Aitken School Council will meet at 3:10 PM on Tuesdays, Oct.4, 2016, Nov. 15, 2016, Jan. 10, 2017, Mar. 21, 2017 and May 9, 2017. An election will be held at the first PTO meeting, September 22 at 6:30 PM. If you are also interested in being on the ballot, please let me know.

Student Arrival & Dismissal Information

Students should arrive at school between 8:45-9:00 A.M. There is no supervision before 8:45 when students are allowed to enter the school. Please be mindful of other drivers and children during student drop-off and pick-up. If you are parking in the lot by the round library, you need to either pull into a parking space or pull against the curb in the parking lot by the basketball court. Students in grades preK-3 should enter through the left rear door of the school by the basketball courts and students in grades 4-5 should enter through the right rear door entrance by Rye Street. Dismissal is at 3:05 PM. Students are dismissed out of the same doors at the end of the day. As in the morning, there is no supervision of the playground after 3:05 PM and therefore, walkers must go home at the close of school.

School Lunch & Milk

The price of school lunch has increased this year. The cost is \$2.75 which includes milk. Milk purchased separately is \$.50.

Our doors are always open to you. Please don't hesitate to speak with your child's teacher or me if you have any questions or concerns (508-336- 5230). We look forward to a great year!

Yours truly,
Nancy Gagliardi
Principal



Aitken Rockets Reach for the stars!

P.E. NEWS



PHYSICAL EDUCATION AT AITKEN MEANS MOVEMENT FUN FOR EVERYONE

by Mr. Queenan

“SWEAT AND SMILES”

Welcome Back To School!!

Remember that is important for all students to wear sneakers for physical education. It is not safe to have open toe wear or no ankle support while doing activities.

The first and second grades are going to learn a variety of movement concepts. They will explore how their body moves and travels through space.

The upper grades will build their team work skills during games and activities. Sportsmanship and respect for each other are important to every students success in Physical Education. Small and large groups will be given different challenges that encourage cooperation and a team effort.

The Physical Education Curriculum that Aitken uses is EPEC (Exemplary Physical Education Curriculum). It encompasses all grade level skills such as: Locomotor Skills, Object - Control Skills, Knowledge, Activity, Fitness, and Personal/Social Skills. Each class will have grade level assessments that pertain to each skill.

FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE

It's that time of year again.....welcome back to all of the students and families from the office of your Aitken school nurse- Laurie Soares. Hoping that you all experienced a fun, rejuvenating, and healthy summer. In the first few weeks of the 2016-2017 school year there are a few items in regards to health records that are important to please remember:

Health forms are being sent home the first week of school

Please return health forms as quickly as possible. One of the forms that you will need to return is the over the counter medication protocol form which gives me the ability with your permission to administer Tylenol, Motrin, and hydrocortisone cream on their summer bug bites

Students who have prescription medications to be administered during the school day- a form which acts as the doctor's order will need to be signed by the student's physician who is ordering the medication. The medication needs to be brought to school in it's original prescription bottle with the pharmacy label attached displaying the correct dosage amount and administration instructions. Without all of the required information, I cannot administer the medication to your child

The same goes for inhalers and Epi pens. Please have the forms completed by the ordering physician and return them with the medications as soon as possible. Medications will need to be brought to school by a parent, not the student.

The start of the school year can still be warm and humid. Keeping the students hydrated is important for their performance in school and overall well being. You may still want to apply sun block before school as the sun may still be shining bright in September.....although recess isn't long they will be exposed to the sun....

Please do not hesitate to call me with any questions or concerns that you feel need attention while your child is at school- 508-336- 5230. I am looking forward to a healthy school year with you and your children.

Laurie Soares, RN, BSN
Aitken Elementary school nurse



EASING THE TRANSITION TO SCHOOL – HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS FOR PARENTS

By, Tara Haggerty

Transitioning students back to school after a fun summer vacation can be a challenge for parents. Some children become worried about the upcoming year, nervous about the workload, or sad that they will not be able to spend as much time with their families.

Here are some ideas that may ease the back to school transition:

1. Routines – Having a consistent school week routine allows the child to have a sense of security of what to expect during the week. It is especially important to establish a regular homework and bedtime routine. Being prepared for the next day at school may alleviate any feelings of nervousness. When children get enough sleep, they are better able to cope with feelings of anxiety or worry.
2. Ask your child about their day – Get to know their school routine so you can remind them of what to expect during the next school day. This also sends a message that school is important.
3. Find friendly faces. - If your child can identify a friend to enter the school with, they are more likely to have a positive transition into the classroom.
4. Prepare for school together – Let your child take charge in what they need for the next day. This will build confidence.
5. Plan ahead and arrive on time for school – Rushing around in the morning will often times lead to feelings of nervousness and sets a negative tone for the day.
6. Find a quick special way to say goodbye - This is a good way to reassure your child. Just be sure to keep it quick.
7. Allow your child to bring a small transition item to school- Just make sure it is not going to be a distraction for the day.
8. Be positive – Children often times feed off of what their parents are feeling. When your child expresses negative feelings about school, encourage them to point out the positives (friends, after school activities, subjects they enjoy).



DIFFERENTIATION WITH MRS. MANICKAS



Welcome Back! I hope you had a relaxing and wonderful summer. The students are settling into new routines and reviewing important concepts from last year.

“Every child has a different learning style and pace. Each child is unique, not only capable of learning but also capable of succeeding”
By Robert John Meehan

At the beginning of the school year, I will be working in classrooms and getting to know the students. Soon, the teachers and I will be forming groups of students to receive differentiated instruction. Many students benefitted from differentiation last year and I am looking forward to this year. Each month, I will share with the Aitken community what is happening in the differentiation groups. If you have any questions about differentiation, please do not hesitate to contact me by email or phoning the school. My email address is:
manickasb@seekonkschools.org.

FROM THE ART ROOM

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It's hard to believe it , but it's that time of the year again - the beginning of a new school year and new art adventures!

Welcome back! My name is Ms. Walsh and I will be your students' art teacher. There is a lot of excitement approaching us as we think about new art activities and lessons we will create this year! There always seems to be new materials to use and new concepts to master and I look forward to you sharing all these wonderful things with you!

Parents, I wanted to take the time to thank you for allowing me to work with our Aitken students each week. I remember my excitement, as an elementary student walking into the art room was one of the best parts of my day! We will need to work together as a team! It is your enthusiasm, support and involvement that inspire our students to do and try their best. Together we're all going to have a fantastic year!

During open house I will have a sign up sheet for parents emails for volunteers. I don't always need the help, but when we do clay or Creative Awareness it would be fantastic to have some helping hands.

During the first weeks of art we will be creating a portfolios to store our artwork. The last day of art class we will be bringing these home to share! I'm hoping to send artwork home more frequently this year.

Please contact me at anytime if you have questions, comments, or concerns by e-mail walshm@seekonkschools.org or call me at school my extension is 5115. You can take the time to visit my webpage throughout the year that can be found on our district website under our Aitken school homepage.

Thank you for your commitment to your child's art education and success and I look forward to getting to know you and our art students!

Sincerely,
Ms. Walsh



A NEW START



Here we are at the beginning of a new academic year. Classroom routines are beginning. There are higher expectations and more involved concepts to master. Here are some tips to support your child's reading so that they can get off to a strong start-

How to help- Providing a quiet space at home free of distractions is ideal. This could be anywhere in your house. The most important factor may be comfort. Who likes to read sitting in a hard chair at a desk? That's great for written homework, but reading is a completely different activity. Also, being comfortable while you read will make it more enjoyable and that's a great way to encourage a child.

Where -Nothing fancy is needed. The bed, couch, rocking chair, any place that your child likes to be is probably the perfect setting for reading a book. If your house is not typically quiet and there aren't a lot of options for getting away from the noise, headphones are helpful. Just wearing them unplugged, to dull outside noise works well.

What - There are so many options. Reading material could include, story books, chapter books, informational books, magazine articles, comic books, e-books, etc. Choices depend in large part on the goal. For example, if you're aiming for your child to simply read more and like it, then it's all about finding something they like. If it's for an assignment and you need to find a book on a particular topic, then finding an age-appropriate book at your child's reading level may best be done with the help of the children's librarian at the public library, the school librarian, or the classroom teacher.

How to read - Likewise, how to read the book once you've gotten it varies as well. Reading a book for enjoyment can be shared. For example, taking turns reading chapters and talking about the characters and events together is a wonderful, positive experience. Also, letting your child read aloud to you can boost confidence. On the other hand, if the reading is for learning information, then guidance is better than sharing. For example, reading small portions aloud to someone and deciding together what seems most important might be a better method.

Who - No matter the situation, always remember that your best resource is your child(ren)'s teacher. They can help with ideas and suggestions. We also wouldn't want you to forget that we are more than happy to help as well. As Reading Recovery teachers, the Reading Specialist, and the Differentiation Teacher, we have some tricks up our sleeves, too! Let's work together and get everyone off to a strong start.

Joanna Rioux
Reading Recovery &
Reading Specialist
riouxj@seekonkschools.org

Lynn Owens
Reading Recovery &
Differentiation Teacher
owensl@seekonkschools.org

IN THE LIBRARY WITH MRS. LAMAR

Ever wonder how many books are checked out of the Aitken School library? Here are the statistics for the 2015-2016 school year:

September: 1,515
October: 1,520
November: 1,267
December: 1,063
January: 1,306
February: 1,167
March: 1,156
April: 928
May: 1,036



That's 10,968 books! Way to go Aitken students!

Here are some of the books that Aitken students put in the Awesome Box this month:

Ghost Town at Sundown by Mary Pope Osbourne
1 Zany Zoo by Lori Degman
Poppleton and Friends by Cynthia Rylant
Kids Cook 1-2- 3 by Rozanne Gold
The U.S. Army by Mary K. Pratt
Scottish Fold Cats by Meredith Dash

Have a wonderful summer, I look forward to seeing everyone in September!

