



# Aitken To Know



A Newsletter for parents, staff and students at Aitken School

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

Welcome October! We've had an excellent beginning to the year and look forward to a fun, learning-filled autumn! ☺



### Pumpkin Somethin'

Thank you to all of you that made Pumpkin Somethin' such a great success! The planning for this immense fair begins almost as soon as the previous one ends and the dedication of these volunteers is greatly appreciated. It does take a community, so thank you to all of the volunteers that worked during the months of August and September and on the day of the event.

### Student Picture Day

Student picture day is on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Chestnut Hill Studios is the photographer this year.

### PTO Meeting – October 4 – 6:30-7:30 PM – childcare available

The next PTO meeting is scheduled for October 4. It was great to see so many new faces at September's meeting and we hope more can become involved in this meaningful organization that truly benefits students. We hope you can join us! There will be childcare available in the Aitken gym thanks to our Key Club high school student volunteers!

### Early Release & No School

On Friday, October 6, students in kindergarten – grade 5 will be released at 12:45. There will be no afternoon preschool. A staff professional development afternoon is scheduled on this day. Columbus Day is on October 9 and school will be closed on this day. Hope you have a fun-filled long weekend!

### Open House

Thank you for coming to our annual Open House and learning about your student's classroom and school. Please remember that that was just the beginning of our home-school communication for the school year. Each month you will receive a classroom newsletter as well as this school-wide newsletter to keep you informed.

### Weekly emails

You will automatically receive the weekly emailed Aitken Update if you included an email address on your student data form. If you are not receiving an email from me, please let me know so I can add you to the group.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### OCTOBER 2017

- 10/03 - Student Picture Day  
Aitken School Council 3:15
- 10/04 - PTO Meeting 6:30
- 10/06 - Early Release 12:45 No PM Pre-School
- 10/09 - Columbus Day - No School
- 10/13 - Bingo 6:30
- 10/20 - RIF Free Book Day
- 10/22 - 10/28 - RIF Reading Challenge
- 10/25 - Early Release 12:45 No PM Pre-School
- 10/26 - Early Release 12:45 No PM Pre-School
- 10/27 - Flames of Fall
- 10/31 - Preschool & Kindergarten  
Halloween Parades



### NOVEMBER 2017

- 11/01 - PTO Meeting 6:30 PM
- 11/05 - FALL BACK - Change your clocks!
- 11/10 - Veteran's Day - No School
- 11/14 - Aitken School Council 3:15  
Book Fair Day and Family Night
- 11/15 - Book Fair
- 11/22 - Early Release Day
- 11/23 - Thanksgiving - No School
- 11/24 - No School (Thanksgiving Break)
- 11/28 - End of First Trimester

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL CONTINUED

### [Aitkentoknow.com](http://aitkentoknow.com)

Stay connected and on top of things at Aitken School. There is a blog which will include my Weekly Updates and reminders as well as an archive of Aitken to Knows! Please make this site a favorite.

### Parent – Teacher Conferences – Oct. 25 & 26

Parent teacher conferences are scheduled for students in preschool - grade 5 for the afternoons of Oct. 25 & 26 as well as the evening on Thursday Oct. 26. Oct. 25 & 26 will be early release days for students in grades K-5. Students will be dismissed at 12:45 (the same time as the day before Thanksgiving.)

**Morning preschool will be dismissed at their usual time and there will be NO AFTERNOON PRESCHOOL.**

### Bus Evacuation Drill

Our first bus evacuation drill will be conducted during October for all students. It is one of three bus safety programs that are held during the year.

### Fire and Lockdown Drills

On August 31, the students participated in a fire drill conducted by the Seekonk Fire Department. The school was totally evacuated in a just over one minute and the students were awesome in the drill that they had previously practiced with their teachers.

In coordination with the Seekonk Police, the students and staff will practice at least one lockdown drill during this school year. This drill has already been practiced in each classroom.

As with all drills that we do during the school year, practice, consistency and repetition are necessary so that we can be prepared in the event of an emergency.

### Flames of Fall – Friday, Oct. 27 - 6-8 PM

This is an evening PTO event that you will not want to miss! It is spectacular!

### Kindergarten & Preschool Halloween Parades

The kindergarten and preschool Halloween parades are scheduled for October 31<sup>st</sup>. Kindergarten and preschool parents are invited to watch the children parade around the classrooms in the school.

### Volunteers and CORI Checks

Just a reminder, all school and PTO volunteers, must have a CORI check completed prior to chaperoning or volunteering. You come to Aitken School to request a CORI check.

The school year is now well underway and exciting things are happening in every room at Aitken. We look forward to your involvement in your child's education and always feel free to call or drop by if you have any questions, concerns and/or suggestions.

Yours truly,  
Nancy Gagliardi  
Principal

## PTO SPOTLIGHT

Happy Fall Everyone!

**Family Bingo Night** is Friday the 13th at 6:30 pm! Try your luck to win a prize with the family in the school cafeteria!

**RIF Free book distribution** will be held Friday, October 20th. This will also kick off the **Reading Challenge** that runs from October 22nd to October 28th. The top reader in each grade will win a prize!

**United Skates Halloween Party** skating fun for the family on October 23rd. Flyer with details will be coming home soon!

**Flames of Fall** will be happening on Friday, October 27th. This is a great family event where you can have stroll Aitken's very own jack o'lantern spectacular while enjoying a few delicious fall treats. If you love to carve pumpkins you're welcome to display them alongside the student's pumpkins for that evening! Keep an eye out for details going out about this event.

Lastly, **Accelerated Reader (AR)** has officially kicked off and our first prizes will be awarded by October 10th.

Updates on previous event:

**Back to School Bash:** THANK YOU to everyone who donated items and who came out for the afternoon! Everyone had a great time and we look forward to hosting it again next year!

**Pumpkin' Somethin':** By the time this newsletter gets out, the event will have just passed. As always though, thank you to everyone who volunteered by working the event, donated for the raffle baskets or donated baked good.

If you have any questions or comments please email us at [aitkenpto@gmail.com](mailto:aitkenpto@gmail.com).

We are also on Facebook @aitkenpto and visit our site [aitkentoknow.com](http://aitkentoknow.com) for updates as well.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Wednesday, October 4th at 6:30 p.m. in the school library, babysitting provided.  
November's meeting will be held on the 1st so save the date!

## P.E. NEWS

### AT AITKEN MEANS MOVEMENT FUN FOR EVERYONE

by Mr. Queenan



### “SWEAT AND SMILES”

In Pre-K and Kindergarten the students are learning the names of each body parts and how they move. They are practicing identifying them during different games. Each grade will be starting Aerobic fitness lessons, which is a progression of time starting at one minute and gradually increasing. The Aerobic Fitness Concept is to sustain exercise at a moderately high intensity for a certain amount of minutes. Nutrition with loco motor skills is also being reviewed in grades 1-5. The Nutrition Concept is to increase familiarity with all the food groups. Students identify the colors of each food group and practice a skill like skipping, hopping, etc.

Students are reminded to wear their sneakers to physical education class for their safety and others. The students can bring in their sneakers in a bag and bring them to class if they have other footwear because of the rain or cold weather coming.



## FROM THE TECHNOLOGY DESK

We are off to a great start! Students in grades 2-5 worked on rules to keep themselves safe while on the Internet. The younger students and I discussed the difference between Private and Personal Information and some rules to remember when they encounter someone/website asking for Private information on the Internet. I also gave them some really cool websites that are fun, exciting, and completely safe. The overall favorite, [explore.org](http://explore.org).

The older students also had lessons on digital safety but geared more toward “Digital Footprint”. Digital footprints are being left by children at a very young age. My hope is that they understand the need to, “think before you post”!

We will cover this topic again during Digital Safety Week later in the year, I think it is that important to expand on this topic often.

Quite a few of our students are already using cell-phones, monitoring your student’s usage is a sure way to keep them safe. There are also Apps for phones and tablets to monitor activity. Please check the history on your computer too! For more cell phone safety, please visit [tigermobiles.com](http://tigermobiles.com). I have shared the following link before but it is worth sharing again, for more information on protecting privacy visit, [comparitech.com](http://comparitech.com). Finally, all social media has privacy settings, if you need assistance please contact me and I will be happy to forward some information.

This month I am working closely with the classroom teachers as the students and I create, communicate, and collaborate using Google.

*Mrs. Keough*

[keoughk@seekonkschools.org](mailto:keoughk@seekonkschools.org)

<http://seekonktechintegration.weebly.com/>

### VOLUNTEER NEEDED!

The PBIS Committee is in search of a volunteer who has experience with carpentry or a handyman/women. We have constructed new PBIS Rockets to hold our yellow tickets earned in each grade level. To date, the rockets are not attached to anything and they easily tip over. We are hoping this volunteer would be able to secure these rockets in some way. Please email [benevidesj@seekonkschools.org](mailto:benevidesj@seekonkschools.org) for more details.

Thank You  
PBIS Committee



## FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE

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Welcome back students and parents....

This time of year is so much fun with the return of the students to school and getting in the mood for all of the fall festivities and changes in the weather. The fall is also the time when students might catch a bug, spread germs, and feel a bit of anxiety with the return to school. The nurse's office is an extremely busy place at the beginning of the school year for multiple reasons. A few reminders and updates as the school year begins.

I would like for you to check out the school's webpage- [aes.seekonk.sharpschool.com](http://aes.seekonk.sharpschool.com) as I will post information in the nurse section on some health updates and information on school medical record requirements. Not everyone has access to a computer so information/ updates that require your attention will not be posted there. Click on staff directory then locate Mrs Soares. There are health forms for physicians for annual record updates that can be printed from this site. The allergy, asthma, and seizure action plans are posted for parents to print at their convenience.

I will begin vision and hearing testing this month. My goal is to be done by Christmas break. I'm shooting for the stars with this one.... This year I will have some assistance from a nurse by the name of Kathryn Lavall, RN, who is the daughter of one of our 1 st grade teachers- Mrs Ahern. A heartfelt thank you to Mrs Ahern and Kathryn as the screening process is very time consuming. Kathryn has begun her training with me this week. We will be visiting the classrooms as well as students will be coming to the nurse's office for their screenings. I will keep you posted on our progress.

The Aitken blood drive that was held in our gym on September 12 th was a huge success. 25 units of blood were donated that afternoon which is AWESOME! That donation alone will help to save 75 lives. Thank you to all of you that took the time out of your busy day to be a hero and give of yourself. The next blood drive will be held on January 9 th from 3-7pm in our gym. More to come.....

I will continue to reinforce our policy on fevers and students attending school. If your child is sent home with a fever they will need to be home at least the next school day (M-Thur school days) or 24hrs after the fever breaks. Please reinforce good hand washing after the restroom is used and prior to meals. Also keeping hands out of their mouths will help to prevent the spread of infection. Please call me at 336-5230 if you have any questions, concerns, or doubts about whether or not you should send your child to school when they are presenting with an illness at home.

Requests for medical forms such as immunization records, annual physical exams are required by the department of health to be updated in all of the student's school health records. Please make every effort to supply the school nurse with the requested forms ASAP as it makes record keeping so much easier and of course I want our student's medical records 100% up to date and compliant.

Last, but not least.....please always know that I am available to you for any health related questions or concerns that you may have during the school year. I am typically in my office daily around 8:15AM. The health and safety of our students, and your children, is my priority here at Aitken Elementary School. Please DON'T ever hesitate to reach out to me. I can promise you that I will reach out to you if there is a concern with your child. HAPPY SAFE AND HEALTHY FALL!!!!

Laurie Soares, RN, BSN  
Aitken Elementary school nurse

**THE AITKEN ROCKETS  
SAFE, RESPECTFUL AND  
RESPONSIBLE**  
By, Tara Haggerty

At Aitken School, we encourage our students to demonstrate good choices and a positive attitude. To align the students with the school's expectations, a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program called the Aitken Rockets is in place. This approach teaches and establishes clear behavioral and academic expectations throughout the school setting in a positive manner. Students are also recognized for positive behavior throughout the day by earning raffle tickets when they are "caught" engaging in Aitken Rocket behavior.

It has been decided that the three expectations for our students and staff are: Safe, Respectful and Responsible. Teachers and staff throughout the school year will teach specific expectations required from the hallway, to the cafeteria, at recess as well as on the bus. By creating a common language and reinforcing expected behaviors, it is hopeful that we will continue to foster a supportive learning environment and positive school climate.



**\*Be Safe**



**\*Be Respectful**



**\*Be Responsible**

**OCTOBER DIFFERENTIATION NEWS**  
Mrs. Manickas

A lot of differentiation is happening at Aitken School. If you have any questions about what is going on with differentiation, please contact me at (508) 336-5230 or email me at manickasb@seekonkschools.org.

Grade 2: The second graders are practicing money skills. Counting money and solving real-world problems are essential skills all students must master.

Grade 3: The third grade groups are practicing time skills. After reviewing last year's skills, the students will be practicing elapsed time. They will create timelines of their day and calculate time between activities.

Grade 4: In Mrs. Ward-Smith's class, I am reinforcing place value and number sense skills. What BIG numbers the students are using!!

Grade 5: In fifth grade, I am pre-teaching skills for Unit 1 in Everyday Math. Also, the students are reviewing multiplication facts, place value and number sense skills.

**FALL INTO READING**

From your Reading Teachers: Lynn Owens and Joanna Rioux

Fall is a wonderful time of year to get started on a good reading routine. As your family adjusts to their new school schedule, make sure to include reading time each day. You and your child can sit down and decide together what a good time would be. It may be easier to pick a time that is the same every day. For example, maybe right after dinner or before bed would work best.

If possible, try to make it a time where you can sit with your child as he or she reads. Reading can be a wonderful family activity. You should be having conversations at home about what your child is reading. When your son or daughter picks up a book, ask what they think the story might be about. While they are reading, ask them what has happened so far in the story and what they think will happen next. Before he or she finishes the book, ask how they think the story might end. When the book is finished have your child tell you a few things that happened in the story or what their favorite part was. These quick and simple conversations will help your child with predicting, summarizing, retelling and comprehension skills. Your child should be reading every night. After all, the only way to become a good reader is to read!!



## FROM THE ART ROOM WITH MRS. GLUM

Hello! My name is Mrs. Glum and I am the new art teacher at Aitken Elementary School. I am so excited to be working in this wonderful school community with your little artists! I would like to give a hearty thank you to all the amazing parents who came out to the open house on September 6th. It was a great welcome to the school, and I loved the opportunity to discuss our goals in the art program this year. Some of the most exciting news about the art program is that it is now a full year program! Ms. Walsh has moved to Martin school where she will run a full year program there. It is an exciting time for the arts in Seekonk schools!



In the last month, we have worked collaboratively on artwork for International Dot Day. International Dot Day celebrates the book 'The Dot' written by Peter Reynolds, a story that celebrates creating art. Every student created a unique dot based on different art elements which were hung up throughout the art corridor. It was a great success, as both staff and students came to school decked out in their best dots. Thank you so much to all who participated!

Looking forward to October, our artists will be busy! Pre-K will be studying and practicing their basic shapes while Kindergarten will be using their knowledge of shapes and lines to create collages. First grade will be creating texture monsters through crayon rubbing, drawing, and collage materials based on the book Where the Wild Things Are. Second grade just finished their Matisse Masterpieces using both geometric and organic shapes. October will be landscape study with scale and depth. Third grade begins their STEAM project of creating a robot while talking about the importance of the arts in engineering. Fourth grade are combining their social studies lessons for a drawing project based on cartology. They will be making maps of imaginary places using the elements of map reading. Lastly, our fifth graders will be creating animal sculptures based on their studies in social studies of the Aztec people of Mexico.

I look forward to a fun and creative year with the students of Aitken school. I will be keeping the majority of artwork throughout the year for a portfolio as well as the end of year art show. I encourage all parents to attend the parent teacher conferences where you can see the art they are working on until then. Thank You!



## AN ARTICLE OF INTEREST Shared with you by Karen Cicatiello, School Psychologist

Welcome back!! I hope that everyone had a great summer. This year I will have a school psychologist intern working with me two days per week. Her name is Jennifer Rivera and she is completing her Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies degree in School Psychology at Rhode Island College. Jennifer will be with us for the entire school year.

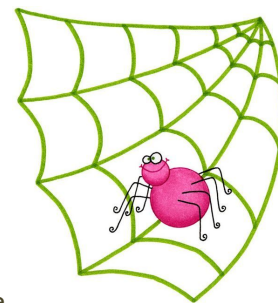
I will be posting monthly newsletter articles online as in previous years. This month's article is offering tips for parents to ease the transition back to school. Parents often wonder what they can do to ease the anxiety that is felt when transitioning to a new school year. The article is titled: "Back to School Transitions: Tips for Parents" found on the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) Association website, written by authors Katherine C. Cowan & Ted Feinberg, EdD, NCSP. Updated from an article by the same authors originally posted on the NASP and Teachers First (NITV, Inc.) websites, and then published in Helping Children at Home and School III: Handouts for Families and Educators (National Association of School Psychologists, 2010). You can access the full article online by going to the Aitken to Know website at <http://blog.aitkentoknow.com/blog/>.



## LIBRARY NEWS FROM MRS. LAMAR

### Featured authors...

**Grade 5** - "Russell Freedman is a nonfiction writer who prefers to be called a "factual author." He says that's because lots of people think "nonfiction" is less interesting and less important than fiction. Freedman tries to stamp out that myth with every book he writes." ~Houghton Mifflin



**Grade 4-** Mary Downing Hahn "has created an oeuvre of well-loved spine- chilling tales including The Doll in the Garden, A Time for Andrew, and The Old Willis Place. Always spooky, but never overly frightening, Mary 'has mastered the art of the not-too-creepy ghost story' (Kirkus Reviews). ~Houghton Mifflin

**Grade 3-** "I [Steven Kellogg] have loved picture books ever since I was a child...I always found any kind of animal story irresistible. I was an enthusiastic young artist as well." ~StevenKellogg.com

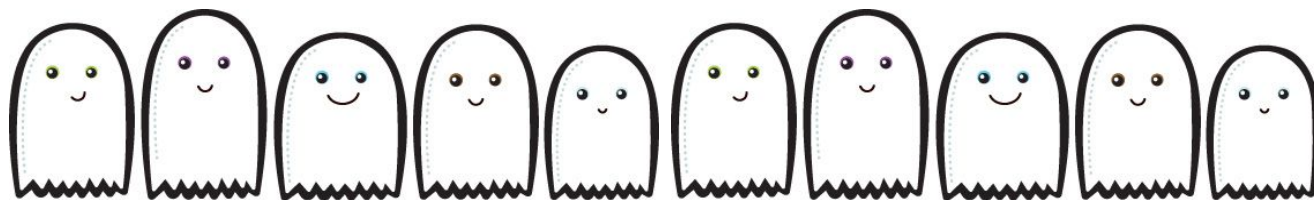
Check out the online catalog for yourself at: [https://sails.ent.sirsi.net/client/en\\_US/seekonkae/](https://sails.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/seekonkae/)



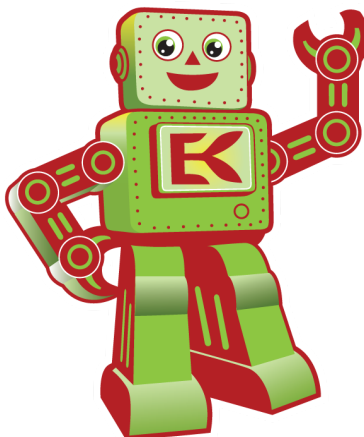
### October is National Book Month!

Ways YOU can celebrate!

1. Re-read one of your favorite books. Find out if it's as good as you remembered!
2. Tell a friend about a really good book you've read recently, and ask what they've been reading!
3. Watch the movie based on a book you've read. Count how many differences there are!
4. Read aloud to someone who's never heard you read—a brother or sister, a teacher, a friend, your dog, your cat, or a grandparent.
5. Check out a book you wouldn't normally read. (For example, if you usually read scary books, try a funny book, or a biography instead.)
6. Draw a picture of your favorite book character!
7. Have a family reading time. Have one family member read aloud to the others, or have all family members read their own books silently!
8. Check out a book that teaches you how to do something (like a drawing book, a cookbook, or science experiment book). Follow the instructions in the book and see what happens!
9. Search the Internet for information about one of your favorite authors or for a good book recommendation.
10. Write your own book or story!



## The art program at Aitken is hoping to build a large robot around January.



In order to make a large robot, we need interesting free materials you may have around your house! If you have the following items and would like to donate to our robot sculpture, please send what you can to school with your child. If you have larger quantities or heavier items, please contact me at [glumj@seekonkschools.org](mailto:glumj@seekonkschools.org), and I will arrange a pick up. Thank you so much in advance!!

- Bottlecaps, metal or plastic
- Styrofoam trays and cups (please no contact with food)
- Spare computer parts
- Wire, string or yarn
- Empty egg cartons
- Thread spools
- Bubble wrap and package packing items
- VHS and cassette tapes
- Old scratched CDs
- Tubing
- Floppy disks
- Silverware

