



Aitken To Know



A Newsletter for parents, staff and students at Aitken School

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

Welcome! The staff of the Mildred H. Aitken School welcomes you and your child to the 2017-18 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 mark us as a favorite! Many teachers also have pages on the website:
aes.seekonk.sharpschool.com

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 7 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!

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 are two openings with the incumbents willing to run for reelection if there are no other nominees. The Aitken School Council will meet at 3:15 PM on Tuesdays, Oct. 3, 2017, Nov. 14, 2017, Jan. 9, 2018, Mar. 6, 2018 and May 8, 2018.

An election will be held at the first PTO meeting, September 7 at 6:30 PM. If you are interested in being on the ballot, please let me know by September 6. There may also be write-ins at the PTO meeting on September 7 when the election will be held. Interested candidates are encouraged to attend this meeting.



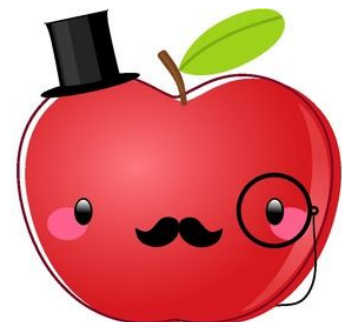
DATES TO REMEMBER

SEPTEMBER 2017

- 09/01 - Kindergarten Orientation & Open House 11:30-1:00
Pre-school Open House 9:30 & 1:00
- 09/04- Labor Day – no school
- 09/05 - First day of Kindergarten & Pre-school
- 09/06 - Open House for Parents AND Students in Gr. 1-5 – 6:30 P.M.
- 09/07 - Aitken PTO meeting – 6:30-7:30
- 09/12 - Blood Drive
- 09/15 - Back to School Social 4:30 - 6:30
- 09/30 - Pumpkin' Somethin' 10AM - 3PM

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



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL CONTINUED

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 Breakfast, Lunch & Milk

The price of school breakfast and lunch remain the same this year. The cost for breakfast, which is served daily 8:45-9:00, is \$1.25 (reduced cost for qualified families \$.30) The lunch cost is \$2.75 (reduced cost \$.40) which includes milk. Milk purchased separately is \$.50 (there is no reduced cost for milk.)

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!

Principal's Important Dates:

- Aug. 30 First day grades 1-5
- Sept. 1 Kindergarten Orientation & Open House 11:30-1:00
Preschool Open House 9:30 & 1:00
- Sept. 4 Labor Day – no school
- Sept. 5 First day of Kindergarten & Pre-school
- Sept. 6 Open House for Parents AND Students in Gr. 1-5 – 6:30 P.M.
- Sept. 7 Aitken PTO meeting – 6:30-7:30 – child care available
Aitken School Council election at PTO meeting



PTO SPOTLIGHT

Welcome back students, teachers, and staff!

We are looking forward to another fun and fantastic school, year! Please keep an eye out for the PTO Welcome Packet outlining what we do and how you can help.

There are many great events planned for this year and will always be looking for volunteers.

Just a reminder, Pumpkin' Somethin' will be held September 30th rain or shine from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering please be on the lookout in your child's backpack for more information shortly.

This year we are introducing a Back to School Social from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. held on school property out in the field. All families, teachers and staff are welcome to come out and meet other families in your child's new class. Details on this event will be sent home very soon.

Finally, at the last PTO meeting back in May, we held our annual elections. There are some new faces on the board this year along with some familiar ones.

Co-Presidents:

Delia Jeffrey
Email: thejeffreymtribe@gmail.com
Cell Phone: 714-470-3202
Shanna Marszalkowski-Krawitz
Email: smarszalkowski@gmail.com
Cell Phone: 774-254-2170

Co-Vice Presidents:

Meaghan Mahoney and Danielle Mahoney

Recording Secretary:

Tanya Romani

Corresponding Secretary :

Shannyn Nelson

Treasurer:

Michael Lastrina

We can be contacted by email at aitkenpto@gmail.com. You can also reach the co-presidents at either of their respective emails or phone numbers (texting included).

Remember to check out aitkentoknow.com as well as visit, like and share us on Facebook at Aitken School PTO.

UPCOMING MEETING: September 7th at 6:30 p.m. in the school library - babysitting provided in the gym.

P.E. NEWS

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 teamwork skills during games and activities. Sportsmanship and respect for each other are important to every student's 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 TECHNOLOGY DESK

Welcome Back!! I am very excited to announce that I will be teaching Technology to students in grades 2-5 this year! I have so many lessons planned already and I know it is going to be a fantastic learning opportunity for all. Massachusetts recently updated the Digital Literacy and Computer Science Standards for all grades, if you would like to view them you can find them [here](#) or at the Massachusetts DESE (department of elementary and secondary education). Seekonk also made some updates to the Responsible Use Policy, which you should receive soon, if not already. Before we can get started on all the Communication, Collaboration, and Creating, we first have to have all the signed forms to allow your student to access the Internet. Please be mindful that your student will NOT be able to access the Internet without written consent, therefore, they may have alternative assignments until we receive the signed form. We are going to start off the year with some great safety rules and etiquette, privacy and keeping personal information safe, how to properly handle our devices, and what the Responsible Use Policy means for students. I cannot wait for you to hear all about the great things we are doing in Technology!

Mrs. Keough

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

MUSIC NOTES

WELCOME BACK!

It's hard to believe it's time for school again. Music classes will begin with a new schedule routine. Kindergarten and first grade will have music classes for the first time. We will kick off the year learning some Patriotic Songs. Many may be ones we have already heard. We will be adding movement and sign language to some of them, America (Often known as My Country 'Tis Of Thee) and This Land Is Your Land. We will discover some basic listening and response skills to sounds, rhythms, and music. We will also explore elemental dance movements to songs from around the world: Bow, Wow, Wow! (Mother Goose Rhyme), The Pawpaw Patch (Kentucky Game Song), Jim Along, Josie (American Folk), Charlie Over The Ocean (African American Ring Song), Simi Yadech (Israeli Folk Song), A Ya La-Lal-Li (Egyptian Folk Song), and more.

All grades will review and learn grade appropriate Patriotic Songs. Much of the repertoire is the same for all of grade levels, but more advanced concepts are added as the levels increase. We will review concepts of melody, rhythm, harmony, texture and other elements of music.

I'm looking forward to a new exciting year.

Karen Roderick
Music



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 oftentimes 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).

SEPTEMBER DIFFERENTIATION NEWS

Mrs. Manickas

I am the Differentiation Instructor for math and reading at Aitken School. My role is to identify (along with the classroom teachers) students' individual learning strengths, needs, and interests. Once identified, students come to me in small groups where I deliver instruction that is personalized by content, process, and/or product.

At the beginning of the year, I typically provide opportunities for students to review and practice previously learned skills. As the school year begins, classroom teachers and I will be forming differentiation groups. My goal is to see most of the students in grades 2 and 3 and many in grades 4 and 5 sometime this year.

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.

LIBRARY NEWS

Welcome Back!

I hope to incorporate some STEAM activities into the library program this year. We started this process last year with an introduction to the Z Space 3D computer. I would eventually like to have a library Makerspace. Here is some information about Makerspaces:

“A makerspace can be anything from a repurposed book cart filled with arts and crafts supplies to a table in a corner set out with LEGOs to a full blown fab lab with 3D printers, laser cutters, and hand tools. No two school makerspaces are exactly alike, nor should they be. Makerspaces are as unique as the school cultures they represent. There is no such thing as one form of making being more valid or better than the other. Makers are artists, crafters, knitters, seamstresses, builders, programmers, engineers, hackers, painters, woodworkers, tinkerers, inventors, bakers, graphic designers and more.”
<http://renovatedlearning.com/2015/04/02/defining-makerspaces-part-1/>



FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE

School Nurse Reminders for School Year 2017-2018

It's that time of year again.....welcome back students, families, and staff 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 2017-2018 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, among other quick remedies to keep students in school.
- 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.

I will begin vision, and hearing screenings in September this year. I would like to finish before the Christmas break. If you do not want your child screened please let me know in writing or by a phone call. Surprisingly, I have detected abnormal results that the pediatrician hasn't diagnosed yet. The testing that we do is mandated by the department of health and is very extensive which is a good thing.

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](tel: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



