

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.

A Message from the Principal

Dear Parents,

June, as always, is a month filled with learning, culminating activities and many extras! This newsletter as well as your child's classroom newsletter will provide you with all of the details.

Thank you!

The entire Aitken staff truly is thankful for everything that the parents and students did to show their appreciation during Aitken Staff Appreciation Week. Thank you for pampering us!

Another big thank you!

Thank you to the Aitken PTO for another outstanding year of support for the students, staff and school. We truly appreciate all you have done throughout the year!

A final note of extreme thanks is extended to the PTO officers Shannyn Nelson, our co-presidents; Tracy Barboza and Kristine Cook, our co-vice presidents; Aaron Shields, our treasurer; Danielle Mahoney, our recording secretary; and Meaghan Mahoney, our corresponding secretary. Their commitment and dedication to the students, staff and Aitken community has been outstanding and has truly been appreciated! Thank you!

Next year, we all look forward to having many new faces involved in strengthening our parent partnership initiatives for our students. Please let me know if you would like to help in some way – it takes a village.

Dress Requirements

The hot weather is here, please review the dress code with your child that is contained in the handbook. The specific article that should be discussed is:
 "Attire that is not acceptable is articles of clothing such as tank tops, halter tops, pants worn below the waist, etc. which are revealing in nature. Any student in violation may be sent home until more appropriately attired."

Dates to Remember

June 2016

1st	Martin & Aitken Gr. 5 Social
2nd	Creative Awareness Evening Talent & Art Show
3rd	Field Day PreK & K (Rain Date Monday)
10th	Field Day Gr. 1-5 (Rain Date Monday)
13th	Gr. 5 Visits HMS
14th	Gr. 5 Promotion Ceremony 9:30 in the GYM Grade 5 Parent Meeting at HMS 6:00
15th	Preschool Graduation 1:45 in the Cafeteria
16th	Kindergarten Graduation In the Gym 10:00 & 1:30
20th	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!!! AR Awards Ceremony Move-Up Day



A Message from the Principal

...continued

Field Days

Field Day for preschool and kindergarten is on June 3 with a rain date of June 6. Field Day for grades 1-5 is scheduled for June 10 with a rain date of June 13. The students are looking forward to an exciting, sports-filled days!

Preschool Promotion, Kindergarten Graduation and the Fifth Grade Promotion Ceremonies

How quickly they grow!!!

Our Fifth Grade Promotion Ceremony will be held on Tuesday, June 14 at 9:30 and students will be receiving class tee shirts on Monday, June 13, to wear for the ceremony.

Our Kindergarten Graduation Ceremonies will be held on Thursday, June 16 at 10:00 & 1:30.

Our Preschool Promotion Ceremony will also be held on Wednesday, June 24 at 1:45 PM.

Accelerated Reader

On Monday, June 20 - there will be an awards ceremony at 9:10 A.M. for students in grades 1-4. Awards will be given for students receiving Accelerated Reader trophies. Parents are invited to attend this brief assembly if they wish.

Throughout the summer, students that are currently in grades 1-5 may take AR tests at the Seekonk Public Library!

Move Up Day

Students in grades K-4 will move-up on Monday, June 20, and have an opportunity to meet their next year's teachers and classmates. It is a very exciting and fun event enjoyed by everyone!

Dates to remember:

Last day of school - June 20 and it's a full day!

Report cards will be issued at the end of the day.

First day of school for grades 1-5 - Tuesday, August 30, 2016

Kindergarten Orientation/Open House at 11:30-1:00 - Wednesday, August 30, 2016

Pre-school Orientation/Open House at 9:30 & 1:00 - Wednesday, August 30, 2016

First day of school for kindergarten and preschool - Thursday, September 1, 2016

Open House for grades 1-5 students & parents - Thursday, September 8, 2016 in the evening

Summer Learning Activities

Your child's teacher and the town librarian have made suggestions for enriching the summer with learning experiences. Summer is quick, but can be too long if your child does not read and have other opportunities to extend learning. Try setting some time aside each day to read and do hands-on math and science activities. Students may continue to practice their math facts using Reflex. Please visit the Aitken library page if you would like to investigate some other educational sites. Enjoy your summer!

Calendar

The Seekonk Public Schools' school calendar is attached to this newsletter.

Bus Registration

Please be sure to register your child with the transportation office this summer for bus transportation next year. Forms are available in the transportation office or on-line at the Seekonk Public Schools' website.

Reminder - all dates to be included in the Aitken Elementary School Calendar Handbook are due by Friday, June 10th .

All of us at Aitken School wish you and your family a fun and safe summer! Have a wonderful time and we look forward to seeing you in September! Good luck to the 5th graders as they begin their middle school years!

Yours truly,
Nancy Gagliardi



Art Notes

It's crazy to imagine that we are swiftly making our way to the last few weeks of school, a reminder that our annual art show will be held on June 2nd . The day of June 2nd it would be awesome if our art students could dress in their favorite color to help promote our show. Creative Awareness is such an incredible night of bringing our Seekonk community together to help inspire creativity and support the arts. Our students in grades one through five have worked diligently on their artwork and what better way to show how proud we all are by attending and celebrating the arts!! I plan on making some coloring pages for little siblings to take and creating a photo booth for friends, students and parents to use. There might also be some collaborative drawing projects for families and students to create together! Please draw a picture in our school gallery banner so we have a memento from the night. Its going to be so much fun!

We want to thank our awesome PTO and volunteers for taking time from their busy schedules to help hang and display the artwork throughout our hallways.

A note, after the art show I will be sending student portfolios home with student's artwork. Any clay projects will be wrapped in tissue paper for safekeeping, any unclaimed projects will have to be tossed, so please take home your art! Take the time to look through and admire your student's hard work and share a love for creating and the arts!

Differentiation News

By Barbara Manickas

"What is important about differentiation? The important thing about differentiation is that it attempts to increase student achievement. The important thing about differentiation is that it is pro-active. The important thing about differentiation is that it demands the reconfiguration of various curriculum components.... But the most important thing about curriculum differentiation is that it respects and responds to student differences."

Jeanne Purcell, Deb Burns. "Capturing the Essence of Curriculum Differentiation". The Trillium. Ontario ASCD. June 2002

Grade 3: The math students in these groups have been completing a unit on fractions. They are also reviewing skills from the entire year. I have found some really fun and interesting activities for the students to enjoy this month. I will be integrating more literature, games, and art projects into math concepts.

Grade 4: Math students are working on skills from the entire school year as well. As with the third graders, 4 th grade will be learning about math through literature, games, and art projects. The reading groups will have a variety of books, fiction and nonfiction, from which to choose. They will have a Tic-Tac- Toe of assignment choices too.

Grade 5: Reading groups in 5 th grade will be able to make book choices as well. They have a Tic-Tac- Toe of assignment choices to demonstrate proficiency in skills.



Library News

It's the end of May and unfortunately that means that I need to stop circulating books for the year. The last day for book checkout will be May 27th. The month of June will be spent tracking down books that students have lost or misplaced and getting the library back in shape for the fall. If your student has lost or damaged a book beyond repair, please send the replacement cost via check made payable to "Town of Seekonk". I would like to make sure every student's library account is clear and ready to go in September. This is especially important for fifth grade students as any book that was not returned to Aitken will show up on their library account when they get to middle school and will prevent them from checking out books.

Here is what we've been working on in library this month:

First grade: Sequencing stories, ABC order and sorting using online games.

Second grade: Nonfiction author study using books by Gail Gibbons.

Third grade: Animal research project using books, online encyclopedia and websites.

Fourth grade: Google slide presentation on an assigned state.

Fifth grade: Reference materials in the library: atlas, encyclopedia, almanac, thesaurus, dictionary.

What books have Aitken students been recommending as "Awesome" books this month?

It's Raining Pigs and Noodles by Jack Prelutsky

Cupcakes, Cookie, and Pie, Oh My! by Karen Tack

Moon Whales and Other Moon Poems by Ted Hughes 2

Bad Kitty vs. Uncle Murray by Nick Bruel

Izzy Barr, Running Star by Claudia Mills

From the Technology Integration Specialist

Looking for a good read this summer? "Own Your Space-- Keep Yourself and Your Stuff Safe Online" Digital Book for Teens by Linda McCarthy is a free download courtesy of Microsoft. The book is written for Tweens, Teens, Parents, and Educators and includes 16 chapters on a variety of topics including: Cyberbullying, Spam, Safe Cyber Shopping, and much more. Kids may bore easily while reading and it is recommended that parents/guardians join in the read and discuss it with the kids. You can download the ebook at Microsoft Downloads or search "Own your Space". If you cannot see yourself or your tween reading the ebook, please take a look at the Appendix A, A Note for Parents. The appendix has good information and links to help keep information private, keep kids safe, and protect digital footprints. There is also "Own Your Space-- Online Reputation That Counts", available as a PDF. These links will be available on my website. Thank you and have a great summer!

Mrs. Kathy Keough
seekonktechintegration.weebly.com



Aitken Rockets

Update

By Tara Haggerty

The month of May was certainly an unpredictable time in regards to the weather. Unfortunately, the May 13th student incentive Pawtucket Red Sox game was cancelled. I am hopeful that the winners of Paw Sox raffle were able to attend another student incentive game in the month of May. However, if there are students who were unable to attend the remaining recognition events, they can still use their tickets for any game. The students will not be able to walk on the field before the game.

For the remainder of the year, I will be giving out Monster Golf tickets in the course of several raffles. I am hopeful that students will continue to be Respectful, Responsible, and Safe in order to earn those raffle tickets. It has been a wonderful year and lots of tickets and prizes were given out. I hope everyone has a fantastic summer and I look forward to resuming our PBIS program in the fall.



Creative Arts Week

Creative Awareness was held the week of May 30th. Student art work filled the hallways and the all school art project - Reach for the STARS - was hanging in the entrance way. Thanks to the many volunteers that helped hang student art and the all school art project stars, the school looked colorful, creative and beautiful!

Guest performances were held everyday for our students. The Aitken PTO sponsored **Mike Maven**, a contemporary musician and singer, **Rocky Silva's American Karate**, a martial arts school and **School of Rock**, a music school. They each performed in front of our students in the Aitken Gymnasium and were enjoyed by teachers and students alike. Our key performance- **Odaiko New England** - was a Japanese drumming presentation. The drummer demonstrated the ancient art form of taiko and its importance in Japanese culture. *This presentation was sponsored by the Aitken PTO and a grant from the Seekonk Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.*



In addition to the guest performances and all school art project, the Talent Show took place on Thursday, June 2nd. We were proud to showcase this year's Talent Show with over 60 participants and 35 performances!! Our students performed such acts as singing, dancing, gymnastics, piano, guitar, ukelele, drums, and majorettes, to name a few! On the same evening, there was the Aitken School Art Gallery. Students submitted art work of any kind (completed outside of school) and it was showcased in the art room during the Talent Show.

A huge thank you to Mrs Gagliardi, Heather Adams, Mr Q., Champions, Aitken Custodial Staff, Aitken Teachers, PTO volunteers, and parents for helping to make this event so special for all and the entire Creative Awareness week a great success!

An Article Shared With You By The School Psychologist

Karen Hurley-Cicatiello

How to Help Children Retain Skills over the Summer Break

Children often have a hard time retaining skills during the summer break. Many parents enroll children in summer school or extended school year, but this often is an abbreviated and less structured version of the school day. Even when children are educated at home, summer often involves routine changes. Since many children rely on consistent instruction, these changes can result in regression. This article includes strategies for preventing regression and teaching new skills.

1. Know What Skills to Work On - To prevent regression know what skills your child is working on and their current functioning level. Be sure to review their school progress reports, IEP (if applicable), and information from their teacher on summer reading and work. For children working on self-care, independence, or behavior skills, take data on their current progress. Be sure to ask their teachers and therapists what skills they are working on and exactly where they stand.

2. Find Opportunities to Practice Skills - Many skills can be integrated into a daily routine. Dressing, self-care, and behavior naturally occur during the day. Take time to use these natural occurrences as learning opportunities. For example, help your child as needed to put on their shoes rather than doing it for them. It may take longer for them to do the skill on their own, but it teaches them the steps they need to be more independent. Academic skills also can be integrated into a daily routine. Have children help with any math related problems and involve them in reading. For example, if you have a family picnic and 4 cousins, 3 aunts, 3 uncles, and 2 grandparents will be there, have your child help you count the number of cupcakes you need to bring. If you are baking the cupcakes, work on literacy skills by having your child read the recipe to you. Counting and fractions can be developed by gathering and measuring the ingredients. Children can work on motor skills by cutting butter, stirring ingredients, and pouring the batter into the tin. For children who need direct instruction, schedule a time during the day specifically to work on skills.

3. Build on Existing Skills - When children master a skill continue to review it, but also expand on skills. For example, if your child is mastering their current list of sight words, be sure to add additional words and phrases to their skill set. If they are able to count all the spoons the family has when helping to empty the dishwasher, add a serving spoon or two and teach them to count a little higher. Build on skills one step at a time so they are successful, enjoy learning, and do not become frustrated.

4. Appreciate Small Steps - It can be very frustrating for parents and professionals when children learn slowly or take a step backwards. Try to remember some skills take a while for children to acquire. Sometimes children need additional examples of the skill or a new approach for instruction. Recognize that children become frustrated as well and teach them to be persistent and patient.

5. Realize It Is Summer - When children have different educational programs, therapies, and activities, it can be easy to forget summer break is also for relaxing. Although working on skills is important, be sure to enjoy the fun things summer has to offer. Enroll kids in swimming lessons, summer camp, tennis class, or just let them play outside. These kinds of activities are a way to stay healthy, learn new skills, and make new friends.

Original article can be found by visiting the website: www.sandbox-learning.com
Copyright © 2007 by Sandbox Learning. All Rights Reserved

Notes from the School Nurse

Spring allergy season is upon us and this year the pollen counts are extremely high. If your child suffers from seasonal allergies, it is important they take their medications, nasal sprays and/or eye drops everyday before school. The nurse's office is limited in what we can offer your child for relief.

Seasonal allergy symptoms: sneezing, itchy nose, eyes and/or throat, nasal congestion, clear runny nose, coughing.

Avoidance is always the 1st step; shower and change clothes after spending time outdoors. This helps keep pollen off your body. Over the counter antihistamines along with eye drops and nasal sprays for sinus congestion will help relieve the symptoms.



We Want Your Opinions

We are looking for your input on the Aitken To Know Newsletter and the Aitken PTO. Please take 5 minutes to take these two very short surveys.

Aitken to Know Survey:
<http://tinyurl.com/gwopyfz>

Aitken PTO Survey:
<http://tinyurl.com/hz9m3r3>

Thank you for your participation if you have already filled out the surveys.

Accelerated Reader

Students will not be able to take AR tests between June 16-30. However, throughout the rest of the summer, students currently enrolled in AR may take tests at the Seekonk Public Library.

PE News

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

MEANS MOVEMENT FUN FOR
EVERYONE

“SWEAT AND SMILES”

Each grade continues 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.

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 warm weather coming.



The Importance of Summer Reading

By: Lynn Owens and Joanna Rioux



Another school year is quickly coming to an end. Everyone is starting to think about summer and how they will spend their time away from school. Even though your kids are away from school, PLEASE don't let them be away from books!

It is essential that students in all grades continue to read daily over the summer in order to keep them on track and progressing. Everyone has worked hard all year and you want to make sure that they don't lose the skills they have gained. After your child reads a book, ask them to tell you something that happened in the story, describe a character, or make a connection. Keep their minds active!

Every year the Seekonk Public Library has a Summer Reading Program with great incentives and prizes. Be sure to check it out when you visit the library. Stop in each week and get some new books for your kids to read!

So...whether your children take a book to the beach or sit in the air conditioned library, make sure your kids are reading each and every day. This way they will keep up all of their skills and strategies and be ready to go in September!

We hope you have a safe, fun-filled summer filled with good times, good friends, and of course, good books!!!

PTO

The PTO would like to thank all of the volunteers, parents, student, teachers and sponsors. We had a great selections of programs and events for the students, awesome fundraisers, and fun family events. We cannot do it without the help and support of parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles and teachers. THANK YOU.

We look forward to the next school year and all the great events we have planned. Have a fun and safe summer.

