

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

January

- 01/02 No School - New Years
- 01/03 K & Pre-K Registration Begins
- 01/10 Blood Drive
Aitken School Council
3:10 pm
- 01/12 RIF Free Book
PTO 6:30pm
- 01/16 No School - MLK Day
- 01/16 - 01/20 Creative Awareness Week
- 01/19 Progress Reports
Art & Talent Show
- 01/26 K & Pre-K Evening
Registration 5:30 - 6:15

February

- 02/06 Aitken Band Concert
7pm
- 02/06 PTO Meeting 6:30pm
- 02/17 Early Release 12:45pm
No Afternoon Pre-K / K
- 02/20 - 02/24 Winter Vacation

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

Happy 2017! May it be a safe, happy and healthy year for you and your family!

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration for Aitken students turning 5 years of age by August 31, 2017 will be held beginning in January. You may register your child daily from 10 AM until 2 PM or in the evening on January 26th from 5:30-6:15. To register your child you will need:

- proof of residency
- your child's original birth certificate
- immunization record
- completed registration and home language survey documents

You may stop by the school at your convenience to pick up the necessary forms. Kindergarten screening will be held at Aitken School during the first three Mondays in March. Appointments will be made when you register your child.

SEEKONK CHILD FIND

As part of the Child Find process, the Seekonk Public Schools will be conducting preschool screening for children who will be turning 3 or 4 years of age by August 31, 2017, and are residents of Seekonk.

A developmental, social skills, and speech and language screening will take approximately one hour and will be held in late February and early March at Aitken School. This screening serves two purposes. First, it identifies preschool age students who may be in need of special education services. Second, it allows children to be eligible to enter the lottery for available model spots in the Seekonk Public Schools Integrated Preschool Program. Please feel free to call Aitken School 336-5230 if you have any questions.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL CONTINUED

SEEKONK CHILD FIND and PRE-SCHOOL SCREENING REGISTRATION

The Seekonk Public Schools has an integrative integrated preschool program that is located at Aitken School and serves 3 and 4 year-old students. The preschool classes have model students and students on Individualized Education Plans. Each year, model, tuition-paying students are drawn by lottery for available spots. In order to be eligible for the lottery, students must register and be screened in late winter.

If interested in having your preschool aged child screened as part of Child Find or to be a potential model student, you may register your child. Pre-school screening registration for all Seekonk students turning 3 years of age by August 31, 2017 will be held beginning January 3, 2017. You may register your child daily from 10 AM until 2 PM or in the evening on January 26th from 5:30-6:15. Screening appointments will be made when you register your child and will be held on the first three Wednesdays in March.

Registration packets are available at Aitken School beginning January 3rd or may be downloaded from the Seekonk Public Schools' website. Please feel free to call Aitken School 336-5230 if you have any questions.

EARLY DISMISSAL

On occasion it may be necessary to release students prior to the end of the day if the road conditions become hazardous due to snow and ice. The announcements are sent out by the system the student's primary contact with the information that you provided. It is also broadcasted over local radio and television stations and is posted on the district's web site.

If you have special instructions for the dismissal of your child on early release days and have not already informed the school, please send a note to your child's teacher as soon as possible. The school is unable to call parents individually due to the number of students. However, the all call alert system will send a group message by phone and email.

If your child attends a child care center after school, please be sure to check with them to see if they remain open on early release days. Some close when the system releases students early due to hazardous conditions.

Math Fun - Hands-on

Students can really strengthen their math skills by becoming money and measurement experts! Base 10, place value and fraction skills are greatly enhanced when students can readily count money and measure objects.

The use of debit and credit cards as well as cash registers that indicate the change has reduced the amount of exposure that children have to counting money and making change. To begin, have your children count coins and after this is mastered, have them make change. The game of store is a great activity and doesn't cost any money to design.

Measuring with rulers, yard sticks, meter sticks and tape measures is always fun for children. Explore with measurement and be sure to use fractional parts on an inch once your child has mastered whole units.

PROGRESS REPORTS

On Thursday, January 19, progress reports for the second trimester will be sent home with students in grades 1-5. Please call the school if you have any questions or would like to schedule a conference with your child's teacher.

NO SCHOOL - MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

There is no school on January 16th, in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL CONTINUED

CREATIVE AWARENESS WEEK – JAN. 17-20

This year our Creative Awareness Week will be in January just prior to the art-music switch between the elementary schools which will occur on Monday, Jan. 23. On Thursday evening, Jan. 19, we will host our famous Art & Talent Show. We hope you will be able to join us as our hallways are transformed into an art gallery and our stage is filled with talented student performances!

SCHOOL AND BUS RULES

Please be reminded that all school rules apply to the bus as well. Please discuss and remind your student about the following rule:

Cell phones, electronic games, portable music players, toy weapons, etc. should not be brought to school. The school system is not responsible for any toys or personal brought to school. The use of cell phones during school and on the bus is prohibited.

MARK THIS DATE!

Monday, February 6th , will be the premiere of this year's Aitken School Band under the direction of our instrumental music teacher, Mr. Paul Anderson! The concert will be held in the gymnasium and will begin at 7:00 PM.

As always, please feel free to call or drop by if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours truly,

Nancy Gagliardi



AN ARTICLE OF INTEREST SHARED WITH YOU BY KAREN CICATIELLO, THE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

Happy New Year everyone. I hope that you all had a chance to rejuvenate and refresh over the Holiday break. This month's article is titled New Year's Resolution: Help Your Kids Do Well in School. This article gives an overview of tips to help your child succeed in school. You can access the entire article online by going to the Aitken to Know website at

<http://blog.aitkentoknow.com/blog/>

AITKEN ROCKETS UPDATE

By, Tara Haggerty

Over the past two months, students have been winning many types of rewards through our PBIS raffle system. Over 20 students were given the opportunity to attend a Providence College Friars game at the Dunkin' Donuts center on December 17, 2016. Other children were able to get a free pass to United Skates of America.

We were also able to have a bus incentive program in which there were three winning buses that earned a dance party in the gym. These students were given a daily score based upon the behavior of the whole bus. The first three buses that earned a hundred points received the reward.

We will continue to think of ways in which we can improve positive behavior and safety on the bus. To reinforce these ideas, it would be helpful if all parents can remind their children to remain seated at all times as well as listen to the bus drivers directives. As a team, I feel that we can continue to develop a positive climate in all areas within the school and on the bus.

TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION

Happy New Year! As we welcome in 2017 I have been busy working with the school nurse, Mrs. Soares, integrating technology into the health lessons (grades 3-5). We are enjoying the collaboration of making lessons that are interactive and fun for the students! It's a great way to get them learning about health and how important it is to take care of their body. This month's lessons involve the Digestive System and Making Healthier Food Choices. Check out Choose My Plate (<https://www.choosemyplate.gov/>) for information on healthy meal planning, physical activity, and more. It's not just for kids, there is plenty for adults too! If your New Year's Resolution is to change your eating habits or increase your physical activity then the website is a great place to start.

Mrs. Keogh

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

P.E. NEWS



PHYSICAL EDUCATION AT AITKEN MEANS MOVEMENT FUN FOR EVERYONE

by Mr. Queenan

“SWEAT AND SMILES”

The students have demonstrated skill development of physical fitness, patience, and cooperation during physical education class. The upper grades played a modified hockey game before the holiday break. Each class was able to identify the different parts of the hockey stick and learned about offense and defensive positions. The students are working on building stamina during aerobic fitness activities.

Respect for others has been the social emphasis in all physical education classes and the students are asked to smile and work hard together. Remember sneakers are still important for class and make games and skills safer for students to participate. If any parents would like to donate a pair of used sneakers in good condition it would be appreciated. I'm hoping to get two of each child size so students that may not have them can participate.

FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE

BLOOD DRIVE

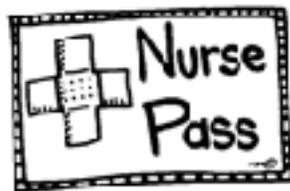
The need is great, the benefits are plenty, and the experience produces a win-win for all. We need your support at our very own Aitken blood drive. Please arrange your schedule for this gift of giving.....

**Tuesday January 10, 2017 in the Aitken school gymnasium from
3pm-7pm**

- Blood drives save lives in the community. As the primary source of life-saving blood to local hospitals and national partners, The Rhode Island Blood Center supplies over multiple units of blood every week to meet the demand in our community.
- Our community is counting on you. Every blood donation saves or sustains the lives of up to three of our neighbors, friends, family members, fellow students, employees, co-workers, and others—nearly a half-million lives every year! E
- Every day patients in Rhode Island and Southern New England need blood transfusions to recover from illness and injury. Our goal is to collect more than 200 pints daily to meet these patient needs. We hope you will join us by giving the Gift of Life - a blood donation.

All donors get a \$5.00 gift card to Dunkin Donuts.

Thank you in advance for your donation



DIFFERENTIATION NEWS

Helping students learn concepts using their specific learning style is an important part of what we do with differentiation. Another important aspect is to help students learn to be effective learners. "Student responsibilities include demonstrating such skills as: 1) making effective choices, 2) being self-directed, 3) organizing learning materials, 4) following directions, 5) completing tasks, and 6) working cooperatively with classmates." (from blog.brookespublishing.com) Also, I am promoting a "Growth Mindset" environment. Students often hear that the process of learning and hard work is more important than the right answer.

New groups may be formed this month. The students will be taking the Galileo Benchmark tests this month. I use this information as a starting point for determining the needs of our students. As usual, I analyze the data, meet with classroom teachers, and together, we make decisions about who may benefit from more small group instruction.

Please remember that if you ever have any questions about what we are doing with differentiation, I can be contacted at manickasb@seekonkschools.org or at 508-336-5230. I also have a webpage on the Aitken School website that has interesting information for parents of all students.

FROM THE ART ROOM

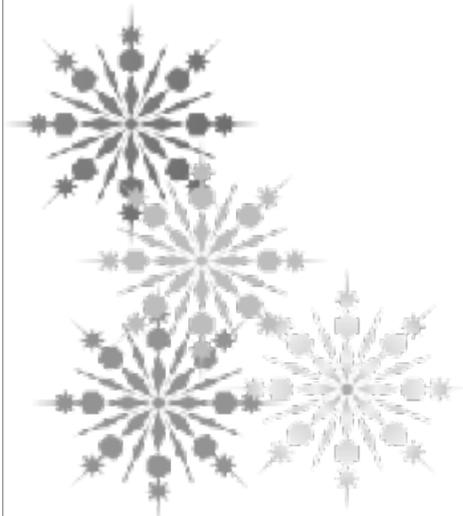
Hard to believe art 2016 is already coming to a close! As we move into 2017 a reminder that the Art and Talent show will be on Jan 19 th . I will need some parent volunteers to help hang artwork. I have a few emails from the beginning of the year from parents who offered their help during this time. If you would like to help volunteer please send me an email. Parents volunteering will need to make sure they have updated CORI forms for Mrs. Adams in the office.

Students will be bringing home their portfolios of work, any 3D work will need to be picked up by students before the close of the year or they'll have to be tossed.

The Art show will feature at least two works by each student so please make every attempt to attend to see all the hard work your student has put into their artwork. As we do each year there will be a mock photo booth space, coloring pages, and collaborative drawings.

Hope to see you soon for a night of talent and art,

Sincerely,
Ms. Walsh
walshm@seekonkschools.org



IN THE LIBRARY WITH MRS. LAMAR

December lesson plan overview:

This month we are learning about fables and folktales, website evaluation, sequencing, thesaurus review, and nonfiction text features.

Centers:

We now have a book recommendation center! I have been posting student book recommendations on the bulletin board for perusal as students enter and leave the library. I also have an origami center for anyone interested in learning paper folding skills using Aitken library books on the topic.

Technology:

As of the week of December 5th, itinerant classes will be switching. Classes that are now beginning technology include: Mrs. Schwab, Mrs. McCormick, Mrs. Cosimini, Mrs. Medeiros, Mrs. Lane, Mrs. Rondeau and Mrs. Ahern.

Please remember, if your child's book is lost or damaged beyond repair, replacement cost for the item may be sent in to school. Checks can be made payable to the "Town of Seekonk". This will clear your child's library account so that they may continue to check out books from the Aitken School Library. Thank you in advance!

Happy Holidays!



READING RESOLUTIONS

By: Lynn Owens & Joanna Rioux

When you are considering those New Year's Resolutions, think about a few reading resolutions for your family! Here are some ideas that might get you started:

- Designate a family reading time when everyone spends some time reading quietly, then share what you are reading with each other.
- Pick an interesting series with your child (Junie B. Jones, Magic Tree House, Harry Potter, etc) and try reading through it over the course of the year.
- Try a new genre such as poetry, non-fiction, mystery, or other area that you or your child haven't read before.

Make a list of the various genres read over the year.

- Discover a new author and read some of their books over the course of a month.
- Find informational books about a topic of special interest and list facts you learn.
- Find a longer-than-usual book and take turns reading aloud to each other at times such as cooking dinner, riding in the car, bath time, etc.
- Make regular visits to the library.
- Keep track of minutes, hours, or days spent reading. See how many you can build up to in a week, a month, then for the year!

- Encourage reading when waiting, such as for a ride in the car, at the doctor's office, when a sibling has a practice or lesson, etc. Create a bag of books just for this purpose to keep in the car.

Small changes like these can make a giant difference in the life of a young reader.

Happy New Year!