



Aitken To Know



A Newsletter for parents, staff and students at Aitken School

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

Welcome March! Soon our kindergarten students will be trying to catch a leprechaun!

Grade 5 Puberty Nights – March 6 & 20

Fifth grade students received a notice regarding the March parent/child puberty nights. The boys' evening is scheduled for March 6 and the girls' session will be held on March 20. Both evening presentations will begin at 7 PM in the Aitken cafeteria. Parents or other designated adult must attend with each 5th grader. If you did not receive a notice with an attached RSVP or have any questions, please call Laurie Soares, our school nurse.

Parent/Child Dances - March 9 & 16

Mark your calendars! The Sweetheart Dance Under the Sea for girls and their dads (or other adult) will be held on March 9 at Aitken and the Boys' Choice Dance for boys and their moms (or other adult) will be Friday, March 16. These nights are always enjoyed by all!

Kindergarten Plays – March 14 & 15

Our kindergarten students will soon be the talk of the town! On Wednesday, March 14, Mrs. Wentworth's students will wow the audience with the debut of Space Mice. On Thursday, March 15, Mrs. Boudreau's and Mrs. Mooney's students will delight everyone with this fun play. Both performances begin at 6:30 PM.

Early Release – March 16

On Friday, March 16, students in kindergarten – grade 5 will be released at 12:45. A staff professional development afternoon is scheduled on this day. There will be no afternoon preschool.

Marks close – March 14

Marks will close for the second trimester on March 14. Report cards will be sent home with students on March 23. The closing date for grades and the distribution of report cards has been extended due to the no schools days that we have had due to inclement weather.

March 30 – No School

There will be no school on March 30, Good Friday.

MCAS tests

During the months of April and May, all students in grades 3-5 will be taking the MCAS tests on-line this year. Students in grades 5 will also take the MCAS Science & Technology tests. To find out more information about either test, you may visit the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary

DATES TO REMEMBER



- 03/05 - 03/09- Reading Week
- 03/06 - Aitken School Council 3:15
- Puberty Night for Boys
- 03/07 - PTO Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- 03/09 - Sweetheart Dance
- 03/16 - Early Release Day NO PM Pre-School
- Mother Son Dance
- 03/20 - Report Cards Issued
- Puberty Night for Girls
- 03/23 - RIF Book Swap
- 03/25 - 03/31 - Reading Challenge
- 03/30 - No School - Good Friday



- 04/04 - PTO Meeting @ 6:30
- 04/13 - Early Release Day NO PM Pre-School
- 04/16 - 04/20 - Spring Vacation
- 04/26 - Grade 3 Wax Museum
- 04/27 - RIF - Free Book

Education. Please also feel free to give a call to your child's teacher or me if you have any questions.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL CONTINUED...

MCAS Test Schedule – April 3 - May 16

Grade 3 – April 3 & 4 and May 8 & 9

Grade 4 – April 10 & 11 and May 15 & 16

Grade 5 – April 24 & 25 and May 1, 2, 8 & 9

School Safety

Student safety is always in the minds and hearts of Aitken School personnel. Posted in every classroom is the Seekonk Public Schools Crisis & School Safety Manual and all staff have reviewed and practiced its procedures.

My Retirement

As some of you may have already heard, I plan to retire at the end of this June. It was a difficult decision since I truly enjoy each day at Aitken and love my job! However, my husband retired a little over a year ago, so it is time. I will really miss all of the students, staff, and the opportunity to work with parents and the Seekonk community! The search for a new principal will begin soon and I will keep you informed about the process.

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

Yours truly,

Nancy Gagliardi, Principal



DIFFERENTIATION IS... Mrs. Manickas

- Having high expectations for all students
- Adjustment of the core content
- Assigning activities geared to different learning styles, interests, and levels of thinking
- Providing students with choices about what and how they learn
- Flexible because teachers move students in and out of groups based upon students & instructional needs
- Acknowledgment of individual needs
- Articulated, high level goals reflecting continuous progress
- Assessment to determine student growth and new needs
- Adjustment of curriculum by complexity, breadth, and rate
- Educational experiences which extend, replace, or supplement standard curriculum

***From: An article posted on Reading Rockets written by: Ann-Marie Foucault

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.

FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE

A very important reminder to parents who are sending their student to school with prescription medications to be administered at school by the school nurse.

I cannot by law administer prescription medications without a doctor's order in hand. To make this process simple- I understand how busy parents are and I want to make this sort of stuff happen, but in the same token fairly seamless and easy for you. If your child goes on a medication that needs to be administered during the school hours, send in the medication with the original prescription and a note from the MD. The doctors know that this is necessary for school nurse administration. If you get resistance, I can call the doctor's office with your permission to obtain the order. Just communicate with me by a note, a voicemail, or an e-mail the day that you are sending in the medication to let me know what time to administer the med. If we are unable to pull it together by the time the medication needs to be given, you can come to the school and administer the medication for your child.

Any questions, please reach out to me via phone- 508-336- 5230 or by e-mail- soaresl@seekonkschools.org

Looking forward to a healthy spring...

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

This month's article is a guide to helping your child manage test anxiety. Whether it be the upcoming MCAS testing in grades 3-5 or that weekly spelling test in grade 2, some children become anxious and it can interfere with how they perform on tests. Parents often ask what they can do to help their children manage this type of anxiety. The article is titled: "Helping Your Child Manage Test Anxiety". You can access the article online by going to the Aitken to Know website at <http://blog.aitkentoknow.com/blog/>

P.E. NEWS

AT AITKEN MEANS MOVEMENT FUN FOR EVERYONE

by Mr. Queenan

“SWEAT AND SMILES”

Jump Rope For Heart



IS STILL GOING!!

Online Donations are the easiest way and/or you can Return Envelopes by: March 2nd

If you haven't already, please register for our school team at heart.org/jump or by searching jump/Hoops in the app store on your mobile device. Our students are learning all about what they can do to keep their hearts healthy, take their own health challenge and learn how they can help others by collecting donations for the American Heart Association. We are a healthy and service-minded community!

You can also find a link to sign up for Jump Rope for Heart at Mr. Queenan's web page from the school website just find Mr. Queenan's name and click on it and you will find the button at the bottom of the screen goes straight to the Aiken School sign up at the Jump Rope for Heart Website.

AITKEN ROCKETS UPDATE

BY, TARA HAGGERTY

I am happy to announce that we will be participating in the Pawtucket Red Sox incentive program again this year. Students will continue to receive tickets when they are caught engaging in Safe, Respectful, and Responsible behavior throughout the school day. These tickets are put into a raffle for Pawtucket Red Sox seats. Not only are the students able to attend the game, but they are also honored on the field. The date of the Pawtucket Red Sox game is Friday, April 20, 2018 at 7:05 PM. I hope that I will be able to raffle off many tickets this year.

PTO SPOTLIGHT

Past Events:

Bingo Night - Thanks to those who participated in a fun night of bingo with their families!

BOX TOPS - Great job to everyone who sent in box tops! The winner will be announced shortly!

Calendar Raffle - Congratulations to all the winners of February's raffle. We had a super turnout! Winner of who sold the most will be announced shortly.

Upcoming Events:

Sweetheart Dance - Girl's choice - Friday March 9th doors open at 5:30 There will be food fun and dancing at the Aitken School! Also a free 5x7 portrait courtesy of Chestnut Hill Studios. Please consider volunteering for this fun event! We are also looking for donations to help with decorating and food! Go to the link for more info :<http://signup.com/go/IRtAVYX>

Mother Son Dance - Boy's choice - Friday March 16th doors open at 5:30 There will be food, dancing and games at the Aitken School! Also a free 5x7 portrait courtesy of Chestnut Hill Studios. We would love your help or donation to make this year a success. Please consider volunteering. Go to the link for more info : <http://signup.com/go/jSjrlX>

RIF Book Swap - Gather up those books you read and no longer want and bring up to 5 of them on March 23rd to trade for some fun new books! This swap will kick off the **RIF Reading Challenge** the week of March 25th to March 31st. The winner in each grade will receive a Book Fair Gift Certificate for June's Buy one get one bookfair!

If you have any questions or comments please email us at aitkenpto@gmail.com. We are also on Facebook @aitkenpto and visit our site aitkentoknow.com for updates as well.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Wednesday, March 7th at 6:30p.m. in the school library, babysitting provided by the High School Key Club.

April's meeting will be held on the 4th so save the date!

❖From the Techn❖I❖gy Desk❖

I am thinking Spring!

With Spring comes, MCAS! It always seems to creep up on us. Students in grades 3-5 will get some practice with the online tools during March, we want them to be as prepared as possible.

We have been visiting some really great places on this planet with Google Earth. The students are so amazed to see the many places they heard or read about come to life right before their eyes! There is a web based Google Earth that can be accessed using the Chrome browser only.

Also, coming up soon, I will be helping the students identify and strategize how to handle situations when people are not so nice online. I get a lot of my material from Common Sense Media, they have information for Parents and Educators on this topic. It covers ages 2-teens and beyond. If you would like more information visit these websites. Reach out to me if you need resources for any Internet Safety or Privacy concerns!

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/cyberbullying>

<https://www.stopbullying.gov/kids/what-you-can-do/index.html>

<https://www.safesearchkids.com/cyber-bullying-for-kids-and-teens/>

Have fun and stay safe online.

Mrs. Keough



CONSERVATION AND LITERACY

From your Reading Teachers: Lynn Owens and Joanna Rioux

We all hear lately about how people witness families, couples, and friends on technology while spending time together. While technology is not necessarily a bad thing, we do want to be careful that it doesn't get in the way of good conversation with our children. Conversations are an undervalued element of literacy.

During the early years, parents often sing and read to their children. These experiences are excellent for building a foundation of language. Talking about the rhymes and stories can provide enrichment with those experiences. Commenting on the behaviors of characters, what you see in pictures, and sharing your opinions will all enable the development of language that will later help your child to begin reading and writing with more ease. This occurs because it builds vocabulary that will likely be encountered later in text.

In elementary school, the conversations can become more involved. Discussions about stories can evolve into making connections to what is happening in a story. For example, what a character says or does could remind you of a time you did something similar, or perhaps remind you of a similar situation in a previously read book, or TV show, or movie. These connections add more complex vocabulary that may be encountered during reading or writing. Believe it or not, when figuring out a difficult word during reading, it helps if the word or a similar word is part of our speaking or listening vocabulary.

At older ages, children tend to be much less willing to engage in conversation. It can be more difficult to separate them from their devices. But, if daily conversation has been a part of their lives since very young, it will be less difficult. Talking at this level will require open-ended questions so that you don't end up with simple one or two word answers. Conversations about character's motives, sharing opinions, and making judgments about behaviors are some ways to do that. Also, this is a time when more technical vocabulary is a part of education. This can seem intimidating. You can simply ask your child to describe, explain how, or show you a process or procedure they are learning about. Teaching or explaining a newly introduced topic increases learning tremendously. Setting aside time each day to have conversations with your children will greatly promote their speaking and listening vocabularies, which in turn, will aid them in becoming stronger readers and writers.



FROM THE ART ROOM WITH MRS. GLUM

Happy February! Our school wide STEAM robot project is well underway! All classes in K-3rd have helped in the building process and our legs, body, and arms are complete! In the following month we will be installing the head, the rotating hands and light up eyes, and 4th and 5th will start with circuits and motors. Our robot looks fantastic! We have used over 10 60 yard rolls of duct tape. That's longer than the length of a football field! Don't forget to ask your kids about our amazing robot!

The Aitken portrait gallery has been hung and more portraits are expected to be added. All grades from 1st through 5th have completed their self-portraits and are hanging in the hallway. Each grade had a different theme either based on art history, technology, figure drawing and value and gradient drawing. I hope to have all the classes hanging in the next few weeks.

Clay time will be upon us soon. Making clay projects is a fun and exciting time in the art room, but it can be messy. Parents should know that just like the majority of paint used in the classroom, clay is easy to remove from clothes and does not stain. If you would like your student to wear an 'art shirt' they can bring one from home to keep in their locker. We do not supply aprons due to concern of communicable situations such as lice. Your child is more than welcome to bring their own art shirt and bring home to launder.

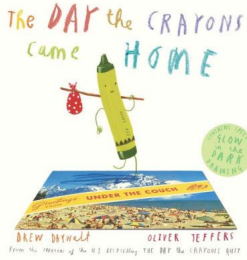
We are still accepting and asking for donations of bottle caps of every color and size. Colorful caps are very useful for our large school wide project coming up in April. From now until the end of March, a contest will take place. **THE CLASSROOM THAT DONATES THE MOST BOTTLE CAPS WILL EARN AN EXTRA ART STAR DAY!** That is a free day where the children get to vote on having experimental painting, art and science time, free art and music day or art movies! Each class will be given a box to collect the bottle caps and the contest will end March 30th.

Lastly, February break is upon us. Creativity is an important skill that can be encouraged at home! I challenged the children to spend one hour this vacation making art, and putting down their video games and electronics. Creative children are more likely to be innovators inside and outside the classroom. Please encourage your children to draw, color, write a story, or better yet combine them all! Nothing beats boredom like some good old fashioned creativity time!

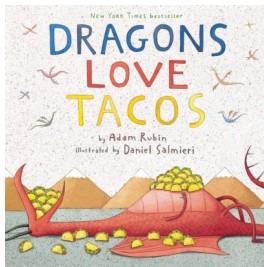


Library News from Mrs. Lamar

March is National Reading Month: Five Great Children's books

***The Day the Crayons Came Home*, by Drew Daywalt and Oliver Jeffers**

In this charming sequel to *The Day the Crayons Quit*, Duncan must rescue his crayons from terrible fates—like being stuck in the sofa, or landing in his stinky socks. Of course, just like in the first book, each crayon has a different tale of woe. The magic comes when they are reunited back in their box home, where they belong.

***Dragons Love Tacos*, by Adam Rubin and Daniel Salmieri**

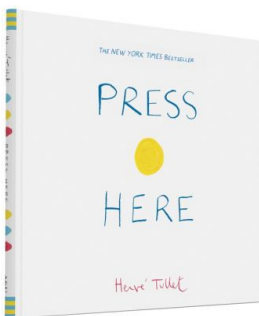
If you've ever wondered what to serve the dragons that may one day visit your family, this book is helpful for both you and your children to understand their unique needs—and their monstrous love for tacos! Chicken tacos. Beef tacos. Tiny tacos: They are taco maniacs! Just keep them away from the salsa. Dragons and spicy red sauce do not mix. Repeat! They do not mix. But reading and dragons? They're always a crowd favorite!

The Book With No Pictures

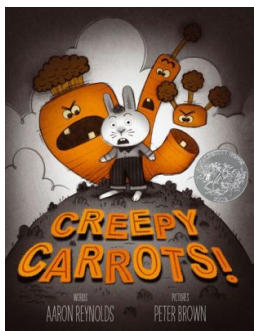
B.J. Novak

***The Book with No Pictures*, by B.J. Novak**

The cover of this book doesn't scream readaloud. But if you've seen [this video](#), you know kids go cray-cray over this book. And Novak designed this book to be read aloud. The are silly songs and sound effects that no grown up should ever have to make. And that's the point. Stumble your way through "Blorck," "Blurfff," and "Blaggity Blaggity," and you'll have your kids in hysterics.

***Press Here*, by Herve Tullet**

Tullet is one of my personal heroes. Every book he touches (and he is absurdly prolific) feels fresh and meaningful. This book instructs kids to "press the yellow dot" or "clap" and somehow, with a little Herve magic, the book does exactly what kids tell it do. It's a new kind of interactive book (many have compared it to an app), and when the book asks "Do you want to do it all over again?" kids will enthusiastically say yes!

***Creepy Carrots*, by Aaron Reynolds and Peter Brown**

Some read alouds are timeless, but some are just right for fall. *Creepy Carrots* balances funny with creepy and quirky with cute. Jasper Rabbit is obsessed with carrots, until he starts to think they're obsessed with him! When Jasper sees carrots everywhere (The bathtub! The bedroom! The tool shed!), he enters The Carrot Zone. There's drama in this text, and lots of silly sound effects that are sure to have kids begging for more.

