



The Taylor Elementary School Newsletter

196 South Street, Foxborough, MA 02035 T: 508-543-1607 Principal: Dr. Moira Rodgers Issue #3: Winter 2018

From the Principal...

Dear Taylor School Families,

We are well into the new calendar year, well into the winter season, and trying to cope well with colds and flu! Although we have had to have more indoor recess than many of us would like, there have been many opportunities to have fun together as we learn. Our goal here at the Taylor is to always find the positive and engage with that which makes our community more connected, within and among our classrooms and grade levels. Here are a couple highlights to celebrate:

- Cross-Age Buddy Activities have been launched! Our Caring School Community curriculum suggests that these buddy activities provide children with real opportunities to practice helping and caring for others and to experience being part of a community built upon these values. When children of different ages have a chance to get to know one another, learn from one another, and have fun together in a safe and supportive environment, they are likely to value their friendship and the way it makes them feel. Grade 4 has been buddied up with Grade 1; Grade 2 and 3 with Kindergarten.
- We have launched our Grade 4 Student Council! The goal of the Student Council is to give students an opportunity to develop leadership skills by organizing and carrying out school activities and service projects. The representatives are: *Julia Atkinson, Darrah Bertumen, Shea Dorney, Sarah Fitzgerald, Aiden Gill, Egan Gill, Ashley Howe, Max Iorio, Allie Kral, John Marcelonis, Colby Sheehan, and Zach Tubbs*. Stay tuned for news as we get our work underway!

Thank you for being involved and interested in being a part of your child/ren's learning. We so appreciate and need that support! On behalf of all the staff here at the Taylor, I send you best wishes for a fun, relaxing February Break (February 19-23).



Afternoon Pick Up Routine: Please walk up and meet your child by the side door where they are dismissed. We want students to be as safe as possible when they cross the driveway. If they are with you, they will be safe! *Thank you!*

From the School Nurse...Edna Fuller, RN

Cold and flu season is here. Please keep your child home if he or she is not feeling well. This includes a **fever of 100.4** degrees or higher within 24 hours and no fever-reducing medication. Coughs, runny noses, ear aches, sore throat, vomiting, and body aches are not helpful for the learning process. You know your child best – if he or she does not seem like themselves then keep them home. And speak with the pediatrician about the flu shot for your child. Winter break is almost here. I wish all families a safe and healthy time.



Library News



The first **Bookmark Challenge** was conducted. The theme of the bookmarks had to be books, reading or a favorite book character. The winners, whose bookmarks will be printed for use by the whole school, are:

Kindergarten: *Grace Gaudini, Alec Melvin, and Jocelyn Archer*

Grade 1: *Amelia Hoyt, Avery Peters, Kayla Kelloway, and David Sherlock*

Grade 2: *Evan Keefe, Declan Do, and Elizabeth McWilliams*

Grade 3: *Grace McGahan, Morgan Karvonen, and Taylor Karvonen*

Grade 4: *Darrah Bertumen, Mikey McCabe, Julia Atkinson, Ava McFall, Allison Kral, Jayden Rocha, Lucas Budreckis, and Aiden Stow*



Please join Dr. Moira Rodgers for an informal and friendly

Chat with the Principal

Thursday, February 15th at 2:15pm in Taylor School's Library

Bring your questions, concerns, and ideas!



Some Notes from Music

Students are making lots of different music in class this month! 3rd and 4th graders are doing a great job earning belts in Recorder Karate. They are working on songs such as: "It's Raining, It's Pouring" and "Gently Sleep." Kindergarten through Grade 2 have been learning songs that can be used to play musical games: "Little Tommy Tiddlemouse" and "Charlie Over the Ocean." All three grades will also play a Valentine's Day game with the song, "I'm a Little Cupid." All of the grades continue to earn gems in Music class for expected behavior and good effort. I'm excited to see which grade will fill their jar first!

Mrs. Allison Noonan

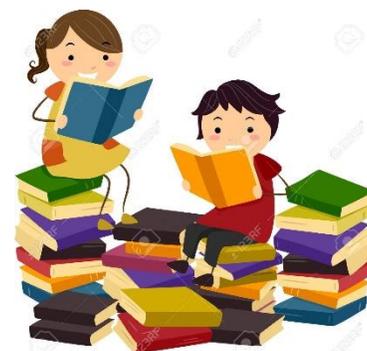
Family-Friendly Ways to Promote Reading and Writing at Home

Suggestions for Parents from Reading Specialists, Danna Collins & Alicia Sham

Here are some ideas for family-friendly ways that parents can make authentic learning experiences part of their children's home lives.

Parents can use these ideas to foster children's interest in independent reading:

1. Find out what kinds of books their children like to read.
2. Plan a weekly trip to the public library for the whole family.
3. Obtain individual public library cards for each family member.
4. Learn about the I-PICK method to help children choose good-fit books (Boushey & Moser, 2014).
5. Subscribe to a children's magazine to share as a family.
6. Establish a family togetherness time to encourage nightly reading.
7. Model interest in literacy by reading side by side with children.
8. Talk about well-loved books that they enjoyed as youngsters.
9. Help youngsters research nonfiction topics that interest them.
10. Have children read about places that the family might visit.



Parents can use these ideas to encourage children to write at home:

1. Set up a writing table with a variety of pencils, markers, and papers.
2. Ask children to help create a weekly or monthly family newsletter.
3. Have children write lists for upcoming visits to the grocery store.
4. Help youngsters create stories or books about family experiences.
5. Place a note in children's lunchboxes or backpacks, and invite them to respond.
6. Give children a clipboard and pencil and send them on a word hunt around the house.
7. Involve children in writing a nightly message such as "Today we had pasta for dinner."
8. Take photos of a family activity and ask children to write about the pictures.
9. Interest children in meteorology and ask them to write about the weather each day.
10. Encourage children to write letters and cards to grandparents and other relatives.

Adapted from: Boushey, G., & Moser, J. (2014). *The daily 5* (2nd ed.). Portland, ME: Stenhouse.

Hola Familias! An Update About Spanish Classes



Students have been busy in Spanish class over the past several weeks learning about the Mexican holiday, Las Posadas. Now that we have returned from winter break, we have been starting new units and projects. I have been continuing instruction in the target language and each day I am amazed at how much the students are able to comprehend and participate.

Current Units:

Gr. 1: Weather and months of the year
Gr. 2: The body and personal descriptions

Gr. 3: The house
Gr. 4: Verbs and telling time

We are currently in the process of revamping the Elementary Spanish Website. While we work on this, you still have access to our old (yet still informational and useful) website at: <http://fpsamigos.weebly.com/> If you are looking for ways to practice at home, this website offers quizlets, vocabulary lists, videos, etc.

Felicidades (congratulations!) to Mrs. Donovan's fourth grade class on being the FIRST class to reach "100 puntos!" All students have been working extremely hard to earn puntos for their effort, behavior, and use of the Spanish language. Mrs. Donovan's class celebrated with an extra special "fiesta" on Monday, February 5th!

Please keep in mind that information on our World Language and Culture Night will be coming out soon! This fun event will be taking place at the high school on Monday, April 9, 2018 and all are invited and encouraged to attend. I will be sending out formal invitations and more information within the next coming months. If you think your family may be interested in hosting a table/cultural display, please reach out to me at silvaa@foxborough.k12.ma.us. Gracias!

Señora Amanda Silva

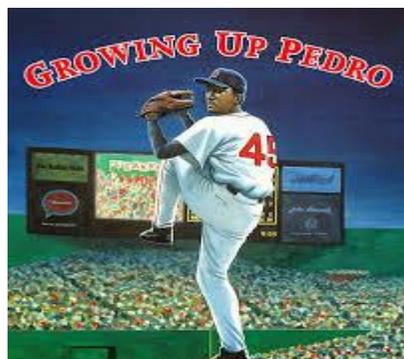


Please call us!
508-543-1607

Please have your child stop by the main office and speak to Mrs. Bayuk to check for any lost items (the pile is growing!). We are actively trying to reunite lost items with owners!

Thank you to the PTO for sponsoring our upcoming author visit!

Matt Tavares on March 6th



Social and Emotional Learning: News from our Adjustment Counselor

Students in all grades have been working really hard during Guidance Lessons this winter! Here's an update for each grade level:



Kindergarten: The kindergarteners have been learning all about feelings! It's important for young children to be able to identify a range of emotions in order to foster their ability to understand and express how they are feeling. Some of the books we've read are:

- *Today I Feel Silly* by Jamie Lee Curtis (there are additional books in this series and great activity suggestions online at: <http://files.harpercollins.com/PDF/TeachingGuides/0061127590.pdf>)
- *The Way I Feel* by Steve Metzger
- *The Way I Act* by Steve Metzger
- *The Way I Feel: When I feel...* series by Cornelia Maude Spelman

Upcoming Lessons: Thank you for completing the annual Guidance Homeside Activity with your child. We are having so much fun looking at the creative ways everyone has transformed the letters of their name. Looking ahead, Kindergarten lessons will focus on the topic of cooperation.

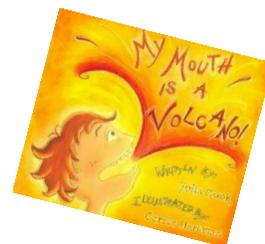
1st Grade: In 1st grade, we've been focusing on learning different strategies to calm our bodies in times when we are feeling big feelings. 1st graders have done an amazing job identifying a range of different feelings, understanding that everyone has big feelings sometimes – it's okay!, and trying several different self-regulation strategies. Some of the books we've read are:

- *I Just Don't Like the Sound of Not Like the Sound of No* By Julia Cook
- *Mean Soup* By Betsy Everitt
- *Angry Octopus* By Lori Lite
- *Mindful Movements* By Thich Nhat Hanh

Upcoming Lessons: Please be on the lookout for the annual Guidance Homeside Activity! Looking ahead, 1st Grade lessons will focus on the topics of helping one another and cooperation.

2nd Grade: 2nd graders have been exploring feelings and self-regulation strategies through author Julia Cook's book series as well as Feelings Bingo and the Feelings Card Game. We've had some great discussions about how to notice when feelings are getting bigger (i.e. what warning signs do we feel in our bodies when we are getting mad?). Some of the books we've read are:

- *My Mouth is a Volcano* By Julia Cook
- *It's Hard to be a Verb* By Julia Cook
- *Soda Pop Head* By Julia Cook



Upcoming Lessons: Thank you all for completing the annual Guidance Homeside Activity! I have enjoyed reading your feedback about the Feelings Game. I hope that you enjoyed playing it with your family! Looking ahead, 2nd grade lessons will focus on skills to develop friendships.

3rd Grade: In 3rd grade, our lessons have focused on developing friendship skills and expressing feelings appropriately. We've completely a range of activities, from art-inspired feeling maps to recipes for 'enemy pie' – ask your child about these creative activities!

Upcoming Lessons: Exciting News – we've just started working on posters to enter in the MARC (Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center) at Bridgewater State University Annual Poster Contest! This year's 3rd grade question is: *What does kindness mean to you?* Students are working with a partner to write a paragraph and create a poster in response to this question.



4th Grade: The 4th graders have been sweating their brains learning all about Growth Mindset. I am so proud of their approach to these challenging lessons that ask them to think deeply about their own thinking and approach to learning. Each month, we introduce a new mantra from the book *The Growth Mindset Coach*, which guides our lessons. Here are the mantras for the next couple of months:

- *February:* A goal without a plan is just a wish. *March:* Mistakes are opportunities for learning.

Upcoming Lessons: 4th grade lessons will continue to focus on developing Growth Mindsets. Also, we will be starting our entries for the annual poster contest at MARC (Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center) at Bridgewater State University! This year, the 4th grade question is: *How do you make yourself feel better when someone isn't being nice to you?*

You can find information about guidance lessons, available supports, and much more on my website (to access, go to Taylor School's homepage and click on the guidance link or go directly to <http://taylorschoolcounselor.weebly.com/>).

Here are a couple links to learn more about social emotional learning in education and at home:

- CASEL - <https://casel.org/in-the-home/>
- Confident Parents Confident Kids - <https://confidentparentsconfidentkids.org>

Mrs. Adria Lazur, Adjustment Counselor

Bedtime Math: Give it a Try!

www.bedtimemath.org



Parents know to read to their children at night – but what about math?

Bedtime Math is a free app (*suggested for use by the Foxborough Public School Math Specialists*) that helps parents talk to kids about math in a fun and engaging way.

There are zany daily math riddles for kids aged 3-9, with different levels of math. No logins. No drilling. No scores. Whether it's flamingos, ninjas or pillow forts, kids can see the math in their favorite topics. It's fun and it's easy - even for parents who don't like math themselves! Let us know what you think!

Mrs. Jen Powers, Taylor School Math Specialist (powersj@foxborough.k12.ma.us)



Feedback about this newsletter? Email: Dr. Moira Rodgers, Principal (rodgersm@foxborough.k12.ma.us)