



The Taylor Elementary School Newsletter

196 South Street, Foxborough, MA 02035 T: 508-543-1607 Principal: Dr. Moira Rodgers Issue: Fall 2017

From the Principal...

Dear Taylor School Families,

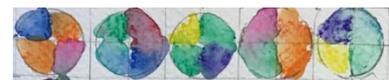
The start of a school year is filled with anticipation of joining a new classroom, meeting new classmates and making new friends. It's the beginning of a new grade level that will bring both successes and challenges as your child grows. Some highlights of what is "new" school-wide include:

- Welcoming a new Wellness teacher: **Ms. Melissa Demirjian**. The students are enjoying her classroom and getting to know her, too!
- Painting and refreshing of the school lobby and entry hallways. Included in this was the re-upholstering of the front lobby bench by **Mrs. Eileen Fitzpatrick**, who generously donated her time, talents, and fabric. Thank you so much for your commitment to our school community!
- Launching our **Caring School Community** affective curriculum throughout the school, in every classroom, as one of the district-wide expectations to support students in developing positive ways to solve problems and discuss concerns, and other general topics that arise and impact the classroom climate.
- **Round tables in the cafeteria** that comfortably seat 6 to 8 students, depending on grade level, and enable them see and talk to one another more easily at lunch. The students have all contributed to developing a common set of three fundamental cafeteria rules: stay in your seat, raise your hand if you need help or would like to get up, and clean up after yourself. Kindergarten and Grade 3 eat first, then Grades 1 and 2, and finally Grade 4.

Finally, our school-wide theme this year is "**Make Today Awesome**". This theme is meant to support and communicate a "can-do attitude" that supports a growth mindset for learning. The staff is undertaking a year-long study of how they can better develop the qualities in their students that bring out a stick-to-it attitude, applying effective effort to get smarter and more resilient when faced with challenges. Make Today Awesome also provides an opportunity for students to contribute to others having a good day, by being positive, willing to help, being a good friend, and even just offering a smile. We welcome your support in reinforcing our theme at home.



Taylor School Community Mural



Our art teacher Clara Schuster will be leading us in creating a whole school mural to reflect a part of each of us that is essential to create a beautiful masterpiece called Taylor School Community.

Each student will make their own square with $\frac{1}{4}$ of a circle. Each student will select the color and determine the design of his or her piece of the overall mural. Students have been asked to draw inspiration from how being part of the Taylor School community makes them feel.

When every student has painted their square, all of the parts will come together to make the whole mural. This reflection of "us" will be installed in the front lobby, just above the bench area.



School Council Members for 2017-2018

Thank you to the parents and staff members who volunteered to be a part of the Taylor School Council this year. This is an advisory group to me, as Principal, that is mandated by MA law. Our first meeting will be held November 9th at 3:15pm. Here are our Council members:

- Mattie McFall, parent of a Grade 4 student
- Cynthia Rumsey, parent of a Grade 3 student
- Lindsay Walford, parent of a Grade 4 and a Grade 2 student
- Jen Powers, Math Specialist
- Danna Collins, Reading Specialist
- Kaitlin Kerrigan, Grade 3 Teacher



From the School Nurse...Edna Fuller, RN

We are back into the rhythm of school and the children are wonderful! Here are a couple of gentle reminders:

- Paperwork: I have a medical record for every student per Mass. DPH. I sent home notices for missing immunizations, lead screens, and physicals. Please turn in your child's missing medical information as soon as possible.
- Footwear: Sneakers are needed for wellness class and recess. I do not have socks for children to have so please send your child to school either wearing or bringing to change into the appropriate footwear.
- Nutrition: Nutrition is so important for learning! Remember to have your child help you pack an appropriate snack – nutritious, delicious, and safe to eat in the classroom.
- Vision Assessments: Vision assessments will be starting in the next week or so. If your child fails the initial assessment, a second one will be done in two weeks. If your child fails the second assessment, a notice will be sent home in the backpack for a follow up eye appointment.



The Monthly Math Challenge Has Begun!

As you may have heard, we are encouraging children to participate in our optional monthly math challenge. The challenge is meant to give the children an opportunity to problem solve using the 8 math habits of mind. All problems can be solved in a variety of ways. The purpose is to help children solve problems that are not immediately obvious to them. We want to give them a chance to persevere and then feel proud of their accomplishments. Please keep an eye out for the monthly challenge as it comes home and encourage your mathematician to give it a try. Feel free to help them, but do not feel compelled to teach them methods that they have not yet been taught at school. As I said, all problems can be solved in many ways. Often times, children will be able to draw a picture or find a pattern for a problem that might seem algebraic. Feel free to email me if you're not sure which strategy to encourage for a particular problem. You can find a copy of the monthly math challenge (and lots more!) on my website: www.bitelementarymath.com. The following month check back for examples of age appropriate solutions!

*"If parents want to give their children a gift, the best thing they can do is teach their children to love challenges, be intrigued by mistakes, enjoy effort, and keep on learning."
—Carol Dweck*

Remember, one of the most important things you can do to help your child succeed in math is to demonstrate a positive attitude. Use phrases like, "Hmmm, that didn't work. Let's try something else." or "I'm not sure where to start with this. Let's start with what we DO know." This will demonstrate the growth mindset and can-do attitude that we strive for with the power of yet. Please email or call with questions any time!

Mathematically yours, Jennifer Powers Taylor Math Specialist powersj@foxborough.k12.ma.us



BIENVENIDOS! From Señora Silva

Hola! Welcome back to Spanish class! We have had a fun start to the school year, practicing all of our routines and reviewing expectations.

This month we are celebrating “El Día de Los Muertos” (The Day of the Dead). This is a very popular Mexican holiday that takes place from October 31st - November 2nd. We will celebrate by learning about specific celebrations/fiestas, traditional foods, and how/why the Mexican people celebrate this holiday. I will be sending home recipes for “Calaveras de Azúcar” (sugar skulls) and “Pan de Muertos” (bread of the dead, a yummy sweet bread) if you are interested in trying them at home!

If you are interested in practicing Spanish at home, please refer to our Spanish website at: fpsamigos.weebly.com. There you can view curriculum information, practice your Spanish with games/quizzes, and watch videos.

As always, thank you for your support in teaching our students a foreign language. If you have any questions as the year continues, don’t hesitate to contact me (silvaa@foxborough.k12.ma.us)!

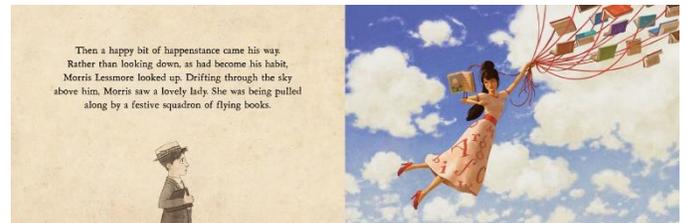
Students’ Favorite Books on Display in Lobby!

The display case in the hallway highlights the book that inspired the 2011 Academy Award winning short film, “*The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore*” by William Joyce (the short film can be found on the library website under book trailers.) In this story Morris is devastated by a storm inspired by the tornado in “The Wizard of Oz” and real- life Hurricane Katrina. Morris finds himself lost and wandering through a black and white landscape and he himself becomes black and white.



Morris then meets the lady with a squadron of flying books who leads him to a library where he becomes the caretaker of the books. His relationship with books brings life and color back to Morris.

Mrs. St. Germain is reading this story to second through fourth grade and asking students “*What book brings color to your life?*” The student’s favorite books that decorate the display case!



A Note from the Art Teacher, Ms. Schuster

The students are off to a great start this year, and have been working hard on their artwork. Kindergarten has been learning about fall colors and round shapes to create pumpkins, leaves and animals. First grade has been using their lines to create patterns on their crowns and spider webs. Second grade has been working on castle drawings to learn cylinders, cones, and textures. Third grade has been developing their creativity by drawing imaginary creatures inspired by Maurice Sendak’s ‘Where the Wild Thing Are.’ They are using textures to make their creatures interesting and are coloring them with warm or cool colors. Fourth grade has started off the year working on Chinese dragons. Dragons in the Chinese culture traditionally have the head of a monster, the body of a snake, scales like a fish and claws of an eagle. The fourth graders have drawn some wonderfully unique dragons inspired by the elements of fire, earth, water and wind. Students will be continuing the year with some exciting projects to develop their visual and creative skills.

Don't Cover the Pictures

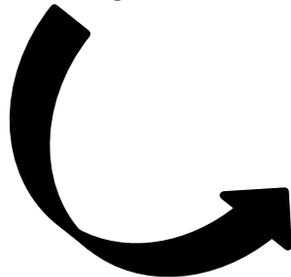
Guidance for Parents of Emerging Readers from Reading Specialists, Danna Collins & Alicia Sham

"My mom/dad doesn't let me look at the pictures."

This is something we hear a lot in Kindergarten and first grade. Research supports allowing young readers to look at the pictures and use them as cues to figure out the words. *Look at the picture* is one of the first reading strategies we teach your children to use when reading. Please encourage your child to look at the picture and tell you what they think is happening. Then you can read them the words and confirm their thinking.

Get your mouth ready is another early strategy we teach your children in the early grades. We do this is to ensure they are looking at the beginning letters and producing the sounds before they say the word.

Here is a printable bookmark that you can use at home with your child to reinforce these strategies.



Look at the picture.	
Get your mouth ready.	
Does it look right?	
Does it sound right?	
Does it make sense?	
Look for chunks.	ch-un-k
Look at the whole word.	 watermelon
Go back and reread.	



REMINDER!

NO SCHOOL: Friday, Nov. 10; Thursday, Nov. 23rd-Friday, Nov. 24

EARLY RELEASE DAYS: Monday, Nov. 20; Tuesday, Nov. 21; & Wednesday, Nov. 22