



Aquidneck School

HOME-SCHOOL LINK

Monthly Messages from your Child's Principal

Michelle L. Fonseca * (401) 847-4921 * mfonseca@mpsri.net

October 1, 2009

Thank you for joining us at our **open house**. The weather held out for our picnic, and we had an **88% attendance rate**. What a great start to the year!

I know the **busses** have been disappointing for many of you. I am committed to voicing all concerns about the busses to our bus company and the MPS administration. Although things have improved on many busses, there is certainly still room for improvement. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Upcoming Assessments...*Assessments help us to know what your child is able to do, and plan for further instruction. Below is a description of some formalized testing that will be taking place over the next few weeks.*

NECAP testing will be administered to Grade 3 beginning next week. NECAP (New England Common Assessment Program) is a state test in reading and math. Please see our calendar for testing dates. Many thanks to our PTG for providing morning snacks to our test takers! Below are some reminders for testing.

- Ensure that your child has a full night's sleep each night during the course of the assessment
- Ensure that your child has breakfast all mornings
- Try to provide a calm morning home environment so that your child does not come to school burdened by stresses.
- Be sure that your child is present on testing days, unless ill. Please schedule special appointments on other days

NWEA testing will be administered in Grades 2 and 3. NWEA is a locally chosen assessment in language, math and reading that the children complete in the computer lab. When taking a NWEA computer test, the difficulty of each question is based on how well a student answers all the previous questions. As the student answers correctly, questions become more difficult. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions become easier. The final score is an estimate of the student's achievement level.

PALS- K and 1 students will be assessed with the Phonological Awareness & Literacy Screening. This screening will allow teachers to identify students who meet the literacy benchmarks for their grade levels and those that do not.

Aquidneck Afterschool Programs-the following afterschool programs will be starting the week of October 19th. They are offered at no cost, however, bus transportation is *not available*.

After the Bell- is a remedial reading program open to students in grades 1-3. During this program, students will work on individual goals in reading. Invitations for this program will be sent home, they are generated through teacher recommendation. (Coordinated by Miss Dugan sdugan@mpsri.net)

Homework Club- this is an opportunity for students in grades 1-3 to get some extra help from teachers with their homework. Students who are having difficulty with certain concepts in school, or struggling at home to complete work are eligible for this program. If you feel that this would be beneficial for your child, please contact our coordinator. (Coordinated by Mrs. Alexander palexander@mpsri.net)

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Some Principal Reminders ...

Banking- will begin this month. It is a savings program sponsored by People's Credit Union. It is open to Grades 1-3 and will be done in our computer lab. Info will be sent home on signing up for a new account.

School Store- Will begin Oct 9th- please do not allow children to bring anymore than \$3.00 for the store.

Communications Home- An Aquidneck Home Link like this one will be sent home monthly. In addition, an Aquidneck newsletter will be sent home 3 times per year... (Fall, Winter and Spring editions)

Smiles Program is this month. It is an in house dental service. Information was sent home, for additional info please contact our nurse at crosa@mpsri.net

International Walk to School Day – October 7th. Our walkers will be reminded of walking safety and join in a celebration when they arrive at school. (they may invite a friend to walk with them that day) Raindate- 10/8

Reminders...

- ✓ Drop off is between 8:15 and 8:30. Please do not drop any students off prior to 8:15, there is no supervision at that time.
- ✓ If your child is going to be absent, please call the office in the morning 847-4921
- ✓ Please visit our district website for updates, information and a link to our school site. www.mpsri.net
- ✓ ParentTeacherGroup mtg 10/8 at 6:30pm
SchoolImprovementTeam mtg 9/28 at 3pm
✓

Do you know what our School Improvement Goals are?

Goal 1 WRITING

Students will be able to write insightful responses in all content areas by utilizing the different genres in order to increase NECAP scores by 3% each school year.

Goal 2 READING

Students will make more thoughtful interpretations of text in order to increase NECAP scores by 3% each school year.

Goal 3 MATH

Students will be able to solve rigorous mathematical problems and justify their solutions in order to increase NECAP scores by 3% each school year.

Goal 4 SCIENCE

Students will be able to draw conclusions as a result of the scientific process in order to increase NECAP scores by 3% each school year.