



The Taylor Elementary School Newsletter

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Fall 2018 Issue

From the Principal...

Dear Taylor School Families,

It is hard to believe that we are almost two months into our new school year! Finally, the weather is turning to the chill of autumn, and our students are acclimating nicely to new teachers, learning new routines, and making new friends. The summer was filled with lots of work that helped bring the Taylor some well-deserved enhancements! Some highlights of what is “new” school-wide include:

- 1) A new computer lab that is housed in a classroom-like space (Room 19). This was made possible in part by a gift from The Iorio Foundation. We are continuing to add new technologies and equipment to this space that will spark students’ creativity and enthusiasm for learning!
- 2) A new water bottle filler/drinking fountain in the cafeteria. *The kids are loving it!*
- 3) New playground games such as four square, hopscotch, and basketball keys painted on the blacktop! Thanks to PTO!

Finally, we are continuing our school-wide theme of **“Make Today Awesome!”**. This theme is meant to support and communicate a “can-do attitude” that supports a growth mindset for learning. It also emphasizes the positive things we can do to make every day its best despite challenges. This year we are incorporating a new phrase: **PAWS-itively Taylor!** (a tip-of-the-hat to our school mascot, a tiger). Our new school counselor, **Bianca Jones**, and I, met with all the grade levels the first week of school and asked the students what they thought it meant to be “paws-itively Taylor”. They said: 1) Be kind; 2) Be helpful; and 3) Follow the rules!

We have new staff members that have joined the Taylor School family:



Taylor School Halloween Parade!

On Wednesday (10/31) afternoon at 2:00pm, Taylor School students will parade around the *outside* of the school in costumes to celebrate Halloween! The Taylor School staff overwhelmingly voted to support this community-building event. It will be part of the classroom-based activities that are being planned and supported by PTO and our Room Parent volunteers. *We are very appreciative of your efforts!*

Please help us by making sure that your child’s costume is appropriate for school (no masks, weapons, blood, or anything too scary!) We want this to be a festive and fun time*!

Ask your child about the door decorating around the school! As an additional activity, teachers and students are decorating classroom doors in a seasonal theme. We will be voting next week for our favorites!

***NOTE:** Should you not want your child to participate, we will have an alternate activity in which he/she can engage.





School Council Members for 2018-2019

The School Council is an advisory group to me, as Principal, that is mandated by MA law. We have a new community representative, **Ms. Marie Deedy**, who volunteered to be a part of the Taylor School Council this year. Marie is a Taylor School neighborhood resident, and a former educator and Attleborough Public Schools Central Office staff member. For the past six years, she was associated with Teachers21 in Newton, MA. Welcome and thank you, Marie! Our first meeting was held in October. Our next meeting will be held on November 8th at 3:15pm. Here are our current Council members:

- Marie Deedy, community representative
- Cynthia Rumsey, parent of a Grade 4 student
- Lindsay Walford, parent of a Grade 3 student
- Jen Powers, Math Specialist
- Danna Collins, Reading Specialist



The 2018 Math Challenge is **NEW** and **IMPROVED!**

You can find the challenge on our website at: www.bitelementarymath.com



Click the challenge button under your grade level!

Welcome BIT Mathematicians! Have fun solving these challenges!

Grades 1 & 2

OCTOBER CHALLENGE

Grades 3 & 4

OCTOBER CHALLENGE

All math challenges will be submitted right through this page.
You can reach our website on a home, library, or school computer/tablet. Have fun!

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



Saludos a todos! From Señora Witschel

Note to parents: We are so very fortunate to have Ms. Janette Witschel as our long term substitute for Ms. Amanda Silva, who is taking maternity leave for the 2018-2019 school year. Ms. Witschel is a former Foxborough Public Schools world language teacher who is coming out of retirement to help us! Muchos gracias to Senora!

Hola y Bienvenido a octubre en la clase de español!

- **First grade** students have been working hard learning their new Spanish names as well as colors in Spanish. Ask your first grader to sing the colors song: Azul, blanco, rojo, violeta, amarillo, anaranjado, verde y rosa.
- **Second grade** is also very busy practicing their names, reviewing colors and numbers. We'll be learning numbers from 1-20.
- **Third grade** is very exciting. They are learning new greeting vocabulary and will soon be interviewing each other in Spanish.
- **Fourth grade** is learning how to say the date in Spanish and we're reviewing weather terms and the seasons. Ask your student ¿Qué tiempo hace hoy?

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 (witschelj@foxborough.k12.ma.us)!

A Note from the Music Teacher, Ms. Noonan!

It has been a great start to the school year in Music! We are working on classroom routines and getting comfortable again with singing and moving in class. Kindergarten has been singing Apple songs and exploring the rhythm instruments in the classroom. Grades 1 and 2 are singing "Apple on a Stick", as well as reviewing the proper way to use the classroom instruments. Grade 3 has begun learning to read music on the staff, and will be receiving their recorders within the next two weeks. Grade 4 has been reviewing music reading and their recorder songs from last year. They will begin to learn the ukulele within the month...how exciting! Please ask your children what they are doing to help their classmates earn "gems" in Music. Once our jar is full, we will celebrate with a reward day of music games!



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 the year working on Viking dragons. The students created dragons that 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 three Brim Runes- algiz (protection), tiwa (strength & victory), and radhio (travel & communication). Students will be continuing the year with some exciting projects to develop their visual and creative skills.

Don't Cover the Pictures

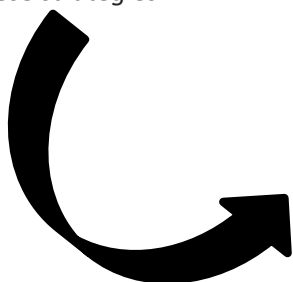
Guidance for Parents of Emerging Readers from Reading Specialists, Danna Collins & Alicia Sham

"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 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: Monday, Nov. 12; Thursday, Nov. 22nd-Friday, Nov. 23

EARLY RELEASE DAYS: Monday, Nov. 19; Tuesday, Nov. 20; & Wednesday, Nov. 21