



The Taylor Elementary School Newsletter


196 South Street, Foxborough, MA 02035 T: 508-543-1607 Principal: Dr. Moira Rodgers Vol 3, Issue 1: Fall 2019

From the Principal...

Over the past two months, we have been engaged in making our new classrooms our own: acclimating to new teachers, new learning routines, and making new friends. One of the very important ways we are learning how to build our classroom and school community is through *Responsive Classroom*!

Responsive Classroom™ is a social and emotional learning approach to teaching and discipline that is student-centered. Its researched and evidence-based practices are designed to create safe, joyful, and engaging classroom and school communities for all. Each day in every classroom a 15-20 minute *Morning Meeting* is held. It is a *Responsive Classroom* hallmark, and foundational to all that happens in our classrooms. It includes a **greeting** where each child welcomes another child by name, we **share** something that is important to us or relevant to the classroom running smoothly, we participate in a **group activity**, and read a **Morning Message** that tells what is planned for the day's learning. This time is where the relationships and connections between and among our students are built and cultivated. If you would like to know more about this program, please ask your child's teacher. This is the first year of a 3-year, district-based plan to roll this program out across all elementary schools.

There are a some new additions to the Taylor School that I wanted to highlight:

- 1) We welcome several new staff this year: a Grade 3 teacher, Mrs. Lindsey Morris; a Spanish teacher, Ms. Margarita Coffin; a Special Educator, Ashley Kelly, and a school psychologist, Laurel Silverman. New educational assistants who have joined us include: Kalie Imprescia, Karen Davis (formerly of Igo), and Jill Murphy (former of Extended Day). We have new lunch monitors: Karen Solomon and Karen Kelly. Finally, we have a new evening custodian, Mike Albuit.
- 2) We are **Tweeting!**  For a snapshot of a day in the life of Taylor School students, please follow us at **@Taylor_Foxboro**
- 3) Thanks to the generous contributions of our PTO, we have an incredible new playground climbing structure! It has been a huge hit with our students! We are enthusiastically challenging ourselves (safely!) to explore this physical web! Ask your child if he or she has tried it! We'd love feedback!

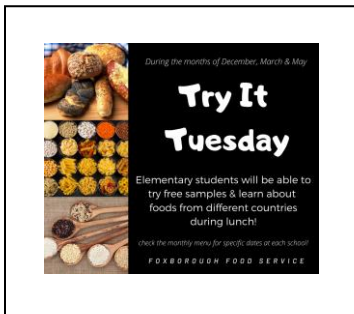
As we approach the Thanksgiving season, I wanted to share that on behalf of the staff here at Taylor School, we are so thankful for our students and the opportunity to help them grow! Our wonderful school community is becoming increasingly diverse and we embrace this as a way to build our understanding of different perspectives and experiences! From our in-class guidance lessons, to new food tastings emphasizing food from different cultures, to our staff learning how to teach in a more culturally responsive way, *we look forward to learning together!*

As always, I am here if you would like to share your thoughts and/or have any questions or concerns! You can reach me by email at rodgersm@foxborough.k12.ma.us or by phone at 508-543-1607!



News from Mrs. Rice's Kitchen

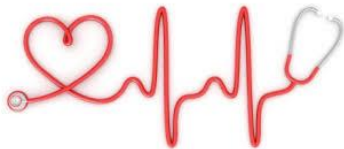
We're off to a great start at the Taylor. Kids are eating more fruits and vegetables this year! They also have been trying new foods from the menu and salad bar. It so exciting to see the kids wanting to try new things!



Speaking of new foods. We have something really exciting coming in December, March and May...We will have "Try it Tuesday" where all students will be able to try/learn about samples of foods from different countries. *In December*, we will have bread such as Naan (Indian), Papusas (South American), and Pita (Middle Eastern). In March, it will be noodles such as Spaetzle (German), Udon (Japanese), and Orzo (Greek). May will be rice such as Basmati (Indian), Risotto (Italian), and Rice & Pigeon Peas (Caribbean).

On the December menu, we will reveal the "try it" date!

Have you signed up for MySchoolBucks? If not, check it out at www.myschoolbucks.com. It's a great tool through which parents can easily pay for school lunches. It's free to sign up and you can set up notifications to alert you when the account balance is low, see what is being purchased (lunch/juice/water/breakfast/etc.), and much more. Of course, if you wish to send a check/cash directly to the school, that's acceptable, too. When making payment by check, be sure to include student's name in the memo and made payable to Taylor School Food Service.



A Note from the Nurse...Mrs. Edna Fuller, RN

The nurse's office is in full swing this fall! Some of the students have received their flu shots so far this year. There have been no reported cases of flu to the me, as yet. Please remember the flu vaccine is the best defense, along with good hand washing, nutrition, and rest. (Yes, I received my flu shot last month!)



There seems to be some confusion regarding medications in school. No student is allowed to carry any medication to elementary school, with the exception of an epi pen and medication for cystic fibrosis. This includes over the counter medications. No antibiotic ointments, nasal sprays, or antibiotics can be carried by students. This is for the safety of everyone. Students can bring in cough drops; the drops will be kept in the nurse's office and the child can ask the teacher to visit me. Chapstick is allowed, and encouraged, to be brought to school.



Vision assessments have begun. If your child passes you will not be notified. If your child fails, a second assessment will be conducted in two weeks. If you child fails a second time, a referral letter will be sent home in the backpack.

Hearing assessments will be scheduled in December. The same pass/fail notification will happen.

Remember with the weather getting colder, please dress the children appropriately. Students go outside every day with temperatures above 20 degrees, including wind chill, unless it is icy on the playground or is raining.

Math Fact Fluency: How You Can Help at Home!

Ask your child about the BRAND NEW Fact Fluency cart! Every classroom has successfully started a newly introduced fact fluency workshop once a cycle with Mrs. Powers. They take turns rotating through 3 stations. They practice their grade level math facts by playing BUMP with a partner, flash cards with a partner, and independent practice utilizing the Fast Facts app on our brand new iPads.

We ask that you continue all this hard work at home so students build their fact fluency and ultimately their automaticity!

Please visit the Elementary Math Website for the Facts your student(s) need to know and links to games students can play at home! <https://www.bitelementarymath.com/>

Happy Mathing! Mrs. Jen Powers

Facts My Kids Need to Know

Kindergarten Facts



1st Grade Facts



2nd Grade Facts



3rd Grade Facts



4th Grade Facts



And try these also found on the Elementary Math Website!

Fact Fluency Games

ADDITION & SUBTRACTION



MULTIPLICATION & DIVISION

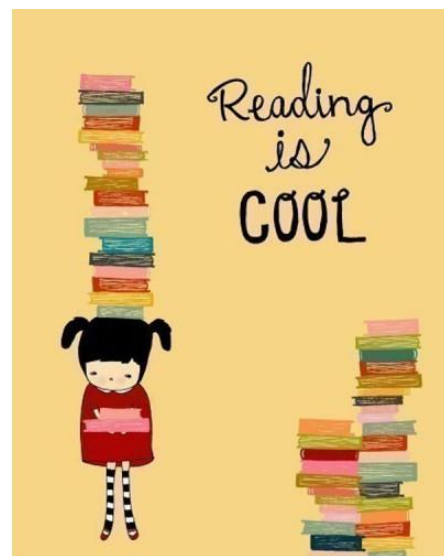


Reading with Your Child: Using the Check for Understanding Strategy

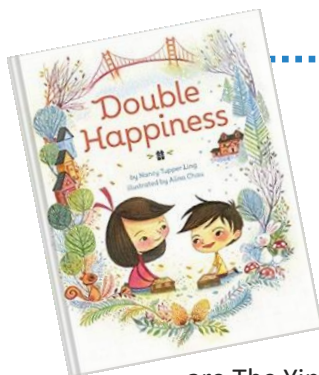
Even as an adult learner, there are times when I am reading a story and I get lost and am not sure what has happened. Fortunately, when this happens, I have strategies I use to help me understand the story. The same thing happens when children read. However, with children, they often keep reading and do not realize they lost comprehension until the end of the story. They are too concerned with reading accurately, and forget to take the time to think about *what they are reading about*. How can we help them gain comprehension? We can teach them **the comprehension strategy: check for understanding**. Good readers stop frequently to check for understanding or to ask “who?” and “what?”

How can you help your child with this strategy at home?

1. When reading to your child, stop periodically and say, “Let’s see if we remember what I just read. Think about **who** the story was about and **what** happened.” Do this 3 or 4 times throughout the story.
2. When reading to your child, stop and have them practice checking for understanding by saying, “I heard you say...”
3. Ask your child the following questions:
 - Who did you just read about?
 - What just happened?
 - Was your brain talking to you while you read?
 - Do you understand what you read?
 - What do you do if you don’t remember?



If you have any questions, please email our Reading Specialists: Mrs. Danna Collins (collinsd@foxborough.k12.ma.us) or Mrs. Alicia Sham (shama@foxborough.k12.ma.us). Thank you for your continued support at home!



Nancy Tupper Ling is coming to Taylor School!

Our PTO is sponsoring a visit by Nancy Tupper Ling on Monday, November 18th. She is the winner of the prestigious Writer's Digest Grand Prize and the Pat Parnell Poetry Award. She draws her inspiration from the multicultural background of her family and the interwoven fabric of familial culture which is, on the surface, seemingly every day. Her most recent books are *The Yin-Yang Sisters* and *the Dragon Frightful* (Putnam) and *Family Celebrations* (Andrews McMeel), and *Double Happiness* (Chronicle Books), *The Story I'll Tell* (Lee & Low Books) and the founder of Fine Line Poets, Currently she resides in Massachusetts with her husband, Vincent, their two girls, two fish and a parakeet named Nimbus.



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. First grade has also been learning about the artist Piet Mondrian, and observing his abstract works as inspiration for their own pictures. **Second grade** has been working on castle drawings to learn cylinders, cones, and textures. Second graders have also been learning about Claude Monet and his water garden. **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. Dragons in the Viking culture 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). We have just started our clay unit in third and fourth grade. Third grade is creating clay animals. Fourth grade is making coil pots inspired by Chinese pottery.

All students will be progressing through the year with exciting projects to develop their visual and creative skills!

A Wellness Update from Ms. Elise McMahon

Students in grades K-4 in wellness class have just wrapped up their throwing and catching unit from the month of October. Now that it is November, we are moving into flag football skills. This is an elementary curriculum for grades K-4 taken straight from the NFL!



In addition to skill work, this month's health focus is on nutrition. By the end of the month, students will be able to identify healthy snack choices and will even be able to help you read food labels at the supermarket!



A Note from the Spanish Teacher, Senora Coffin

In Spanish class we are very excited about learning colors and numbers this month in grades 1 and 2 and higher numbers and classroom objects in grades 3 and 4. We began our year getting to know each other and learning greetings and other useful phrases in Spanish. We have a lot of fun learning through music, games, circles to practice speaking and other learning tools. We use interpersonal communication, interpretive listening, presentational speaking and other strategies that make acquiring a second language less challenging.

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 and pumpkin songs and exploring the rhythm instruments in the classroom. They are now learning their first Patriotic song. **Grades 1 and 2** are singing "Pumpkin Puzzler," and have added xylophones and boom whackers to this song. **Grade 3** has begun learning to read music on the staff, and has already completed their first song on the recorder: "Dexter the Dragon." **Grade 4** has been reviewing music-reading skills and are starting the ukuleles this week. They have been waiting very patiently! They also spent a few classes re-writing the lyrics to "Ghost of John" and performed them in small groups just before Halloween. 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!

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Monday and Tuesday (11/25 & 11/26) are *Early Release Days* to allow for parent-teacher conferences. School ends at 12:07pm on each of these days. If you have not yet scheduled a conference, please email your child's teacher. A list of staff with email addresses can be found on our website:

https://taylor.foxborough.k12.ma.us/contact_us/staff_directory



- Early Release (12:07pm) on Wednesday, November 27th
- No School on Thursday or Friday, November 28-29th



Winter Break

Begins at the end of a regular school day on Friday, December 20th and runs through January 1st. School will resume on January 2, 2020!

Report Cards



GRADE 1-4 REPORT CARDS
WILL BE SENT HOME ON
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6