



The Taylor Elementary School Newsletter

196 South Street, Foxborough, MA 02035 T: 508-543-1607 Principal: Dr. Moira Rodgers Issue #3: Early Winter 2019

From the Principal...

Dear Taylor School Families,

We are well into the new calendar year and well into the winter season. Although we have not had as much snow as some of us would like, we seem to have had more than our fair share of colds, stomach bugs, and even the flu! As we head into the last week of February and with March almost upon us, thoughts of spring begin to bloom. Here at the Taylor we always try to find the positive in all situations, from weather to our classroom learning communities! Here are some highlights to celebrate:

- All School Meetings! We continue to use this opportunity to gather the school together to share information and discuss relevant issues. We have been using these opportunities to build community and have been experimenting with having the Grade 4 students sit with and beside our Kindergarten students. It has been fun to see the older students supporting the younger students and be such wonderful role models.
- We also highlighted that February is Black History Month – a month that honors the important role African Americans play in the story of our country. We showed a brief video from [PBS Learning Media](#) to help raise students' awareness of this designation. The staff and I are working to increase our understanding of what it means to be culturally proficient and culturally responsive to our students so that all students experience Taylor as a school where everyone feels known, appreciated, and valued!
- 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 serving currently are: *Chloe McGarry, Jacey Camelio, Katie Correia, Madi Turner, Siya Makhecha, Taylor Karvonen, Ryan Tubbs, Morgan Brightbill, and Brynn Allen*. Stay tuned for news as we get our work underway!
- We are better together! In the front lobby of the school, there is a bulletin board devoted to sharing pictures of the students who make up the Taylor School. We are trying to emphasize that each child, as unique and wonderful as he or she is, contributes in an important way to Taylor community. We are Taylor precisely because of who we are when we learn and grow together! Lots of smiles as well! Check it out!!

Thank you for being interested in your child/ren's learning. We so appreciate, and need, that support! I am always available to you, should you have any questions and/or concerns. Please contact me at 508-543-1607.



Afternoon Pick Up Routine: Please walk up and meet your child by the side door where he/she is 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

Winter has arrived! While we enjoyed a mild fall, the cold is here now. The children go outside for recess every day unless the temperature is below 20 degrees. **Please be sure your child is dressed for the cold:** winter coats that zip or button, gloves/mittens, and hats!



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, earaches, 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 him/herself then keep your child home. And speak with the pediatrician about the flu shot for your child.

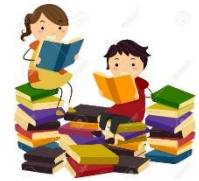


Family-Friendly Ways to Promote Reading and Writing at Home

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

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

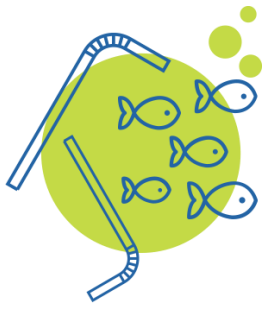
- Find out what kinds of books their children like to read.
- Plan a weekly trip to the public library for the whole family.
- Learn about the I-PICK method to help children choose good-fit books (Boushey & Moser, 2014).
- Subscribe to a children's magazine to share as a family.
- Establish a family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



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

- Set up a writing table with a variety of pencils, markers, and papers.
- Have children write lists for upcoming visits to the grocery store.
- Help youngsters create stories or books about family experiences.
- Place a note in children's lunchboxes or backpacks, and invite them to respond.
- Give children a clipboard and pencil and send them on a word hunt around the house.
- Involve children in writing a nightly message such as "Today we had pasta for dinner."
- Take photos of a family activity and ask children to write about the pictures.
- Interest children in meteorology and ask them to write about the weather each day.
- 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.



Grade 3 Environmentalists Launch “No Straw Wednesday”!

Some Grade 3 environmentalists, led by *Haley Yates, Sadie Brown, Molly Feibel, Alexandra Palmer and Sammy Marsh*, have launched a campaign to have students voluntarily skip a straw on Wednesdays (or every day, if students so choose). The students generated this idea because of their interest in sea life – and in particular, the sea turtle. Plastics are having a significant negative impact on the aquatic ecosystem. We shared a PBS video at the All School Meeting and students explained their idea. The Taylor School community was enthusiastically all in on this voluntary effort! Soon, you will be hearing more about a week-long challenge!

Saludos de la clase de Español !

The Taylor students have been learning a lot of Español!

Grade 4 has learned the verb *Gustar* -- to please or to like. They have been practicing saying what they like, *me gusta*. What they don't like, *no me gusta*, and what they like a lot, *me gusta mucho*. We've also added some are verbs to make Spanish even more interesting. In class we've reviewed definite and indefinite articles in Spanish, *el, la, los, las* and *un, una, unos, unas*. You can ask your child if they like to wash the dishes: *¿Te gusta lavar los platos?*



Grade 3 has just wrapped up telling time in Spanish. The students also learned to say at what time they get to school and have lunch. We learned how to say breakfast, *el desayuno*, lunch, *el almuerzo* and dinner, *la cena*. Ask your child: *¿A qué hora comes el almuerzo?*

Grade 2 has just learned about body parts. Recently your child brought home a completed project. Each student chose a comic strip character and labeled the body parts. Ask your child what is a *cabeza* (head), *pierna* (leg), and a *brazo* (arm). You can also ask them to play *Simón dice* -- Simon says.

Grade 1 learned the shapes in Spanish: *el círculo, el cuadrado, el rectángulo y el triángulo*. Once we completed our coloring book on shapes, the students made a Valentine card with the shape of a corazón. Next we will be reviewing months, days and greetings! ¡Hasta pronto! 🐾 Señora Witschel



MCAS Tests in English Language Arts (Only Grades 3 & 4; Math in May)

Grade 3: April 3 & 4

Grade 4: April 10 & 11

It's "Mystery Book" Time in our Library!

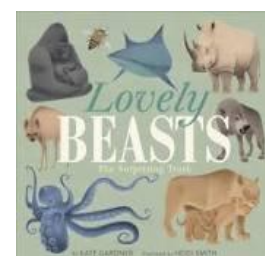
Update from Ms. Darisa St. Germain, Library Guru

Students will have the opportunity to check out a "Mystery Book" during library time. Students are not required to take a mystery book but most do choose to.

Rules for mystery books are as follows:



New Books to Check



Please Mark Your Calendar!

- 2/27 Grade 1 "Tooth Talk"
- 3/1 Grade 2 Morning Math 9:00-9:45 *RSVP appreciated*
- 3/6 Parent School Improvement Plan Input Due
- 3/7 Kindergarten High Tech High Touch School Council Meeting 3:15-4:00pm
PTO Meeting 7:00-8:00pm – Superintendent Visit
- 3/12 Ahern Program of Studies Night @ 6pm
- 3/14 BIT Kindergarten Information Night, 6:30pm @ Burrell
- 3/22 Report Cards go home for Grades 1-4
- 3/23 Taylor School Spring Fling (Saturday) 10am-2pm
- 3/27 & 3/29 Kindergarten Parent Conferences
- 4/3-4/4 Grade 3 MCAS in English Language Arts
- 4/10-4/11 Grade 4 MCAS in English Language Arts
- 4/15-4/19 **April Vacation – No School**



Our School Resource Officer Frank Azevedo visited on Mix- It-Up Friday (January 2019).



Please call us!
508-543-1607



Please check out the new Wellness website created by Ms. Elise McMahon!
<https://taylorschoolwellness.weebly.com/>