



The Taylor Elementary School Newsletter

196 South Street, Foxborough, MA 02035 T: 508-543-1607 Principal: Dr. Moira Rodgers Issue #2: Early Winter 2018

From the Principal...

Dear Taylor School Families,

With just a week away from the end of 2018, I am amazed at how quickly the last four months have passed. There has been lots of learning and growing for our students and staff. With every new experience, we grow! Our goal here at the Taylor is to always find the positive and engage with that which makes our community more connected, within and among our classrooms and grade levels. Here are some highlights to celebrate:

- The musical production of **Junie B. Jones** that was brought to life by some of our Grade 3 and Grade 4 students, under the expert direction of our Mrs. Darisa St. Germain, and supported by our Grade 4 teacher, Ms. Sarah Sykes, was spectacular! Our entire school was treated to this production, with an all school field trip on November 28th. Thank you to the PTO and the parent volunteers that helped to make the production so successful. It was such a treat to be able to have the students experience a production at The Orpheum Theatre, too! Thank you to Mr. Robert Hickey for allowing our students use of this amazing theater space!
- We celebrated the learning of our Grades 1-4 students during conferences with parents during the month of November. These discussions were followed up by Report Cards that were sent home on December 7th. If you have any questions about your child's learning at any time during the year, please contact your child's teacher directly. We welcome the opportunity to speak with you so we can best support your child as a school-home partnership! Kindergarten and Specialist Report Cards will be sent home on February 1, 2019.
- We have initiated the *Taylor Tech Crew*! This team of student leaders that help maintain the new Computer Lab and technology devices in our school. What a great way to utilize and develop student knowledge and skills, right? This also organically generates opportunities for the students to develop their 4 Cs—*communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity skills*. Currently, Leighton, Mimi, Morgan, and Taylor make up this team. They are serving as role models for their peers and younger students as we continue to move forward with technology integration and innovation.

Thank you for being involved and interested in being a part of your child/ren's learning. We so appreciate and need that support! On behalf of all the staff here at the Taylor, I send you best wishes for the holiday season, and a fun-filled time during the break!



Taylor Spirit Days This Week!

Wednesday:
Festive Hat Day



Thursday:
Festive Sweater Day



Friday:
PJ/Flannel Friday

From the School Nurse...Edna Fuller, RN

Winter has finally 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. Also snow pants and boots are needed so children can play in the snow. Be sure your child is learning how to put on their snow pants and boots so they don't miss too much fun time outside.



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, ear aches, 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 themselves then keep them home. And speak with the pediatrician about the flu shot for your child. Winter break is almost here. I wish all families a safe and healthy time.



A Great Way for Families to Connect: **Play Math Games!**



Thinking about any new games in your house? Playing games are a great way for families to connect, develop turn taking, collaborate, and develop language skills. Many games can develop math thinking and support learning that is happening at school. The following article from the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics offers more insight into the benefits of game play (*excerpted from Why Play Math Games? By Kitty Rutherford, Posted April 27, 2015*) :

People of all ages love to play games that are fun and motivating. Games give students opportunities to explore fundamental number concepts, such as the counting sequence, one-to-one correspondence, and computation strategies. Engaging in mathematical games can also encourage students to explore number combinations, place value, patterns, and other important mathematical concepts. Further, they afford opportunities for students to deepen their mathematical understanding and reasoning. Games are an important tool for learning in elementary school mathematics classrooms. Here is why:

- *Playing games encourages strategic mathematical thinking as students find different strategies for solving problems and deepen their understanding of numbers.*
- *When played repeatedly, games support students' development of computational fluency.*
- *Games have the potential to allow students to develop familiarity with the number system and with "benchmark numbers" (such as 10s, 100s, and 1000s) and engage in computation practice, building a deeper understanding of operations.*
- *Games support a school-to-home connection. Parents can learn about their children's mathematical thinking by playing games with them at home.*

Please check out our math resources that have been designed by our Foxborough Public Schools elementary math specialists to help you support your child to learn the grade level math facts for which he or she is responsible:

<https://www.bitelementarymath.com/> Select the PARENTS menu! Lots of ideas for math games, too!

Have fun with math! Jennifer Powers, Taylor Math Specialist, powersj@foxborough.k12.ma.us

Kindergarten* Registration for 2019-2020 at Taylor School

(*Students must be five years old, on or before August 31, 2019.)

- Tuesday, January 8th from 9:30 am – 2:30 pm
- Wednesday, January 9th from 9:30 am – 2:30 pm
- Thursday, January 10th from 9:30 am – 6:00 pm (note: extended hours)

The registration form is downloadable from the Taylor School website: (<http://foxborough.k12.ma.us/taylor/>). Please bring this completed form, a copy of your child's birth certificate, and proof of residency when you register. If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Beth Bayuk, school secretary, at 508-543-1607.

Books Make Great Gifts!

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



Children love books! Each day children ask to borrow books from our reading teachers' collections. We explain how our books are special and important to us, and how we need to treat them with respect so that they will last for many years.

While holiday shopping please keep this in mind as a book makes a great gift. If you are not sure what books your child may like, please consider a book you and your child could read together each day/night that you enjoyed as a child or that you have always wanted to read. Reading to your child/ren can help them build comprehension, expand vocabulary, as well as honing listening skills. Please visit our reading website to find a list of books by grade level that will make great gifts this holiday season:



<http://readaroundfoxborough.weebly.com/>



News from the Kitchen!

Submitted by Mrs. Rice

Have you heard about the breakfast/snack bag that is being offered to the students? It is available every day in the morning and everything they need is in the bag. There's milk, juice, fruit, sunflower seeds and a whole grain snack of the day. All for \$1.50; \$.30 for students who have a reduced lunch fee and no cost for students who have free lunch.

It was great seeing some parents at the Winter Social last week! A few people have asked about the pizza, due to kids really liking it! Every Friday, we hand-stretch our own pizza, using Original brand products, such as the whole grain dough ball, vine ripened pizza sauce and a cheddar/mozzarella cheese blend. Its crispy crust comes from cooking it on a screened pizza rack, just like pizzerias do! I was also asked about the sausage patty. The brand is Hormel. We serve lots of the same brands that you trust at home, such as General Mills, Kelloggs, D'Animals, Heinz, Kayem, and Pillsbury, just to name a few!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us or Food Service Director, Janice Watt (508) 543-1656 or email at wattj@foxborough.k12.ma.us.



Please Mark Your Calendar!

12/20 Kindergarten Holiday Concert 2:00pm

12/21 Full Day of School

12/24--1/1/2018 Winter Break -- No School

1/2 School Resumes

1/8 Kindergarten Registration for 2018-2019 (9:30am-2:30pm)

1/9 Kindergarten Registration for 2018-2019 (9:30am-2:30pm)

1/10 Kindergarten Registration for 2018-2019 (9:30am-6:00pm)

School Council Meeting 3:15-4:00pm

PTO Meeting 7:00-8:00pm

1/21 MLK Day -- No School

1/24 Term I Ends for Kindergarten

1/25 Professional Development Day -- No School

2/1 Kindergarten and Specialist Report Cards Distributed

2/18--2/22 February Break -- No School



Please call us!
508-543-1607