

Hope School



"Where Children Come First"
January 2011 Family Newsletter

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Principal

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Wishing our families
and staff of
Hope School all the
best in 2011!

Feinstein News

We have recently purchased three LCD projectors, a document camera, and three presentation carts with the funds donated by Mr. Feinstein when he came to visit us last month. Plans are also underway to purchase a new digital camera to be used by teachers and staff to photograph student activities. Money has been set aside to support our positive behavior initiative that will be launched in several weeks. More information on this activity will be coming soon! Parents are reminded that our students are entitled to one free child and adult admission to the Children's Museum and the Mystic Aquarium with their Jr. Scholar card. These activities would be great to do over the holiday break. The Children's Museum is also free to everyone the third Friday of every month!

Student Council

The Student Council movie event was very well attended. We were able to provide winter clothing and toys for eleven children with the proceeds from this event. Thanks to all of you for your generosity. We appreciate the very generous donation of popcorn from Showcase Cinemas at Warwick Mall.

Young Authors

It's that time of year again for Young Authors! This annual event, sponsored by the PTA, is always anxiously anticipated. This year's "kick off" will feature presentations by children's author Mark Binder. He will visit our school on Wednesday, January 5th to teach our students the importance of writing, reading and the joy of telling stories. Mr. Binder has generously donated some of his books and audio recordings to our school. Attached to this newsletter is an order form if you would like to purchase some of his work for your child. Please stop by Ms. Mowry's office if you would like to preview his materials. You may also go to www.markbinder.com for additional information. Orders are due by January 28th. Blank books will be circulated to all students on January 6th for children to write and publish their own stories. All completed books need to be passed in to teachers by Monday, February 14th so that they may be presented at the Hope Library over winter break. The Young Author's Celebration is scheduled for Friday, April 1st at Scituate High School.



Spelling Bees



- ~ Before January 21 - grade 4 & 5 classroom bees
- ~ January 27 - Grade Level Bees
- ~ February 9 - Scituate District Level Bee
- ~ March 12 - State Spelling Bee

Aimsweb

As you are aware, teachers have been using the Aimsweb Assessment Program for the past two years to screen and progress monitor student achievement in reading fluency. In January, we will expand our use of the Aimsweb Program to include mathematics computation, concepts, and application with our students in grades 3-5. The district has contracted the Dunn Institute to provide professional development to our teachers as they move forward with this work. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Ms. Mowry.

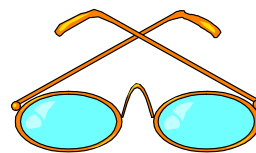
Survey Works!

Once again, fourth and fifth graders are being invited to complete an online survey that will help our local school, school district and RIDE to improve our schools and support better teaching and learning for all students in Rhode Island. We have scheduled administration of this survey for Tuesday, March 8, 2011. All responses will remain anonymous. Students that are participating will take the survey with their classmates in our computer lab. A letter will be sent home to parents on January 18, 2011. If you would like to see a hard copy of the survey, please see Ms. Mowry. Please return the opt-out form attached to the parent letter as soon as possible if you do not wish to have your child participate in the survey.



NAEP

Fourth grade students at Hope School have been scheduled to participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). The NAEP assessments will be given on February 1, 2011 in mathematics, reading, and/or writing at Hope School. It will take most students about 90 minutes to complete this assessment. While NAEP is voluntary, we depend on student participation to provide an accurate measure of student achievement that will inform improvements in education. Your child will represent many other students, so participation is very important. However, if you do not want your child to participate, please notify Ms. Mowry in writing by January 24th.



Missing eye glasses anyone?

One pair of adult glasses, purple/pink frames by Catherine Deneure were left during parent conferences. We also have a pair of child's glasses with metal oval frames. Please contact the school office as soon as possible. The eyeglasses will be donated to the Lions club if not claimed by February 1st.

Learning Celebrations Dilemma

The good news is that Hope School Learning Celebrations have become very popular with students and adults alike. The bad news is that our Learning Celebrations have become so popular! There is growing concern that we have too many people crammed into our gym during these events. We need to dramatically decrease the number of adult visitors that join us so as to insure the safety of all our students and staff. Families are asked to send only one or two adults at the most to the next celebration which is scheduled for February 3rd. Hopefully this will solve the problem. Everyone is invited to our evening Celebration at the High School scheduled for spring. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!

Important Upcoming Events

January

- 3-7 Aimsweb Math Probes - grades 3-5
- 5 Wednesday - Visiting Author Mark Binder
- 6 Thursday - Circulation of blank Young Author's books
- 7 Friday - PTA Reflections Art Work due
- 13 Thursday - SIT Meeting, 3:20



~ NO SCHOOL~ Monday, January 17th Martin Luther King Day



- 23 Sunday - PTA Providence Bruins Night
- 27 Thursday - Hope School Grade Level Spelling Bees
- 28 Friday - Second Quarter grades close