

Hope School



"Where Children Come First"
September 2011 Family Newsletter

Ms. Janice L. Mowry
Principal

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Message from the Principal

Welcome back everyone! Hope School is off to a great start for the 2011-2012 school year. I'd like to thank all the custodians for putting a "shine" on our building both inside and out. We welcomed Mr. Jose Reyes to our custodial staff this summer. He will continue to work for us as our afternoon custodian. Teachers did a great job working hard throughout the summer getting things ready for their new classes. All the students came back full of motivation to make this school year the best ever. We appreciate all their efforts in completing the "Step It Up" summer program. Special thanks to the many parents that helped their children complete the summer program. The School Improvement Team welcomes any input you may have to improve this program for next summer. Please feel free to email me any comments or suggestions you feel would be helpful. This is the first of the monthly family newsletters that will be sent home with all students at the beginning of the month. You can also access family newsletters on our school website at www.scituateri3.net/hope/. Thank you, Mrs. Berek, for volunteering as Hope School's Webmaster once again. You will note that student pictures seen in the hard copies sent home will not be posted on the website. You can also find a copy of the newsletter on our parent information bulletin board found at our school entrance. Please remember that I am always happy to address any concerns or issues that families may have. Please don't hesitate to contact me in person, by phone or email, jmowry@scituateri.net I am looking forward to a wonderful school year!

Ms. Mowry

Student Accident Medical Insurance Protection



This year accident insurance forms will not be sent home. Parents are asked to download the student accident insurance forms from our school website. If you have any questions or don't have access to a computer please don't hesitate to call our office.

Citizenship Day and Monthly Character Trait

We will be continuing our "Bucket Program" this year. Any student observed filling someone else's bucket by doing an act of kindness will receive a paper heart or star to put in the school-wide big red bucket for a special drawing at the end of the month. Teachers will continue to discuss specific character traits each month. September's character trait is Citizenship.

How to be a Good Citizen:

- Do your share to make your school, your community, and the world a better place.
- Take responsibility for what goes on around you.
- Participate in community service.
- Help take care of the environment.
- Be a good neighbor.
- Treat other people with respect and dignity.
- Follow the rules of your family, your school, and your society.



Let's celebrate Citizenship Day on Friday, September 16th, by wearing red, white and blue to school.

Any child wearing all three of these patriotic colors will earn a heart or star to place in the bucket!



Homework

Now that summer has passed it's time to get back into the habit of doing nightly homework. The following minimum homework guidelines may be helpful:

- Kindergarten: As needed.
Grade 1: 3 times per week; 10-20 minutes.
Grade 2: 4 times per week; 15-20 minutes.
Grade 3: 4 times per week; 20 minutes.
Grade 4: 4 times per week; 30 minutes.
Grade 5: 5 times per week; 30-45 minutes.

*All students should read 30 minutes per night in addition to any homework.

Helping children with homework isn't always easy. We are offering a free workshop Tuesday evening, October 4th to share information, tips and support on how you can help your child be successful in school and reduce the stress of homework. This workshop will be provided by RIPIN (Rhode Island Parent Information Network). Registration is required. Look for more information coming home soon!

Update BCI

Any parent, family member or member of the community that wishes to volunteer in Scituate Public Schools must have a current BCI on file at our school office. If your BCI is older than one year, it is time to renew! Please use the attached forms or download them from the school website. If you are uncertain of the date of your BCI, feel free to call the school office. You are reminded that chaperones for field trips also need a current BCI. Please make sure we have a copy of it one week before the scheduled field trip. Thank you!

Toys in School

Teachers are asking that parents monitor and limit the number of toys brought to school this year. Large toys cause problems with our little ones when negotiating the stairs and small expensive toys cause problems when lost or broken. Teachers have many toys and games available during recess times. There is no need to send in personal items that have the



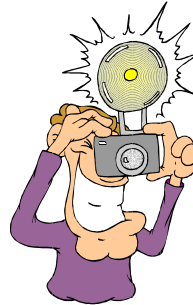
potential of distracting the learning environment and possibly upsetting children when a toy is lost or broken. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.



Food in the classroom

You are reminded of the guidelines in our student handbook regarding sending in "treats" to school:

- Any food or drinks brought to school for instructional purposes or celebrations must be authorized and approved at least two (2) days in advance by both the classroom teacher and the school nurse. No food or drinks will be permitted without above prior authorization.
- If food is brought into the classroom, parents and staff are required to supply edible items, which are commercially prepared, individually wrapped or prepared by a licensed food vendor. Pre-packaged foods should list all ingredients on the labels.



Fall Pictures Wednesday

September 28, 2011

Please remember to send in your form and cash or check on picture day.

Welcome to the Hope School Family

Mrs. Mikkelsen

is our new fourth grade teacher. She comes to us from Clayville School where she taught grades 1, 3, and 5 for nine years.



Mrs. Tongard

is our new Art teacher. She comes to us from Scituate Middle/High School where she taught art for 8 years.



We are thrilled to welcome these wonderful teachers to Hope School!

Parents please help us by:

- Student Transportation - Please send in a note to school with your child if they are not going home on the bus. We have a permanent pick-up list for those children that will be picked up every day. This requires just one note. A written note is much preferred over last minute telephone calls.
- Update Student Information Now - Teal information sheets will be sent home soon with every child. Please cross out any incorrect information and circle new information. If there are no changes, simply write no changes across the page. All teal sheets need to be returned as soon as possible!
- Update Student Information throughout the school year – The success of our Alert Now! System depends on accurate and up-to-date information. Please let us know right away if there is a change to your telephone numbers or email address.
- Student Handbooks - please return the back page indicating that you have received this important information. Handbooks can also be viewed on our school website.
- Lunch Money - Please be advised that school lunches are \$2.25 this school year. All students have been provided with a 4 digit code to enter into the computer at lunch time. Most all students remember their code from last year helping lunch lines to run smoothly. First grade has been given a practice paper with a picture of the computer to practice on at home. Parents are encouraged to send in a "lump sum" of money by cash or check to be placed on their child(ren)'s account or go to www.mynutrikids.com to pay with credit card. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!



This year's Open House is scheduled for Monday, September 19th at 6:30 P.M. We will gather in the gymnasium for a short welcome and then parents will have an opportunity to visit with their child(ren)'s teacher in the classroom(s). Please plan to join PTA this evening! The PTA has generously agreed to provide refreshments. Please remember to sign up for November Parent/Teacher conferences at this time.

New England Common Assessment Program

All students in grades 3, 4, and 5 will be participating in our State assessments beginning October 4th. Each child is expected to complete three sessions of reading and three sessions of mathematics. Fifth grade students will complete two sessions of writing as well. Our Schedule is as follows:



- Reading - October 4,5,6
- Math - October 12,13,14
- Writing - October 18,19

All students are encouraged to do their best and attend school each day, on time, after a healthy breakfast. We appreciate families scheduling doctor's appointments around these testing dates. If an appointment has been scheduled that cannot be changed please let us know the day before. If your child begins a test session and has to leave before finished, all incomplete responses will be scored as incorrect.

PTA

All parents and staff members are encouraged to become members of this very important organization to enhance the learning



experience of all our children at Hope School. To become a member simply complete the information of the envelopes that have been sent home and return to school with the membership fee. Meetings are typically held every other first Monday of the month. The first PTA meeting will be held on Monday, October 17th from 6:30-7:30 PM. Child care will be provided. All adult family members are welcome to join the group. See you there!

Our annual Entertainment Book fundraiser has begun. All students should have brought home an Entertainment Book to sell to family and friends. Children are asked not to go door-to-door. Please have your child turn in his or her fundraising envelope on September 8th and/ or September 15th. Prizes will be awarded directly to the students on these dates. If you need more books, just fill out the envelope and additional books will be sent home with your child. We thank you for your support!



School Improvement Team

Each year we invite parents and members of the community to join us on the School Improvement Team. This year we will continue to meet on the second Thursday of the month from 3:20-4:20. Last year we developed our character education program and revised the Step It Up summer program. We need the voices of our families. Will you please join us? Please email or call Ms. Mowry if you would like to become a member of this team.

Important Upcoming Events



September

- 6 Tuesday - School Committee Meeting
- 10 Saturday - North Scituate Library
Grand Re-opening, 10:30
- 16 Friday - Citizenship Day
Wear red, white, and blue!
- 19 Monday - Open House, 6:30
- 28 Wednesday - Picture Day

October

- 4,5,6 NECAP Reading
- 12,13,14 NECAP Math
- 18,19 NECAP Writing
- 4 Tuesday - School Committee
- 4 Tuesday - Homework Workshop
6:00-8:00, Hope School Library

~ Friday, October 7th ~

NO SCHOOL

Teacher Professional Development Day



NO SCHOOL

~Monday, October 10th ~