

Elementary Essentials

Issue 4

Principal's Corner

Dear Parents,

Spring is here and as we prepare for the completion of one school year, we are also beginning to think about the next school year to come. The **placement process** at Placentino School begins by asking your child's current teacher to share information that he or she feels should be considered as we start to form classes for next year. This information includes factors such as student learning styles, a child's strengths, weaknesses, achievement and work habits. I feel that our classroom teachers have an excellent understanding of their children, including each student's academic, emotional and social needs. Throughout the next few weeks the teachers will be thoughtfully sharing this information with each other and with those of us, the guidance staff, specialists, and our administrative team, who guide the placement process for all our students.

Our primary goal is to create classroom communities that will ensure that each child feels welcomed, supported and challenged, both academically and socially. Classes are formed using a variety of factors that we feel will create "healthy" learning environments for each student. As a school community, we will do our best to balance class configurations in regard to numbers of boys and girls, different ability levels, special education students and other social and academic considerations including whether your child is currently a member of a class that is participating in our Reading Street Research Study. Every attempt will be made to place each one of our Placentino students in an optimum learning environment.

In the past, some parents have chosen to submit a letter to the school regarding their child and his or her placement for the following year while other parents have not written to the school. This tradition has evolved over many years, and often parents feel pressured to submit letters thinking that this is the only way to ensure the "best" placement for their child. Quite honestly, most letters provide very little information that we are not already aware of.

Some parents may still choose to send me a letter referencing an extenuating circumstance or describing a personal situation regarding their child. These letters, addressed to the Placentino School Principal, must be received by Monday, May 3rd. Again, I want to reassure parents that a letter is not a necessary part of the placement process. I have full confidence in our teachers and their ability to work together with our guidance staff, specialists, and administrators to share information regarding your child's placement. Through effective collaboration, all students will be placed in supportive classroom settings that will provide opportunities to work well both individually and cooperatively with their peers.

Thank you for trusting our professional judgment as we begin the process of placing students for the 2010-2011 school year.

Sincerely,

Linda Weene



PreSchool and Kindergarten News

The next couple of months will be a busy time for our preschoolers and kindergartners.

May 19 & 20: Li'l Folk Farm Comes to Placentino

May 28 : PreSchool & Kindergarten Carnival (rain date of June 4th)

June 7 & 8: PreSchool & Kindergarten Sing-a-Long (specific schedule details to follow)

June 2 or 16: Kindergarten Field Trip to Southwick Zoo (specific schedule details to follow)

June 10: Last day of School for Preschool

June 21: Last day of School for Kindergarten (1/2 day)

*Last Day for Mrs. Lara PM & Mlle Mason PM classes will be Friday, June 18th



Grade One News

All first grade students visited the Museum of Science either April 6th or April 7th.

Everyone had a wonderful day.

June 2: Open House

Students will have a chance to share their classroom and some of their work with their parents.



Grade Two News

March has left like a lion! Who could imagine so much rain yet turn around and have temperatures heading to the 60 and 70's?

Our March Mail project allowed everyone in the school the chance to write letters and to learn about letter writing. Stamps that were purchased to mail these letters raised money for the Holliston Food Pantry. Each 2nd grade classroom took a turn processing the mail. The students became honorary postal workers and delivered the mail throughout the school. They were very excited!

Classes have been working on cursive writing, which will prepare them for writing next year in Miller school.

At the end of the month the children and parents participated in our Family Math Night. It was a great turnout with the students getting a chance to learn about the wonderful world of math.

All of the 2nd graders read and learned about the process of making maple syrup. Then they had the opportunity to visit a real sugar shack in Sharon, MA. It was a great experience for all. Tasting real maple syrup was a treat!

On Thursday April 8th, parents were welcomed to the Grade 2 Open House. This was a fantastic opportunity for you to get a glimpse of how hard your children work. They were all excited to show you all of the wonderful things they have done this year

May 3: Parent Orientation for parents of students going to Grade 3 at Miller School next year
6:30-8:00 Placentino Cafetorium

May 25: Field Trip to Roger Williams Park Zoo

June 10: Culture Connection sponsors the presentation of "Charlotte's Web"

June 18: Crossover Day to Miller School

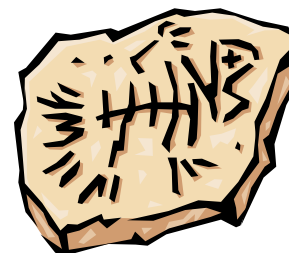


Montessori News

The Montessori 6-8 classes went on a Field trip to the Harvard Museum of Natural History on April 15th. The students, teachers and chaperones had a wonderful time.

May 27: Montessori Multi-Cultural Evening at 6:30 in the Cafetorium

June 18: Crossover Day to Miller School for 2nd year Montessori students



Upcoming Placentino School Events

April 28: Family Reading Night at 6:30 in the Cafetorium

June 4: Ice Cream Social

June 9: HEPO Volunteer Breakfast

June 11— June 17 Screening of Incoming 2010 Kindergartners

June 14: Flag Day Ceremony

June 21: Last Day of School 1/2 day



Technology News

Happy New Year! Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2010!

The computer lab continues to be busy with learning and fun. The Kindergarten students have really mastered the task of logging on and navigating the various folders on the desktop. They have explored some interactive websites that are featured on the Cool Sites section of the Placentino Website. We've done many, varied activities from identifying rhyming words to sequencing pictures, to completing patterns.

First grade continues their weekly voyage to the computer lab for Lexia. Consistent use of Lexia is key to the effectiveness of the program for building important reading skills.

In Second grade we've continued our work with "Type to Learn" and S"kills Tutor". The children can access [Skills Tutor](#) from home to practice and have fun with their Math Facts.

We've also explored many of the interactive sites on Cool Sites.

Please visit [Cool Sites](#) with your child. Each month I feature "Mrs. Carey's Website picks of the month". There is sure to be something which will spark you and your child's interest while you grow and learn together.

Mrs. Carey

Technology Integration Specialist



Guidance News

You Can Do It?

Question: *My friends' kids seem ready and able to do anything. How can I help my children develop more confidence?*

Answer: Build a can-do attitude in your children by expecting that they can do things. Kids can do more than you think! Doing everything for them sends the message that they're helpless. Asking them to pitch in shows you believe in their abilities.

When your children try a task, like helping with laundry, resist the urge to take over at the first sign of trouble. Instead, show them how to do it themselves. Then, let them try it on their own, with you guidance.

If your children are unsure about how to do something, encourage them to figure it out by asking, "What do you think the next step should be?" They'll realize they can think through problems by themselves. ♥

Mrs. Cohen and Mrs. Dalton, Guidance Counselors

Science

First Grade Science at Placentino

Have you ever wondered what matter is? Matter is anything that takes up space and has weight and mass. It's just about everything on the planet Earth. Your first grader has been studying the three states of matter: solids, liquids and gases, through a variety of hands-on experiences. We also focused on the concept of property. Explore at home both indoors and outdoors how water takes different forms.

Second Grade Science at Placentino

Our Journey North Project continues as our second graders have gone outside to collect scientific data! They are reading and recording monthly air and soil temperatures to predict when spring's going to return to Holliston. By doing this study, the students will build first hand knowledge of seasonal changes based on temperature patterns. This is an international project and students across the globe are collecting their sight's data and sharing it on an online data base. Visit Journey North's website at www.learner.org/jnorth

Indoors in our Placentino science labs, second graders continue to explore sound as a form of energy. We are focusing on the terms: vibration, pitch, volume, and amplify. Please reinforce these terms with your second grader outside of school. Ask your child about how he or she has been learning these terms through experimentation. Thank you for sending in small boxes as these turned into box guitars. Perhaps these guitars have even made it back home for family members to strum.

Mrs. Foster and Mrs. Irving

March Calendar

- 2/25 School Committee Meeting—7:00 p.m.
- 3/4 School Committee Meeting—7:00 p.m.
- 3/12 No School—Professional Day for Teachers
- 3/18 Food Pantry Day
School Committee Meeting—7:00 p.m.
- 3/24 Family Math Night—6:30—8:00 p.m.
- 3/24 Placentino Book Fair 3:30—8:30 p.m.
- 3/25 Placentino Book Fair 3:30—8:30 p.m.
- 4/1 School Committee Meeting—7:00 p.m.
- 4/2 No School—Good Friday

