



DIGHTON ELEMENTARY



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dr. Paula Manchester
Principal

Ashley Fullen
Assistant Principal



December 2, 2016

December is here!!! Our little elves have been busy this past month working hard on their academics while having some fun too. During the month of November, some of students attended field trips that enhanced their learning. We look forward to the month of December as we continue to learn in an environment filled with joy and great learning opportunities.

Please read further to learn about what our Eagle Activists are up to. Also, don't forget to sign up for your child's conference. Parent & teacher conferences will be December 15th (night conferences), and December 16th (afternoon conferences). Don't forget, no lunch will be served on early release day. Students will be dismissed at 11:00Am on December 16th. Mrs. Fullen will be sending you out a link in an email on December 5th for you to schedule your conference time.

Please dress your child appropriately for the weather. The children go outside down to 20 degrees, unless the wind chill makes the temperature go below 20 degrees.

Please visit the PTO's Santa's workshop, Saturday, December 3rd at the high school from 9:00 am -12:00 pm. This is a great opportunity for children to get some of their holiday shopping done.

I wanted to wish all of our Dighton and Rehoboth families a Happy Holiday season. Please enjoy this time with your beautiful families.



DATES TO REMEMBER

December 13th- Holiday Chorus Concert 7:00 PM

December 15th- Evening Parent Teacher Conferences

December 16th- Early Release Day 11:00AM. Lunch will not be served. Parent Teacher afternoon conferences. Please make sure you have scheduled your conference with your child's teacher. You will get your child's report card at the conference.

December 26th-January 2nd – School Vacation- Students return on January 3rd.

Beginning of Year Paperwork

We are still waiting for beginning of year paperwork (handbook and forms located on our website) to be returned for several students. This paperwork provides us important updated information. One of the forms also gives permission to have your child photographed. If for any reason you'd rather not have your child be photographed and be put in newsletters, shared with other parents, or published in media sources, please indicate that on your child's paperwork.

Parent Teacher Conferences Dec 15th and Dec 16th

Please make sure you have scheduled your parent teacher conference. Conferences will be on the night of December 15th and the afternoon December 16th. **Please note that December 16th is an early release day and students will be dismissed at 11:00 AM.** You will receive your child's report card during this meeting. Please ask your child's teacher about the progress your child has been making during RTI (Response to Intervention) and WIN (What I Need).

Perfect Scores in MCAS

Congratulations to Hannah Carvalho, Delainey Pari, Seamus O'Brien, and Gary Rose for receiving perfect MCAS score on their 3rd grade Math MCAS. They were all presented with a certificate at during a school committee meeting during November.



Dighton Elementary School Gives Back

Packages for Veterans

To celebrate Veterans Day, our TLC (Therapeutic Learning Classroom) students put together some care packages to send to active duty soldiers. Steven Manchester, a Gulf War vet, received the packages and will be distributing to combat medics serving overseas.

The following active National Guard personnel who will be receiving the boxes are:

Kuwait:
SFC Cliff Jaeger
C CO 1-111th Medevac
TF Makos
APO, AE 09330

Taji:
SGT Charles Toma
C CO 1-111th Medevac
TF Dragon
APO, AE 09378

Erbil:
CW3 Alex Engelson
C CO 1-111th Medevac
LSA Roberts
APO, AE 09316





Candy for Soldiers

Some of our very own cub scouts donated 25.8 pounds of their own Halloween candy to send overseas to active service personnel. They made cards to go along with it as well.



Taunton Animal Shelter

Kindergarten Room 34 along with their third grade book buddies in Room 20, and their fourth grade writing buddies in Room 24 will be collecting items for the **Taunton Animal Shelter** as a way to “give” to the community during the month of December.

The shelter is looking for the following items:



Bleach

Paper Towels

Disinfectant Cleansing Wipes

Purina Cat/Kitten food

Canned Dog Food

Laundry Detergent

Disinfectant Cleansers

Monetary Donations

The items are due by December 15th. Thank you for your help!

Eagle Activists

Our Eagle Activists have some community service projects going on this month. Please review items they are requesting and please think of donating to their great causes.

Sock and Toiletry Drive

Let's Warm Up the Community



Please help support our community this winter! There are many families without. Eagle Activists are collecting items to help. We will be stuffing new socks with toiletry items.

Items Needed (include but not limited to):

New socks

Toothpaste

Toothbrush

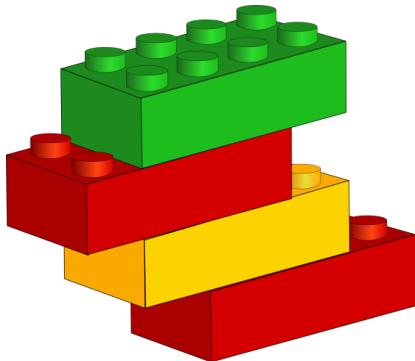
Soap

Dental Floss

Please bring in your items by December 15th

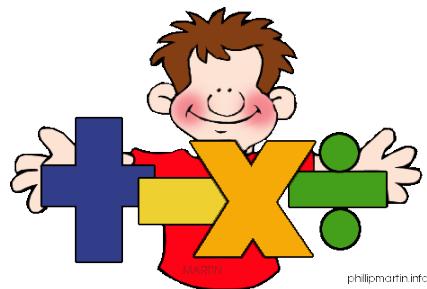
TOY DRIVE

Please bring any items you can donate to the DES foyer by Dec 15th. There will be a box for the drive. Thank you for your support!



Dighton Elementary School will also be collecting new, unwrapped toys for a **Toy Drive** this year. The toys from the toy drive will be donated to the **Dighton Food Pantry and New Citizens for Citizens**. If you are interested in bringing in a toy for a needy child, please do so by December 15, 2016. We will have large boxes in the foyer for the toy collection. Thank you in advance for your kindness during this holiday season.

Math Expectations



We are using the Envisions Math Program that supports the grade level curriculum our teachers are required to teach. With every “program” or resource our school uses, the guide or set of expectations our teachers have to use to guide their lesson planning is the Massachusetts Frameworks, which include the Common Core Standards. Each grade level has a different set of standards. The goal is that by the end of their school year, students would have mastered the list of standards that have been identified for their grade level.

Our teachers work tirelessly to help their students learn and grow. Every grade level builds on the year before; therefore it is important to provide students with a foundation they will need in the coming grades. This is why ongoing formative assessments and RTI/WIN (Response To Intervention and What I Need) blocks are important. It is during these times that children will get the “reteaching” and/or reinforcement of the skills they have not mastered.

Our teachers continue to work on differentiating their instruction throughout the day. Teachers have also implemented strategies to help students get extra practice time on skills that they still have not mastered. As you know, many of our teachers continue to offer online resources such as Xtra Math. Some teachers have also built incentive programs to help students master specific skills like their math facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) at the appropriate grade levels. **Parents can help by encouraging students to practice their math facts at home, in the car, or during brief chunks of time they may have available.** Also, please check out Mr. Badger's website for additional resources or http://www.abcyah.com/math_facts_game.htm your child can use at home.

Below are the Math Standards for your child.

Kindergarten Overview

Counting and Cardinality

- Know number names and the count sequence.
- Count to tell the number of objects.
- Compare numbers.

Operations and Algebraic Thinking

- Understand addition as putting together and adding to, and understand subtraction as taking apart and taking from.

Number and Operations in Base Ten

- Work with numbers 11–19 to gain foundations for place value.

Measurement and Data

- Describe and compare measurable attributes.
- Classify objects and count the number of objects in categories.

Geometry

- Identify and describe shapes (squares, circles, triangles, rectangles, hexagons, cubes, cones, cylinders, and spheres).
- Analyze, compare, create, and compose shapes.

Grade 1 Overview

Operations and Algebraic Thinking

- Represent and solve problems involving addition and subtraction.
- Understand and apply properties of operations and the relationship between addition and subtraction.

- Add and subtract within 20.
- Work with addition and subtraction equations.

Number and Operations in Base Ten

- Extend the counting sequence.
- Understand place value.
- Use place value understanding and properties of operations to add and subtract.

Measurement and Data

- Measure lengths indirectly and by iterating length units.
- Tell and write time.
- Represent and interpret data.
- Work with money.

Geometry

- Reason with shapes and their attributes.

Grade 2 Overview

Operations and Algebraic Thinking

- Represent and solve problems involving addition and subtraction.
- Add and subtract within 20.
- Work with equal groups of objects to gain foundations for multiplication.

Number and Operations in Base Ten

- Understand place value.
- Use place value understanding and properties of operations to add and subtract.

Measurement and Data

- Measure and estimate lengths in standard units.
- Relate addition and subtraction to length.
- Work with time and money.
- Represent and interpret data.

Geometry

- Reason with shapes and their attributes.

Grade 3 Overview

Operations and Algebraic Thinking

- Represent and solve problems involving multiplication and division.
- Understand properties of multiplication and the relationship between multiplication and division.
- Multiply and divide within 100.
- Solve problems involving the four operations, and identify and explain patterns in arithmetic.

Number and Operations in Base Ten

- Use place value understanding and properties of operations to perform multi-digit arithmetic.

Number and Operations—Fractions

- Develop understanding of fractions as numbers.

Measurement and Data

- Solve problems involving measurement and estimation of intervals of time, liquid volumes, and masses of objects.
- Represent and interpret data.
- Geometric measurement: understand concepts of area and relate area to multiplication and to addition.
- Geometric measurement: recognize perimeter as an attribute of plane figures and distinguish between linear and area measures.

Geometry

- Reason with shapes and their attributes.

Grade 4 Overview

Operations and Algebraic Thinking

- Use the four operations with whole numbers to solve problems.
- Gain familiarity with factors and multiples.
- Generate and analyze patterns.

Number and Operations in Base Ten

- Generalize place value understanding for multi-digit whole numbers.
- Use place value understanding and properties of operations to perform multi-digit arithmetic.

Number and Operations—Fractions

- Extend understanding of fraction equivalence and ordering.
- Build fractions from unit fractions by applying and extending previous understandings of operations on whole numbers.
- Understand decimal notation for fractions, and compare decimal fractions.

Measurement and Data

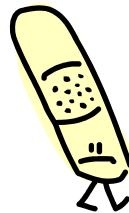
- Solve problems involving measurement and conversion of measurements from a larger unit to a smaller unit.
- Represent and interpret data.
- Geometric measurement: Understand concepts of angle and measure angles.

Geometry

- Draw and identify lines and angles, and classify shapes by properties of their lines and angles.

Lunch

Please keep lunch accounts updated. Please contact the office if you need assistance setting up your account. If you have not already done so, please ask the office for a form to apply for free or reduce lunch.



Health and Wellness

From Our School Nurse (Mrs. Alberto)

Annual health screenings will be conducted over the next several months.

The district's School Health Services program supports your student's academic success by promoting health in the school setting. One way that we provide care for your student is by performing the health screenings as mandated by the State of Massachusetts. Screenings are not a diagnostic tool, but rather a means of identifying potential problems that can affect a child's performance in school.

The following screenings are required and completed at school:

Vision

Distance and near vision are tested annually on students in grades K-4. Stereopsis is tested in grades K-3

Hearing

Hearing is tested annually in grades K-3

Growth

Height and weight are measured annually in K, 1 and 4. Body mass index is calculated.

A letter will be sent home if there are any findings on the vision and hearing screen that would require medical follow-up by the child's primary care provider. *Results of the physician referral should be communicated to the school nurse.*

Please call the school's Health Office if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Allison Alberto BSN, RN-BC



Grade Level Happenings at Dighton Elementary

TLC (Therapeutic Learning Classroom)

Ms. Donahue-Taylor, along with the TLC staff and students, work with students building some skills during "Pop Corn Thursday". Staff put in their orders for popcorn, and the TLC students fill the orders (delivery included).





Kindergarten

The month of November has quickly come to a close and the Kindergarten children have been keeping busy all month long. They have learned about the first Thanksgiving and shared some of their own Thanksgiving traditions, as we discussed Thanksgiving then and now. In preparation for parent teacher conferences, the children have also been working quite hard and trying their best on many various assessments administered in November. We look forward to sharing the results of these assessments with you at conferences. We had a fun Thanksgiving Feast and want to thank the families who donated items to help make our feast enjoyable and successful for the children!

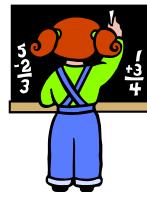
We have many fun activities planned for December! During the week of December 19, the Kindergarten children will work with the 4th grade students to make a Gingerbread House of

their own. Each teacher will be requesting donations of necessary materials within the upcoming week. For four days in December, the K children will travel through all of the kindergarten classrooms, learning about holidays around the world. As the children “visit” the various countries, we will use maps and globes to locate these places around the world. At the end of the “around the world tour” (December 23), the children will have a pajama day and a classroom party.

We will incorporate the science and social studies standards into the fun and engaging lessons we have planned this month. We will talk about the winter season, temperature changes, and begin a new unit on “Construction”. This will include talking about building and constructing houses, buildings and the tools used for these jobs. We will also be focusing on the stability of objects. Construction will also include creating dances and learning about choreography. In math, we will continue to work on addition in the Envisions Topic 6 curriculum. Please continue to practice the sight words daily with your child!

Have a wonderful holiday season!





Grade 1

November themes in first grade centered around the Social Studies and History topics of Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving, then and now. Two column notes were modeled as a tool for organizing and recording information. Then of course there's the always popular Turkey Trouble where students disguised turkeys and wrote about how to disguise a turkey to keep him from being eaten for Thanksgiving dinner. Thank you for helping your child at home with this project, they enjoyed sharing their creativity in class! Our science consisted of exploring seasonal changes and patterns of nature. In Math, we continue to practice number sense, with further practice in decomposing numbers, solving problems with missing addends, as well as comparing amounts to tell how many more or less were in one group than another. These are difficult concepts for some 6-7 year olds. We will continue to practice these skills.

As we move into December, we will explore holiday traditions and how they differ around the globe. We will conduct an author study focused on Jan Brett, developing our skills with story retells, sequencing beginning middle and end, and story elements such as characters, setting, events, problem and solution. We continue to read and write daily, always expanding our spelling and phonics base, writing practices, high frequency words, comprehension, fluency, stamina and expectations. Thank you for your ongoing reinforcement of such skills at home. One of the many important things you can do for your child is to read daily; read to, read with, or listen to him/her read, discussing stories as you go. Your children are working hard each day and are demonstrating great growth. We look forward to meeting with each of you during upcoming conferences to discuss your child's individual strengths and focus areas for continued growth!



Grade 2

The second graders had another busy month during November. Each class learned about and celebrated Thanksgiving differently and included numerous activities. All classes continued to work on the three genres of writing – narrative, expository, and opinion.

As we head into December, we will be working on preparing for conferences and completing various self-assessments. In addition, we will once again be “traveling” the globe. Each classroom will be learning about different holidays and traditions in countries throughout the world. Classes will focus on using 2-column notes to collect information about each country. We will read various pieces of literature about traditions throughout the world. We will continue to learn about the continents and oceans as we travel from place to place. Furthermore, we will review fiction and nonfiction, making predictions, and comparing/contrasting.

Second graders will also be participating in a book exchange for Christmas. If your child is participating, please have him/her bring their unwrapped, signed book of second grade reading material to school by Friday, December 16th. If you need more information or have questions, please contact your child's teacher. Happy December!

Grade 3

Thank you to the many parents for volunteering as chaperones during our recent field trips! We appreciate your time and support. We couldn't have done this without you!

During December third grade students will be comparing and contrasting various literature pieces of all genres including some holiday favorites. In addition, students will be practicing their fluency with a reader's theatre play. This will benefit students with expression, pacing, and overall reading enjoyment. Since reading and writing go hand in hand, students will have many opportunities to express their opinions and write creatively.

What is the weather like at the North Pole compared to the town of Dighton? This will be explored as we dive into some new topics in math and in science. Our topics will include interpreting data and geometry with shapes combined with a scientific peek at weather.

Calling all MATH MASTERS! We have some "Math Masters" this year, but would love to add your child's name to the list! Math Masters are students who have mastered any or all of the four mathematical operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division) on XtraMath by their ability to fluently add, subtract, multiply and divide. Please remember to continue to have your child practice their math facts at home for fluency. This will help them greatly as math concepts become more complex.

We wish all of our families a relaxing and peaceful holiday break!

The New Bedford Symphony came in to teach our students a lesson on the Solar System using music. They will return to work with the third graders in February in the classroom. The students will then finish the unit by attending a performance at the Zeiterion Performing Arts Center in March.





Grade 4

In fourth grade, we just finished our extensive unit on Immigration. Students finished up this study with an interactive field trip at Slater Mill called "Through the Golden Door". Students were transported back in time to the year of 1907 and became immigrants. They were guided through the immigration tests and then got to try their hand at factory and piece work that was common to this area at that time. Everyone had a wonderful experience.

Thank you to all the parents who came out to the 4th Grade Math Night. It was a great success! We look forward to seeing everyone at Parent Teacher Conferences this month.







Chorus

The Chorus is also getting ready for their Holiday Concert which will be held on Tuesday, December 13th. There will be a 2:00 p.m. performance for the school and a 7:00 p.m. performance for families and friends.



Computer

Kindergarten:

Students will continue to learning how to navigate through various educational websites like Starfall and MobyMax. They will see how the Internet offers websites that can help them review skills they are learning in the classroom. Students will also be reviewing various internet terms.

1st Grade:

Students will begin a coding unit. They will learn how even first graders can write code. They will be exposed to new vocabulary that focuses around coding. They will use online coding games to practice, which they will be able to do at school and at home.

2nd Grade:

Students will be finishing up a coding unit where they have been learning new vocabulary for coding and using websites to practice coding. In this month, second graders will be introduced to Google Drive and Google docs.

3rd Grade:

Students will be finishing up a coding unit. Students have been learning many new coding commands like looping. Students used code.org to do various coding lessons and other hour of code games. Students will begin to use Google Drive and Google Docs. They will be reviewing some skills they learned in second grade and learn additional skills.

4th Grade:

Students will take part in the "Hour of Code", where they will play on various websites that focus on coding. In this month, students will be reviewing how to create a Google Slides file and many of the features they learned last year.

Library

A few reminders from the Library:

Please remember to send your child's library books back on their library day each week. Most of our students have been really good about remembering to return their books on time, but we still have a few that need to be returned. If you have trouble remembering their Library day, there is a link to my schedule on the Library Blog: <http://dightonlibrary.blogspot.com/>.

Volunteers are still needed to help re-barcode all of our library books by the end of the year. Next year we will be part of the SAILS library network so we have to change all of our barcodes to use on their online catalog program. More information about volunteering is available on the Library Blog: <http://dightonlibrary.blogspot.com/>.

Health and Food

Ideas for Parents: Non-food Ideas for Birthday Celebrations at School

We all know that birthdays are important to every child and that kids like to celebrate with their classmates. However, we do not allow food to be sent in to the classroom due to food allergies, diabetes or other dietary restrictions our students have. According to the Centers for Disease Control (2011), allergies have increased more than 20% among American children since the mid 1990's.

Below are some suggestions compiled by Megan Palovchik, parent of a student with food allergies at Hilliard Crossing Elementary School, Hilliard Ohio. Please check with your child's teacher about an option before you decide on it.

1. Party favors (bouncy balls, matchbox cars, erasers, tops, magnifying glasses, notepads, balloons, whistles, bubbles, etc.). You can get these at a party supply store, dollar store, dollar shelves at stores like Target and Michaels and catalogs like Oriental Trading Company.
2. Come into the classroom and read a book to the class.
3. Buy something for the classroom (books, games, music, class pet such as fish or turtle, plant, etc.).
4. Decorate a box and send it into the classroom. Also send index cards or smaller pieces of paper. Have the teacher ask each child to use one sentence to write something nice about the birthday kid and put it into the box. The birthday kid gets to take the box home at the end of the day. You could also do the same thing using an autograph book.
5. Send in supplies and directions for a craft for the kids to do instead of eating a snack. It is a bonus if the parent comes in to help with the craft.

6. Bring in something that all the kids can sign as a birthday treat for the birthday kid (shirt/sweatshirt, tote bag, autograph stuffed animal, pillow case, etc.).
7. Have the kids work on a quick community service project together. There are many websites with great ideas (examples: <http://www.kidactivities.net/post/Community-Service-Ideas-for-Kids.aspx>). One idea would be to have each kid write a letter to someone in the military serving overseas. You could also provide supplies for the kids to make things to donate to a charity.
8. Ask the teacher if you can send in a dance song, and have the whole class do the hokey pokey, the chicken dance, or the booty slide, whatever is your child's favorite! Invite the nurse or principal!

PTO

Questions? Ask us at dightonpto@drregional.org or visit us on Facebook at Dighton PTO

Please check out the new Dighton's PTO Website at www.DightonPTO.org. It is a great website!! They also have a Facebook page. Please "like" it and get updates.

We have a phenomenal PTO that supports us in so many ways. Please support our PTO by attending meetings, volunteering for events, or providing some time and ideas. When you support them, you support our school!!

DATES FOR 2016-2017

PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION MEETINGS

All meetings are held in the DES library at 7pm. Everyone is welcome!

Agendas will be posted prior to each meeting on their website.

December 6, 2016 7:00PM

January 5, 2017 7:00PM (Thursday**)**

February 7, 2017 7:00PM

March 7, 2017 7:00PM

April 4, 2017 7:00PM

May 2, 2017 7:00PM