



W.L. Morse School Newsletter *April, 2009*

Literacy Celebrations

We want to thank the many families and friends who attended our literacy celebrations in March and April. We are all very proud of the "All About" posters and biography books that grade 2 and 3 students published.

Principal's Chats

On March 30th, Ms. Cayon, Social Worker, Mrs. Feliciano, Psychologist, and Mrs. Fitzgerald talked with parents and grandparents about how best to help students learn from homework. The discussion was conducted in both Spanish and English and was helpful for all involved, including the presenters. We look forward to sharing some of this insight at back to school night and in a similar series next year. Thanks to Mrs. Gebler and Mrs. Scaglione for their support. Please note that the May Principal's chat will be at 6pm at John Paulding, immediately preceding the EPTA meeting. The focus will be: What to Expect Next Year.

Literature Circles

We are quite pleased to report the great success of our first lunchtime literature circles. Throughout the week, eight different groups of children meet with parent facilitators and discuss quality literature ranging from humorous books by Roald Dahl to Selznick's fascinating chapter and picture book, The Invention of Hugo Cabret. So many children were interested that we did not have enough space in these first literature circles. We will continue to offer these as long as we have volunteers willing to do this wonderful work!

Green Week!

Starting on Monday, April 20th, students across the district will celebrate Earth Week. **On Wednesday, April 22 (Earth Day) we urge parents and families to come to school in a more green way (bus, carpool, walk or bike).** Let us know how you did!

TerraNova and State Tests

In the final two weeks of April, grade 2 students will take a series of standardized tests called the TerraNova. These tests are designed to give us a "snapshot" of student and school progress towards New York and national standards. To read more about the tests, download my letter from the Morse page. Please also note that all parents in grade 2 will receive a parent report with the results by the end of the year. Parents in grade 3 will also receive a parent report with the results of the NY State Math and ELA exams by the

end of the year. In June, Mrs. Fitzgerald will offer a meeting for parents of each grade on how to read and learn from the results.

Grade 2 Concert

Mrs. Giuseffi and grade 2 students have been working hard to prepare for their spring concert. For the first time, our second graders will be performing an evening concert in addition to the daytime performance. We look forward to sharing this with all who can attend. Concerts are on May 4th at 9:30am and 6:30pm.

April is POETRY month

April is National Poetry month, and it is a time when all grade 2 and grade 3 students are learning to see the world as poets do. Teachers have been immersing our students in a variety of poems and helping them to discover and use the many tools and elements that poets use to help readers experience poems. All students will produce a series of original poems in May after they have completed this exciting study. On April 30th, we will celebrate **Poem in Your Pocket Day**. All day long, staff and students will keep their favorite poem in their pocket and share the poems with one another. The third grade will gather to celebrate on that day.

Events in April/Early May:

Please remember these dates and look out for more details to follow:

- **April 13-24:** Grade 3 returns to Jacob Burns
- **April 20-29:** Grade 2 students take the TerraNova standardized tests
- **April 20-24: GREEN WEEK**
 - ✓ Grade 2 walks to a park to honor the Earth
 - ✓ Grade 3 cleans up around the school
 - ✓ Earth Week mural unveiled
 - ✓ All students sing and read about ecology
- **Wed, April 22:** Book Fair Kick-off Night
- **Mon, April 27:** Grade 2 and all Dual Language classes see bilingual theatre production at SHHS
- **Thurs, April 30:** Poem in Your Pocket Day
- **Fri, May 1 & 8:** Gr. 2 trip to Phillipsburg Manor
- **Mon, May 4:** Grade 2 Concerts: 9:30am daytime concert; 6:30pm evening concert (grade 2 students arrive at 6pm)

Safety Note: We continue to have parents drop students off on Pocantico Street in the morning. Please know this is a serious safety issue. If you are driving students, please take the time to bring students through the parking lot to the back of the school.