

March 27, 2019

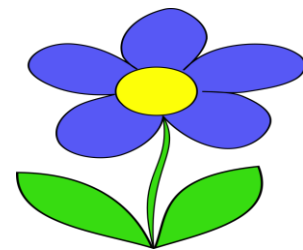
Dear Parents and Guardians,

Your children have been very busy this month working diligently in class and preparing for MCAS. We are looking forward to a productive spring.

- Monthly Character Theme: The monthly character theme for April is Respect for Others. Students did an outstanding job in the month of March representing Fairness. Our Fairness recipients will be acknowledged at our assembly on Friday.
- PBIS:
Our first school wide assembly will be this Friday. We are encouraging all students to wear their Merrymount gear to school as we learn how to Sail into Success!
- MAP Assessments - You will receive your child's MAP Student Profile at Parent Teacher Conferences. Ms. McLaughlin will be available throughout conferences to discuss your child's MAP Student Profile. If you are unable to make conferences, but would like a copy of this report, please email your child's teacher and we will be happy to send it home.
- Chromebooks
Thank you to the PTO and to all Merrymount families for supporting fundraising efforts throughout the year. We are extremely lucky to have 3 Chromebooks carts which students have access to several times a week.
- Attendance: If your child is out due to an illness, please send a doctor's note into school to excuse their absence. Students with ten or more unexcused absences at this point in the year will be receiving an attendance letter.
- ASPEN Parent Portal - We are pleased to announce that Quincy Public Schools parents and guardians will have access to the Aspen Family Portal beginning on May 1, 2019. The Aspen Family Portal will allow parents/guardians to securely view all of their student's Aspen accounts at the same time. As with the current Aspen Student Portal access, parents/guardians will be able to view student attendance, schedules, assignments, interim reports, final term grades, and much more. The Aspen Student Portal will continue to be utilized by students.

A message from The Outdoor Classroom Committee:

We are excited to let you know that on February 7th the Outdoor Classroom Project committee presented to the Quincy CPA (Community Preservation Committee) on the grant that was submitted at the end of December 2018. Our presentation was extremely well received and we look forward to hearing back from the CPA in late April. Thank you to faculty, parents and children that came to show their support! We will continue fundraising through our Direct Donation Campaign through the end of the school year. We are half way to our goal of our financial contribution to the project and we need your support! We've successfully raised \$7,685 to date. Remember all donations are tax deductible! Be on the lookout for a flyer that will go home to let you know how you can help! Thank you for all your support this far!



EXCITING NEWS FROM OUR CLASSROOMS:

KINDERGARTEN:

Spring is here and our Kindergarten students are blooming! This month we will focus more on our lovely season of Spring and things that are associated with Spring; such as different types of animals, rain, flowers, and insects. On Tuesday, April 9th we will be celebrating the "home opening" day of the Boston Red Sox at Fenway Park. The students will be participating in baseball themed activities throughout the day. Go Red Sox!

FIRST GRADE:

Thank you to the first grade parents who were able to come into our classrooms during Read Across America week. The students enjoyed all of the guest readers. The first grade is excited to begin an author study on Ezra Jack Keats. We will learn about the life of the famous children's author, the common theme of resilience in his stories, and the unique collages he created in his illustrations.

April is National Poetry Month. The first graders will be introduced to this genre of writing including some common types of poems. We will create a few of our own!

The geometry unit will begin. The students will learn the names of plane and solid shapes, as well as, explore the attributes of shapes.

Spring has sprung! The days are getting warmer and plants are growing! The first graders will be observing and reading about life science with an emphasis on the life cycle of plants. This is also a great time of year for getting outside more!

SECOND GRADE:

Second graders have been learning about neighborhoods and the world around us. They have been researching special jobs and will be constructing homes and buildings to make a neighborhood display. We will be having the Neighborhood Workers Parade on Tuesday, April 9th from 8:00-8:15 in the gym. Parents are welcome to come and see the students dressed up as important workers in our neighborhood. After 8:15, the children will continue the parade as they visit the classrooms within the school.

THIRD GRADE:

Grade three is starting preparations for Animal Fair on Thursday, June 6. Students picked their top 3 choices on 3/29, and went home that day knowing the animal they will be researching for the next two months! A packet also went home on 3/29 outlining all the project components, due dates, and expectations. Our first due-date is coming up. We ask that that each student finds one book that is entirely about the animal they chose, and that they bring it in by Friday, April 5 to be checked in. Thank you for your support! The kids are so excited to get going on this project which they've been looking forward to since September!

FOURTH GRADE:

April finds our fourth graders studying poetry in ELA, fractions and measurement in math, energy and motion in science, and State Fair research in social studies. As a reminder, the fourth graders will be taking their ELA MCAS test on Monday, April 1st and Thursday, April 4th. Please make sure your child eats a good breakfast and comes to school on time.

FIFTH GRADE:

The Science Showcase, led by Ms. Bina, was a huge success on March 26. The fifth graders showed how they followed the scientific method, and parents and families were able to watch as they completed an experiment. The students have been showing off their technological skills, using the Chromebooks several times a week to complete assignments in Google Classroom, as well as using them during after-school LEGO Robotics to conduct research and to program their robots. Upcoming important dates include ELA MCAS on 4/3 and 4/5.

ENGLISH LEARNERS:

First grade EL is currently working on their Cornerstone Plants and Animals thematic unit which provides an opportunity to explore the relationship of how plants and animals grow and help each other in the world! Students will be focusing on Informational Writing and utilizing newly acquired academic vocabulary!'

Thanks,
Ms. Mitchell
Acting Principal



“SAIL INTO SUCCESS”