



A. W. Cox *Elementary School*

**Where Students , Teachers
and a Community Learn to
Grow.**

Volume 11 issue 11
January 2010

Welcome to A.W. Cox's Newsletter

From Merry Leventhal Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

January is a bustling time at A.W. Cox School. On Monday, January 11th we welcomed Dr. Forcella, Dr. Keene, Dr. Misenti (Principal-GHS), and Dr. Brett (Director of Pupil Services) for our first "Learning Walk". We visited many classrooms and had an opportunity to observe our wonderful children while they were engaged in learning. The purpose of the "Learning Walk" is to get a snapshot of all the different levels of learners, and how their needs are being addressed. Walkers look to see if the environment supports learning, and we observe the tools and strategies being used with our learners. The overall goal is to improve student achievement, and we do this by staying on top of what is occurring in our classrooms. Every Guilford school has had an administrative team visit for a "Learning Walk". In the future we will have teams of teachers walking through classrooms within our own building. We can learn so much from each other!

The second session of our Before School Program commenced on Tuesday, January 12th we began the second session of our "Before School" program. Based on the data gleaned from school assessments, children were invited to attend small group instruction two mornings a week focusing on an identified area of need. The program runs for six weeks. Our goal is to close the gaps in a timely manner so the children can thrive. The topics being addressed this session are reading comprehension and fluency. We are so pleased to be able to offer our students this additional time.

The Cox staff is very busy working on the children's first progress reports. Many hours go into ensuring the information recorded accurately reflects each child's growth thus far. We examine not only their academic achievement, but their social and emotional growth as well. It is important to remember there are five months remaining in the school year. Where your child/children are now does not reflect the final outcome for the year. When we work together, the "possibilities are endless". Progress reports will be sent home on January 29th. The staff is always available to address any questions or concerns you may have.

It is unbelievable that we are almost at the 100th day of school. The children are busy calculating the exact date of the 100th day. They love the activities that coincide with this event. Time is certainly flying.

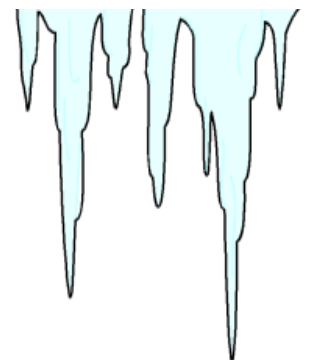
I want to wish the A.W. Cox community a happy and healthy 2010.

As Always,
Merry Leventhal



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On Time - On Target

PARENTS, WE NEED YOUR HELP! We are extremely concerned with the number of students who are tardy each day. It has a negative affect on the children arriving late as well as the children who are here on time.

As a district we are accountable for a specific number of hours of instruction. Our staff is prepared to begin instruction at 9:00am. The problem arises when we have children walking in between 9:00-10:00. The children miss all of the important information disseminated first thing in the morning, i.e. school wide announcements, instructions for morning work, as well as an overview of the upcoming day. If a teacher has to take time to repeat this information for the child/children arriving late, the students who came to school on time are missing valuable instructional time. In addition, the children arriving late find themselves playing “catch up” before their day has even started.

As parents, you know how challenging mornings can be. However, we encourage you to do whatever you must do to assist us with this problem. The tardiness issue is extremely important. We will be carefully monitoring students arriving late.

We greatly appreciate your support in this matter!



Winter Weather Advisories, Delays and Cancellations

In the event that school is closed or delayed, the information will be communicated through the following outlets:

- (1) An AlertNow email message only will be sent to the first two email addresses you have provided to GPS.
- (2) TV Stations: GCTV (local TV Channel 19) WTNH-TV (Channel 8) WVIT-TV (Channel 30) WFSB-TV (Channel 3)
- (3) Radio stations: KC101 (101.3 FM) WWYZ (92.5FM) WEZN (99.9 FM) WLIS (1420 AM) WELI (960 AM) WHCN (105.9 FM) WPLR (99.1FM) WKSS (95.7 FM)
- (4) Website: http://www.guilford.k12.ct.us/district_information/cancellation_information/index.php
- (5) Call 453-8200 to hear an updated message.



A reminder to parents: Guilford Public Schools Policy requests that parents call the school if their child is going to be out ill, on vacation, at a doctors appointment. etc. Parents should call 203-453-5291 ext. 17 before 9 a.m. Please refer to the Guilford Public Schools Elementary handbook for policies and guidelines to this regard.



7 Healthy Snack Tips for Kids

1. Kids love to dip things. Take advantage of this by offering carrots with ranch dip, celery or fruit with yogurt dip. Hummus is another healthy dip that can be used for crackers, vegetables or whole grain breads.
2. Use reduced-fat, fat-free and light versions of products you already use. This works especially well with prepackaged food on the run like pudding, Jell-O and applesauce cups.
3. Look for 100-calorie snack packs. These are also good choices for days when you are on the go. It's an easy way to minimize the damage done by overdoing it on snack calories. While these convenient packs tend to cost more, it's easy to buy the larger bags and divide them into single serving baggies right away.
4. Watch portion sizes. Read how many servings are in a bag of chips; your child may be eating 2-3 portions without even realizing it. Weigh out and measure foods for a while and you'll likely be surprised by how big your portions have gotten.
5. Read labels carefully. A healthy snack should have fewer than 3 grams of fat per 100 calories. Teach your child to look at the labels and determine if foods are healthy options or not.
6. Offer fresh foods verses prepackaged foods whenever possible to get more vitamins and minerals and avoid taking in unnecessary ingredients, fats and toxins.
7. Allow your child access to healthy foods and give them the power to choose. Snacking is not all or nothing. Simply swap poor choices for better ones. Differentiate between snacks and treats and allow the occasional treat.



Physical Exams

In Guilford, a physical exam is required for entrance into Kindergarten, and grades 3, 6, and 10. A physical exam done after January 1, 2009 is acceptable for your 3rd Grader this year.



A mind once stretched by a new idea never regains its original dimensions.
- Anonymous

GUILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Guilford Department of Education Non- Discrimination Policy

The Guilford board of education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, marital status, national/ethnic origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, or disability in its programs, activities, and employment practices. Questions or complaints related to Title IX should be directed to Anne Keene, Assistant Superintendent, 55 Park Street., Guilford, CT 06437 or at 203-453-8216; questions or complaints related to disabilities should be directed to Patricia Brett, Director of Pupil Services, 280 South Union St., Guilford, CT 06437 or 203-453-0128

Attendance Update

On January 2, 2008, the State Board of Education approved the following definition of attendance for public school districts:

A student is considered to be **“in attendance”** if present at his/her assigned School, or an activity sponsored by the school (e.g. field trip), **for at least half of the regular school day.**

A student who is serving and out-of-school suspension or expulsion should always be considered absent.

Safety Drills

Schools in our district are required to periodically hold practice safety drills.

These drills include fire drills, reverse evacuation drills, storm drills, shelter-in-place drills and bus evacuation drills. We also practice having lock down drills twice a year should there ever be an intruder. If you venture to Cox and see a sign on the front door “Lock Down”, it means we are in “lock down” mode and the drill will be over momentarily. Doing the assorted drills listed above provides a sense of understanding for our students. We do our best to make each experience very user- friendly.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:

January 18 No School
Martin Luther King Day

January 22 - 6-9pm
4th Grade BBQ - Cafeteria

January 25 - 7:30 p.m.
Board of Education Budget Meeting -Adams Chorus Room

January 26 - 7:30 p.m.
Board of Education Budget Meeting - Adams Chorus Room

January 27 Early Dismissal 1:47pm
Lunch Will Be Served
AM Kindergarten 9-11:10am
PM Kindergarten 11:37-1:47pm

January 29 3:30-5pm
Drama Auditions - Music Room

**February 3rd (barring any snow days)
100th Day of School**

February 8 Board of Education General Meeting—7:30pm
GHS Library



February 15th -19th
School Resumes February 22

February 26 9-11:30am and 1:30 -3pm
Kindergarten Registration—Music Room

**March 2-12 3rd and 4th grade
Connecticut Mastery Tests (CMT's)**

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