



Welcome to A.W. Cox's Newsletter

From Merry Leventhal Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In just a few short weeks the holiday season will be here. This past year presented us with many challenges. Our country has been experiencing massive economic woes. It has had an effect on everyone one of us in one way or another. Still and all, we have focused on the one truly rich resource we do have control of and that is our children.

It is a blessing to see their beautiful faces every day and know we can give them the tools to grow as independent learners who are proud of their accomplishments. The entire Cox team directs their energies to ensure positive outcomes for all of our students.

On a personal note I would like to share some of the things I will give thanks for on my most favorite of holidays "Thanksgiving". I am very thankful for:

- The beautiful children who attend A.W. Cox School;
- The dedicated, talented and caring staff who work with our children every day;
- The beautiful new roof that keeps us warm and dry even in the worst of storms;
- The GFFE (Guilford Fund For Education) who gave us the grant to support our "One Book, One School" program;
- The Cox parents who give so much of their time to support their children's school;
- The MANY people who support our special programs during the course of the year. I am referring to our Read Alouds, enrichment activities, fund raising efforts and other community charities;
- The thing I am most thankful for is the predominantly good health we've experienced over the last year. We have had some challenges recently, but I want to thank our nurse Gayle Golia for doing such a magnificent job staying on top of the medical issues at Cox and keeping us all so well informed. Let's hope for continued good health for everyone we know and love.

In closing, I am proud and thankful for the opportunity to be a member of the exceptional team that serve the children who attend the Guilford Public Schools. I wish you and your families a happy, healthy holiday season!

As Always,

Merry Leventhal



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Fall Parent Conferences

This coming Monday, November 9th and Tuesday, November 10th are the scheduled dates for our fall parent teacher conferences. It is an opportune time for your child's teacher to share the accomplishments your child has made academically and socially over the first couple of months. The teacher may also give you insight into challenges your child is experiencing. The purpose of doing so is to keep you informed, keep you updated on what we are doing to support your child, and also to give you ideas on how you may support your child at home.

You are welcome to come with a few questions but remember this is a great time to get valuable feedback from the teacher. We look forward to seeing you next Monday and Tuesday. Please be on time as the teachers have many conferences planned.

Safety Drills Serve Us Well

On October 21st, the A.W. Cox students and staff put our learning about school safety to the test as we evacuated our school and moved to Baldwin Middle School for several hours.

Each year we are required to practice fire drills, shelter in place drills, evacuation and reverse evacuation drills, inclement weather drills and so forth. Our hope is we will never have a need to put our practice into action, but with smoke filling our building, it became necessary to move our entire population out.

I want to thank the STA bus company for arriving so expediently to carry everyone to Baldwin. I want to give special recognition to the Baldwin staff who welcomed us with open arms, providing their beautiful gym for us as refuge. They assisted us with equipment, services and communication which made the entire experience so manageable. Our children saw the afternoon as an exciting adventure.

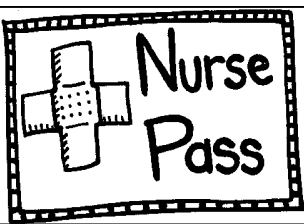
Thanks to our Cox parents who were so supportive and flexible during this unusual event. You assisted us in making this a positive experience for our children.



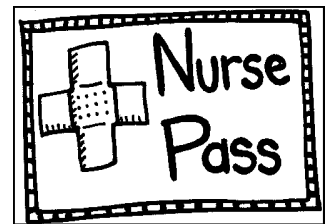
Winter Weather Advisories, Delays and Cancellations

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) Fox(Channel 6) 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



A continued reminder to parents



Please keep your children home from school if they are ill with flu symptoms including a sore throat, cough, fever, or vomiting until symptoms are gone for 24 hours.

Frequent cleaning by staff of surfaces including doorknobs, desks, and computer keyboards will continue during the school day. The bus drivers will continue to wipe down seats and hand railings between bus runs. Students and staff are encouraged to use the Purell sanitizer dispensers available throughout the schools and to wash their hands often.

In addition to monitoring our absentee rates including the reasons for the absences, we continue to consult with local and state health officials and base our decisions on the best available information. We will continue to closely monitor absentee rates at all schools and will communicate any significant changes or additional decisions as needed.

Please continue to utilize the district's website at www.guilford.k12.ct.us for current announcements and links to the Department of Health, the Center for Disease Control, and the Department of Education for more information on the H1N1 virus.



Cox Fall

Harvest Festival

The A.W. Cox PTO cordially invites you to our first Fall Harvest Festival. Preparations for this event have been going on since last spring.

If you join us on November 7, 2009 from 10:00- 1:00, you will have an opportunity to partake in pony rides, face painting, old fashioned carnival games, hayrides, and a cupcake walk. You can also make your own tie dye tee shirt, jump in a moon bounce and check out our exciting silent auction.

All of these amazing activities will be happening this Saturday, November 7, 2009 at A.W. Cox School. The Guilford community is welcome to attend.

Trumpet of the Swan Grand Finale

November 5, 2009 6:30 – 8:00

Please join us for the exciting finale of the “One Book, One School” project that was graciously funded by the GFFE. Throughout the last month every student, all staff members, and most of our Cox families have read and participated in activities relating to the E.B. White classic “Trumpet of the Swan”. It has been a wonderful adventure for one and all.

Tonight, we invite you to be part of our grand finale where we will have a sing along at Camp Kookooskoos, a Raptor Bird Program, the award winning Trumpeter Blues movie, a swan nest created by our own third graders, a jazz ensemble and finally an opportunity to make your own origami swan. We hope to see you there.

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 an 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:

November 5th - Trumpet of the Swan Family Night **6:30 - 8:00**

November 7th - A.W. Cox Harvest Festival **10:00 - 1:00**

November 9th - 10th Parent Conferences
Noon Dismissal - Both Days
(no lunches either day)

AM Kindergarten - 9:00 - 12:00

PM Kindergarten - No School

November 10, 2009

AM Kindergarten - No School

PM Kindergarten - 9:00 - 12:00

November 11th - Veteran's Day **No School for Students**

November 18th - PTO Meeting Music Room **7:00 - 8:00PM**

November 25th - 29th **School Closed**
Thanksgiving

December 16th - A.W. Cox Winter Songfest - **2:00 in the Gym** (Snow date - December 17th)

December 24th - January 3rd **Winter Recess**

December 25th - Christmas

January 1st - Happy 2010!

January 4th - School Resumes

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