



Making Minds Sing

“Si se puede!” -Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta

- Caso você tenha alguma pergunta ou comentário sobre o conteúdo deste panfleto, por favor ligue para Helena Stilwell no ramal 100. Gratos
- Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre el contenido de esta publicacion, por favor llame a Helena Stilwell a la extension 100. Gracias

From the CLCS Principal, Mr. Mark Jacobson

Dear Families,

I want to tell you about important initiatives in our school. I have formed a volunteer committee to work on developing a strong volunteer program. You have heard me talk about having volunteers in the school and you are welcome and encouraged to do so yourself. You can volunteer to help on a project, do office work like mailings and copying, work in the classroom on art projects, or tutor. These are suggestions and you are not limited to these. If you want to volunteer please contact me.

Another important initiative is the diversity committee for hiring and bringing in people of color. Our school population is over 70% families of color. It is known that kids need positive role models that represent their own cultural background. We need to do a much better job at CLCS in both hiring a diverse staff, and in bringing in more people of color to volunteer and perform. We are looking for all effective means of impacting our kids positively. I'm always open to suggestions and help.

Everyone in the school is currently readying for the big concert next week (December 14, 2:45 here in the gym). We always have a great turnout, and I hope for the same this year. Please do your best to come, or to send a family member who could celebrate your child's accomplishments by being here. It would mean a lot to him or her.

Now that the cold weather is here please dress your child for outdoor recess. We try to get them out everyday, weather permitting, so gloves and hats are important. And speaking of which, we have a large collection of clothing in our lost and found. Please take a look and try to claim what's yours. We need to give it away to charity by the end of the month. I look forward to seeing you or hearing from you.

Take care,

Mark Jacobson

Happy Holidays to you all! May your family have peace, joy, and abundant love this holiday season...and all seasons.



Important Dates
In December

Wednesday, December 5th

Early Release Day School is out at 11:45

Thursday, December 6th

Parent Teacher Organization Meeting
(at school)
6-7:30 pm

Thursday, December 13th

School Advisory Council
(at school)
4.30-6 pm

Friday, December 14th

Winter Concert at the school! 2:45.

December 24th-

January 2nd
Winter Holiday Break
NO SCHOOL

Reminder-No school
December 24-January 2.
Students report to school on January 3!

The CLCS Winter Concert will be December 14th, 2007 at 2:45 at the school!

Please be sure that your children are practicing at home, are focused on getting ready for the performance, and come to school on the 14th dressed in their black and white concert clothes.

We welcome all families and friends to this exciting event.

Please call the school if you have any questions.

We do have some pants, shirts, and shoes if you need help with getting concert clothes for your child. Please let us know a week in advance.

December's PTO Meeting

Please join us Thursday December 6th, from 6 to 7:30 pm, as the CLCS/PTO presents a speaker from Families First. Families First was founded in 1988 by Wheelock College and the Children's Museum. The evening's subject will be "School Success: Creating a Homebase for Success" and topics will include: How to create a homebase for academic success, taking advantage of parent/teacher meetings, and overcoming homework battles. This evening will be an informative one for all CLCS Families. CLCS/PTO will provide childcare and pizza for this event. We look forward to seeing you there.

Winter Concert Raffle

Another CLCS Tradition along with our Annual Winter Concert is our Winter Basket Raffle. This year we have some wonderful basket offering: Music, Cooking, Relaxation, Toy and Home. The tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Next week be on the look out as the tickets will be sent home and the baskets will start to be displayed in the CLCS main office at. This has always been a great fund raiser for the PTO and great FUN as well. If you would like to donate your time or an item for one of the baskets. Please contact Judy Blackiemore at 617.297.5335 or jblackiemore@yahoo.com.

Concert Closet

As you are preparing for the upcoming Winter Concert, perhaps last years black slacks/skirts and/or white tops are a little small. Please consider donating this outgrown clothing to our concert clothing. Please send them into the school, where they will be collected, laundered and ironed for other children, that are in need of concert clothes. If you can donate or are in need of clothing, please contact Judy at 617.297.5335 or jblackiemore@yahoo.com.

The CLCS Enrichment Fund

Would you like to financially support the CLCS community?
The money will go towards academically enriching activities, such as fieldtrips!

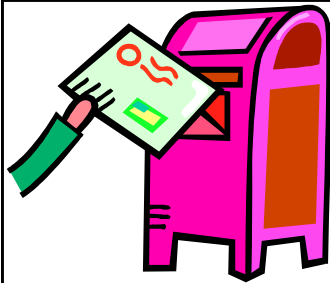
Please send contributions to:
CLCS Enrichment Fund
25 Arlington Street
Brighton, MA 02135



Interested in learning more? Please call Staverne Miller at 617.361.3786 or Kate True at 617.983.4058. They can answer your questions!



In the Classrooms



Things are as busy as ever in **KINDERGARTEN**. Our big highlights for November were the introduction of our class post office, starting our class jobs, and early preparation for our gingerbread play. We hope you can stop in and see all the great new things in our room and maybe send a letter to a kindergarten student! Kindergarten is working extra hard to prepare for our upcoming performance at the Holiday show. This is a big day as the first on-stage performance for the kindergarten. We hope to see a great turn out for this special day!

Lots of learning and engagement has been happening in **FIRST GRADE!** The students are very grateful to have had a BU student come into the classroom once a week and support student learning. She shared her love of music with the class by presenting the story of *Peter and the Wolf* through a musical reading and interpretation. One of the things she will truly be remembered for is when she wrote music to go along with their poem of the week. The First Grade was so proud to perform *Keep a Poem in Your Pocket* at assembly! Ms. Nospal will be missed when she leaves next week.

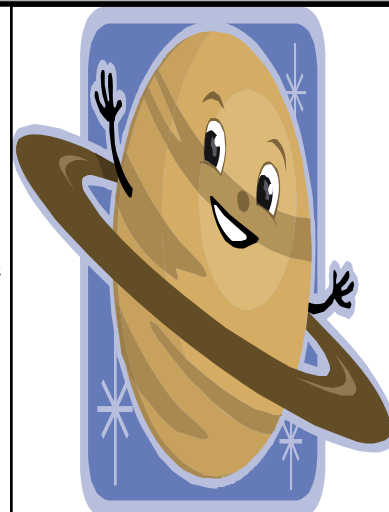


SECOND GRADE has been having an exciting time learning about how things balance. They have balanced many things (including a pencil standing up straight on its point!) using wires and counter-weights. They are also making mobiles which will be coming home soon. During reading we are focusing on the story structure of fiction: characters, setting, events, problem & solution. Try to make December a fiction reading month in your home and talk about those great books you and your children are reading. Be a detective and find those problems and solutions! In math we continue to work on number sense and place value. What does the "0" mean in 306? They are a wonderful group and keep learning new things every day!



The **THIRD GRADERS** did a fantastic job working in Writer's Workshop this past month. They maintained focus during the mini lessons and applied the strategies taught to their writing. The entire class was successful in completing a published piece which they were proud to share with their classmates. I took great pride in reading their stories and was amazed at the work that they have done. For the month of December the class will focus on concepts such as animal habitats and endangered animals in science, base-ten in math, and fantasy/realism and verbs in language arts. The class will continue to explore various reading and writing strategies as well.

Many interesting projects and activities are happening in **FIFTH GRADE**. In LTM, we've been working on writing folktales, two of which will be performed in assembly on December 21st. The kids have been very creative and the spirit of collaboration is strong. In reading we're focused on story structure, and in writing we are working on creating more powerful narratives. We've also entered the wonderful world of fractions, exploring them with manipulatives. We are finishing our unit on the solar system with a two part project: a research poster and a song about planet characteristics. The students have been working very hard on this.



Parents, we would love it if you could donate healthy snacks to our class. The longer school day and bus commute make for a long day, and we'd like to keep the kids energized.



Around the School



OT Tip of the Month

By Ellie Meyer, Occupational Therapist

Last month I wrote about good shoulder stability being needed to position and support the arm and hand for fine motor tasks. Now I'd like to talk about the importance of using 2 hands together for writing and typing. Did you know that proper writing involves both hands? One hand holds the pencil and the other hand stabilizes the paper. Bilateral motor coordination requires that a student do different but complimentary actions with two hands at the same time. These skills start very early in our children's development. When they are infants (4-5months old), they will clap hands and bang objects together. As they get older (17-19 months), toddlers learn to hold a container with one hand while putting an object in it with the other hand. By 3 years of age a child should be able to start learning to unbutton and button, string beads and snip with scissors.

CLCS PLAYGROUP Starting December 12th!

Attention all CLCS parents,

We would like to invite you to participate in an informal playgroup for younger siblings of CLCS students. The playgroup will take place at the school on either a weekly or bi-weekly basis (based on interest). Come hang out, play games, and sip coffee. Come when you can; we'd love to have you join us.

This is a new opportunity so we would appreciate it if you could let us know if you would like to participate by either contacting Liesa Lessard at lessardliesa@hotmail.com or by dropping by on Wednesday, December 12th at 1.00 pm. We look forward to seeing you.

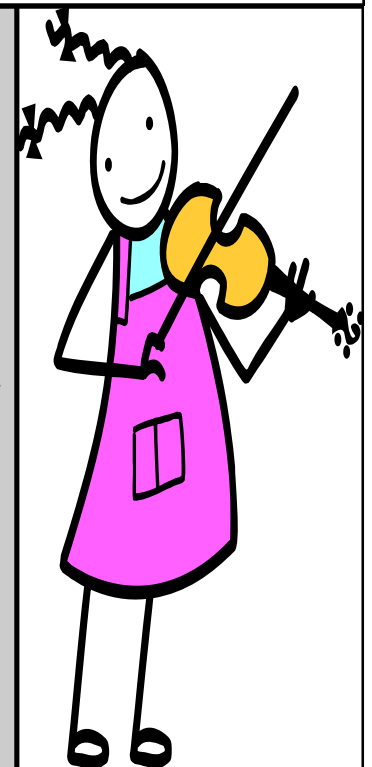
VIOLIN

We are looking for volunteer parents with cars who can bring broken violins to Johnson Strings in Newton (right off of rt. 9) and bring them back when they are fixed. Please call Masami Rodriguez 617 254 8904 x 116 if you would be able to help us with this. We appreciate your support!

We are starting to send violins home to the first graders. First grade parents will receive a call from Ms. Rodriguez or Ms. Rashad in November or December to set up a meeting.

The concert is coming up! Your children should be practicing Rhody, Cripple Creek, and Los Pollitos. On December 11th, all violins should come to school, and we will keep them until December 14th (children should take their violins home after the concert).

Remember that the concert dress is black bottoms and white tops, and they need to come in to school on 12/14 in their concert clothes.





Around the School



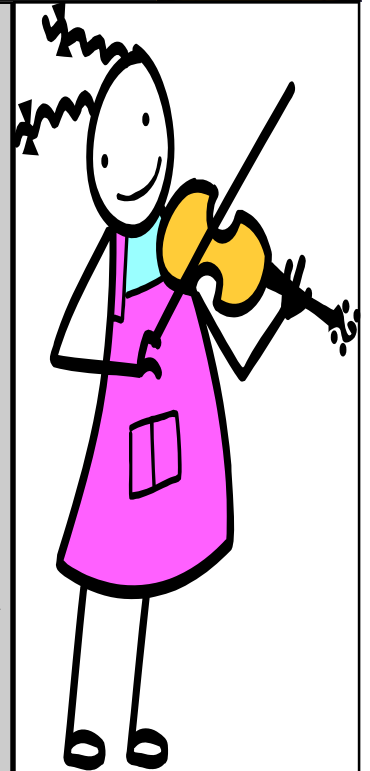
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MUSIC WITH MS. HAKIM