



Making Minds Sing

**“The harder you work, the harder it is to surrender.”
Vince Lombardi**

- 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

The New England Patriots lost the Super Bowl. They were a perfect 18 and 0 and they lost the big one. It was an amazing season, filled with all kinds of records broken. I was in awe of them as they persevered through week after week of staying focused on the task at hand, and winning every time. In this final game they just couldn't do what they needed to in order to prevail one more time.

The newspaper headlines always used the word “perfect.” The radio continually announced: “The road to perfection.” In other seasons the Patriots were champions, although they lost a game or two during the season. It was a joy to watch as they marched to the ultimate victory. This year was different. As the season progressed it became more and more important that they not lose. The perfection became the goal. And as this became clear, it became less enjoyable to be a fan. It began to count too much. One loss was no longer acceptable. Watching the games became more tense and nerve producing. The fun was out of it. Why? Because the idea of staying perfect took over. Mistakes were not part of the equation.

I raise this as an example of how we operate as a society. We strive for perfection. I do not think this is a good thing. I think that striving to do one's best is what counts. The outcome should not be the measure of success. One can try one's best and still not reach perfection. It's progress towards one's goal that should count. That is how we look at kids in school. We want them to progress, to move on and improve and get smarter. We also want them to achieve on a level that is appropriate to their grade level. We do not expect them to be perfect and we certainly allow for mistakes. It is a critical element for learning.

The Patriots made mistakes in the Super Bowl, and, unfortunately they will not be considered a success, even with the best record in the NFL. I'm glad it's over. Maybe next year they will lose a few games and become champions.

Sincerely,

Mark Jacobson
Principal

Reminder- No school
February 18th– 22nd.
Enjoy your February
Break! And keep reading!

Important Dates
In February

Wednesday, February 6th

Early Release Day School
is out at 11.45

Thursday, February 7th
Parent Teacher
Organization Meeting
(at school)
6-7.30 pm

Thursday, February 7th
School Advisory
Council
(at school)
4.30-6 pm

Tuesday, February 12th
Board of Directors
Meeting
4.30-6.30 at the school

Tuesday, February 12th
CLCS Diversity Night
(see PTO page for
details)

February 18th-22nd
No school

February 27th
Early Release Day School
is out at 11.45

**Amazing opportunities available for your children
through the Museum of Science!**

Are you interested in your child taking a class at the Museum of
Science over February Break, Spring Break, or the summer?

If so, call Annie Sevelius to find out more information.

Scholarships are available!!!

The **next** PTO meeting of the 2007-2008 school year is **Thursday, February 7th, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm *at the school!***

**We welcome one and all be a part of the PTO!
(Child care is provided.)**

Family Diversity Night Pot Luck

January 12th, 6 pm to 8 pm.

**Brighton Allston Congregational Church United Church of Christ
404 Washington Street
Brighton, MA 02135**

*Come see author and story teller Norah Dooley perform!
This is a chance for your child to meet a “real life author”
and get a book signed!*

Call the school for more details.

CLCS PLAYGROUP for younger siblings!

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 contacting Liesa Lessard at lessardliesa@hotmail.com if you are interested. We look forward to seeing you.

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



The **KINDERGARTEN** is back in full swing and we are making huge leaps in the new year. We have been studying communities, hibernation, math sentences, writing for readers, and much more! Our upcoming theme in Kindergarten is "Kids as heroes." Throughout the rest of the year we will be learning how we can be heroes and how small moments can make a big difference. We will be incorporating this into all aspects of our classroom and look forward to identifying our own heroic powers! Just watch as we grow, change, and zoom our way into the spring.

The **FIRST GRADERS** are once again off to the races. They jumped headfirst back into learning after the vacation. The children are a master of routines and often remind us of what needs to happen. The reading progress continues to be apparent by the children's undeniable desire to read everything around them. What a joy to watch their excitement! We have been learning about Martin Luther King throughout all areas of the curriculum as we look at the powerful change he ignited in our country. The children have been thoughtful and reflective as we learn about this movement towards a change in thinking from the people of our nation and the role children play in this change. We look forward to continuing our progress towards greater understanding in all areas of learning as we reach the halfway mark of the school year.

SECOND GRADE is pleased to announce the arrival of our new student teacher, Ms. Giovanone. She is a Wheelock College graduate student and jumped right in teaching the children about hermit crabs. We were kindly given 4 hermit crabs and the children are now finding out how to hold them, feed them and care for them when they molt. In Literacy we are beginning a focus on nature which fits nicely with our hermit crab study. During math we have started exploring fractions and in writing the emphasis has been on conventions. So much to learn!

The **THIRD GRADERS** did a fantastic job completing and presenting their endangered animal projects. Both students and teachers were impressed with the high quality of their work. Their final products, which consisted of poster boards, dioramas, brochures, and games, showed their dedication and enthusiasm for their own learning. For this month the class will cover concepts such as equivalent fractions and patterns in math. In social studies they will discuss and role play events leading up to the Revolutionary War. In language arts the class will explore pronouns and continue to practice using various strategies during whole group and independent reading. On Thursday, February 7, 2008 the class will visit the Harvard Museum of Natural History. The purpose of this field trip is to reinforce students' knowledge and provide new information about different Native American Cultures.

The **FOURTH GRADERS** are ready to have a productive, exciting February that is full of learning. Our class is now getting ready for the English Language Arts MCAS test that is coming up in March, and students are learning strategies that will lead them to success with the test. We have also begun our second Science unit of the year, and the students are very excited to learn all about solids, liquids, and gases and how they change. Students are also getting deep into the art of essay writing, and are looking forward to publishing their work before vacation. There is lots of hard working going on all across the curriculum!

The **FIFTH GRADERS** continue to work hard at their learning. We've extended our study of fractions to fraction computation. This will have an LTM component as well. In reading, we're analyzing nonfiction text structure and preparing for MCAS while continuing to read fascinating books in our reading groups. The fifth graders have been creatively crafting essays in writer's workshop. We're eager to get back to science, but we need to learn the causes of the American Revolution first. Just why did colonists fight for their independence against the mighty British army? What events, with years of build up, led to war? Ask a fifth grader!

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. Tissue is also appreciated.

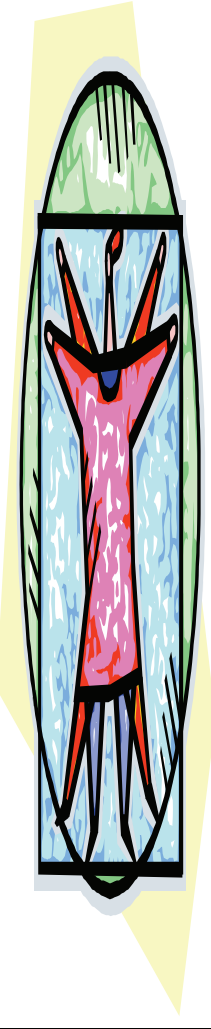


Around the School



OT Tip of the Month

By Ellie Meyer, Occupational Therapist



The traditional program of activities of daily living (ADL) has been an integral part of occupational therapy practice no matter what the setting, disability or age group. The concept of ADL has always encompassed eating, dressing and personal hygiene (including bathing, toileting and grooming) activities that are basic to an individual's sense of independence. The loss or inability to properly acquire these skills can have a traumatic effect on one's body image and sense of self-worth. Once a child reaches school age, he or she should have mastered the basic motor, cognitive and perceptual skills necessary to make it through the day with minimal assistance from an adult. Heavy reliance on others for self-care, however, can often be the first sign of depression or some other emotional condition. Make sure you share with your doctor any significant changes in your child's ADL skills.

MUSIC AND VIOLIN

Free Tickets!!!

Boston Musica Viva has donated 40 tickets to CLCS for families to attend their 16th annual family concert on **Sunday, February 10th, 3PM at the Tsai Performance Center at Boston University**. The BMV will be presenting two original ballets for children of all ages, and the performers include adults and children. The composer of the ballets, Bernie Hoffer, created the music for a lot of popular cartoons and stories like Thundercats, Silverhawks, and J.R.R. Tolkien's Return of the King. The concert is meant for people of all ages, and should be an exciting event. More information at <http://www.bmv.org> (click on Family Concert). If you are interested in attending this event, please contact Masami Rodriguez (617 254 8904 x116) by February 5th. Tickets will be distributed on a first come, first served basis, so if you are interested, contact us as soon as possible!

