



Making Minds Sing

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter.” - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- 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

Happy New Year everyone!

January is a very productive time in schools. All of the holiday distractions are over, we are all well rested and ready to go. We now have a six week long stretch of mostly uninterrupted teaching time.

I want to tell you about a new initiative. This year I formed the Diversity Committee. It is comprised of parents, staff, and board members. This committee's goal is to vastly improve the diversity of future staff that is hired, and the diversity of volunteers coming to our school. It's a known fact that children need role models, they need adults in their lives who reflect their culture. We are striving to bring in more people of color to our school, to work with our kids.

In this regard I'd like to ask for your help. We have quite a diverse community of families and you may know someone who would like to be involved in our school. Perhaps you know someone who is looking for a job in a school. Perhaps you know someone considering a teaching career. Perhaps you know someone who is looking to volunteer. Please give this some thought. Maybe you know a neighbor, a friend, a family member. If you ask around you may find someone. I will keep asking, and reminding you to keep this in mind in case something comes up in the future.

I consider this a critical task, and one I would like our school to succeed in. I look forward to working on this together with you. Thanks for your help.

Take care,
Mark Jacobson, Principal

Celebrate the work of Dr. King by practicing peace and confronting injustice.

Important Dates
In January

Tuesday, January 8th
Board of Directors Meeting
4.30-6.30 at the school

Wednesday, January 9th
Early Release Day
School is out at 11.45

Thursday, January 10th
Parent Teacher Organization Meeting
(at school)
6-7.30 pm

Thursday, January 10th
School Advisory Council
(at school)
4.30-6 pm

Monday, January 21st
No school

January 23rd
Early Release Day
School is out at 11.45



Reminder-
No school

January 21st– Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

The **next** PTO meeting of the 2007-2008 school year is **Thursday, January 10th, 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.)**

Thank you to all the that made the Winter Concert Raffle a big success.

Thank you to the following parents:

Judy Blackiemore, Eva Katz, Toni Jackson, Liesa Lessard, Andrea Doremus Cuetara, Mila Achildiyev , and Kate True.

Local business donors included:

Starbucks/Brighton, Johnson's Instruments, Boing!, and Magic Beans.

With the continued help of the parents and local businesses , this is always a wonderful event. Thanks to all that purchased tickets and to all of our lucky winners.

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



December was a very proud month for the **FIRST GRADE**! Not only did they shine as musicians in their first violin concert performance, but they also showed great pride as authors during their 2nd writing celebration! The students shared their published small moment stories with their 4th grade buddies and received great feedback and praise on their hard work! Even with all the excitement of the concert and school vacation, the class was still amazingly focused on learning!

SECOND GRADE has jumped right back into learning after the holidays. During reading we are continuing our focus on fiction as the children work on clearly stating their ideas about stories. Math finds us learning about collecting and representing data. During January we will be wrapping up our science unit on balance and motion with "rolling things." Such fun and learning all woven into one! The writing focus continues to be small moments from the children's lives, however, our new unit has an emphasis on conventions - spelling, punctuation and telling clear and readable stories.

Things are humming as we begin the new year in **FORTH GRADE**. The fourth graders have become masterful at understanding story structure in fiction, and are ready to tackle nonfiction text structure in reading over the next few weeks. The fourth graders are also shifting gears in writing this month, moving into writing thoughtful, well-organized essays. We will also be getting ready to put all of this knowledge and skill to work on the English Language Arts MCAS test that's coming up this spring! We can't wait for all of the successes that 2008 will bring.

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.

From Mrs. Donna Newbower, School Nurse Hearing and Vision Screening Update

Thankfully this year no child failed the hearing test. Good hearing is especially important for the music education here!

There were unfortunately some children who failed one or more parts of the vision screening. Many of you who have received notification of this have responded by taking your children for a more complete eye exam. Thank you for your care and concern. I am now trying to assess which children still need to have outside eye testing. If you have taken your child to have an eye test please send the results to my office (even if the results were normal).

If there are financial barriers to further testing there are resources within the Boston area teaching institutions that will offer an exam for free based on need. One of these is New England Eye Commonwealth, the clinical arm of The New England School of Optometry. It provides comprehensive eye care services for children and a large selection of eyeglass frames, if glasses should be necessary. If your family is a member of Blue Cross/ Blue Shield, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Neighborhood Health Plan, and Mass Health plus others your child can be seen at no additional cost. It is located near Kenmore Square and the phone number is 617-262-2020. I am in no way pushing this particular place, but use it as an example. Thank you so much for your cooperation.



Around the School



OT Tip of the Month

By Ellie Meyer, Occupational Therapist

Yoga is for everyone! It is the science of right living. It meets each student right where he or she is regardless of age, ability or level of health. Children love the movement and creative expression associated with the poses (called asanas). The asanas are modeled after appealing animals and elements –lions, snakes, rivers and trees. This naturally makes the practice engaging for children when presented in a dynamic way. A children’s yoga class typically features stories, games, animal sounds and laughter. Yoga can give children the ability to develop strength, flexibility and coordination. It can raise self-awareness, build self-esteem, release stress, and create a sense of inner peace and contentment. Many local YMCA’s, recreation centers, even churches host yoga classes for children as young as 4 months. There are also videos and DVD’s available at libraries and book stores that can get you started. As with any exercise program, check with your doctor first to get their “ok.”



VIOLIN

The concert was super! Congratulations on your hard work!

In January, we will be administering the Violin Essential Skills test, which helps us assess children in terms of how many songs they can play, how well they read music, and if they have been practicing and filling out their practice charts. We know that many children were not able to practice during vacation, and we ask that getting back into the swing of things in the new year, that you make sure that your children are practicing everyday, and filling out their practice charts.

The 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders will be going on a field trip to see the Boston Symphony Orchestra on January 31st. Permission slips will be going home next week. If you are interested in chaperoning, there will be a spot on the permission slip to let us know.

A reminder: private lessons are available outside of school hours. If you are interested, please call Kristy Foye at x212 for rate and scheduling information.

