

# Late Winter Elementary Curriculum Newsletter 2017

Dear Halifax, Plympton & Kingston Families -

It's March and the school year is moving by at light speed. March is a full month of learning and it is a good time to stop and take a moment to reflect on the changes that have occurred within our students. Report cards will be sent home to families and conferences will occur on March 23rd. I encourage you to make the most of these opportunities to learn how you to best support your child's growth and development.

*Melissa W. Farrell, K-6 Curriculum Coordinator*

## Math Activities For Car Rides



1) **Counting:** The first game you can play with your child is the counting game. Give them a car color to look out for. Each time they see it, they need to count aloud. This helps them not only with their numbers but their colors!

2) **Sign Arithmetic:** Every time you see a sign with numbers, for example a speed limit sign, have them either add, subtract or multiply the numbers together.

3) **Gas Prices Rounding:** It's almost a guarantee that while we're driving we will run into some type of gas station. When you do, have your children round the prices to the nearest number of your choice. For example, you drive by and it's \$2.41 per gallon, they would round down to either \$2.40, or \$2.00.

4) **License Plate Totals:** Almost all license plates have numbers unless they're custom made. When you see one, have your child add up all the numbers for an end total.

2) **Guess my number:** Play the guess my number game with your child. First, think of a number, we'll use 98 for example. Now, say it's less than a hundred but more than 50. Once they say a number, let's say they said 66. Say it's more than 66. Now, let them guess again. Let's say they said 75 this time, now say it's 75 plus 23. What is the number?

[www.mathinsider.com](http://www.mathinsider.com)



### Navigating Conferences: How to get the most out of your time?

Conferences are often a balancing act between listening to the teacher share an overview of your student and having an opportunity to share your own thoughts or questions. Here are a few tips to help you walk out of a conference feeling prepared to better support your child.

- 1) Come prepared to share your questions or concerns. Write your ideas down before the conference. Coming prepared will prevent feeling as though you missed an opportunity with your child's teacher.
- 2) If you have something in particular that you would like to address with the teacher, send an email or note prior to the conference. It will allow the teacher to better prepare and focus the conference topics.
- 3) Childcare—It isn't always feasible to attend a conference without any children. Come prepared with crayons, coloring books, or a device to help keep them entertained during the conference.
- 4) Follow-up with the teacher and make a plan to address any concerns. Set a date to reconnect with your child's teacher and check-in by phone, email or in person.
- 5) Talk with your child. Find an opportunity to share what you learned with your child show them the growth that they have made. Praise your child for their hard work.

### MCAS 2.0— Why does Massachusetts require state testing?



This year SLRSD is transitioning in grades 3-8 to the new MCAS and a computer based testing platform. Here are a few words from the Commission of Education, Mitchell D. Chester, regarding why Massachusetts required these state assessments

- Test results help parents gauge whether their children are making academic progress.
- Test results help educators identify strengths and weaknesses in their curricula and instructional methods.
- A student's participation in statewide testing helps provide context to other students in the same school, students in other schools within the district, and students in other districts.
- Test results help the state target additional resources to underperforming schools.
- Test results help document our progress to the Governor and the Legislature as we seek to ensure adequate funding for all our schools.

### Bridgewater Observatory—Free Viewing Events

Join the BSU astronomy staff on the observatory's viewing patios while multiple telescopes are available for your use.  
March 15, 22, 25 & 29 & April 5, 12, 19, 22 and 26

<http://microsites.bridgew.edu/observatory>



All students deserve the best start to their school day and a healthy breakfast helps to ensure that students enter the classroom ready to learn. Studies have consistently shown that students who eat breakfast benefit both nutritionally and educationally. Students who eat breakfast benefit from improved academic performance, improved behavior and better focus on their academic day. Over the past 2 years Plympton, Halifax and Kingston have been working to develop and implement a school breakfast program. I encourage you to have your student try out breakfast at Dennett, Halifax or Kingston Intermediate School.



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