

FORT RIVER PARENT NEWSLETTER

SUCCESSFUL LEARNING FOR ALL STUDENTS

October 2, 2009

Dear Fort River Families,

The daily work at Fort River is a pleasure to observe. In a recent visit to Anne White's music class, I was able to observe first and second graders engaged in song and dance, learning in their own ways and having fun. The first graders were doing a lesson on percussion instruments, while the second graders were singing and learning about the Limbo. It was a wonderful experience for the children, and we are so fortunate to have a teacher like Anne White. In the first grade, Ms. White utilized a system that effectively and efficiently provided each child with the opportunity to "try out" a percussion instrument and play along with her piano lead. Please ask your children about their experiences in our "specials" classes. Over the course of the year, I will be providing brief highlights of what is happening in the "specials" classes as well as the ongoing work in our K-6 classrooms.

Many of you may already know that the Public Forums on the redistricting plan will be held as noted below:

- **Thursday, October 8 at 7:00 p.m.--Marks Meadow Auditorium**
- **Wednesday, October 14 at 7:00 p.m.--Crocker Farm Cafeteria**

All parents, guardians, and community members are encouraged to attend one or both of these forums regarding the redistricting plans that will affect the entire Amherst Elementary system.

Finally, as the seasons change, please remember to check the weather so your child has the appropriate clothing for day(s). I hope you all have a terrific weekend.

Sincerely,
Ray Sharick



The Public Schools of Amherst, Massachusetts

Fort River School
70 South East Street
Amherst, Ma 01002
413-362-1200

October 2, 2009

Dear Fort River Parents/Guardians:

Fort River Elementary School has been identified for improvement under the accountability status of *No Child Left Behind* based on state MCAS test results. The Amherst School District and Fort River Elementary School will be taking actions to improve student performance according to standardized measures while working to maintain the richness of curriculum and instruction for which Fort River is known.

We will be implementing a new school improvement plan this year to include goals and objectives that respond specifically to MCAS identified needs in English Language Arts and Mathematics. In addition, a group of students who are achieving below grade level will be offered an extended day program three days a week to give them the support they need for academic success. Ideas and comments on how to improve learning in the school are welcome. Parents are encouraged, as always, to contact Raymond Sharick, Fort River Principal, at 362-1200 to learn how to get involved in school improvement activities.

The school district is providing technical assistance to the school both for the delivery of instruction and in the analysis of data in order to improve the quality of instruction for all students in our school. The school will keep you informed about additional changes that will be made at the school to improve learning.

According to the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, schools that have not made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in English Language Arts (ELA) or mathematics in MCAS for two of the past four years, in the aggregate or any subgroup, have a 2009 accountability status of "Improvement - Year 1."

You may recall that we received this status in September 2008 for not making AYP for two groups in the area of English Language Arts. Fort River Elementary School will maintain the "Year 1" improvement status because Fort River did not make Adequate Yearly Progress in all areas. AYP must be met for two years in a row in the underperforming category in order to have an accountability status removed. (Based on 2009 MCAS scores, Fort River did meet the AYP goals in English Language Arts. However, AYP was not met in the aggregate of student groups in Mathematics.)

Please feel free to contact Ray Sharick at Fort River if you have any questions regarding this notice.

Sincerely,

Alberto Rodriguez
Superintendents of Schools

Raymond M. Sharick
Principal

FUTURES DATES

Columbus Day.....Monday, October 12th.....NO SCHOOL
Parent Council Meeting...Thurs., October 15th...7:00 pm...Fort River Library
Elementary Early Dismissal @ 1:20...Thurs., Oct. 22nd...Parent Conferences
Elementary Early Dismissal @ 1:20...Tues., Oct. 27th...Parent Conferences
School Committee Meeting...Tuesday, Oct., 27th...High School Library @ 7:00
Coffee With A Principal...Friday, November 6th...8:30 am...FR Cafeteria

HITCHCOCK CENTER EVENT:

Don't miss the **Hitchcock Center's Enchanted Forest!** This non-scary Halloween family event takes place ***Friday, October 23 and Saturday, October 24 from 5-8:30p.m.*** Adults and children of all ages will enjoy meeting our magical "Animals in Disguise" as you are guided along the pumpkin-lit trail. Walks leave the Center every 15 minutes and last 45 minutes. Enjoy crafts, games, and snacks for sale. Pre-registration required. Register early as this event fills fast! Call 413-256-6006.

AMHERST-PELHAM

Public & Regional School Districts

Amherst Elementary Schools Redistricting Plan: Public Forums

(Child care will be provided)

Date: October 8, 2009

Location: Marks Meadow Elementary

School Auditorium

Time: 7:00pm

Date: October 14, 2009

Location: Crocker Farm

Elementary

School Cafeteria

Time: 7:00pm



Amherst Education Foundation, Inc.

Investing Today in Our Children's Future



Amherst Education Foundation announces the 15th Annual Trivia Bee

Amherst's "Not to Miss" Fall Event!

Thursday October 29th, 2009

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Amherst Middle School Auditorium

The Amherst Education Foundation proudly announces the date for their Fall fund-raiser. This has become the Amherst fall event "not to miss"! Sponsor a team for only \$175.00, or join a team and test your trivia IQ.

Under the direction of Ellen Story, over 30 teams will vie for bragging rights to be "Trivia Bee Champion". Citizens Bank was the 2008 Champion. The fun evening will include refreshments, lots of trivia and a raffle.

Admission is free with donations to AEF welcome.

See our website for details

www.amhersteducationfoundation.org/

or contact

Mary Donoghue at 253-7016

Aj.donoghue@verizon.net

We look forward to your support!