

FORT RIVER PARENT NEWSLETTER

SUCCESSFUL LEARNING FOR ALL STUDENTS

December 4, 2009

Dear Fort River Families,

A week after the Thanksgiving break, there is much to be thankful for in our school community. Each day at Fort River, I am fortunate to see great things for which I am so appreciative. For example, I recently watched Tammy Sullivan-Daley, one of our specialists, lead a group of four students in a performance of "The Tortoise and the Hare." These students took on their characters voices; used motions, expression, and appropriate inflection; and simply had fun while they practiced reading fluency AND worked on comprehension strategies. What a pleasure to watch!

I also wanted to take a moment to share how we have been lucky to be in such a giving community. We have much volunteer support in our school via our local colleges and the general community. A few highlights:

- America Reads Tutors from three local colleges
- Amherst College Tennis Team - 15 volunteer students from the women's team (tutoring, support – each student is committed to 2 hours of support, consistently, each week)
- UMass Amherst Commonwealth College students - supporting students in the Cambodian program and tutoring groups
- Additionally, we continue to support student teachers from Mount Holyoke College and UMass Amherst in what we believe is a win-win situation: these students learn from our experienced mentors, and we learn new ideas from them as we all work together to support student growth.
- Parents and other adult community members who volunteer in our library and classrooms to support the daily work of our school.

Many thanks to all who help us in our daily work!

Safety First! Some quick updates on safety~

Thank you for signing in and wearing a visitor badge when you come into school. This practice is becoming more reliably routine.

Our bus lanes are free of cars and our parent pick-up lane is more organized and less “awkward” 12 weeks into school. Our coordinated work with you is paying off. We are still waiting to hear from the DPW consultant about his assessment of our traffic patterns.

You may know that our students and teachers are well practiced at fire drills. At our last drill the fire department noted how effectively and efficiently the practice went because of repeated practices and improvement with feedback. Our school will run a “new” safety drill that will include all students on Tuesday December 15th. Like a fire drill, a lock down or shelter-in-place drill is a part of routine safety practices important to the safety of our children and staff. On our November 20th Curriculum Day, the staff practiced a shelter-in-place drill. Now we want to conduct a practice/drill with the students. A lock down or a shelter-in-place drill could be necessary in the event of a weather emergency, a medical emergency, or any other type of emergency that may require us to account for the safety and well-being of each student and adult in a very short-time.

Again, we thank you for your cooperation in helping us keep everyone safe.

- Ray Sharick and Susan Kennedy Marx

FUTURE DATES

Elementary School Committee December 15th ... HS Library @ 7pm
School Council Meeting.....Thursday, Dec. 17th7-9.....FR Conference Room
Holiday Break....December 24th - January 1st (Last day 12/23; School reopens 1/4)

FYI - Chorus Concert Dates

- Thursday, January 14th ...7:00 pm...Middle School auditorium
- Thursday, May 6th ...7:30 pm...Middle School auditorium

SNOW DAY INFORMATION

IN THE EVENT OF STORMS OR CHANGING WEATHER, PLEASE TUNE IN TO THE FOLLOWING RADIO AND TV STATIONS FOR POSSIBLE SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS, DELAYS OR EARLY DISMISSALS.

RADIO: WRNX (Holyoke) 100.9 FM/1400 AM
 WHAI (Greenfield) 98.3 FM
 WHYN (Springfield) 93.1

TELEVISION: WWLP (Springfield) Channel 22
 WGGB (Springfield) Channel 40
 WSHM CBS Channel 3

SCHOOL CANCELLATION LINE: 362-1898

Amherst Youth Basketball (AYBL)

Games begin Saturday January 9, 2010

It's not too LATE...
Teams are being formed!!!



Coed League - \$99

Grades K-2 Instructional Division (Players in this division practice but play no formal games)
Practices will be held at Fort River and Wildwood on Saturdays or Sundays.

Boys' Divisions - \$129

Grades 3 & 4 Sundays - Wildwood/Hadley Elementary
Grades 5 & 6 Saturdays - Middle School/Hadley Elementary
Grades 7 & 8 Saturdays - Middle School
Grades 9 - 12 Saturdays - High School

Girls' Divisions - \$129

Grades 3 & 4 Sundays - Wildwood/Hadley Elementary
Grades 5 & 6 Saturdays - Middle School/Hadley Elementary
Grades 7 & 8 Saturdays - Middle School
Grades 9 - 12 Saturdays - Middle School

Fee Reductions Available
up to 75%

To register, call Amherst Leisure Services at 259-3065, visit lsse.org,
or stop by our office in the Bangs Community Center.

*Not a school sponsored event.

