

**Principal's Update**  
**John F. Kennedy Elementary School**  
**C.A.P.T.**  
**March 9, 2010**

**Enrollment: as of January 12<sup>th</sup>**

Current enrollment - 420

Grade 1: 88 (Class size 22)

Grade 2: 82 (Class size 21)

Grade 3: 87 (Class size 21.5)

Grade 4: 90 (Class size (22.50))

Grade 5: 73 (Class size 18.5)

**What's happened since our last meeting?** (see weekly e-mails on Thursdays for details on all events)

- We had our 100<sup>th</sup> day of school on Wednesday, February 10th
- Ms. Jaruszawicus and all of first grade had pizza parties (first grade on March 10<sup>th</sup>) for winning the math challenge. Three first grades tied and the other class was only 2 points behind
- MCAS workshop for parents was held on Thursday, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>
- The New England Percussion Ensemble performed for the school on Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> – Thanks CAPT! They were terrific!
- The fourth and fifth graders gave their gymnastic performances on Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>
- We took a much needed break in February!
- The science guy was back for grades 1,2, 4 and 5
- Brian Lies, author in residence for grade two read some of his wonderful books to our students and spoke with them about becoming an illustrator and writer. Thanks CAPT!
- Canton Bank presented to our fourth graders Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> on saving and investing
- Ms. Smart invited all the first and second grade parents in to visit their children's music classes during "Music in our Schools" week, the first week in March. Terrific program!
- All kinds of community members came to the JFK on March 2<sup>nd</sup> to read to our students on Dr. Seuss' birthday and to celebrate "Read Across America" Day
- The fifth grade students in Mrs. Chamberlain's class practiced their public speaking skills when they did their biographical performances for the Wax Museum on March 2<sup>nd</sup>
- The fourth graders had their long comp practice on March 9th

**Coming up for the remainder of March** (see also calendar on our website)

- Gaudy Day at JFK on March 10<sup>th</sup> (also early release day)
- Fifth grade ice skating on March 10<sup>th</sup>
- Walker Wednesdays began in March and will continue to the end of school
- XYLO's Benefit concert on Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.
- Homework club continues on Mondays after school
- Helen Keller assembly for full school on March 16<sup>th</sup>
- Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup> – CAPE Vegas Night
- Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> – MCAS testing weeks begin (see attached calendars)
- Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> – Writers Gallery open for parent viewing from 4:30 – 6:00 pm
- Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> – Parent orientation for Galvin Middle School (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents) at 7:00 in the GMS cafeteria

### **Behind the Scenes – Instruction**

- Several JFK teachers, one parent, Marci Rosenthal, and the principal are in their second year of work on the English Language Arts revision committee. Recommendations for a new curriculum/program will be announced in April
- The JFK teachers continue to work in perfecting two new approaches to reaching all students. Our block scheduling and flexible groupings in math are in their second year (end of year test results particularly in fifth grade showed significant gains after one year of this new format), and our intervention block continues in all grades. The intervention block is a time when no new material is taught and enrichment activities or at risk support are available. Specialists circulate throughout the classrooms.
- Teachers have common planning on the early release day (March 10<sup>th</sup>) for general planning purposes.