



LUCE LANDSCAPE

JUNE, 2011

WWW.CANTONMA.ORG

We cannot believe that it is our last month of school. Please make sure to pay careful attention to our school calendar, as there are numerous activities planned over the next few weeks.

Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who helped to make this year's Art Show a huge success! Ms. Daniele collects portfolio artwork for every student throughout the school year, and every student had at least one piece of art displayed at the show. It is amazing how she creates lessons with a distinct connection to the work of the masters. The students' work looked fantastic, and we are so proud of their hard work this year.

Our special thanks to Ms. Barucci, Mrs. Pomfred, Mrs. Woodland, and Ms. Amendola for organizing our annual salute to seniors and grandparents, which was held recently. The music was fun and energizing, and the poetry readings touched many a heart string! Thanks also to the 3rd grade room parents for providing a beautiful refreshment reception. It was a very special assembly.

We continue to enjoy our "*FootLuce Fridays*." It is great to see the children arrive at school so energized, and it's wonderful to see our parking lot significantly less congested. Thanks to all the staff and parents who have volunteered each week to hand out raffle tickets to all walkers, bikers, skateboarders, etc. We have nearly walked around the state of Massachusetts.

The CAPT has had a very successful year and we have managed to fundraise over \$30,000 towards building our new playground. The final design for the playground has been agreed upon, and CAPT is hoping to schedule a "Community Build," tentatively set for July 16th or 17th. We will need 15-20 volunteers to help us build the playground. Information on this will be forthcoming over the next few weeks.

The final CAPT meeting of the year will be held on June 14th at 7 PM in the Luce Library (NOT June 7th). We will be electing new officers and there are many positions that need to be filled. Please notify Eileen Chaput at eileenchaput@gmail.com if you have any interest in learning more about any of the following committees/board positions: President, Secretary, In-School Programming, 5th Grade Promotion Coordinator, Friendship Directory, Membership Coordinator, Volunteer/Room Parent Coordinator, and a Coordinator for the Kindergarten Meet and Greet in September.

The Luce School Council was also very busy this year. Among its accomplishments were the following:

- updated school website
- provided weekly e-mail blasts
- provided two sessions of enrichment classes
- offered Walking Safety Training for Grade 2
- conducted Bus Evacuations for every class
- hosted Literacy Evening
- walked during "*FootLuce Fridays*" throughout the school year
- held a school-wide SHINE Assembly
- facilitated school mascot selection
- held a school-wide SHINE essay contest
- collected milk jugs for new playground bench made of recycled materials
- conducted School Community and Staff Surveys

School Survey:

We are very grateful to all who participated in the Instructional Needs Survey recently conducted. We had 187 respondents to this school-wide review. It is so important that we hear from parents about how we are doing as educators and as a school community. We are encouraged by the positive responses

to so many of the questions posed. However, there is always room for improvement, and we will continue to strive to make the Luce a school that “shines.” Your feedback and constructive criticism are invaluable in helping us move forward in our efforts to continually improve what we do so that your children can do their best.

The following information is a summary of the survey results. The Luce Elementary School welcomes parents and families according to the survey results (90%). Overall, it is felt by many to be a welcoming place (82%). It is unclear as to whether the school projects its own identity. Overall, the administration is felt to be accessible and responsive (84%). Response to parent calls/e-mails by the administration is prompt and appreciated.

The updated website is easy to navigate and helpful (87%). It is beneficial to have weekly reminders via e-mail directing families to look in the virtual backpack for information about upcoming events. The weekly e-mails should contain a link to the website. Parents have requested that the monthly calendar be made available before the end of the month. Families would like more teachers to have websites containing homework and project information. Additionally, many respondents said that they do not receive the Principal's weekly e-mail (23%). It is unclear why this occurs. We will explore ways to address this at the start of the year to ensure that all families are receiving the information they need.

Classroom instruction is felt to be engaging (86%). Most families feel that they have a general understanding of the curriculum (90%). Student-teacher interactions can typically be described as supportive and respectful (95%). The school expects quality work, and assessment practices are fair according to many families (94%). Grading rubrics are felt to be especially helpful. Families indicated that their students show literacy progress (93%). Additionally, it was reported that students are acquiring foundational math skills (89%). It was also noted that there is much emphasis on strategizing versus basic math. Not everyone feels that classroom instruction is challenging at all times. Some report that they would like the higher level students to be further challenged. More information needs to be communicated about intervention blocks and the *Journey's Program*. Students would benefit if technology were more comprehensively integrated into classroom work. However, it is also noted that there is limited technology currently available to the staff.

Some families reported feeling that perhaps the lunchroom policies are overly restrictive and suggested that the lunch time staff needs to allow students to talk more freely with less emphasis on being quiet. While being conscious of the related time and safety issues, we will further explore this topic to ensure that our staff has the support it needs to create a friendly, relaxing lunch time experience which benefits all students socially, emotionally, and academically.

Sadly, many typographical errors appeared in our survey and caught the attention of our respondents. We will review and improve our proofreading system as needed in order to reduce the number of errors in all correspondence between school and home.

Overall, we are pleased that respondents felt that the Luce Elementary School provides children with opportunities to become happy, successful learners and confident students.

Music News:

K- With only a couple of music classes left, students in Kindergarten are focusing on reviewing their musical year. Students are also doing Super Star Music Performances, during which they stand on the 'stage,' introduce themselves and their song, sing a song, and either bow or curtsy at the end. This activity helps give students confidence and the opportunity to be in the musical spotlight at an early age.

Grade 1- The first graders are winding down from their year as well... completing some review games and participating in a last week of school karaoke class.

Grade 2- These students are preparing for the June 14th Country Game Day performance. In music, students are learning *Bate Bate* from Mexico, *Se, Se, Se* from Japan, and *Obwasana Sa* from Ghana.

Grade 3- The third graders are spending the last month finishing up some recorder challenges and looking ahead to 4th grade music.

Grade 4- Students are working hard for their June 10th States Day Concert. This event will include a concert including patriotic and regional songs, including their favorite, *Fifty Nifty United States*.

Grade 5- The fifth graders are busy spending their last few classes creating music books. This project allows for creativity, review, and the potential to add a valuable teaching resource to the Luce Music Classroom.

Band students- Students will be playing in the Canton Spring Music Tour here at the Luce on June 9th. This school-wide assembly (for students/staff only) will include the 3 elementary bands, the Galvin Jazz Band, and the 8th Grade Band.

Art News:

- Grade 5 will do more printmaking and design treasure maps
- Grade 4 will learn how to do a flip type animation
- Grade 3 will make Ojo de Dios or God's Eyes
- Grade 2 will create Origami houses
- Grade 1 will make symmetrical butterflies
- Kindergartners will make crayon-resist fish bowls

Library Reminders:

All books need to be returned to the Luce Library by the end of the day on Friday, June 3. Lost books should be replaced or paid for, as noted in the school handbook. The Book Swap for Grades 1 through 5 will take place during the week of June 13. Books for the book swap need to be dropped off by June 3.

Happy summer! Don't forget to read, read, read!



Health News:

Summer is finally approaching and we need to protect ourselves from the harmful UV rays! Students will be learning about the importance of sun safety. Overexposure to the sun is the most preventable risk factor for skin cancer. Children are out at recess for at least 25 minutes each day, and they are exposed to the sun during this time. Unfortunately, there is very little shade in our recess area. With the sun's rays constant all year round, it is important to make sure that we know the best way to protect ourselves. This means that many of us will be stocking up on sun protection products. Sunscreen with an SPF 30 is recommended by The American Academy of Dermatology. However, we often find that our sunscreen is not as effective as we think until after it's too late and our skin has already been damaged.

Some ways that students will learn how to protect themselves are by:

- trying to stay out of the direct sun between the hours of 11:00 and 4:00
- playing in the shade
- wearing clothing that is light colored and covers as much of the body as possible
- wearing sunscreen with an SPF of at least 15
- wearing a hat and/or sunglasses

Students will be learning how to "Raise Awareness" of ways to prevent skin cancer and advocate the adoption of sun safe behaviors.

Check the UV Index daily. It provides important information to help you plan your outdoor activities in ways that prevent overexposure to the sun. Developed by the National Weather Service (NWS) and EPA, you can find the UV Index for your area online at: www.epa.gov/sunwise/uvindex.html. Also, remember that tanning beds and tanning lamps are just as dangerous as the sun itself! <http://www.skincheck.org>

Please remember that students entering Grade 4 this September are required to submit a copy of a recent physical exam to the health office. This information is due by October 1, 2011, but can be sent in before the end of this school year or anytime during the summer. Physicals done from September 1, 2010 to September 1, 2011 are acceptable. Please be advised that this is a state mandated requirement. Any 4th grade student who does not submit a physical by October 1, 2011 will be excluded from school. Please call the health office or e-mail warrenj@cantonma.org if you have questions or concerns about this requirement. (<http://www.cantonma.org/health/documents/physicalexam.pdf>)

Parents:

Please pick up any medications your child may have in the nurse's office before the last day of school or they will be discarded. As a reminder, a physician's order and signed parent permission slip are needed for any medication to be administered during the school day. The only exception is Tylenol; However, parent permission is necessary.

Odds and Ends:

Our classroom supply lists will be available on-line for those of you who did not purchase a School Kidz Kit. The Canton Public School Calendar for next year is also available on line. We hope that you will continue to familiarize yourself with this site as this will continue to be our primary vehicle for communication.

Our final donation of \$250 was made to the Canton Food Pantry to bring our total contribution for the year to \$1,229. This is four times last year's contribution! Thank you so much for your generosity.

PREVENT SUMMER SLIDE

What Can Families Do to Keep Kids Reading this summer?

Over the last couple of weeks, my students and I have been sharing our plans for the summer. With so many exciting adventures, camps, and destinations, it's hard to think about anything else. These exciting experiences are fun for the whole family and will be remembered for a lifetime.

Throughout our conversations, one thing has remained consistent. Not one student has mentioned what books they are looking forward to reading or discussed taking a trip to the library. Believe it or not, there are plenty of opportunities to incorporate reading into your daily routines in ways that can be fun for the entire family.

Children who read during the summer gain reading skills, while those who do not experience learning losses. Summer reading doesn't just have to be a boring, indoor activity. During your carefree days of summer, let your child explore outside the book and find ways to enjoy reading together!

Here are some ideas:

Cook Together! Give your child a cookbook and post-its. Have him/her choose a recipe for a party, dinner, or just a snack. Have your child read the recipe while you follow the directions.

Follow a Map! If you go to a museum, hike the Blue Hills or go to a mall, hand your child the map of the right destination! Another possibility is to have your child draw a map of your house, yard or neighborhood. This project will be fun for the entire family!

Scrapbook! Have your child keep a journal or make a scrapbook. It may be from a weeklong vacation or for the whole summer.

Visit the Canton Public Library! There are several fun and engaging scheduled activities for the whole family to enjoy. Make it a weekly event! All family members should choose a book they enjoy.

Lead by Example! If your children see that you read for enjoyment, they will follow by example. It can be magazines, comics, newspapers, and/or on-line articles. Your choice!

For more fun activities, please visit the parent section on scholastic.com and Happy Reading!!

Submitted by – Erin Hagens, Reading Specialist, Gr. 3-5

We are most appreciative of all the support and generosity of the parents in our school community. Without all of you, our school would be a very different place. On behalf of all of our students and staff, a

huge thank you to all who support our efforts. Thanks to all the Luce families who supported our CAPT events this year. As you get closer to our summer break, please keep in mind the following:

**Knowledge is not what you learn, but what you remember...
It is not what you study, but what you remember and reflect
upon, that makes you learned. (Schuler Colfax)**

Have a happy and safe summer!

Mrs. Peter, Principal *Ms. Cruise*, Assist. Principal