

Minot Forest Elementary School
March, 2017 Newsletter

****See important March MCAS dates****

****See important kindergarten registration dates****

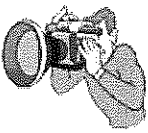
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Congratulations to the following staff members who received the weekly Owl Award for demonstrating Respect, Responsibility and Kindness for the month of February: Mrs. Fritzell, Mrs. Spiro, Mrs. Sylvester, and Mrs. Owens.

Dear Families,

This month we look forward to Daylight Savings Time, the arrival of Spring, and warm weather.



Spring Pictures: All students will have their picture taken by Lifetouch Photographers. Families will receive a proof of their child's picture and will have the option of purchasing pictures at that time. Spring pictures have different backgrounds from the fall pictures.



Incoming Kindergarten Student Registration: Kindergarten registration is this month at the John W. Decas School. Kindergarten in Wareham is a tuition free full-day program. The first step to register your child is to pick up a packet which is available at your child's preschool center or any of the elementary schools. You can also download the packet from the school website. Your child must be 5 years old on or before October 1, 2017 to attend kindergarten in September. **Registration** will be held on **March 6 and 8 from 4:00-7:00 PM and March 6 through 9 from 9:00-11:30 AM and 12:30-2:00 PM at the John W. Decas School** for all students. You do not need an appointment for *registration* nor does your child need to accompany you. When you come, please bring your packet, as complete as possible, as well as your child's original birth certificate, 2 required proofs of residency documentation as stated in the registration packet, and updated immunizations (if available at time of registration). At that time, you will be given a future screening date for your child. Registration is very important. If you know of any families who have age appropriate children for kindergarten, please inform them of these dates. Even if you do not have all the information gathered by registration time, please come to registration. Planning for the next school year is contingent upon our registration numbers and our planning for staff and number of classrooms begins now for September classes.



International Night: International Night will be held at the Minot Forest School on March 16 from 5:30-7:00 PM. This is always a fun evening to share each family's culture. More information will be sent home from the Wareham Elementary PTA. Please consider hosting a table and share your country of origin, information, or food samples.

From the Nurse: Mobile Dentist will be coming to Minot Forest on April 26, 27, and 28. Please return your permission form once it is sent home if you are interested in having your child seen by the dentist.

4th Grade Families: According to state law, all 4th grade students must have a physical exam this year. Please have your physician fax a copy of the physical to school (508-291-3529) or send it in with your child. Thank you to all the parents/guardians who have already done so.

Swimming: The next grade 3 class to attend the YMCA Friday swim program will be Mrs. Fitzgerald's class from March 3-April 7.



Principal's Coffee: The next Principal's Coffee will be held on March 27 at 9:00 AM.

Preschool: We are so pleased to have received news that our 5 year accreditation through NAEYC was renewed. Congratulations to our preschool staff on their hard work.

Peer model screenings will be held this month. Specific information is included in this newsletter. Preschool SPED screenings will be held on March 17.



Jump Rope for Heart: Jump Rope for Heart will be held Saturday, March 18 from 9:00-12:00 at Minot Forest. More information will be sent home. Forms will be coming home and need to be in by March 18.

Calendar of Events:

March celebrates: American Red Cross, Music in Our Schools Month, and National Nutrition Month

Also: National School Breakfast Week, Girl Scout Week, and National Poison Prevention Week

- 3/2 Spring pictures. Only students who have their prepaid envelopes will have their picture taken. There are no make-up days for spring pictures.
- 3/2 Read Across America Day and Dr. Seuss' birthday
- 3/6 Term 2 grades close
- 3/6&8 Kindergarten Registration, 4:00-7:00 PM in the John W. Decas Cafeteria
- 3/6-9 Kindergarten Registration, 9:00-11:30 AM and 12:30-2:00 PM at the John W. Decas School
- 3/10&24 Preschool application and screening for peer partners, 9:00-11:00 AM and 12:30-2:30 PM at the Minot Forest School
- 3/12 Daylight Savings Time begins. Did you set your clock ahead?
- 3/16 International Night for grades preschool-4 families, 5:30-7:00 PM at the Minot Forest School
- 3/17 Happy St. Patrick's Day
- 3/17 Early Childhood Special Education Screening for children ages 3-5, 9:00-11:00 AM and 12:30-2:30 PM at the Minot Forest School
- 3/17 MA famous person bottle project, 2:00 PM for Ms. Conlon, Ms. DeGraces and Mrs. Cardoso's classes. Families are invited. Please arrive early and bring your picture ID with you to be scanned.
- 3/18 Jump Rope For Heart, 9:00 AM at Minot Forest. Be sure all forms are returned by today
- 3/20 Spring begins
- 3/20 School Council Meeting, 4:00 PM at the John W. Decas School
- 3/20 The Wareham Elementary PTA meeting, 6:30 PM in the Decas School Cafeteria
- 3/20 No after school academic CARE program
- 3/22 Report cards go home today for students in grades 3 and 4
- 3/23 Chili's restaurant fundraiser to benefit PTA
- 3/27 Second retention letter will be mailed home today if retention is still a consideration for a student
- 3/27 Principal's Coffee, 9:00 AM
- 3/29 Grade 4 students will attend a play at WMS during the morning

Preschool Application and Screening for peer partners
9:00-11:00 AM and 12:30-2:30 PM
The screening dates are March 10, 2017 and March 24, 2017

The Wareham Public Schools is accepting applications and will be conducting screenings for the Integrated Preschool Program for September 2017. Our program is designed to provide a high quality learning environment for students with and without disabilities to learn together. It is staffed by highly qualified certified teachers. Children attend either four morning or four afternoon sessions. Eligible children must be four years of age. Applications may be obtained at Minot Forest Elementary School at 63 Minot Ave., Wareham. We will also have applications available at the screenings. You will need to bring with you:

2 Proofs of residency:

- Valid photo ID **and** one of the following:
 - Copy of deed or most recent tax bill **and** record of most recent mortgage statement
 - Copy of lease **and** record of most recent rent statement
 - Legal affidavit from landlord affirming tenancy and copy of lease/deed **and** record of most recent rent payment
 - Section 8 agreement
 - Caregiver authorization affidavit
- Your child's birth certificate (with a raised seal)
- Your child's immunization record
- Pages 1 and 2 of your federal income tax form (there is a tuition fee based on a sliding scale to attend this program).

The cost of the program per day is based on family income. Parents/Guardians of accepted students will be asked to make a deposit of \$100 to hold their spot for the fall. Based on the information you provide, your tuition will be either \$5.00/day, \$10/day, or you may be eligible for free tuition.

In the event that the number of applications exceeds the number of available openings, a waiting list will be developed. Applications will remain on file should an opening become available.

The Wareham Public School Preschool Program is located at Minot Forest Elementary School, 63 Minot Ave., Wareham. Please contact Denise Tobin at 508-291-3555, ext. 5157 with any questions that you have.

Early Childhood Special Education Screening Dates

March 17, 2017

The Wareham Public Schools will be conducting special education screenings for children ages 3-5. If you have concerns about your child's development in the areas of readiness skills, speech and language skills or motor skills, please contact us for an appointment. Appointments may be made by calling Denise Tobin at 291-3555 ext. 5157 or emailing her at dtobin@wareham.k12.ma.us. The screening appointments will be held at the Minot Forest School at 63 Minot Avenue, Wareham, MA 02571.

PROTECTING YOUR KIDS ONLINE



TAKE CHARGE

Set some ground rules.

Establish basic guidelines like when your kids can go online, what sites they can visit, and how many texts they can send a month, so everyone is on the same page.

Research before you buy.

Did you know that handheld games can connect to the Internet or that many laptops have built-in webcams? Understand what technology you're bringing into your home.

Don't just sit there— REPORT!

If your kids are dealing with cyberbullies or potential predators, report them to the website, cell phone service, law enforcement, or www.cybertipline.com.

MONITOR

Supervise Internet use.

If you can see what your kids are doing, they're less likely to get in trouble.

Safeguards ≠ Safe Kids.

Installing CIA-level monitoring software on your kids' computers does not guarantee they'll be safe online. Technology can't replace your time and attention as a parent or guardian.

Don't go overboard.

It's smart to keep an eye on your kids' social networking profiles, but it's never cool when you post embarrassing messages or pictures to their page.

COMMUNICATE

Talk to your kids; they're not as mysterious as you think.

Your kids might not tell you everything, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't ask. Get involved so you're not the last to know.

Challenge them to a duel.

If you have kids who like to play video or computer games, ask if you can play, too. When you respect their interests, they're more likely to respect your rules.

Don't pull the plug.

Taking away your kids' Internet access because they've done something wrong doesn't solve the problem. Talk to them about protecting themselves and respecting others online.

NetSmartz Workshop
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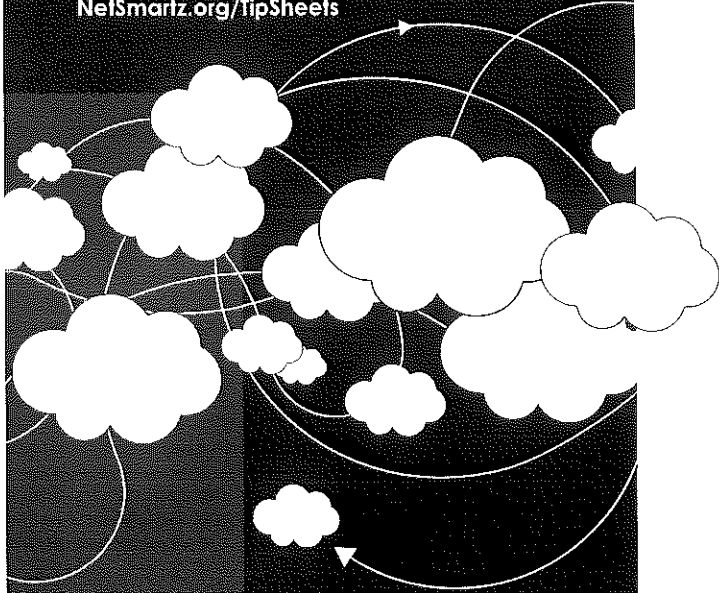
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NetSmartz.org/TipSheets



Protecting your **KIDS** on social media

Online social media services aren't new, but many of us are still learning how to use them without getting into trouble – especially children and teens. Use these tips to help your kids safely use any social media service from networking to image posting sites.

NetSmartz® Workshop

For more resources visit NetSmartz.org

A program of the



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Do you know...



What they're posting?

Check comments and images for personal information, like phone numbers and addresses, as well as inappropriate and illegal content such as hateful or threatening speech and nudity. Delete anything you think is too much information.



How they access social media?

Mobile devices, like cell phones and tablets, let children access social media apps away from adult supervision. Children may post content and even share their locations. Review app settings to help them keep information – like their location – private.



Who they're talking to?

Your child's online contact lists and followers may include people you don't know, or even people your child only knows online. Even if you don't know the contact, make sure you know what images, messages, and other content they're sharing.



What account settings they're using?

This is where you can control who has access to your child's information. Each social media service has a different setup, so take a look at each one your child uses. Always ask yourself – *what is on the profile and who can see it?*



Who has access to their information?

Most social media services have ads and applications from 3rd parties, like games and fan pages. If children click on these or add them to their profiles, they are allowing access to their personal information. Have a discussion about what's OK to add and what's not.



Where to report?

If anyone talks to your child about sex, shares or asks them to share sexual images, or is a victim of sexual exploitation, make a report to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® at www.CyberTipline.com or **1-800-THE-LOST®**.