

# JOHN W. DECAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Principal: Donna Noonan

March 2017

Asst. Principals: Bethany Chandler,  
Jo-Anne Gibbs and Sara Russo

## Principal's Message

On Wednesday, March 22nd, you will receive your child's report card. This is a very important marker as we come into the final semester of our school year. Please take the time to talk with your child about all aspects of his or her report card. Academics as well as work habits are assessed and reported on giving you an accurate picture of his or her performance at this point in time. There are certainly many successes to celebrate! Many children are doing a wonderful job learning to read while others have reached the point of reading to learn! Mathematical concepts are developing and computation skills improving. For some, there may be areas needing attention and shoring up before moving on. Whatever the case, please help us to help our kids by sitting down and discussing their report card with them.

Attendance and tardies are significant factors that affect student performance and are often times in our control. Do you realize a child with just nine absences misses 5% of the school year. Please help us to help your child by having them here on time each day. Every moment matters in the life of a young child.

We have good news! The roof and boiler project is nearing completion. We anticipate first graders returning to the E wing by the end of next week. Thank you for your patience during this process.

Next week is Kindergarten Registration. We welcome our new families and ask they come to school to register their child during school hours next Monday through Thursday or next Monday or Wednesday evening from 4-7 pm. For more information, please feel free to call our Main Office.

There are many exciting events planned for the upcoming months and there are many opportunities to participate in our school community. Please refer to the calendar for specific dates and times.

Thank you for your ongoing support! If I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me at [dnoonan@wareham.k12.ma.us](mailto:dnoonan@wareham.k12.ma.us) or call the Main Office number at 508-291-3530.

Donna Noonan  
Principal

## Counselor Corner

### Playing Video Games:

Playing video games has become a big part of our children's lives. It is important to know the pros and cons as parents and caregivers of playing all these games.

**Cons** include that children may isolate themselves from other children and limit their time to socialize with their peers. This could impact their ability to socialize in the future.

It also takes away from the time that they spend outside getting exercise and using their imagination.

Depending upon the game they play, they may be exposed to aggression and violence which could desensitize them to real life violence and aggression.

[www.common sense media.org](http://www.common sense media.org) is a website that will help parents/guardians learn more about games.

### Pros include

Educational games like [www.abcya.com](http://www.abcya.com) gives students the opportunity to follow directions and develop problem solving skills.

In order to advance forward in the game, students have to build upon newly acquired skills and apply those skills to progress to new levels.

Video games also increase hand-eye coordination, fine motor skills and spatial reasoning. . . -<http://my.vanderbuilt.edu>

### Remember:

Kids who regularly plugged into social networking sites before bedtime reported sleeping nearly an hour less on school nights than those who rarely connected online. Limit technology 1 hour before bedtime, if possible.

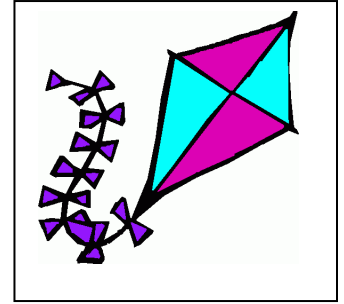
-[www.cbsnews.com](http://www.cbsnews.com)

Mrs. Lehane

## POWER News

In the month of March, we are going to be reading the *Social Detective*. The *Social Detective* teaches students to view and observe the expectations of the greater world. We teach our younger kids to start as detectives to help them begin to observe the world around them, develop an understanding of a social thinking toolbox (using their eyes, ears, feelings, brain) and understand the connection between the expected and unexpected and how this makes people feel (or how they feel about what happened). As students develop a working knowledge of the expectations they have for others in the social world and that the world has expectations for them as well...then they are ready to learn how to self-monitor to meet those greater expectations.

Mr. Paling



## Literacy Corner

It's good to be back after an uneventful winter-weather vacation. I do hope the children spent some time curled up with a favorite book or a trip to the local library. It's so important to practice those newly-learned reading skills. In Literacy, second grade students are reading about Tomie DePaola through his many for children autobiographies. Tomie was a focused and willful little boy that usually got his way in a manner that was both comical and surprising. March 2<sup>nd</sup> is Dr. Seuss's birthday and, in his honor, I would be delighted if you send in your child's favorite Dr. Seuss book. I have also asked a few volunteers to come in and read with the children, in honor of National Read Aloud Day (February 16, 2017), during the first two weeks of March. First grade students have just about finished with Peter and his New York City neighborhood adventures, by Ezra Jack Keats. Kindergarteners will end the Mo Willems' stories with Pigeon and his pleas to drive a bus, eat a cookie, stay up late, and get a puppy. But, we will keep our word and tell the Pigeon, "no!" I hope to plan a Literacy Night, for families, sometime in the spring. Stay tuned!

Mrs. Wood

## Art Corner

Decas School students will be working on the development of their drawing skills for the month of March. Each art class will focus on new themes to draw, starting with people, trees in a landscape, and animals. Pictures will get progressively more challenging with each lesson. It is important that students learn to draw the things that are meaningful to them, which in turn, increases their scope of ideas.

Along with learning to draw, students will also be thinking about why it's important to appreciate their own vision. Drawings that produce newly acquired knowledge can sometimes look strange. It is so important that young artists investigate their own range of possibilities through exploration and taking risks so it becomes an integral part of them. Each student needs to create their own perspective and value the different ways their pictures can look. Students will be collecting all their drawings in a folder that will be brought home at the end of the unit.

Coming Attractions – May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from 5:30 -7:30pm will be our annual Art Exhibit. I will be calling parents to help with labeling and mounting artwork for the show. If you are interested in volunteering, just call the office and leave your name and contact information. Remember you must have an updated C.O.R.I. to work in the school.

Mrs. Osborn

# Physical Education

Students in physical education have been working on conflict resolution with Mr. Paling's POWER classes. They have been role playing by using "you" statements (blaming) and "I" statements (feeling). By communicating using "I" statements, students are able to work together solving conflicts that may arise during school. Please continue the conversation at home by talking to your child about ways they solve their own issues at school and at home.



## **JUMP ROPE FOR HEART IS ALMOST HERE:**

Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m. - Noon

Students have been given fundraising envelopes full of information on how to raise money for the American Heart Association. As a thank you to them, all students who have raised money for the Heart Association are invited to a Thank You Party on Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m. – noon. Donation envelopes can be passed in from now until the date of the event. As soon as your child raises their first \$5, they can get a lanyard and Rory McFiercely III, the lion from me! And students who earn online donations can get their Mr. Tusker the elephant!!

Come join the celebration at the Decas gym on Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> from 9 – Noon. Students will enjoy music, snacks and pizza!!

Mrs. Semple

## Field Days:

**Kindergarten (all):** May 17<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 – 2:30

**Grade 1, Team 1**(Davis, Wolfe, Burke, Snider, Petracca):  
May 18<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 – 2:30

**Grade 1, Team 2**(Jacinto, Kais, Harunk, Allen, Jop):  
May 19<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 – 2:30

**Grade 2, Team 1**(Spenard, Roche, Jean, Gillis, Nelson):  
May 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 9:00 – 2:30

**Grade 2, Team 2**(Matathia, Bakeman, Doyle, Bennett, Kent): May 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 9:00 – 2:30

**Rain dates are: TBA**

## Music Notes

This month, all classes will be singing one of the kids' favorites "Rattlin Bog" a traditional Irish song that goes faster and faster. First and second graders will continue to learn proper techniques on classroom percussion instruments. Our kindergarten students will continue to sing with expression and work on good singing practices. As always, encourage the children to sing and be musical.

Mr. Devoe



# Nurse Notes

## March is National Nutrition Month



A healthy diet provides the necessary nutrients needed for your child's growth and well-being. When preparing healthy meals, include food items from the following five food groups: fruits, vegetables, grains, proteins and dairy.

In 2011, the United States Department of Agriculture introduced ChooseMyPlate.gov to teach people about healthy eating. The MyPlate is divided into 5 sections: one for each food group. They recommend half the plate contain fruits and vegetables and the other half grains and protein.

Eating healthy and being active will help keep you and your child healthy.

### Extra Clothes

From time to time, your child may need a change of clothes due to a toileting accident or spill. Please consider putting a change of clothes in your child's backpack. This will allow your child to change in a timely fashion and return to class.

Mrs. Braley



The Wareham Public Schools is accepting applications and will be conducting screenings for the *Integrated Preschool Program* for September 2017 on:

**March 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**9:00-11:00 and 12:30-2:30 PM**

Please call the school to book an appointment. Applications may be obtained at Minot Forest Elementary School at 63 Minot Avenue, Wareham. We will also have them available at the screenings. *For further questions, contact Denise Tobin at 508-291-3555 ext. 5157.*

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

3/6 & 3/8 Kindergarten Registration 4:00-7:00 PM

3/6 - 3/9 Kindergarten Registration  
9-11:30 AM & 12:30-2:00 PM

3/6 - 3/10 Book Fair for students during their school day

3/8 Book Fair Family Night 5:30-7 PM

3/11 Jump Rope for Heart 9:00- Noon

3/16 International Night @ Minot 5:30-7:00 PM

3/20 School Council Meeting 4:00-5:30 PM at Decas

3/20 PTA Meeting at Decas 6:30 PM

3/20 No after school academic CARE program

3/22 Report Cards go home

3/23 PTA Chili's Fundraiser

## Rotating Specialist Calendar March 2017

**Monday    Tuesday    Wednesday    Thursday    Friday**

		1 Day E	2 Day F	3 Day A
6 Day B	7 Day C	8 Day D	9 Day E	10 Day F
13 Day A	14 Day B	15 Day C	16 Day D	17 Day E
20 Day F	21 Day A	22 Day B	23 Day C	24 Day D
27 Day E	28 Day F	29 Day A	30 Day B	31 Day C