


# Early Childhood Center Communicator

Issue #12.6

Website: <http://www.abingtonps.info>

February 2010

## DATES TO REMEMBER

February 1	PTO Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
February 2	Preschool Parent Informational Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.
February 3	Early Release Day 12:10 p.m. Dismissal
February 8	100 <sup>th</sup> Day (Tentative)
February 9	Preschool Applications are due
February 14th	Valentine's Day 
February 15 – 19	School Vacation
February 24	School Council Meeting 4:20 p.m.
February 26	Kindergarten Mid-Term Reports
March 4	Early Release Day

## **Kindergarten Registration:**

Registration for children who are entering Kindergarten in September 2010 will be conducted from March 25, 2010 to March 31, 2010. All children who were born prior to September 1, 2005 and are a resident of Abington will be eligible to enter Kindergarten. If you have not received a packet with pre-registration forms and an appointment, please contact the ECC at 781-982-2185.

## **Preschool 2010-2011:**

A program was established in 1989 to meet the needs of Abington's preschool population with special needs and to provide a unique experience for other preschool children from the community who serve as typically developing peers. Admission applications for children are available in the ECC Office and Pupil Services Office as well as on our website.

## **For Your Information**

### 100th Day Celebration

February 8, 2010 is the tentative day we will celebrate the 100th day of school. As a school-wide project, we are collecting condiments (ketchup, relish, mustard, etc. in non-breakable bottles) to be donated to the Abington Food Pantry during the week of February 8th through February 12th.

### FRIENDLY REMINDERS

- For safety reasons, no one should pass a bus that is parked in the circular driveway at the main entrance of the ECC.
- For your safety, please use the crosswalks.
- Please have children wear appropriate winter clothing, including hats, gloves and boots (as needed) for outdoor recess. Thank you.
- Please remember that no toys or trading cards should be brought to school.
- For safety sake, items such as keychains and small toys should not hang outside the backpacks since they might get caught.
- Please be aware of NO Parking signs when attending school functions so you won't run the risk of getting a ticket.
- Please no pets on the playground.
- Handicapped parking spaces are for cars displaying a handicapped placard or license plate. Thank you for your kindness.

### REMINDER

Please sign up for email listings of school emails at our website, [www.abingtonps.info](http://www.abingtonps.info)

## **LITERACY**

*On Tuesday, March 2nd, we will celebrate READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY and Dr. Seuss's birthday. The children may bring their favorite teddy bears or Dr. Seuss animals to school for B.E.A.R. Time (Be Excited About Reading) as part of the celebration. Children will also be able to wear Dr. Seuss related clothing. We will send home a reminder as the day approaches as well as any other activities that may be planned. The cafeteria will be serving green eggs and ham for lunch that day.*

*The next Reading Counts Point Trading Day will be held in March.*



## EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER SCHOOL COUNCIL

During our January 27th meeting, we discussed the 2010/2011 budget and analyzed School Council surveys to begin forming our 2010/2011 School Improvement Plan.

Our next School Council Meeting is Wednesday, February 24, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. in the Conference Room at the ECC. Everyone is invited to attend these meetings.

### Parent Teacher Organization

On January 4, 2010, the PTO held its monthly meeting. Items discussed were: Box Tops, Papa Gino's, March Madness, ideas for a Spring Fundraiser, Lambert's Fundraiser, Cash For Gold Party, Movie Night, and the Yearbook.

Please support your child's PTO and try to attend these monthly meetings. The meetings start at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome!

### Nurse's Corner

*It seems that Old Man Winter just won't give up his grip on us! However, there are some things we can do to keep our families safe and healthy.*

#### Dress for Winter:

1. Dress in layers to stay warm and dry.
2. Boots should be worn to keep feet warm and dry. They should be insulated and fit properly.
3. Mittens keep hands warmer than gloves.
4. Hats are essential-heads are a major source of heat loss.
5. Sunburn can happen even in winter so use a sun-block with an SPF of at least 15. Zinc Oxide is an ideal skin barrier for cheeks and noses especially for children who ski.

#### Winter Health:

*Cold weather does not cause colds/flu. The viruses that cause illness tend to be more common in winter and are easily shared when children are in close contact as they are in school.*

*To reduce the spread of colds and illness, encourage children to wash hands frequently. Teach your child to sneeze or cough into the bend of his/her elbow.*

*If your child experiences nosebleeds, try using a cool air humidifier. Saline drops may be used to keep the tissues of the nose moist.*

*More safety information and health tips can be found at: The Academy of Pediatrics website: [www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org) or contact Mrs. Conley, RN, ECC School Nurse*

### Sidewalk Snow Removal

At the December 14, 2009 Abington Board of Selectmen Meeting, in an effort to reduce the climbing cost associated with snow removal, a decision was made to place sidewalk clearing lower on the list of town priorities during winter storms. Parents/guardians need to be aware that unfavorable sidewalk conditions can occur during and after a snowstorm. Even if sidewalks have been cleaned, citizens clearing their driveways and walkways can cause sidewalks to be blocked. Melting and re-freezing of snow can also create an icing situation. Parents/guardians should always be aware of the conditions of their child's walk to school and act accordingly. When these circumstances occur, parents/guardians may need to make alternate arrangements to get their children to school.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind parents/guardians to talk to their children, as we have at school, about the dangers of thin ice on ponds and streams in the coming months and to take the appropriate precautions. Thank you for your attention to these matters as we all work together to keep the children safe.

Reminder— all students should wear warm shoes, hat, coat and gloves/mittens when outdoors.

### EVERYDAY MATH

Are there some days you feel as if your child is speaking a foreign language? Other days it seems easier to help your child do homework the "old way"? Do you hear your child use such terms as Frames and Arrows, Fact Power, or Fact Triangles? How can you find out about these words and more? There are two ways, and I suggest you take advantage of both. First, refer to the Monthly Family Math letter. The letter introduces the vocabulary for each unit. You have an opportunity to learn and understand the words before your child has been exposed to them. The second way is to listen to your child. Each day when the children have a homework assignment, they are expected to explain the new concept to you. This helps to reinforce what they learned that day as well as teach you the skill.

Oh, by the way, Frames and Arrows provide a way for children to organize their work. Frames are shapes that hold the numbers; while arrows represent the rule that tells the number that goes into the next frame. A child has Fact Power when the basic number facts have been learned. Now if you have mastered these vocabulary words, wait until your child comes home and tells you about Partial Sums (second grade words).

### ECC STARS

Our ECC Stars have been very busy. The "shining stars" basket in the office gets more and more full each day. This means that the children have often been caught displaying star behavior. (Every Child Cares for Safety, Teamwork, Achievement, Respect and Success).

The STAR character trait for the month of January was **Respect for Self**. Students worked on self-esteem, things they can do to stay healthy, their conscience mind, and manners. Mrs. Pulkinen always tells the children, "The most important thing you need to be healthy is to like yourself". They worked on this a lot in January.

This month, students will be working on **Respect for Others**. Topics will include: bullying, teasing, tattling, and respecting property. Please be sure to talk about these topics with your child at home as well. It is important that they know home and school are on the same team!