



Dawn M. Lewis
Elementary School Principal

John Safina
Middle School Principal

May 7, 2010

Happy Mother's Day

NECAP SCIENCE TESTING

This month students in Grades 4 and 8 will be taking the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) Science test. The Spring NECAP Science Assessment was designed to measure your child's progress in meeting the basic Science Curriculum Targets that are highlighted within New Hampshire's Grade Span Expectations, or GSEs. The GSEs define the knowledge and skills a student should have mastered in Science by the end of grade spans K-4, 5-8 and 9-11. The NECAP Science test, given at end of each of these grade spans, will be composed of three (3) test sessions:

* Sessions 1 and 2 will feature multiple choice and constructed response items with the Science domains clustered (all Life Science questions will be together; all Earth Space Science questions will be together; and all Physical Science questions will be together). Unlike the pilot test given last May, all students will be tested in every Science domain. Approximately 90 minutes will be given for Session 1 and for Session 2 (this includes additional time for students to answer, if needed).

* Session 3 will be an Inquiry Task. At grades 4 and 8, this will involve cooperative work with hands-on materials. Approximately 120 minutes will be given at grades 4 for Session 3. At grade 11, students will be involved with data analysis and experimental design issues, but will work on the task by themselves. Approximately 60 minutes will be given for the grade 11 Inquiry Task.

The NECAP is one of the important tools available to parents and educators to determine how well our schools are helping students meet standards and grade span expectations. In every assessment, scores are only as meaningful as the effort students put into the test. Encourage your child to take the test seriously and to give his or her best effort. You can best help your child prepare for the assessment by making sure that she or he is rested on the days the tests will be given. As with every day, it is critical that students have a good breakfast before heading off to school. Thank you for supporting your child and our school during the testing period.



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NWEA - Tests That Adapt to the Student

Students will be taking the NWEA Spring test. Students took the NWEA test in the Fall as well. This will allow us to determine individual student growth. NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) tests present students with engaging, age-appropriate content. As a student responds to questions, the test responds to the student, adjusting up or down in difficulty.

The result is a rewarding experience for the student, and a wealth of detailed information for teachers, parents and administrators

iPods and Other Electronic Devices (reprinted from February newsletter)

It has been an increasing problem with students using iPods or Mp3 players at inappropriate times. They may only be used during independent work time, as designated by the teacher. For safety reasons, these items may not be used in the halls, cafeteria, or recess. It seems Santa did one-stop shopping this year at the Apple Computer Store. We are now overrun with students using iPods at inappropriate times, like when instruction is happening. Please stress to the kids the importance of following this procedure as I have already.

The use of cell phones is strictly prohibited during the school day. Students have access to phones in every room, and parents can contact the main office if they need to get a message to students. There are many "safety" reasons why these devices are not allowed. However, the bottom line is that we are a learning institution. The focus needs to be on learning. Students walking through the hall using cell phones and Mp3 players can send a negative impression about our culture. Our focus needs to be on education and not calling, texting, listening to music etc, etc. Also, students are accessing the school's internet through WiFi and their electronic devices. This is an inappropriate use of the internet and against the Acceptable Use Policy. Students were asked to turn off their WiFi connections. The internet is still filtered even when students use internet through their devices, however, with certain applications on their phone, they can bypass the filter and access sites they are not supposed to be viewed during school.



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Graduation

The 8th Grade Graduation will be held on June 22, 2010, at 6:30 p.m., as long as we do not have school called off for any reason. Graduation is traditionally the last day of school.

8th Grade Dinner Dance

I have been approached by parents and staff members about making this year's dance for 8th grade students only. After the decision was made to only have 8th grade students, I was approached by a different set of parents and staff members who felt 6th and 7th grade should be included. At that point I decided to let the 8th graders make the decision, as it is their dance. The consensus from the 8th grade was to open the discussion about having 7th grade students attend. After discussing it, we had a vote by secret ballot. **The 8th grade students voted to make that Graduation Dinner Dance an 8th grade only dance this year.** We also discussed that this was a semi-formal dance. We want students to dress nicely, maintaining the integrity of the school dress code. This doesn't mean prom gowns, tuxedos etc, etc. The use of a limousine or horse drawn carriage were also discouraged. This is not a prom. We look forward to celebrating with the 8th grade class.

Staff Appreciation Week

Today was the last day of staff appreciation week. I want to extend my gratitude to all the wonderful staff of Ellis School. The hard work and dedication you do for the children of Fremont is greatly appreciated. **Also, a great big thank you to the PTA for the fantastic luncheon!**

"Way To Grow" Votes Can Earn \$2,500 for Ellis

Ellis School has a great opportunity to earn up to \$2,500 from the Lands' End "Way To Grow" sweepstakes.

Now through Friday, May 14th, you can go to www.landsend.com/thehub and enter once each day online with your vote for Ellis School. The top 10 schools with the most votes as of May 14th will be awarded up to \$2,500 for their school.

Support Ellis School with your daily vote in the "Way to Grow" sweepstakes and earn \$2,500 for our school! Ask friends and family to vote for Ellis School too!!!



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Field Day

On Friday morning, June 11, the Fremont PTA will be sponsoring Field Day. All of the students and staff in grades K-6 will be there for this great event! Field Day is held at the Joe Bonis Memorial Field Complex. Students will spend the day participating in fantastic Field Day activities. Any parent wishing to volunteer is asked to contact the PTA or Shawn Perrault at Shawn_Perrault@hotmail.com.

Upcoming Dates

- May 11 - Parent Forum 5:00-6:00 p.m.
- May 11 - School Board 6:30 p.m.
- May 18 - Step-Up Day for 4th grade
- May 19 - Chorus Concert at Sanborn High School 7:00 p.m.
- May 21 - Great East Chorus Festival / Canobie Lake Park
- May 31 - Memorial Day

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