

WOODSDALE WEEKLY

Woodsdale School

120 Chestnut St Abington MA 02351



Principal's Message

Dear Woodsdale Families,
It was quite a busy week this week, we're finishing up DIBELS testing for our students and we're about half way finished with ACCESS testing for our ELL students. Our hard-working team of School Council members have finalized our list of focus areas and have sent out invitations to our community focus groups in backpacks today. Please RSVP as soon as you can.

Our 3rd grade students were treated to a presentation from a vet-tech this Wednesday, another local connection bringing interesting content and a little something different to our students days. Thanks to AEF for putting together a great Trivia Night. Several of our staff members attended and they had a blast...we also let out our competitive side!

We're looking forward to the long weekend as much as your students are. If our kids find themselves with some time, have them read or practice math facts. Crash on the couch with them and have them read to you- even if it is for a few minutes.

- Mr. Hawes

Focus Groups

Our School Council, in conjunction with Research Options in Hanover, is ready to launch our focus groups on February 28th. We've sent home invitations to our first group of 25 parents, leaving room for more on our list in case they cant make it. We'll be holding our focus groups in the seminar room at the new Abington Middle/High School and are looking forward to parent input on important topics such as homework, social-emotional learning, enrichment, school-to-home supports and the physical space at Woodsdale.

MCAS Preparation

Eyeing the beginning of the MCAS testing window on April 2nd (schedule linked below), we are beginning preparing students specifically for the adjustment to computer-based testing. We'll be holding practice tests during the week of February 5th and February 12th. During Technology classes the week of January 29th, all students will review the TestNav platform in an effort to familiarize them with what the test looks like and how to navigate it.

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/1718schedule.docx>

Contact Us



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Save the Date

- **January 15:** NO SCHOOL, Martin Luther King Day
- **January 26:** Early Release Day (professional development), dismissal at 12:05
- **January 26:** Progress Reports go home

Morning Meeting Corner

We'll be sharing about the impact of Morning Meeting here at Woodsdale during the Student Spotlight portion of the School Committee Meeting in March. Parents and the community will hear testimonials about the impact our students feel Morning Meeting has had, and we'll walk the attendees through a typical Morning Meeting session. You've heard from us often about how important Morning Meeting is to our classroom climate, so the opportunity for our students to share it with the public is exciting!

Consequences & Problem-Solving

Ross Greene, author, child psychologist, and founder of the Collaborative Problem Solving Institute is a great resource for schools- we utilize many facets of his problem-solving techniques with both our students and our adults connected to the Woodsdale School (either parents or students). He shares his thoughts about consequences in this short video, linked below. We've also included a link to some parent/family resources.

[VIDEO: Whats the deal on consequences?](#)

[Lives In The Balance: Resources](#)

PTO Updates

At this month's PTO meeting, a few items came up that we wanted to share via newsletter for those who may not read the meeting minutes.

Parents can clip and send in Box Tops to the office for collection. The next deadline for submission will be in March, so please check through the cabinet and send in your Box Tops!

We're also getting things prepped for our Book Fair, scheduled to take place during Read Across America Week, the first week of March (5-9). If you're interested in helping out, please let us know (you can email Mr. Hawes or reach out to our PTO board).

Links

[TEDtalk: why we should be reading aloud to children](#)

[Important District Forms](#)

[How to Raise a Reader \(NY Times\)](#)

[District Calendar](#)

[Woodsdale Facebook](#)

[Bedtime Math](#)

[Abington Public Schools: Food Services](#)

