



October 4, 2007

To Haynes Parents & Guardians:

*I want to take the opportunity to provide some communication beyond the monthly Principal's Page when subjects of interest arise during the year. With this note I'd like to share some information regarding the **use of ActivBoards in the school** and another new technological initiative that has begun in **Food Services**.*

***First**, I want to thank all the parents who came to our Open House. We always appreciate the time you take to come and hear about individual classes and school-wide news. This year we shared a presentation on the beginning use of the ActivBoards in two of our fifth grade classes. As I mentioned at the outset of our presentation, the ActivBoards had been piloted on a limited basis in some of the other elementary schools, just as we had piloted the use of a mobile laptop unit within our fifth grade classes. Having the ActivBoards in the other schools raised a great deal of excitement among their teachers and parents for the purchase of additional Boards. With district-wide interest in promoting greater use of this piece of technology throughout the schools, our technology specialists and central office administrators had met with parent organization (PTO, HOP) co-chairs to discuss the possibility of match-funding the purchase of more ActivBoards. Because our school had not yet seen the ActivBoard in action on our site, we were not at the same place as other schools in making requests to purchase the Boards. (For instance, we had just received several thousand dollars from HOP to improve our sound system in the auditorium – a project still in its final stages).*

We were fortunate that Central Office monies were available at the very end of the fiscal year to purchase our first two ActivBoards and these were installed in the first few days of school. With only two Boards, we knew we would not be able to place them throughout an entire grade (three-four sections in every grade). At the same time, we did not want to delay use of the Boards. I made the decision to place the Boards within two 5th grade classes as this would still allow all 5th graders to get an opportunity to use the Board when they rotated for subject areas. Getting the Boards up and running made it possible for many teachers in our school to get a glimpse of the possible exciting uses of this technology. We now have many teachers who are very interested in having an ActivBoard in their classroom.

It is my hope that HOP will approve the funding of additional ActivBoards for use in our school this year. Each Board costs approximately \$6,000, including the "whiteboard", a laptop and accessories for student use. Ideally, we would like to have an additional ActivBoard for our other fifth grade class, along with two more ActivBoards to utilize in a fourth and third grade class. If we are limited in the number of ActivBoards we can purchase, I will make the decision as to where the Boards will be installed based on a number of educational decisions that impact teachers and students. We have always been most appreciative and grateful for HOP contributions to the school. Such financial support for our school has never been contingent on use of monies for a particular teacher, classroom or grade level, though we certainly consider issues of equity and benefit for all. It will be some time before we have ActivBoards throughout the grades in which we would like to use the technology. So we ask for your assistance and patience

through this journey. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you have concerning the purchase and use of ActivBoards in the school.

***Second**, this past Wednesday we implemented a new district-wide computerized payment system for students' purchase of lunch at Haynes. This system is now in place at all of the Sudbury schools, including Curtis Middle School. Every student has his/her own personal lunchroom account. Students have been assigned PIN numbers that they punch into a register at the end of the lunch line. Students have index cards or other reminders to help them use their PIN numbers as they become accustomed to this new system. Your children may have reported that the lunch lines have been moving slower. This is true. However, as the students familiarize themselves with the system, the lines may move much more quickly as our Kitchen Manager will not have to manage student's accounts on paper. Your child may bring cash to pay for lunch, or you may prepay into your child's account, just as before.*

You will now be able to view your child's account balance through a web site called MyNutrikids.com. In order to access this site, you need to email Rita Skog, our Food Services Director, (Rita_Skog@sudbury.k12.ma.us) to obtain your child's ID number and PIN number. For much more information on this computerized system, please visit the Sudbury Public Schools web site and check out Food Services (www.sudbury.k12.ma.us/foodservices.html#mynutrikids).

*Sincerely,
Susan Carlson*