

Principal's Page - October

We have had a wonderful start to the year! Your sons and daughters returned to school with enthusiasm and a readiness to learn. Teachers feel that their classes are coming together so nicely. We are looking forward to sharing curriculum and plans for the year at our Open House.

ILAP (Improved Learning for All Plan) update

By the end of September we will have had two early release afternoons to begin work on our school improvement and district-wide goals. One of my goals for the year is to include an update on our work during ILAP afternoons in each monthly Principal's Page. This time that has been provided for our teachers is such an opportunity for professional growth, collaboration and focused discussion on student learning. We combined our first early release with an extra hour of staff meeting time so we could cover a myriad of important topics that included:

- A review of protocol for the use of Epi-Pens in the event of severe allergic medical events
- Classroom teachers, specialists and special educators had an opportunity to share information about students to insure that we continue supportive practices that helped students last year
- An overview of ILAP plans for the year, working as a professional learning community and using guiding questions throughout the year to help us focus on student learning and achievement
- Initial planning meetings of our Literacy Leadership Team, Math Leadership Team and Technology Committee (participants include teachers from each grade level as well as special education), reviewing goals for the year and promoting cross-grade curricular discussions

Our second ILAP afternoon is differentiated throughout the grades. Grade 4 and 5 teachers will be attending training on the use of the new report card format. Grade 3 teachers will be working together on the New TERC Investigations math materials with Joy Cooke, our Math Curriculum Coordinator. Kim Swain will be meeting with teachers in grades K-2 to dive into their Lucy Calkins' Units of Study materials, with a focus on strengthening writer's workshop and the teaching of writing this year. Special education staff will be attending a session with our Director of Special Education on district-wide process and procedures. All of our counselors and special-subject area teachers have ILAP plans specific to their disciplines.

October 3rd School Committee at Haynes

The Sudbury School Committee is planning to hold some of its fall meetings in each of the schools instead of always meeting at Fairbanks. The meeting at Haynes will take place on October 3rd at 7:30p.m. At each of the schools, the principals will share their thoughts regarding challenges and successes in our respective buildings, and highlights from our School Improvement Plan. For most of the evening the school committee agenda will include district-wide issues and topics. You are invited to attend this meeting and all other meetings during the year. The schedule of meetings is posted on the Sudbury Public Schools web site.

Bus Transfers

We have a small change in procedure that is being instituted district-wide this year. A student may ride a different bus home to a friend's house after school under three conditions:

- 1) the student must already have a bus pass
- 2) there must be room on the other bus, and
- 3) the student must have written permission from a parent to ride a different bus and the students must give the permission note to the teacher first thing in the morning.

This procedure has been put into place to alleviate some of the traffic congestion we experience at all of our schools and to provide more options for parents.

At this point we have room on all of our buses on regular school days. On early release Wednesdays we have room on the following buses only: #1, 2 and 3.

Secretaries in the front office will review all requests for bus transfers each morning. If the request cannot be honored because the bus is already at capacity, parents will be contacted and alternate dismissal plans will need to be made by parents. Capacity is determined based on the number of students signed up to take the bus, even though all students may not end up riding their bus each day.

Odds & Ends

If you are picking up your student from school, please make sure to be in the building by dismissal time at 3:25. Please anticipate possible traffic delays.

We have received completed Permanent Dismissal Forms from almost all families. If you haven't sent in the form, please make sure to get the form to us as soon as possible. This is the main vehicle through which we insure that each child gets dismissed to the proper place.

Thank you to School Improvement Council members for creating the sign in our front office reminding all parents & visitors to sign in and take a "visitor badge". This is one of the practices we want to follow more strictly to make sure that our building is safe. Please return your visitor badge when you leave the school!

Traffic on Haynes Road can be very busy in the morning. Please make sure to follow the speed limit. Stay alert for parents and children seeking to cross the street. If you drop your child off in the front circle, please make sure that children always exit the car from the right side, as cars will be passing on the left. If you need to get out of the car to help your child, please park in a parking spot. Otherwise, there can be a dangerous back up of traffic onto Haynes Road.

I hope you feel the year has started well for your child or children. Please contact your child's teacher with any question or concern. For any general school questions or concerns please feel free to telephone or email me.

Susan Carlson