

# The Earl C. McGraw Elementary School

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## *McGraw Messenger*

*February 26, 2010*

We are already at the end of February! It has been a very interesting month weather wise as well as an exciting one here at McGraw. I hope everyone enjoyed the winter break with his or her children.

Our children have had a busy month celebrating Hundredth day, Valentine's day, and continuing to do every day routines. The second graders finished up their NWEA's, the teachers wrapped up midyear assessments and the children had a well-deserved week off.

The month of March promises to be just as exciting as we kick off our Read Across America celebration on March 2 (Dr. Seuss's Birthday) in an All School Share to raise money to purchase books for our classrooms. We will also celebrate the winter Olympics by having some of our own events at Winterfest on Friday, March 5.

Later in the month we will enjoy the HA jazz band as they practice for their big performance in The State Jazz Festival and at Disney later in April.

A parent is interested in developing a support group for parents who have children on the Autism spectrum. This will be a time to get together to connect, support, and share information with each other (and enjoy snacks). If you have any interest, please call Leanne @ 862-4811. The first meeting will be at the Hampden Highlands United Methodist Church, 44 Kennebec Road on Friday, March 5@ 6:30 PM. Hope you can make it. *\*This activity is not organized through SAD 22*

A reminder if you are picking your children up from school, please park in the bus dirt lot or the dirt lot across from Weatherbee. As the weather gets nicer, younger children love to skip and hop more as they cross the parking lot. With cars parked along the sides of the road, it is often difficult to see little children as they open doors or appear around the car. For everyone's safety, parking in the dirt parking lots will help alleviate the crowdedness on the road and keep our children safer. Thank you.

**MONDAY WILL BE THE FINAL COLLECTION DAY FOR HELP FOR HAITI. HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT OUR FLAG IN THE HALLWAY? SO FAR, WE HAVE RAISED ABOUT \$400! THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Volunteers are still needed for Winterfest. If interested, please contact: Amber Frisch ([amber.frisch@maine.edu](mailto:amber.frisch@maine.edu)) or Rachelle Maietta ([Rubya.jax@yahoo.com](mailto:Rubya.jax@yahoo.com))

### PTO News:

The next BASE orders for March will be placed Monday, March 8 and Monday, March 22.

Website - [shopwithscrip.com](http://shopwithscrip.com)

Enrollment code - 4622919F7393

Questions- [mcgrawptobase@yahoo.com](mailto:mcgrawptobase@yahoo.com)

Thank you very much for supporting B.A.S.E.-our year-to-date profit is \$1840.67

The McGraw PTO is accessible on Qlubb.com! Go to <http://mcgrawpto.qlubb.com/public> To check it out!

**Kindergarten News:**

Over the past few weeks, Kindergarten has started working with calculators and simple addition and subtraction number stories. Students have also been introduced to word families. Learning common word patterns provides very useful information about written language. Boys and girls are learning how these patterns help them read and write words. We are all looking forward to Read Across America and the Winter Festival next week!

#### First grade news:

On February 10th, we celebrated the 100th day of school. First graders participated in a variety of fun activities such as, reading 100 books, writing 100 words, 100 numbers scavenger hunt, and 100's day songs and poems. We are looking forward to Read Across America and Winterfest next week!

#### Second grade news:

Second grade has scheduled a field trip to the L. C. Bates Museum on Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. The Museum exhibits include Maine natural history, Americana, art, archaeology, minerals, ethnology, and Maine

history. Featured museum exhibit tells the history of Good Will-Hinckley and the children who called it home. It sounds very exciting!

#### School Counselor News:

This month in guidance class, boys and girls are learning about families. We discussed who is in our families and read the book "The Family Book" by Todd Parr, which teaches that there are lots of different ways to be a family and that a family is special no matter what kind it is. We are also learning about conflict resolution and how to problem solve when we have issues with friends. We will learn that an "I feel" message is used to tell someone how you feel about something that they have done. We will brainstorm solutions to problems and figure out if the solutions solved the problem and made everyone happy. We will also practice saying back what we hear using the good listening skills that we learned about last month.

I am continuing "lunch bunch" and have thoroughly enjoyed meeting your children. I began by going alphabetically and now will switch to more of a random selection so that boys and girls will get a chance to meet different people in their grade.

Melissa Erickson

#### Upcoming Dates:

\*March 2nd: All School Share/ Read Across America Kick off

\*March 5th: Winterfest

\*MARCH 12TH: K REGISTRATION

\*March 19th: No School (Teacher Inservice Day)

\*April 1<sup>st</sup>: Poetry Alive presents

\*April 12-16: SAD22 Poetry Week

\*APRIL 19-23: VACATION

\*April 26-30: Screen free week