

Mary Rowlandson Elementary School

Update

January 31, 2018

<http://rowlandson.nrsd.net/> (Mary Rowlandson website)

Twitter @MREschool

New Math Bulletin Board

If you have come into Mary Rowlandson Elementary over the past few weeks, you may have noticed the new math bulletin board located just inside the building on the left. Every week, a new math problem or pattern is put up on the bulletin board. There are separate problems for grades K-2 and 3-5 so that it would be more accessible to all students. Students are encouraged to solve the problem, find differences and figure out patterns. Each week exemplars are chosen from the responses and kids win a pencil if theirs is chosen. The explanation is what I look at first when choosing the exemplars and then I look at the answers. This would be a great activity to do at home with the kids. Families can figure out the patterns and solve the problems together but students need to write up their own explanation (parents can scribe for Kindergartners). This is a great way to get the family involved with math discussion each week!

Mrs. Weber

(Look for these to be posted to the MRE Twitter account each Tuesday. Twitter @MREschool)

Mrs. Kerrigan

Mrs. Kerrigan has been a part of the Mary Rowlandson Community for 40 years! Aside from keeping the school running efficiently, she cares deeply about each and every person in the school. She also does many little things to help students and staff. Her long-standing presence at the Mary Rowlandson School is remarkable. It has provided a sense of stability and familiarity to the community and for generations of learners. After 40 years of supporting the teaching and learning in this school, Mrs. Kerrigan recently announced she will be retiring on February 28th. This is a tremendous change for our community. Her daily presence will be greatly

missed. While she will be missed, we also wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement. Over the next month, we will be celebrating her positive influence on the school community.

Health Update

By all accounts, the flu is affecting more people than usual this year. The Facilities Department has been working diligently over the past few weeks to try to maintain a clean school and be proactive. For the past two weeks, extra cleaning of the public areas, doorknobs, stair rails, and commonly touch surfaces have been cleaned continuously throughout the day. We have been monitoring absences to see if they are clustered in certain grade levels. If a potential cluster is noticed, the custodians have a special “fogger” which uses a non-toxic mist to clean all surfaces in a classroom. This has been done at night when their rooms are empty.

The information below is provided by the District Health Office.

Cold and flu season is upon us. According to the CDC we are at the peak of the flu season and still have about 8 weeks to go! Below we have listed a few of our school exclusion guidelines as well as some preventative tips. Please adhere to these guidelines and make note of the suggested habits. Let’s work together to keep our school community and our homes as healthy as possible.

1. Fever- 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, the student will be sent home and should remain home 24 hours fever free without fever-reducing medications.
2. Diarrhea- occurrence of more than one episode at school and/or with additional symptoms. The student can return to school after 24 hours symptom-free.
3. Vomiting- occurrence of more than one episode of vomiting and associated with other symptoms. May return to school after 24 hours symptom-free. Every attempt will be made to distinguish between regurgitating food and vomiting due

to illness.

4. Runny Nose- Students who cannot control their secretions and/or have green/yellowish-brown secretions need to remain home until symptoms improve.

5. Coughing- Excessive coughing contributing to the inability of the student to participate in class work or is disruptive to other students.

6. If symptoms worsen or persist, see your healthcare provider to be evaluated.

The flu can be serious for children causing them to miss school, activities or even be hospitalized.

Helpful Tips for Staying Healthy:

1. Frequent hand washing is the BEST way to prevent and combat the spread of germs. Wash hands often with soap and water.

2. Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth

3. If your child has any signs and symptoms of illness, please keep them home.

4. Cover coughs and sneezes with a disposable tissue or use an elbow or arm if no tissue is available.

5. Do not share drinks, food, or unwashed utensils.

6. Get plenty of rest, eat healthy foods, and drink lots water and healthy drinks.

7. Avoid people that are sick and stay home when you are sick.

8. Disinfect surfaces that are prone to germs (ex. phones, keyboards, doorknobs, toothbrushes).

NOTE: It is NOT too late to get the flu vaccine!

Please inform the school of any contagious illness. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

MCAS

The Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System, or MCAS, tests will be given during the months of April and May. These tests are given annually to assess student and school progress towards the standards in the State Frameworks. The MCAS tests have recently been updated to measure the critical thinking skills students will need to succeed in the 21st century. The emphasis on the test is not just rote knowledge. There is a heavy emphasis on knowledge application, synthesizing information and writing skills.

The district has realigned its curriculum to match these changes in the State Frameworks. The adoption of enVisions mathematics and the in-depth professional development in literacy this year are two examples of how the district is adjusting its teaching to prepare students for success not just on MCAS but in the life beyond school.

Attached to this email is the annual MCAS school report card. (This information was sent in a December MRE Update.) Because last year's MCAS was a baseline assessment, the report card does not report a level or comparison to other years. Next year, a new level system will be developed and reported by the State based on this year's MCAS results.

Students in grades 3, 4 and 5 will take a literacy test and mathematics tests. The literacy test includes three sessions given over three days. Students will read passages and then answer a variety of multiple choice, short answer, and essays based on the readings. The same format is true for mathematics. For both tests, students are expected to answer questions that require them to explain their thinking.

The dates for the MCAS tests this year are below. Please plan absences accordingly. Students cannot come late to school and start the MCAS after their class. It also poses many challenges if a student is dismissed during the testing time.

3rd Grade Literacy Test

April 2,3, and5

4th Grade Literacy Test

April 4, 9, 11

5th Grade Literacy Test

April 24, 25, and 27

3rd Grade Math

May 1 and 3

4th Grade Math

May 2 and 4

5th Grade Math

May 8 and 9

5th Grade Science

May 15 and 16

All dates are on the MRE calendar

<http://nashobamary.ss8.sharpschool.com/cms/One.aspx?portalId=1160798&pageId=1160818>

[MCAS 2018 report card letter.doc](#)

Community Announcements

Arts Nashoba

February Vacation – Let's Pretend

http://www.artsnashoba.org/Events/2018_LetsPretend.htm

[Nashoba Youth Lacrosse Registration Link](#)

Nashoba Youth Lacrosse is open to boys in grades 1-8 in Bolton, Clinton, Lancaster, Maynard, and Stow.
