

George R. Martin Elementary School Newsletter  
*Where Creative Minds Soar High*  
November 2007

**Our Mission Statement:** To provide the finest possible education for students in an environment where they may achieve their potential through a partnership of home, child, and school.

**Important Dates:**

- ☺ November 6<sup>th</sup>  
PTO Meeting, 6:30
- ☺ November 15<sup>th</sup>  
School Committee Meeting, 7:00
- ☺ November 8<sup>th</sup>  
First Term Ends
- ☺ November 13<sup>th</sup>  
Martin Blood Drive  
3-7 pm
- ☺ November 21<sup>st</sup>  
Early Release, 12:45
- ☺ November 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>  
No School
- ☺ November 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>  
No School- Teacher  
Inservice Days
- ☺ November 30<sup>th</sup>  
Picture Retake Day

***Quote of the Month***

*It must be remembered that the purpose of education is not to fill the minds of students with facts... it is to teach them to think, if that is possible, and always to think for themselves.*

-- Robert Hutchins

***Notes from the Principal***

Welcome to the month of November. What a fast start to the school year this has been.

Please make note of the many important events in November. Support has been outstanding for all school activities and I hope it will continue.

Your child(ren) will soon bring home their report cards. Use this opportunity to discuss what they are doing well and what they need to spend more time improving.

As the weather becomes colder please have your child(ren) wear appropriate clothing to school. They will go out for recess unless there is severe weather.

The PTO, in partnership with My School is Cool, has been awarded \$500 during their first quarter raffle. We are currently in 8<sup>th</sup> place. Thank you to all parents for remembering to check your receipts at the Swansea Mall.



***Notes from the nurse:***

There has been a lot of news reports regarding MRSA lately, included below is some helpful information.

MRSA is a staph-like bacteria that is resistant to some antibiotics. It is spread by direct skin to skin contact, such as shaking hands or other direct contact with the skin of another person..

- Symptoms of MSRA are high fever, swelling, heat and pain around a wound, headache, and fatigue.
- Treatment of MSRA is good wound and skin care: keeping the area clean and dry, washing your hands after caring for the area, carefully disposing of any bandages, and allowing the body to heal. Sometimes, treatment requires the use of antibiotics.
- Prevention of MRSA is good hand washing; covering cuts and scrapes with a bandage; not sharing personal items such hats towels, washcloths, toothbrushes and razors; and keeping your skin healthy.
- More information can be found at [www.mass.gov/dph](http://www.mass.gov/dph)

## *For the Love of Reading*

What's the best way to create a life-long learner? Reading together! Reading is free, fun, and will bring you and your child closer. Find a time each day when you and your child can get cozy and enjoy a good book.

Here are a few tips to help you choose stories:

- ✓ Ask librarians, friends, and teachers for recommendations. Tip: If your child doesn't already have a library card, sign them up for one!
- ✓ Find books that expand your child's interests (insects, outer space, etc.), deal with an event (a new baby, a visit to the dentist), and build character (friendship, truthfulness).
- ✓ Pick stories for both information and enjoyment. Try real and make believe stories and poems, as well as children's magazines.
- ✓ Lastly, remember that reading should be fun!!

## *Ready to Learn*

It is well documented that established family routines support children in their academic work. Below are some tips to help your child be ready for a day of learning.

- ✓ Relaxed: Music can help your child avoid the morning rush. Play a soothing tape and ask your child to be dressed by the time it is over.
- ✓ Energized: A good breakfast increases concentration. Offer your child healthy choices. Examples: a whole wheat bagel, orange juice, fruit/yogurt, or instant oatmeal.
- ✓ Connected: Talking about the school day lets your child know you care. Ask them to share two good things that happened during the day and prompt them with specific questions.
- ✓ Prepared: Studying a little every day is the best way to learn new material. Help your child choose a time for homework when he/she is most alert and stick to it.
- ✓ Rested: A set bedtime helps kids fall asleep more quickly.



## MCAS Scores

Our MCAS scores are in and have been sent home to families. Compared to the state, Martin Elementary did well.

The staff is working hard to use data from test results to improve instruction.

If you have any questions about our scores you can contact the Department of Education's website:

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/>

Please contact the school if you have any questions.