

**February 2019**

### **Principal's Message**

Over the next few months our 3rd and 4th grade students may begin talking to you about the MCAS tests. For some students, the word "MCAS" can be anxiety producing. This stress is often related to the "fear of the unknown". Many have been hearing about MCAS from older siblings, neighborhood friends or parents for years; now it is almost here. It is understandable that they are nervous. Who is not a little apprehensive about taking a "test"?

The key to helping our students through this experience is that all of the adults in their lives work together to keep things in perspective. At school, we make it a point to make sure all students know that we have confidence in them. We know that they are ready. They are well prepared. We remind them that there will be questions they will find easy and questions they will find very difficult. That is completely, 100%, ABSOLUTELY normal. All they need to do is try their best!

We also talk to the students about the fact that these tests serve more as a measure for the teachers and the curriculum than for the students. The results give us information about the content we teach and the instructional practices we use. These tests are never used to determine how "smart" someone is and do not affect student report cards.

It is important to remember that tests of this nature don't tell us everything we need to know about a student or about a school. These tests provide a snapshot in time. A data point about a particular day, a particular content area, a particular vocabulary word or a particular mathematical strategy. These tests do not tell us that a child is an exceptional artist, a leader among his/her peers, a good friend, a budding musician or a caretaker to someone in need. These tests don't tell us that our school is full of adults that lose sleep when a child is

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faced with personal challenges, or that worry incessantly when a child is struggling with a particular skill. These tests don't tell us that our school sometimes provides a safe haven or warm meal to someone in need.

As you speak to your children and discuss the upcoming MCAS tests, we hope you will reinforce our message. If you are looking for a great conversation starter with your child, I find the book "*Hooray for Diffendoofer Day!*" by Dr. Seuss and Jack Prelutsky explains the experience of taking a big test perfectly. Finally, if there is anything we can do to offer further reassurance or support, please don't hesitate to let us know.

**This year's Robin Hood MCAS dates are as follows:**

**English / Language Arts MCAS**

Grade 3 - April 3 & 4

Grade 4 - April 9 & 10

**Mathematics MCAS**

Grade 3 - May 14 & 15

Grade 4 - May 16 & 17

Respectfully,

Maura Donoghue

## Upcoming Events & Important Dates

**February 8** - Grade 1 Enrichment Top Secret Science

**February 13** - Grade 2 Enrichment, Dr. Lund

**February 15** - Early Release Day, 12:15 dismissal

**February 15** - Kindergarten Registration, 1-3pm @ Stoneham High School

**February 18-22** - February Vacation, No School

**February 26** - Used Book Sale/Swap

**March 1** - observance of Read Across America Day

**March 1** - PTO sponsored Dr. Seuss Night

**March 5** - PTO Sponsored Author's visit, Brian Lies

**March 5** - PTO Meeting, 7:00pm

**March 7** - Kindergarten Registration, 5-6:30pm @ Central Middle School

**March 11** - anticipated date for Report Cards to be sent home

**March 11** - Scholastic Book Fair this week

**March 13** - Early Release Day, 12:15 dismissal, Parent Teacher Conferences 4:00-7:00pm

**March 14** - Early Release Day, 12:15 dismissal, Parent Teacher Conferences 1:00-4:00pm

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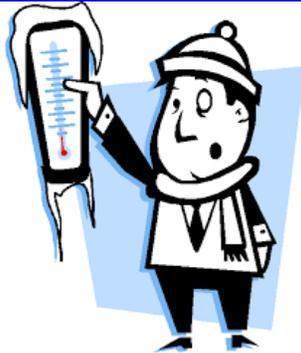
# Morning Traffic



Morning drop off requires drivers to pack their patience and cooperation, even during the most pleasant weather conditions. Winter drop off only amplifies that. PLEASE help us all by adhering to the following Drop Off rules:

- 1) **DRIVERS MUST REMAIN IN THEIR VEHICLES**
  - 2) Cutting through the parking lot to get into the traffic circle is prohibited. Please don't try to "beat the system" by trying to sneak into the front of the Drop Off line. This just creates more problems and believe us, everyone else is in a hurry too!
  - 3) For safety reasons, please do not pull around stopped cars to get a spot in the circle
  - 4) In the circle, pull up as far as you can
  - 5) Feel free to smile, wave or laugh at the poor cold and/or wet staff members doing their best to move things along safely and quickly :) It keeps things entertaining!
  - 6) If your child requires extra time and/or assistance, please park in the parking lot and walk over to the entrance at their leisure.
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## Indoors vs Outdoors?



As we prepare for the cold weather ahead, it may be helpful to know how we decide if recess and morning line-ups will occur indoors or outdoors. In accordance with the “Child Care and Weather Watch” guidelines from the US Department of Health and Human Services, students are kept indoors if the air temperature drops below 30\*, we also take wind chill and level of precipitation into consideration. Every effort is made to make the best possible decisions throughout the day. We consult the **Weather Channel** and the **Weather Bug App** regularly for the most up to date weather information.

Our goal is to get students outside as often as possible, even if it is just for a few minutes. A change of scenery and fresh air makes an incredible difference in our school day. Please be sure that your child comes prepared to go outside on a daily basis.

## When To Keep Your Child Home From School Due To Illness



**Fever**- if your child has had a fever, they need to be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications. A fever is a temperature of 100 degrees or more.

**Vomiting/diarrhea**- if your child has vomiting and or diarrhea he/she should be kept home until symptoms have resolved for approx. 12 hours and the child is able to hold down both food and liquid.

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**Red Eyes**- When the white part of the eye appears red and produces a yellow or green crusty discharge he/she may have conjunctivitis. If conjunctivitis is diagnosed then your child may return to school after 24 hours of medication.

**Sore throat**- A sore throat in conjunction with a fever and swollen glands may indicate strep throat. Call your doctor and have your child evaluated. Children are no longer contagious after 24 hours on the antibiotic and may return to school.

Please visit the nurse, Ann Marie Thistle, in the office or call 781-279-3863 if you have any questions or concerns.

## Academic Highlights



### Kindergarten:

Kindergarten students were excited to learn about owls and their habitats during the "Eyes on Owls" presentation on January 31. In social studies, students are learning about the earth and the basics of labeling a globe and a map. The focus in Foundations continues to be building CVC words, and students will begin to learn sentence writing through dictation. We are on to Topic 9 in math, and students will be decomposing teen numbers as well as practicing their addition skills.

### Grade 1:

Students in first grade are busy practicing glued sounds in their current Foundations unit. In math, place value is being introduced and students are counting to 120. The focus of Reader's Workshop continues to be on non-fiction texts and the strategies used to better understand the content. In Writer's Workshop, first grade authors are working on their very own "How To" books.

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### Grade 2:

Students in second grade are preparing to dive into Topic 5, which focuses on subtraction strategies for two-digit numbers and problem solving. Ms. Cutone's class, which is piloting Lucy Calkins in reading and writing, is publishing their expert writing pieces in Writer's Workshop, while Ms. Lazar and Mrs. Buback are guiding their students through their small moment writing pieces. All three classes are studying character development in Reader's Workshop.

### Grade 3:

Grade 3 students continue to prepare for the upcoming MCAS test in April by strengthening their skills in the current "Start Your Engines" unit of study. Students are responding to non-fiction and fiction texts in writing, as well as continuing to build stamina. All three classes have wrapped up Area and are now heading into Topic 8, which focuses on properties to add and subtract. Topic 8 is exactly midway through the Envisions math program and we are midway through the school year, so third grade students are right on track!

### Grade 4:

Students in grade 4 are learning about nonfiction and writing to inform. As a culminating activity, students are completing a take-home biography project on a famous person of their choice. Fractions continue to be the focus in math, and students will soon begin adding, subtracting and multiplying fractions. Grade 4 teachers are also starting a review of MCAS strategies in preparation for April's MCAS test.

## Valentines Day Exchanges



It is hard to believe it but Valentine's Day is right around the corner. If your child will be exchanging Valentines in class, please be aware of this very important guideline:

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If you are including a treat with your Valentines, please select **non-edible** items to exchange.  
We are not allowed to exchange food or candy (including Fun Dip, lollipops and conversation hearts).

Please refer to the Stoneham School Department's Food Policy for additional information.

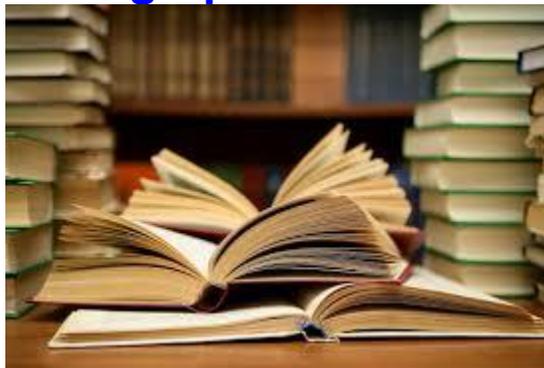


## **Save the Date** **3rd & 4th Grade Spring Concert**

**Friday, May 31, 2019**

**8:45-9:15am**

## **Reading Specialist Website**



The Elementary Reading Specialists from Robin Hood, South and Colonial Park have collaborated to create a website for parents. Click on the link below to check it out.

<http://sites.google.com/stonehamschools.org/stoneham-reading-teachers/home>

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## Lexia Core 5



The Robin Hood School is piloting Lexia Learning's Core 5 Reading program...a web-based program that supports teachers in providing differentiated literacy instruction for students of all abilities in grades pre-K-5.

Lexia can be used at school and at home. Letters were distributed at Parent/Teacher Conferences with log in instruction. Please note... **it is EXTREMELY important that your child works independently while using Core5. All of the work your child does at home is recorded and reported to school. The program is designed to provide scaffolded support and help the teacher create targeted instruction at school.**

You can learn more about Lexia and Core 5 by clicking on this link:

<https://www.lexialearning.com/products/core5>

If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Donoghue at (781)279-3870

**Reminder ... Don't forget your sneakers on PE days.**



## Before School Supervision



As a friendly reminder, supervision of students begins at **8:15am**, Students should not be left unattended prior to that time. For families needing early morning childcare, please consider checking out the Stoneham Public School's Before School Program. Information is available in the Main Office or on the Stoneham Public Schools website at [www.stonehamschools.org](http://www.stonehamschools.org)

## Used Book Sale / Swap Dates



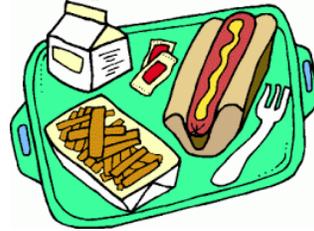
The Robin Hood PTO sponsors several Used Book Sales/Swaps throughout the school year. On Book Sale/Swap days, students can bring in one or two gently used books from home to swap for up to two "new to you" books of their choice. Even if they don't have a book they want to swap, students can buy up to two "new to you" books for \$0.25 each. It is a great way to encourage a love of books and keep your bookshelf replenished. This year's Used Book Sale / Swap dates are:

**February 26**

**May 28**

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## February Lunch Menu



Please click on the link below for the February Lunch Menu:

<https://gallery.mailchimp.com/debc4c1b10e529782339c6563/files/d9e2382e-7e81-48a9-b328-eb810f469eaf/menu.pdf>



It's that time of year! Kindergarten Registration is fast approaching. Registration Forms are available on the Stoneham Public School's website ([www.stonehamschools.org](http://www.stonehamschools.org)).

Upon completion, Registration Forms and all accompanying documents should be submitted directly to the Superintendent of Schools Office. We will also hold two Kindergarten Registration sessions for parents who prefer to register in person. Staff from the Superintendent's Office and each elementary school will be on hand during these sessions to help complete the documents and answer any registration questions you have.

**Session 1** will be held on Friday, February 15th from 1:00 - 3:00pm, in the Stoneham High School Cafeteria.

**Session 2** will be held on Thursday, March 7th from 5:00-6:30pm in the Central Middle School Cafeteria

Robin Hood Kindergarten Orientation and transition events will begin in late April. Information will be mailed to all registered families on or about March 25th.

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## A Letter Regarding the Robin Hood Giving Tree

Dear Robin Hood School families,

This year we had 30 families – 70 children that needed help at Christmas time. The overwhelming response by the outpouring of love and generosity that came from each and every participant was heartwarming. We were able to give each child a filled stocking, hat, gloves, an outfit, pjs, many got a coat, boots, sneakers, the 4 gifts they specifically asked for, books, games, and a few extra items.

When the parents of these children came to pick up their packages, it was worth every minute spent coordinating this large undertaking. Mothers were crying with joy. If I asked for an outfit, sometimes I would receive 2 or more. Two of my helpers shop all year for me. They buy jerseys, pants, pjs, socks, sweat pants, sweatshirts, gloves and whatever they see that is a good sale.

Some of our donors “adopted” families through our facebook postings. Another donor coordinates a large ingathering of gifts from her neighborhood. Other “elves” stuff stockings and coordinate toy drives at their place of business. A local eatery collects money and buys some of our larger items requested.

I received some lovely thank you notes and cards. I'd like to share one special story:

A local family with three special needs children has been struggling. The father has cut down to part time hours at work to care for his wife with Multiple Sclerosis. They do not have any other family in the area to help them out. His comment at the toy drive pickup time was “I feel like I have family helping at the time we need it most. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

A big thank you to all of my donors including: First Congregational Church, Purpose School, Robinhood School, South School, Lois Torri, Lund Dental, Nicole Nial, Michele LeVesque, The Appian Club, Congress Street Neighborhood, Barbara Peduto, the King family, and the Derby Bar.

Thank you to everyone that participated in this joyous outpouring of love and help.

Blessings to all,

Lorraine Savage

Welfare Secretary for Salvation Army for the Town of Stoneham

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## Cold and Flu Season



Ever wonder how we tackle the spread of germs at Robin Hood? Here is our multi-pronged approach:

1. The use of hand sanitizer and soap are encouraged daily (and available throughout the school)
2. Hand Washing lessons occur annually and are reinforced throughout the year
3. Wipes and cleaning supplies are available in all classrooms and used regularly
4. When the teachers observe students coughing and/or displaying other signs of sickness the above measures are reinforced and the custodians conduct an additional deep cleaning / sanitation of the affected areas on a daily basis until symptoms subside
5. When a pattern of 3 or more **diagnosed** cases of common illnesses are reported in the same classroom, a letter is sent home to families of the students in that class and the custodians deep clean / sanitize the affected areas 3 times a day (before school, during the school day and again after school) until symptoms subside.
6. Finally, we monitor the spread of illnesses closely and take additional steps involving the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Health in the event of an epidemic.

What can you do at home? Please follow the recommendations of "When to Keep Your Child Home Due To Illness". Also, if you suspect your child is stricken with a communicable illness (flu, strep throat, stomach virus, etc) please consult your pediatrician and communicate any diagnosis's with us.



## Baseball Sign Ups

Please click on the link below for information regarding Stoneham Baseball registration.

<https://gallery.mailchimp.com/debc4c1b10e529782339c6563/files/3dba7cee-738a-4818-96a4-d95ceae27c36/Baseball.01.pdf>

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## News from the Robin Hood



### **Dining Night**

Our next "Dining for a Cause" night will be Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at Red Robin in Woburn. Flyers were sent home and are also available by clicking the link below.

[https://gallery.mailchimp.com/debc4c1b10e529782339c6563/files/69cc562a-230c-412a-8c97-dde1c955e0fe/Red\\_Robin.pdf](https://gallery.mailchimp.com/debc4c1b10e529782339c6563/files/69cc562a-230c-412a-8c97-dde1c955e0fe/Red_Robin.pdf)

### **Dr. Seuss Night**

Please save the date, as our annual Dr. Seuss Night will be held on March 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:30- 8:00 PM. The flyer is available at the link below and a sign up for volunteers will be posted to the Facebook group soon.

[https://gallery.mailchimp.com/debc4c1b10e529782339c6563/files/0f4dc821-abbb-410a-9344-4e54cb7a2636/Dr.\\_Seuss.pdf](https://gallery.mailchimp.com/debc4c1b10e529782339c6563/files/0f4dc821-abbb-410a-9344-4e54cb7a2636/Dr._Seuss.pdf)

### **PTO**

Our next PTO meeting is Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 in the library. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

### **4<sup>th</sup> Grade "Moving On"**

Information packets have gone home with each 4<sup>th</sup> grade student. These packets contain information pertaining to the yearbook and other "Moving On" activities. As a reminder, personal pages for the yearbook are due by March 1<sup>st</sup>. The next 4<sup>th</sup> grade "Moving On" Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 6:00 in the library. All 4<sup>th</sup> grade parents are welcome!

### **Read-a-thon**

To celebrate "Read Across America Day" and promote a love of reading, Robin Hood holds an annual Read-a-thon. This year, our Read-a-thon will take place March 4<sup>th</sup>- 21<sup>st</sup>. Currently, we are looking for a Chairperson and volunteers. If you are interested in helping, please contact [robinhoodpto@gmail.com](mailto:robinhoodpto@gmail.com).

### **Enrichment Update**

On Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, the 1<sup>st</sup> grade will have an in-school enrichment, the LIGHT Program, presented by Top Secret Science.

Keep an eye out next week for Brian Lies book order forms! Brian is an author/illustrator who will visit Robin Hood and present to each grade in March. If you wish to purchase a book (and have it signed by him during his visit), orders must be placed by February 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **In Other News**

With cold and flu season in its height, tissues and Clorox wipes are necessary supplies to keep our students as healthy as possible. Thank you to the Robin Hood community for your continued support in donations and fundraising efforts through the year, which made it possible for the PTO to replenish the Robin Hood inventory of these items.

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### **PTO Volunteers**

The Robin Hood PTO is a way for you to support your child's education. Your participation will help organize classroom and school wide enrichment programs, as well as some family events. Many of our core volunteers will be moving on to the Middle School at the end of this year. If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities, please email: [RobinHoodPTO@gmail.com](mailto:RobinHoodPTO@gmail.com)



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School, PTO Community Updates  
Please add us to your address book

**Our mailing address is:**

70 Oak Street, Stoneham, MA 02180

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You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)