



Marion Cross

Principal's Newsletter

October 3 2005

Marion Cross
Website

VT State Testing Begins

www.marioncross.org

Calendar

10/5	School Board Meeting 7:00
10/10	Columbus Day No School
10/11	Kite Day 1:00
10/25	K-3 Open House 4:30-6:00
10/27	4-6 Open House 4:30-6:00

The new testing program which was designed in response to requirements in the federal law known as No Child Left Behind begins this week. Students in grade 3-6 will be tested in both Mathematics and Language Arts with grade 5 students also taking a Writing assessment. The testing program is called the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) and was created for VT, NH and RI.

Please make every attempt to have your children in school during this testing window. Each grade level may have a slightly different testing schedule, so check with your child's homeroom teacher if you have any questions. If a student is absent during the testing, we will schedule a makeup session after the testing is completed.

The NECAP results are supposed to be available sometime after the new year. I will let you know when we receive them and when the results will be presented to the school board/public. Individual results will be mailed home.

While we certainly hope that every student is able to put forth their best effort on these assessments, there should be no pressure on them to perform. If your child is experiencing any additional anxiety over the next couple of weeks, please let your child's teacher know. I have every confidence in our students and our instructional program, and so the test will take care of itself.

MCS Needs You!

We are experiencing a severe shortage of substitute teachers. I would invite any parent to contact me to discuss what substituting is all about. You do not need teaching experience to be successful in this role.

- Teachers provide lesson plans
- Students will not tie you to a chair. If they try, I promise to come in and help you out! In other words, you are never truly alone.....
- It takes energy, but what you get back is worth it!
- We will accommodate your schedule - we often schedule in advance.

Please contact me if you have any interest in talking about becoming involved in the school in a whole new way.

African Drumming/Harvest Festival

We had a terrific turnout for the Drumming Festival last Wednesday evening. The singing, drumming, and dancing brought African culture alive in the midst of a beautiful display of colors behind the school. It was wonderful to have an event with so much of the school community involved. Many thanks to Steve Ferraris for all of his efforts as our Artist-in-Residence. Also, thank you to the PTO whose funding made this program possible. Please stop by the bulletin board outside the music room to see a display of photos from the performance.

Homework Club

Tuesdays & Thursdays
3:15 - 4:30
Library Classroom

MCS Mosaic Sign

The new tile & glass mosaic sign for MCS will be unveiled this Thursday at REP (2:15). There has been a tremendous community effort to create and install this one-of-a-kind sign which speaks to our school's commitment to the arts and to the individuality of children. Please come by for the unveiling if you can, or stop by in the near future to take a look. You won't be disappointed.

School Leadership Team (SLT)

Periodically, I will try to unscramble some of the acronyms that we throw around the school on a regular basis. Our SLT, or School Leadership Team, is a group of faculty members who meet with me on monthly basis to discuss schoolwide issues. One teacher from each of our grade level teams (K-2, 3-4, 5-6, Special Ed, Special Subjects) brings issues and input from their colleagues, and then relays information and decisions back to their groups. The SLT looks at how we schedule our Teacher Workshop days, coordinates special events, and acts as a sounding board for me by bringing feedback from the staff. Primarily, it is a committee to facilitate communication. Teachers rotate on and off this committee every couple of years.

Final Word...

*"Yes, risk-taking is inherently failure-prone.
Otherwise, it would be called sure-thing-taking"*

- Tim McMahon

Rob Edson