



UNION MEMORIAL SCHOOL

Parent Newsletter
January 29, 2010

First Grade Reading Volunteers: The first grade team is in need of volunteers to support their reading program. You do not have to be the parent of a first grader to volunteer. Contact Mrs. Luman (264-5959) if you or someone you know is interested in helping.

Next Box Top Deadline: Please make sure you clip the "Box Tops for Education" coupons and send them into school.



The next deadline is Friday, February 19.

Budget Implications for UMS: Last week the school board voted to adopt the proposed budget for next year. A number of parents have asked me what that means for UMS. Though nothing has been cut from our school, we are going to maintain only three sections of second grade next year. This means the current first grade class, who are placed in four different classrooms this year, will be placed into three sections next year resulting in higher class sizes. Please remember to vote on Tuesday, March 2.

BINGO Night at MBS: On Thursday, February 11 the PTO is sponsoring a BINGO Night at Malletts Bay School. It will be from 6:30 – 7:30. Please save the date. More details will be coming soon.

UMS Night at UNO's: On Thursday, March 25 all UMS friends and families are invited to UNO's Pizzeria on Shelburne Road. 20% of all sales that evening will go to support the UMS PTO. This night was a lot of fun last year and helped "raise some dough" for our students. We'd love to see you there.

Respectfully,

Chris Antonicci
Principal

UPCOMING DATES

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| February 11 | BINGO Night at MBS |
| February 22 – March 1 | Mid-Winter Recess |
| March 2 | School Budget Vote |

Scientific knowledge is cumulative: To learn new things, you must build on what you already know. So, it's important that your child start learning early and at home. A good way for you to begin the learning process is by sharing your own interest in science. How you view and talk about science can influence your child's attitudes toward science and how she approaches learning science. It's easy to undermine a child's interest and attitudes by saying things such as, "I was lousy in science, and I've done OK," or "I always hated science when I was in school. It's boring." Although you can't **make** your child like science, you can encourage her to do so, and you can help her to appreciate its value both in her everyday life and in preparing for her future.

In everyday interactions with your child, you can do many things – and do them without lecturing or applying pressure – to help her learn science. Here are a few ideas:

- See how long it takes for a dandelion or a rose to burst into full bloom.
- Watch the moon as it appears to change shape over the course of a month and record the changes.
- Look for constellations in the night sky.
- Bake a cake.
- Solve the problem of a drooping plant.
- Figure out how the spin cycle of the washing machine gets the water out of the clothes.
- Take apart an old clock or mechanical toy – you don't need to put it back together!
- Watch icicles melt.
- Observe pigeons, squirrels, butterflies, ants or spider webs.
- Go for a walk and talk about how the dogs (or birds or cats) that you see are alike and different.
- Discover what materials the buildings in your community are made of. Wood? Concrete? Adobe? Brick? Granite? Sandstone? Steel? Glass? Talk about the reasons for using these materials.

Learning to observe carefully is an important step leading to scientific explanations. Experiencing the world with your child and exchanging information with him about what you see are important, too.

Finally, encourage your child to ask questions. If you can't answer all of her questions, that's all right – no one has all the answers, not even scientists. For example, point out that there's no known cure for a cold, but that we do know how diseases are passed from person to person – through germs. Some of the best answers you can give are, "What do you think?" and "Let's find out together." Together, you and your child can propose possible answers, test them out and check them by using reference books, the Internet, or by asking someone who is likely to know the correct answers. For more information go to:

<http://www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/hyc.html>