



Malletts Bay Buzz

Malletts Bay School

Home of the Ospreys

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<http://www.csdvt.org/MBS>

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Financial Literacy

Earlier this year, we sent home a “Money Smart Guide” to all families of fourth graders. The guide was written by the national Jump\$tart Coalition, an organization dedicated to improving the financial literacy of pre-K through college-age youth by providing advocacy, research, standards, and educational resources. The Vermont Coalition is comprised of members from educational, governmental and business groups, and is underwritten by People’s United Bank. The goal is to prepare young people for life-long successful financial decision-making.

We are pleased to announce that the Colchester School District is now hosting a FREE “Money Smart” workshop for parents and other adults who have an influence on the developing financial literacy of our children. The attached flyer has all the details about the February 8th workshop.

A recent study at the University of Arizona demonstrated that parents, more than anything, exert the most influence over their children when it comes to developing positive financial attitudes and behaviors – 1.5 times more than continuing financial education, and more than twice as much as what children hear from their friends.

The workshop on February 8th is a chance to learn more about this important topic. Come join us for a fun and informative evening!

Both the Association of Colchester Administrators (ACA) and the Colchester Education Association (CEA) are supporting this endeavor. The ACA is providing a \$25 gift card to Barnes and Noble for one winner from each building (CHS, CMS, MBS, UMS and PPS), and the CEA is offering a \$50 cash prize so one student can open a savings account! The other sponsors are providing pizza, free childcare, and a \$100 door prize for a gift certificate to the restaurant of your choice.

Our children are constantly surrounded with advertisements for banks, credit cards, insurance, and other financial products. We can help them become wise consumers by paying attention to financial literacy NOW, while they are forming habits and opinions about money. I hope many of you will take the opportunity to join us on February 8th. See you there!



**MBS PTO Bingo Night - Friday, January 13th 6:00 p.m.
Come have fun, enjoy the snack bar, and win prizes!**

It's A Fact!

Calendar

Friday, January 13th:
MBS PTO Bingo
Night, 6:00 p.m.

Monday, January
16th: No School.
Teacher In-service
day.

Tuesday, January
17th: School Board
meeting, CHS
library, 7:00 p.m.

February Fun
Fridays!
2/3: Favorite Sports
Team Day
2/10: Slipper Day
2/17: Crazy Hair Day
2/24: Snow Day –
Wear white!

Monday, February
6th: Call for March 6th
Parent-Teacher
conference
appointments.

Friday, February
24th: Family Dance
With an 80s Theme,
sponsored by a
student committee
and supported by
the PTO.

February 27th –
March 6th: No School

March 6th: Voting
Day and Parent
Teacher
Conferences

*Have you visited the
MBS Home Page
recently? We update
frequently! Recently,
we moved the Art,
Music, PE, Library, and
Guidance blogs to a
new link called
"Teacher Pages." You
can also find
classroom blogs on
that site.*

This month all students took an eight -minute math computation test (MCOMP). The MCOMP measures our students' ability to rapidly recall math facts. The test is designed to measure growth in this ability over the course of the year, with benchmark tests given in September, January, and May. Students who are receiving a bit of extra help in math, either through the Title I program or in the classroom, take a "probe" sample of the test more frequently so we can be sure they are on track to master this important skill.

In 2008, a National Math Panel released a series of recommendations to strengthen math education in the U. S. Among the recommendations was an emphasis on "automatic recall of addition and related subtraction facts, and of multiplication and related division facts." The panel notes that preparation for algebra requires a curriculum that works on computational fluency, conceptual understanding, and problem solving skills.

Test results from previous years indicated that computational fluency was an area of relative weakness in our math instruction. This year, we have a focused math "skill time," during which teachers emphasize computational fluency and automatic recall of math facts.

The results of our January benchmark testing are encouraging. A clear majority of our students can quickly and easily compute basic math facts.

You can help us at home by encouraging your child to practice on "xtramath.org," a free site we use here at school. We have a long list of other free Internet sites under the "Useful links" section of our home page. If you do not have Internet access, you can still help by providing opportunities to play board games or use flash cards to practice basic math facts. Every bit of practice helps!

Parent-Teacher conferences will be held again on Tuesday, March 6th (Voting Day!), from noon to 8 p.m. Once again we will be asking you to call the main office to schedule your child/children's conferences. We'll be ready to start scheduling the week of February 6th.

New Student Initiated Project

Included in this week's news is a letter from three fourth graders. These students approached us with a desire to raise money to fight cancer. Working together, the "Daffodillys" decided to volunteer as Coordinators for the American Cancer Society's annual "Daffodil Days." Their goal is for the MBS community to raise \$1,500 to support cancer research. They have included a sales form; all forms and money are due back at school NO LATER THAN Friday, February

24th. You can also order online – watch for a link to their webpage that will appear soon on our home page. Daffodils will arrive March 19th, so please plan to pick them up on that date to preserve freshness.

Thanks for helping our young citizens learn how to make a difference in their world!

