



Malletts Bay Buzz

Malletts Bay School

Home of the Ospreys

802-264-5900

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

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NECAP Testing

What is NECAP? Most of our fourth and fifth grade families are very familiar with this annual test. Below is some important information for all families:

Since 2005, Vermont students have been participating in the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP), a series of reading, writing, mathematics, and science achievement tests administered annually. They were developed in collaboration with the Rhode Island and New Hampshire Departments of Education. There are no native language versions of the NECAP assessments. The NECAP tests measure students' academic knowledge and skills relative to the Grade Expectations for [Vermont's Framework of Standards and Learning Opportunities](#). Student scores are reported at four levels of academic achievement; Proficient with Distinction, Proficient, Partially Proficient and Substantially Below Proficient. Reading and math are assessed in grades 3-8 and 11, writing is assessed in grades 5, 8 and 11, and science is assessed in grades 4, 8 and 11. The reading, math and writing tests are administered each year in October. The science tests are administered in May.

All students must take the test, with very few exceptions. The test measures student achievement based on LAST year's learning of the Vermont Grade Level Expectations. Thus, third graders will be tested on end of year second grade material.

The tests are given in 90-minute blocks of time. An average student might expect to finish the test in about 45 minutes, but the tests are not timed and students may have up to 45 extra minutes to complete the test.

We expect to have results sometime this winter, although our state may be somewhat delayed in reporting results as some schools in Southern Vermont will need an extension to the testing "window."

MBS students will begin the tests the week of October 10th.



There are some "math toolkits" that students use during the math portion of the test. The kits involve punching out a number of small shapes and putting them in envelopes. We'd love to have some help with this task; if you can offer help, please let Jeanne Racicot know! Jeanne can be reached at 264-5902.

Calendar

Tuesday, September 20th:
School Board meeting, CHS
library, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 22nd:
Open House, 6:30 – 7:30
p.m.

Tuesday, October 4th:
School Board meeting, CHS
library, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 5th:
Walk to School Day. More
information to follow!

Thursday, October 6th: PTO
Meeting, MBS Library, 6:00
p.m. Free childcare
provided.

Tuesday, October 18th:
School Board meeting, CHS
library, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, October 28th: MBS
PTO Presents "Monster
Mash" Costume Party and
Dance. More info to come!

*Please note: MBS PTO
will have a few Osprey
Logo t-shirts and polo
shirts for sale at Open
House, and will be taking
orders as well. PTO will
also be selling magnetic
frames for school photos
and other PTO
fundraisers during Open
House.*

Our goal is to go
"paperless" for future
editions of the MBS
Buzz. We are
almost finished
updating our email
contact list, and will
send newsletters via
email. If you want a
paper copy, please
let us know!

Helping Prepare Children For NECAP

The best test-takers are confident and relaxed. If your child is likely to get nervous, practice a few relaxation techniques, such as counting from one to ten or taking deep breaths, which can help relieve tension during the test.

Malletts Bay students have access to an online program that is similar in some ways to the format of the NECAP test. Students can access [Study Island](http://csdvt.org/mbs) through our home page at <http://csdvt.org/mbs>. During our Open House on September 22nd, the computer lab will be open and staff will be available to answer questions and make sure you and your child know how to log on.

Regular attendance for the testing periods is also very important. Students are most comfortable taking the test along with their peers. Since the test is required, any student absent for a testing period will have

to do a "make up" test, and miss class time to take the test. See the box below for the complete NECAP testing schedule.

Taking tests can be physically tiring, so be sure your child gets plenty of rest and good breakfast on testing days. Teachers provide some extra movement breaks and relaxation activities, but a morning walk or active playtime is a great way to "wake up the brain."

Finally, while these tests are "high stakes" in terms of Federal Law, they are only one measure of your child's achievement. Help your child understand that as long as they do their best, they are meeting their responsibility as an Osprey!



MBS NECAP TESTING SCHEDULE:

Monday, October 10th: 9-10:30 Reading
Tuesday, October 11th: 9-10:30 and 1:00-2:30 Reading
Wednesday, October 12th: 9-10:30 Math
Thursday, October 13th: 9-10:30 and 1:00-2:30 Math
Tuesday October 18th: (5th grade only) 9-10:30 Writing
Wednesday, October 19th: (5th grade only) 9-10:30 and 1:00-2:30 Writing

Happy and Healthy: Wellness News from MBS

A number of events are planned for MBS staff and student wellness. Our students have worked on a coin drive to help flood victims. In the café, they are enjoying the delicious vegetables from our MBS garden. We are planning a Walk to School Day on October 5th. Our school nurse met with all 3rd graders as a guest speaker on staying healthy and taking care of yourself if you get sick or injured.

Our staff had neck massages during inservice, and we have an active walking group every morning. Future plans include Zumba and rock climbing/yoga classes after school for staff (parents are welcome), and breast cancer fundraisers (Denim Day Oct 7 & collecting pink yogurt lids). If you have any Yoplait or Activia lids please send them to school by November 1. We have a collection basket at the office.

We believe health and wellbeing for students and staff enhances the learning environment. We will continue to offer opportunities for staff, students and community wellness.

