



Montclair Moments

Curriculum Newsletter

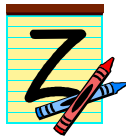


March 2009

Volume 2, Issue 2

Kindergarten ~ Mrs. Lindsay, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Pettinelli, & Mrs. Diauto

We cannot believe how quickly the months of January and February flew by. We celebrated our 100th day of school. And your children are 100 days smarter! We finished our reading theme *Bug Surprises*. The children know all about observing the small creatures that share our world. Next, we will be learning about more animals and their environments in *Animal Adventures*; followed by our theme *Neighborhood Helpers*.



The children will learn the letters w, x, y, and z. They will also practice blending words with the short vowel e, like ten, jet, and bed.

In Math, the children will begin studying money and time, while we continue with our numbers 0-12. We will talk about calendars, temperature and ordering events. They will learn how to tell time to the nearest hour and compare digital and

analog clocks.

Also in March, kindergarten will be learning about the weather and how it changes from season to season. Look for spring projects as Spring will be here soon! It is almost Dr. Seuss's birthday and we will celebrate Literacy Week. Please keep reading with your children! We will also be celebrating St. Patrick's Day in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your continued support!

English Immersion Program ~ Mrs. Wu

The children in room 2 are continuing to working hard. They are reading theme number five, "Hello Neighbor," in the Trophies Reading Program. Our math is focusing on fractions and probability and place value to 100. We will continue working on addition and subtraction facts. In science they read stories of the importance of the trees to people and animals. In social studies we learned about different holidays and we read stories about different presidents of our country. Next in social studies we will read about the women history, St. Patrick's Day, and April Fools Day.

In the next couple of months, the children will continue their reading themes in the Trophies Reading Program. In math they will be continuing addition and subtraction facts, but they will be focusing on time, calendars and counting money. In science we will read about frogs and we will plant some flowers in our room.

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Nurse ~ Mrs. Joyce

Did your child enjoy P.A.C.K. Week? PACK is short for Pack Assorted Colors for Kids. Montclair staff and students had a great time during this fun school wide activity that challenged each member of Montclair School to bring a colorful fruit or vegetable for snack that matched the color of the day. Students learned about colorful fruits and vegetables (kiwi, mango and pomegranate to

name a few) and have continued to bring in healthy fruits and vegetables for snack and lunch time. Look for more wellness activities in the coming weeks as we strive to become the healthiest group that we can be.

A healthy breakfast is a great way to start a busy Montclair morning. The cafeteria is open for breakfast every day. Encourage your



child to eat either before school or in our cafeteria. Children who eat breakfast are less likely to feel tired, or have headaches and stomach aches during the morning. Working together is the best way to ensure school success for your child. Contact me at 617-984-8928 or by email at Mjoyce@quincy.k12.ma.us. Peggy Joyce, RN

Grade 1 ~ Mrs. Gao, Mrs. Kane, & Mrs. Connolly

Welcome Back! We hope everyone had a wonderful vacation.

Our field trip to the New England Aquarium was terrific. Thank you to the PTO for helping to support this trip. On March 2nd we will be celebrating Dr. Seuss' Birthday. We will also be going to the Children's Museum in Boston on March 16th.

We finished our reading book, [Here and There](#), and started working on the next book, [Time Together](#). During this theme we will be discussing how neighbors and friends are an



important part of our lives. There are many ways to show our friends and neighbors we care. The children are also learning to read and understand maps. Your child should continue practicing their spelling words, high frequency words, and reading their decodable books during the week.

In Math, we have been learning about time, money, and the calendar.

The following are some of the math vocabulary words: **hour hand, minute hand, hour, half-hour, digital clock, penny, nickel, dime, quar-**

ter, cent, and half-dollar.

In March, we will start working on addition and subtraction facts through 12. Some new vocabulary words to look for: related facts, parts and whole, fact family, number line, ten frame, order, and addend.

As the year moves forward we encourage your child to continue working on learning and memorizing the basic addition and subtraction facts to 20. We look forward to observing the signs of Spring, as we study the lifecycles of insects, butterflies, and plants.

Media ~ Mrs. Tella

.A big welcome to the Montclair Library Media Center volunteers! Jean Cheung, Patty Flaherty and Marie Gates have graciously agreed to volunteer their time to assist in the school library. The library is so fortunate to have these three parent and grandparent volunteers! It is very exciting to have Jean, Patty and Marie assisting with so many aspects of the library. They will be helping grade kindergarten through grade five students with the various aspects of book circulation such as

helping students locate books, book checkout and book returns. They will also be assisting with shelving books and shelf reading. The students and staff thank you again for volunteering your time and talents to help the Montclair Library Media Center run smoothly and efficiently.

Students have continued learning about alphabetical order as it relates to the library. They have also continued learning about fiction and nonfiction books. Fifth



grade has been learning about mystery stories. Students have learned information about groundhogs and heard stories about them. They have also heard stories for Chinese New Year and Black History Month.

Students had the opportunity to borrow five books for February vacation week. The students have borrowed a total of 4056 books from September through February. We are definitely Raising a School of Readers at Montclair!

Guidance ~ Ms. Lam

Welcome back to the counselor's corner!

I hope everyone has had a wonderful vacation and a chance to enjoy the few warm days that we were lucky enough to experience. I cannot believe that spring is just around the corner. This means that our students are busy preparing for the Math and ELA MCAS tests. Just like previous years, I am including resources that parents can use to help their children prepare for this test as well as for everyday academics. I hope that the following resources are useful for you and your children.

Following is a list of various Web sites that I have found beneficial in helping students prepare for the MCAS. In addition to these sites, I have recommended a few exercises. In my opinion, the best way to prepare for the MCAS is to practice daily on old MCAS tests. Just answering a few questions each day will help familiarize students with the test, which will lessen test anxiety. I would also like to remind parents that the MCAS is an untimed test. Please encourage students to take their time when completing the test, and tell them not to rush to finish it simply because they see other students finishing before them. Lastly, please make sure that each student acquires a good night's sleep the night before and eats a nutritious breakfast the day of the MCAS.

To access old MCAS tests, parents, visit the following

Web sites:

[www.http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/](http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/) - [Massachusetts Department of Education website](http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/)

http://www.quincypublicschools.com/students/student_mcas.shtml - Quincy Public School website with link to access old MCAS tests and resources to practice for MCAS.

<http://www.bpl.org/teens/mcas/index.htm> - An interactive Web site that lets students practice answering old MCAS questions directly on the site. *I highly recommend this site!*

[http://math-and-reading-help-for-kids.org/articles/The MCAS Test.html](http://math-and-reading-help-for-kids.org/articles/The_MCAS_Test.html) - A parents' guide to what the MCAS is and how to prepare your student for it.

<http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=4006> - This Web site offers strategies for taking standardized tests.

Below are Web sites that provide online aids that help students practice their academic skills:

<http://math-drills.com/> - This Web site allows parents to download printable math worksheets.

<http://nlvm.usu.edu/> - This Web site lets students learn math skills through virtual manipulative tools (e.g., blocks, graphs, or charts). *I highly recommend this site!*

<http://www.mathplayground.com/index.html> - An interactive online tool that allows students to practice math skills.

http://teachingcircles.lacoe.edu/resources/addl_info/navigating_multiple_choice.pdf - This Web site explains various test-taking strategies.

http://www.internet4classrooms.com/grade_level_help.htm - On this Web site, K-12 students can practice math, grammar, reading, history, and social science skills. *I highly recommend this site!*

Books:

How to Prepare for the MCAS-English Language Arts: Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (Barron's How to Prepare for the MCAS English Language Arts: Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment by Kristie Lipka Burk

- Kaplan Parent's Guide to the MCAS 4th Grade Tests, Second Edition (Paperback) by Cynthia Johnson (Author), Drew Johnson (Author) MCAS Exam Secrets Study Guide: MCAS Test Review for the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (Paperback) by MCAS Exam Secrets Test Prep Team



Grade 2 ~ Ms. Collura, Ms. MacLean, Ms. Marx, & Mrs. Wetherby

The second graders are looking forward to spring and many wonderful learning experiences will be growing in our classrooms! Reading skills have continued to show much progress. We have begun our new theme "Imagine That" and are reading stories that have characters who use their imaginations. We have been focusing on skills such as cause and effect, making inferences, using adjectives and identifying fact from fiction.



Also, the children are writing more about their reading and making connections to themselves and the world around them.

In math, the focus has been on addition and subtraction with regrouping. We are learning how to subtract two digit numbers with regrouping. Weekly math fact tests continue to assure that the second graders are proficient in learning their facts. Money, time and measurement will be

taught in the weeks ahead. We are pleased with the work the children are doing on their "Mathletic" problems. Thank you for your continued support in this venture.

During the spring, our science curriculum will include learning about rocks, minerals and fossils. In addition, we will explore solids, liquids and gases. In social studies, the students will learn about oceans, mountain ranges as well as consumers and producers.

21st Century Grant Programs ~ Mrs. Joyce, Facilitator

New Years Day has come and gone, how many people do you know that have already abandoned the resolutions that they made? Not students participating in Montclair's 21st Century Community Learning Center programs! New Years resolutions to be healthy and fit in 2009 look to be the goal of participants as registrations for after school activities that get the body stretching, bending and moving soar. Every afternoon you can find eager participants learning new breathing techniques to relief stress, practicing self discipline as they carry out high, fast, spinning kicks on command, working together to synchronize dance moves in preparation for a spring performance and huddling up to develop strategies in an attempt to place first in team games and relays. Montclair's Fit Kids, Tae Kwon Do, Dance, Dance, Dance, and

Sports and More activities all get our participants up and moving during the cold winter months when it would be just as easy to crawl into a deep, cozy chair and hibernate until spring.

Brains need exercise, too! It took Montclair's fifteen detectives in training pure brain power to find the Missing Money! After weeks of studying clues and retracing the actions of the four leading suspects, Jessica, Kevin, Chaz, and Jennifer we can prove that.....oops, we can't give away the ending. Soil study, comparison of tire tracks, mapping of strands of DNA, identifying mysterious substances and even the classification of lip prints led our young private eyes to successfully solving the case.

To continue giving our brains an equal workout a combination of new offerings and old

favorites round out Montclair's spring after school activities. Scrabble Superstars encourages participants to think about words, their spellings and their many uses as they work to expand their vocabularies in the attempt to gain superstar status. Choose Your Own Adventure explores a wide range of



topics from ecology to experiments to planet earth as students are encouraged to work with one another to complete projects that expand their knowledge on a topic of their choice. Build It, Bend it, Bust It, Break It involves participants in weekly technology puzzlers, while Crazy Concoctions encourages Montclair scientists to explore science phenomena from the world around them. No matter what the program our students face all challenges head on!

Speech ~ Mrs. Harkins

Speech and language services are continuing through the school year. Articulation is one area that some students need to address. Articulation is the placement and production of speech sounds. Some speech sounds that are frequently misarticulated are the /s, z, th, k, r, g, sh, ch, and j/. During speech sessions, student work on how to place the speech sound and produce it correctly in isolation, words, phrases, and



sentences. Students are provided with materials to practice at home every day. The practices students do at home helps them make progress.

Some students work on complex syntax. Syntax is the structure of a sentence. Sentences can get very long and complex. Studies confirm that better readers and better writers use more complex syntax, and they use them at a younger ages. Studies indicate that elaboration in oral

language precedes elaboration in written language. Understanding and use of complex syntax is vital for students to achieve so that they might improve their understanding and use of literate language of the classroom.

During language sessions, students are given lots of opportunities to understand and use both meaning and the pattern or structure of complex syntactical structures.

Grade 3 ~ Mrs. Meade, Ms. Egan, & Mr. Perfetuo

Something about the “Nothings” in
Third Grade

Have you ever asked your child what they did in school and received a “nothing” in reply? Well, here’s a little something about the nothings.

Happy New Year! Our students are working hard in third grade! Please remember that spelling tests are on Fridays, and children should review their words each night. The purple Take-Home folder and Homework Checklist help the students stay organized during a busy week. In addition to written homework, students should continue to read for 30 minutes daily.

The children will be taking the English Language Arts/Reading Comprehension portion of the MCAS exam at the end of March and we know that they all will do their very best! Third graders have been busy working on strategies and focus skills that will help them with their reading comprehension and response to open response questions.

We have begun the *On Your Mark* section of the Trophies program. Students have enjoyed the first theme, called “Tell Me a Story,” in which they have learned that storytelling takes many forms

and serves many purposes. We are discovering new ways to tell our own stories, and have reviewed the concepts of compare/contrast and learned about Figurative Language. Grammar lessons have included a study of pronouns and adjectives. Please review examples of the parts of speech with your child regularly.

We will soon begin our next theme, “Good Neighbors,” which will encourage them to look closely at the interactions that make communities survive and thrive. Concepts such as main idea and details and fact and opinion will be reviewed, and grammar studies will include all types of verbs.

In Math, students have been exploring the relationship between repeated addition and multiplication. They used the Commutative Property and Properties of One and Zero for Multiplication to find missing numbers. They learned to skip count, draw a picture, and write a multiplication sentence to find the product.

Students are learning the concepts of division using repeated subtraction and counters to model division. Students will learn to relate multiplication and division us-

ing arrays to represent the division problems. After they understand the relationship between multiplication and division they will be writing the fact families. It is very important that all students continue to memorize the multiplication facts, as there will be a weekly multiplication fact test.

In Unit 5, which deals with the topic of *Measurement* students will be using clocks and calendars to measure time. They will be using thermometers to measure temperature.

If you want to know how the water gets to your home ask your third grader. They know all about where the water comes from and how it gets to their house. What happens when the water in the pipes freezes? We enjoyed a visit by Meg Tabasco, Educational Representative from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA).



Thank you very much for your support throughout the year. We are all certainly looking forward to spring!

Literacy ~ Mr. Siegel & Mrs. Iredale

Happy 2009! We are seeing truly fantastic progress among our literacy students. What a wonderful way to start off the year! The children are working hard in the programs and are dedicated to becoming the best readers they can be.

Did you know that Literacy teachers teach teachers as well as your children? This year the literacy team was part of a city-wide initiative to increase comprehension scores on the GRADE test in grades 2 and grades 3 as well as increase MCAS scores to Proficient by teaching our students explicit comprehension strategies. Through Professional Development, the Literacy teachers learned how to teach text features such as table of contents, indexes and glossaries, bolded vocabulary words, headings, etc. They learned “textmapping”, a technique for infor-



mational texts (non-fiction). The text is copied and displayed as a complete “map” or outlay on a wall, in panoramic form. Children locate the features and use the map as a model to assist visually. During a Professional Development day this technique was then taught to grade one and grade two teachers by the literacy team. In addition, Project Read Report Form was modeled. This program helps children locate and categorize facts from informational text. It assists in finding the Main Idea, supporting details, and ultimately children can convert the note taking structure to writing short summaries using the main ideas. We are excited about our newest comprehension programs and techniques and look forward to seeing great progress ahead.

Students in Project Read Phonology are learning about the basic elements of English to help them when they come to challenging words. They

have been focusing on breaking words apart, reading strategies, blends, and digraphs. In the Project Read Report Form, students have been learning how to pull out the subject and categorize facts! They have learned about different animals, space, and natures so far. Students in the other Project Read strand, Story Form, are starting to learn about main ideas, characters and settings. Soon students will be able to put together their very own story puzzle! Finally our kindergarteners in the Early Reading Intervention are now learning to build words with the sounds and letters they know. They’re quickly becoming experts at letter-sound relationships.

If your child is receiving literacy services ask them what they have been working on lately! We’re sure they’ll love to share their knowledge with you!

Special Education ~ Ms. Little

Seeing Stars is a special education program that focuses on learning number facts and problem solving. It stresses the idea that math is a dual coding system of symbols (the numerals) and language (the words of math). Quick and accurate recall of facts is important so your child can concentrate on process and concept when doing multi-digit calculation and problem solving.

If your child is having difficulty learning basic facts in math, here are some ideas to help them learn and retain them.

- *Use a numberline to touch and say number facts.
- *Image facts from flash cards with the correct answer. Remove the flash card and write the fact with your finger. Then write the fact on paper. Match your written work to the flash card to see if they match.
- *Use dialogue to reinforce facts. (Example: If I have three how many do I need to get to eight?)
- *Skip-count the multiplication facts. Make a number line to show a table.
- *Write fact families (Example $2+3=5$, $5-2=3$) and use blocks to show the values.
- *Over practice individual facts that are especially difficult for your child to remember.
- *Games can also be useful to reinforce number facts.



Grade 4 ~ Mrs. Cox, Mrs. Hurley, & Mrs. Foley

Time goes by very quickly when you're busy learning. In math fourth graders have been busy learning the many steps of division. The students have done a terrific job dividing large numbers, estimating quotients, and finding averages. We also learned a fun way to multiply large numbers. Ask your child to share the lattice method of multiplication with you. Another important initiative in grade four math is the weekly MCAS practice folder. Please take a look at your child's folder to see the work they have been doing. I ask the students to have a parent or guardian sign the folder each week so that they can share the challenging work they have been completing with you.

During the next few weeks, our math class will be learning about fractions, mixed numbers, and adding and subtracting mixed numbers and decimals. Some important vocabulary words the children will learn are equivalent fractions, simplest form of a fraction, and improper fraction. Of course mastery of multiplication

and division facts continues to be an important component of your child's success as they multiply and divide to find equivalent fractions. Thank you for your continued support at home helping your child practice and retain their multiplication and division facts.

Students are working hard in their social studies and science classes this winter!

In Social Studies, our primary focus is U.S. regions. In the fall we took an in-depth look at the northeast, including the geography, early history, native groups, and natural resources of the region. We read Children of the Longhouse, by Joseph Bruchac, in order to gain a deeper understanding of the early Iroquois people.

Recently we finished a similar study of the southeast region. Our study included taking a closer look at the roots of American music. The history of the southeast is intertwined with the beginnings of music that is truly

American. We began with the early spirituals, followed by blues, jazz, zydeco, country, bluegrass, and rock and roll. An instant hit among students was *Who Stole the Hot Sauce?*, a fun Cajun piece performed by Amanda Shaw!

The southeast is also home to Everglades National Park. Students are studying the unique Everglades ecosystem, food chains, and animal adaptations. Students are learning about the living and non-living elements in an ecosystem, as well as how animals interact and adapt to their surroundings.

We will soon begin studying the remaining U.S. regions; the midwest, the southwest, and the west, including Alaska and Hawaii. We will also be taking a closer look at wind turbine technology as we continue our studies of renewable and nonrenewable energy.



Quincy School ~ Community Partnership

On behalf the Quincy School ~Community Partnership, I am pleased to announce our next exciting fundraising event—Evening at the Pops! featuring the Quincy Symphony Orchestra. This event will be held on Thursday, May 7th at 8:00PM at the Boston Marriott Quincy. Once

again students from Quincy Public Schools' John Adams Orchestra will perform prior to the main event from 7:00-8:00 in the hotel main foyer. Tickets are available in the school office for \$25.00 until May 4. Full tables may also be reserved for 10 at \$250.00.

Any tickets purchased after May 4 will be available in the Office of Career and Technical Education, 159 Burgin Parkway, Quincy. All funds raised will go directly to the Quincy Public Schools Music Department.



Art ~ Mrs. O'Brien

Art brings beauty and meaning to life and is a personal expression of oneself. The creative process is a unique experience and one that is very special. A work of Art is an expression of an idea. It helps us to express our own creativity through a non-verbal form of communication. Creating art aids us to understand ourselves, develop self-esteem, as well as provide a visual awareness of the world.

The artistic themes that were explored and recreated this term in Art by the student's were: abstract landscapes, observational drawing of animals, winter snow scenes, narratives, self portraits playing in the snow, winter sports, traditional dragons, sun designs, and a Montclair logo contest. Of course, February would not be complete without an expression of love for Valentine's Day. Not only for themselves, students also created cards designed with hearts and flowers for



the patients at Hancock Park Rehabilitation and Nursing Home so that they may enjoy and feel appreciated on this holiday.

Art is for everyone! By using our imagination we develop our creative nature, and our thinking and visual skills. Creating art is a self rewarding activity.

English Language Learners ~ Mrs. Fung & Mrs. Haraska

We hope all of our students had a restful February vacation and are ready for a very busy month of March. Many ELL assessments will happen during the month of March. MELA-O is an ongoing assessment. The initials stand for Massachusetts English Language Assessment Oral. It is designed to measure the listening and speaking abilities of English language learners. Changes, progress and improvements are noted in areas of listening comprehension, fluency, grammar, pronunciation and vocabulary usage.

MEPA which stands for Massachusetts English Proficiency Assessment is the reading and writing test which will be administered to all ELL students in grades K-5. These tests vary by grade and language levels. This year the reading passages and styles of questions will be more similar to the MCAS than in previous tests. All of these assessments are not pass/fail tests, but tools to help us monitor if students are progressing and acquiring the necessary English language skills for academic success. We know our students will do their very best as

they have been working very hard all year. Families of ELL students should have received a letter informing them that their child does receive ELL services, and included were the results of their early fall MELA-O assessments. Parents with any questions regarding this letter should contact the school.



Grade 5 ~ Mrs. Joyce & Mrs. Ronayne

It's been a busy winter for our 5th grade historians. We began with the story of the first people to arrive in North America by way of the Bering Land Bridge. Following their migration we learned about the natives that settled in the Eastern Woodlands, Southwest, Plains and the Northwest coast. Comparing and contrasting these groups we developed an understanding of these cultures. Student presented Native American projects, which were the highlights of this unit. The onset of the Renaissance Era brought us to the Age of Exploration. We searched for reasons and means of exploration. Following specific adventures, conquests and discoveries helped us develop an appreciation for explorers' daunting challenges. Research projects and detailed maps helped each student create a Quick Explorer Reference Booklet.

Moving toward colonization in North America we developed an awareness of why countries established colonies and their interaction with the native inhabitants.

Booming settlements under British rule will transform to unrest. We will be uncovering the problems between Great Britain and the colonies. As these problems unfold we will study the events and wars of the American Revolution. Please check out your child's Reference Booklet and their Social Studies Notebooks for more details!

Fifth grade mathematicians began the second half of the year with the implementation of the weekly MCAS open response problem. (aka MCAS folders). Your children have already completed several MCAS practice problems with increasing success. The help and support you provide at home is

both o.k. and appreciated. There is no better way for you to gain insight on the math skills the state expects your child to have mastered by the time they enter middle school. Thank you for taking the time each week to review your child's work and to sign off on their folders.

In class we followed the many steps involved in division and have learned the best way to gain confidence and mastery of the toughest of the operations is to practice, practice, and practice some more. As you can imagine the children continue to work very hard and to keep the sequence of all the steps straight. Division was followed by the study of standard and metric units of measurement and we decided it's not just about rulers anymore! We began by identifying the types of tools we use to measure things everyday. Then students took a turn at developing their own measurement benchmarks as they estimated lengths, weights and volume of everyday objects. As we prepare to begin our study of fractions, I would like to stress that your child should continue to practice their multiplication facts. It is those students who struggle with multiplication who will find working to identify equivalent fractions difficult. In the upcoming weeks our focus will continue to be ensuring that your children have all the tools needed to perform to the best of their ability when they participate in the MCAS in May.



In January, the classroom took on the feel of a geological laboratory as 5th grade scientists tested, sorted, and classify rocks, minerals and soil samples found in the Quincy area. We discussed how Alfred Wegener's theory of Pangea that all earth's continents

were once joined together creating one super continent affect the rocks, minerals and soils of the area we live in.

Once again, moon madness hit 5th grade in February! We observed (or tried to) and recorded the phases of the moon in the cold, clear, February sky. We also spent time reenacting how the topography of the moon may have been created, completing a comparison of the similarities and differences between landforms found on earth and those found on the moon. After returning from their December journeys to different biomes throughout the world, 5th grade scientists launched into the solar system to research a planet of their choosing to create a postcard to share information learned with family and friends.

March brings a study of weather tools and how meteorologists use them to predict daily weather conditions. Montclair's junior meteorologists will construct a collection of their own weather tools out of recycled materials to test their predictions against those of the pros. As March ends 5th graders will create static in science as we begin experimenting with different forms of energy. What do a tennis ball and a light ray have in common? They travel in the same way. Scientists will observe moving light rays as they are reflected, absorbed or refracted. We will replicate how sound waves move to study the relationships between pitch, frequency and vibrations. Finally, the end of month promises to get a whole lot brighter as we explore how to transform individual bulbs, batteries and pieces of wire into series and parallel circuits.



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**Montclair School ~
A Great Place to Grow!**

We're on the Web!
www.quincypublicschools.com

Greetings to All Montclair Families!

Hopefully you found this newsletter informative and learned some things you didn't know about the every day happenings at Montclair. Over the past few months we've had so many great events—from the Lunar New Year Celebration to Read Across America and everything else in between. Without your support and encouragement the school year would not be complete!

Spring time is always an extremely busy season both at home and at school. With spring comes longer days and changing schedules. Now is an excellent time to sit down with your child and review his/her homework and study habits. Help him/her establish routine calendars that include both family/fun activities and school responsibilities.

With spring also comes MCAS testing! At the end of March, students in grades 3, 4, and 5 will take the ELA Reading Comprehension MCAS test. Please remember that March 31 is a full day of school for all students to accommodate the forth grade ELA Long Composition MCAS test. In May students in grades 3, 4, and 5 will also take the math MCAS test. Additionally, students in grade 5 will take the Science/Tech/Engineering MCAS tests in May.

I am always available for you and your child. If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at 617-984-8708.

Sincerely,

Renée Lalumiere– Malvesti,
Principal