



# Director's Digest

October 31, 2008

"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." - *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

## 5th Graders Learn and Have Fun at Nature's Classroom

All last week, our 5th graders were camping and studying at Nature's Classroom on the Cape, as part of our science, English, and math curriculum. This is an annual "rite of passage" for our 5th graders.

On Tuesday, I was fortunate to spend part of the day with them, learning about the environment and working in small group activities designed around communication, team work, and problem-solving. Whether they were challenged to venture across the "boiling peanut butter pit", leverage the giant platform see-saw, or manipulate the massive "spider web", the students focused on leadership and listening skills to successfully perform the tasks. It was wonderful to observe the dynamics of these interactions, as they all attempted to reach a common goal together.

A big thank you to our teachers and chaperones! As a result of their tireless efforts, our students learned so much more about their class work, their peers, and themselves. Our chaperones will report more in an upcoming Digest!

## School Faculty and Staff Present Curriculum and Instructional Improvement Strategic Plan

At the October Board of Trustees meeting, the school presented several highlights of our strategic plan to address items identified through our 2008 MCAS analysis.

This presentation focused on several of the curriculum, instructional, professional development, and scheduling initiatives that are currently underway and/or are being implemented throughout this year.

Thank you to our presenters for their efforts:

- Karen Anderson (Literacy Coach)
- Kimberly Hicks (Math Coach)
- Sue Kraus (Science Department Chair)
- Bob Hickey (Math Department Chair)
- Susan Rasicot (Special Education Director)

Specific strategies focused on literacy blocks, Response to Intervention (RtI), our internal assessment program, progress monitoring, coaching and modeling, vertical curriculum alignment, remedial and enrichment supports, new course and program offerings, staff development plans, and school/parent communication.

If you have questions about any of the strategies, please do not hesitate to contact the appropriate building-level administrator.

## Preparing for Winter; Review of School Closing, Delayed Opening, and Early Closing Procedures

Well, the weather is certainly getting colder with some overnight freezing temperatures and reports this week of snowflakes. As we prepare for the winter months, it is important to remind everyone of our school closing and/or delayed opening procedures.

If school is closed or opening delayed due to inclement weather, a power outage, or other issues, the school will send an AlertNow message to primary phone numbers listed in the school database. Local radio and television stations will also announce this information. Families can find information at the following media outlets:

WBZ Channel 4

WBZ Radio 1030

WCVB Channel 5

WRKO Radio 680

WHDH Channel 7

Foxboro Cable Access

WFXT Channel 25

[www.foxboroughrcs.org](http://www.foxboroughrcs.org)

Only under extreme circumstances will the school close after students have arrived. If an early closing should occur, parents are expected to pick up their children as soon as possible. Closings during the day will be announced by an AlertNow message and on local radio and television stations.

If your contact information has changed recently, please make sure the school is aware of any updates. Kindly contact the front office so that we have your most recent information. This will help to ensure that all families receive timely updates on both emergency and non-emergency issues.

- **Mark Logan**