

*"Genuine poetry can communicate before it is understood."* - T.S. Eliot

## FRCS 5th Graders Are Recognized in Statewide Science Poetry Competition

I am pleased to share that five FRCS 5<sup>th</sup> graders have been named as winners in the **21<sup>st</sup> Massachusetts Science Poetry Contest!** Each submitted a colored illustration with his or her poem. The student's work was measured against that of other 5<sup>th</sup> graders from across the state.

The students will receive ribbons and certificates, as well as information about the first-ever Science Poetry book to be published with this year's winners. Congratulations to the following winners:

Most Expressive Poem Category

**1st Place - Sharon Gigliodoro for "The Moon"**

Best Cooperative Poem Category

**2nd Place - Divya Roberts-Gaddipati and Alexis Dupree for "Frogs"**

Best Foreign Language Poem

**2nd Place - Robert Trudeau for "La Tormenta"**

Best Foreign Language Poem

**Honorable Mention - Ryan Vandette for "En la Noche"**

It is a special honor to see two Spanish poems included among the winners! Thank you Senora Rose and Senorita McGrath, as

## FRCS Personnel Closely Monitoring the H1N1 Influenza

As of today, we still do not have any confirmed or suspected cases of the H1N1 flu, but of course we continue to monitor the H1N1 influenza situation across the state. I'm happy to report that based on ongoing communication with the CDC, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health has revised its recommendations for school closure. Rather than closing individual schools based on the diagnosis of cases of swine-origin influenza in students or staff, MDPH recommends a policy focused on keeping all students with symptoms of influenza out of school during their period of illness and recuperation, when they are potentially infectious to others. This change in policy is an enhanced version of the approach that is recommended during the yearly influenza season.

Available information from local health care providers, emergency departments and hospitals, as well as information from other states, suggests that the severity of illness from the swine-origin influenza A H1N1 virus is not greater than the typical seasonal influenza that circulates in our community every year. They will continue to be monitoring carefully in case the severity of illness changes.

## New Recommendations to Decrease Swine-Origin Influenza A H1N1 in Massachusetts Schools Include:

- Each morning, all parents/caregivers should assess all family members and especially all school-age children for symptoms of influenza (fever plus cough, sore throat or runny nose) or other symptoms, such as vomiting or diarrhea that might be influenza.
- Each morning all school staff should assess themselves for symptoms of influenza.
- **Students or staff with influenza-like illness (fever plus cough, sore throat or runny nose) should stay home and not attend school.** All sick students and staff should stay out of school for at least 7 days even if their symptoms resolve sooner. Students and faculty who are still sick at 7 days should continue to stay home from school until at least 24 hours after they have completely recovered.
- If a child or adult is ill with other symptoms, they should stay home at least one day to observe how the illness develops and until completely well for 24 hours.
- Schools should consider screening students and staff for visible signs of flu illness upon arrival at school.
- Students and staff who appear ill at arrival or become ill at school should be promptly isolated and sent home.
- School nurses and student health centers should report higher than normal absenteeism to their local health department or to the MDPH at 617-983-6800.
- Persons who are ill should stay home and not go into the community unless they need medical care. Ill students should not attend alternative child care.
- As is the practice with seasonal flu, school officials may consider closing, in consultation with their local board of health and MDPH, if larger numbers of students or faculty become ill and school functioning becomes disrupted.

**For the most up-to-date information please reference our school website or visit the following links:**

*U.S. CDC Swine Flu Website:* <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu>

*Taking care of a sick person at home:* [http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidance\\_homecare.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidance_homecare.htm)

*Infection control and treatment guidance:* <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swine/recommendations.htm>

*Massachusetts DPH swine influenza page as well as links to CDC:* [www.mass.gov/dph/swineflu](http://www.mass.gov/dph/swineflu)

## New Logo Clothing Now On Sale!

Check out the new line of approved dress code clothing on display in the front office. Thank you to PIE, SEPAC, and Scholarship for partnering to make this a reality!

- Mark Logan