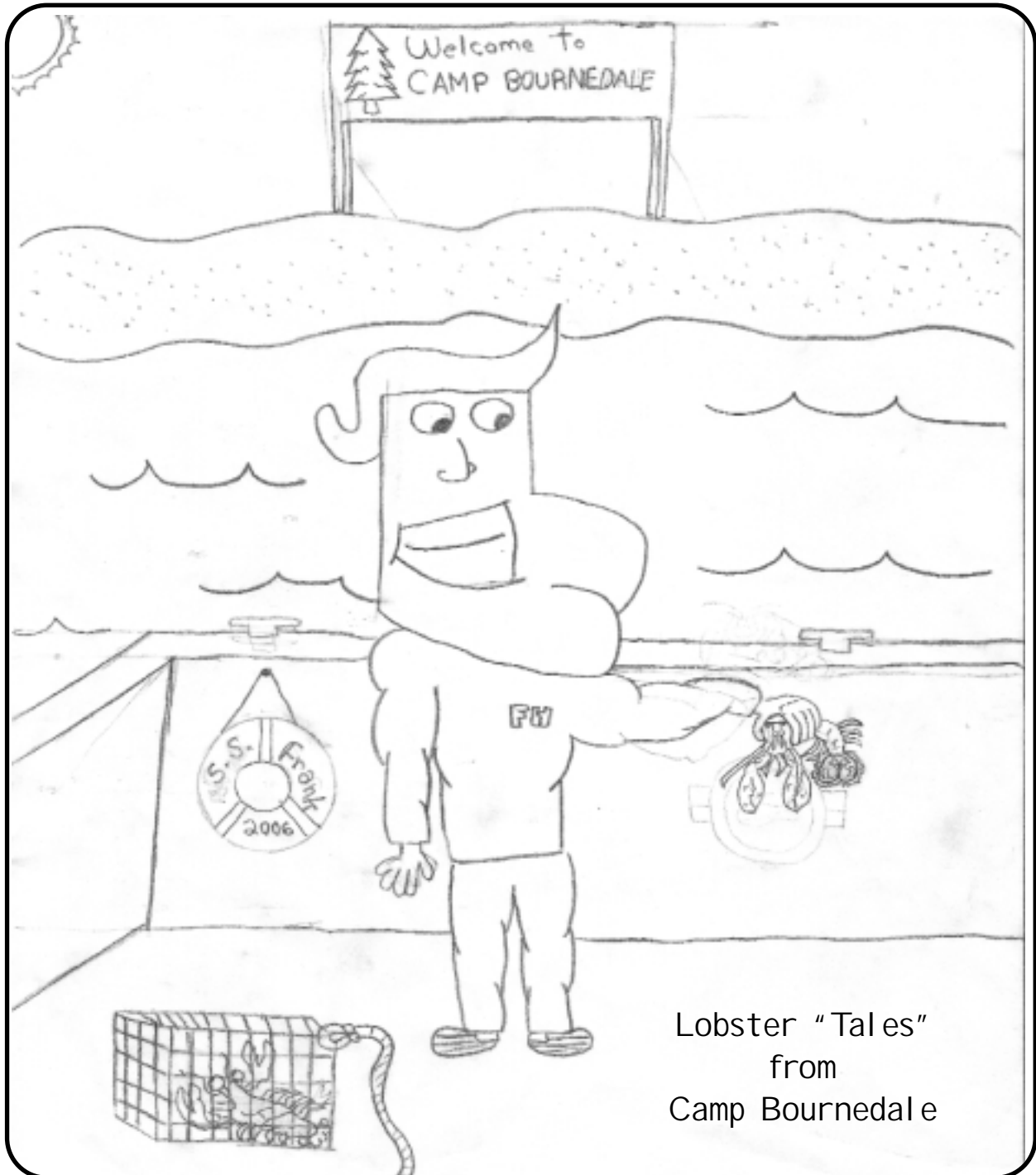


NOVEMBER, 2006

NEWSLETTER

# FRANKly Francis Wyman



Lobster "Tales"  
from  
Camp Bournedale

October 2006

From the Principal.....

Welcome to our new families and welcome back to our returning families. As always, Francis Wyman is an epicenter of learning, fun and educational and social activities. The great PTO partnership was evident with the colorful balloons greeting our students on the first day of school in August.

Due to the size of the school, we have two Open Houses in early September and as always they were well attended. In early September, the fifth grade team attended Camp Bournedale, an overnight camp in Plymouth that specializes in outdoor science education with an emphasis on marine studies. A very good time was had by all. The Rotary presented their annual gift of personal dictionaries to each of our third graders. We are most appreciative of their generosity. Under the direction of Mr. Pap and the Burlington Science Center, and with the assistance of many parent volunteers, the fourth grade team conducted an exciting Rocket launch in mid October. As part of the celebration of American Education week, (November 12-17) the PTO gave each teacher a Staples gift card to help defray some costs of classroom supplies.

As is evident, we are once again off to a busy educational beginning for our Wyman learners.

Yours in Education,

Kathleen Burns

# FROM THE VICE PRINCIPAL

## From the Vice Principal...

The school year has started with everyone busy and down to work. All the classrooms are energetic and lively. Children are greeting old friends and making new ones. Projects and bake sales have been organized and implemented. Returning to a new school year is always exciting and busy.

Safety is an important concern and there are some guidelines that we ask of everyone for the good of all.

### Morning Drop Off

In the morning, if you are dropping off your child, please pull up to the "Stop" sign and as close to the curb as possible. Your child needs to exit from the right side (passenger side) only. The driver should not get out of the car. If your child needs assistance, ask one of the teachers out there, or park your car so you can help your child. Please do not drop your child off before 8:05 a.m. for there is NO supervision before this time.

### Entering the Building

If you are entering the building after 8:45 a.m., you must ring the bell for the door to open and then come in to the Main Office to sign in. The secretary will give you a badge that you can place on your clothing so that it is visible. This lets all the adults and children in the building know that it is okay for you to be here. Also, please remember that you cannot dismiss your child during lunch and recess times.

### Dismissal

Regarding dismissal, if you are having your child do something different than they ordinarily do, such as going home with a friend or not taking the bus and be a "Walker", please be sure to **put this in writing** that morning to your child's teacher. It is your child's responsibility to give it to the teacher. We cannot take the child's word for it (when they forget their note) for often times, they are confused. If we do not have it in writing from you, then we will have your child do what they ordinarily do for safety purposes.

### Emergency Information

It is critical that you keep all Emergency information updated. If you have changed your work-place, telephone or cell telephone numbers, **please call 781-270-1701** and speak to a secretary so that she can update your child's card. When we have real emergencies and we are able to reach you, it is so comforting for the child and all concerned that you are accessed and can respond with us. If you are not sure if the information is current, please call us to corroborate.

### Parking

Please remember that there is plenty of parking in the rear of the building if you will be staying longer than ten minutes. The visitor's parking out front is for parents who are picking up their child for dismissal or from the nurse's office.

As always, everyone's cooperation is necessary for a safe and happy school. We always appreciate your support in what we do. I am looking forward to another great year at our great school, the Francis Wyman Elementary School!

## Fifth Grade News

The fifth grade started off the year quite busy with our second annual trip to Camp Bournedale. The students participated in two packed days of science lessons, including going on a lobster boat trip, while learning the characteristics of lobsters and crabs, going to the seashore to explore tidal pools and learn about how pollution impacts our environment. They also participated in other team building experiments and activities. The students are looking forward to a science presentation on Classification in November, as well as being busy working with the microscopes, learning about sound and light, and animal classification. They have begun the Explorer Unit in social studies and will be doing hands-on activities based on an explorer. They have also been busy writing and getting ready to publish books. They are proud of the work they have accomplished so far. We also want to congratulate all of our student council representatives and know they will do a great job in helping to lead our school!

## Second Grade News

The teachers and students in the second grade are extremely excited to welcome Mrs. Scott to our team! She is a great addition to the second grade family and we are glad she is here.

We have had an exciting start to the school year! There have been many wonderful lessons and activities going on in all of our classrooms. Henry and Mudge, by Cynthia Rylant was the first core book read this year. The students enjoyed reading and participating in many different activities associated with the text. In science, the students just completed a unit on trees. We were able to explore the trees around us to help us become tree experts!

In October, the students attended the Science Discovery Museum in Acton, Ma. At the museum, the students used their imagination to participate in a "Water Challenge" experiment. They were also able to explore the hands-on museum to learn a lot about science.

We are looking forward to learning lots of new things this year!



## First Grade News

The students have hurdled the transition from kindergarten and are now full-fledged first-graders. Our first couple of months have been busy. After getting to know each other, we began in September by studying farm life through reading, writing and various art projects, poems and songs. The unit culminated in our first field trip to Drumlin Farm, where the children had some "hands-on" experiences with various farm animals.

We have been to the computer lab to learn the computer and its many uses through small projects. The D.A.R.E. officer has also visited our classrooms to teach the children about safety and strangers. We also learned how to evacuate a bus in case of an emergency.

In October we learned about bats and other nocturnal animals. We had fun reading spooky Halloween books, songs and poems too. November's focus will be on Native Americans as the first-graders study the homes, traditions and legends of various tribes throughout the United States. December will find us shedding "light" on the numerous holiday traditions, which occur at this time of the year. We will also begin studying the different versions of fairy tales and the magic that they hold.

# PTO

## **Extra Money for our Students Without the Extra Effort**

In order for the PTO to provide financial support to the school and fund programs for the students, there has to be fundraising during the course of the year. This year there are many ways you can help support Francis Wyman without having to go beyond what you would normally do anyway, and spend no extra money in the process. How is that possible?

Here is a list of current programs/events the Francis Wyman PTO have brought to the school for you to choose from.

### **"The New" Scrip Program** (Nov/Dec; possibly all year on a 2-week rotating basis)

Purchase local and national gift cards at full face value and FWPTO gets different percentages of those cards. The cards are delivered to you so you can do your holiday and "regular-day" shopping without stopping. You can even pay credit cards, do food shopping and buy gas and prescriptions while helping out the students at Francis Wyman. Go to [www.burlington.mec.edu/fw](http://www.burlington.mec.edu/fw) and click on the PTO Homepage for more information and forms to participate. Information/Ordering packets are also in the main office.

### **Lowell Devils Family Day** (January 14, 2007 @ 2:05 pm)

Last year 165 people from FW participated and had a great time. This year other Burlington schools (Fox Hill, Memorial, Pine Glen and Marshall Simonds Middle School) are participating as well. Blocks of tickets are being sold to each school. It will be Burlington Day at the Lowell Devils with the MSMS A-Capella singing group performing the National Anthem! Francis Wyman keeps \$3 of every ticket we sell. Last year we made \$500 at this event. Flyers with more information will be going home on November 27th.

### **Family Spring Carnival** (March 31, 2007; 10:00-2:00)

Our 5th annual "in-school" event and it is promising to be bigger and better than ever. This is a great way to have some quality "low-cost" family/social fun and raise money for the school at the same time!

### **Box Tops for Education** (All year long)

Just clip and save the squares from many different "already-in-your-pantry" items. The PTO submits the clippings and receives 10 cents per Box Top. Go to [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) for more details. Last year we raised over \$1,200 with this program. The students got to decide how to use the money ...indoor and outdoor recess equipment/activities for each class.

## **Target/Take Charge of Education** (All year long)

Target/Take Charge of Education (All year long) Target will give 1% of your total purchase at Target or Target.com when you use your Target RedCard. All you need to do is register Francis Wyman as your "school of choice" by visiting [www.target.com/tcoe](http://www.target.com/tcoe) or calling 1-800-316-6142. Francis Wyman has received almost \$1,100 in two years.

## **Blockbuster Video, Burlington** (All year long)

Every time you visit, Blockbuster will donate 2.5% of your purchase to the Francis Wyman PTO. All you need to do is mention our PTO at time of purchase.

Fundraising is necessary but it doesn't have to be expensive or take extra time to do. Participate in all or only a few ... it really is up to you. The kids are the ones who benefit every time!

**Faydeen Sateriale**, PTO Co-President

# KINDERGARTEN

## **Kindergarten News**

It's hard to believe that the children at Francis Wyman began kindergarten just three months ago. They have learned each other's name, how to walk in a safe manner in the hallways, and how to smile and greet people.

We have also enjoyed two field trips. Our first unit culminated in our visit to Parlee Farms in Tyngsboro. The children picked apples, chose a pumpkin, had a hayride, fed the animals, and played on the haystack maze. This made our first trip a fun and memorable experience.

On one of the nicest days in October we went to The Franklin Park Zoo where we got to see and experience the animals that we have been discussing in the classroom. We were all eager to write in our journals about our day at the zoo.

October ended with a Halloween costume parade through the school.

The children will now be learning about the Pilgrims and the Wampanoags as they study families and the first Thanksgiving feast.

Finally, we are off to a wonderful start and learning abounds.

# 3RD

## Third Grade News

The third grade children have been very busy this fall. They have been reading lots of chapter books, writing super paragraphs, and doing lots of interesting activities with numbers. They made maps of Massachusetts using the computer, learned to play the recorder in music class, and started cursive writing.

The children enjoyed their field trip to the Commonwealth Museum in Boston. They studied Massachusetts state symbols and went on a scavenger hunt to find artifacts from the Big Dig. They are looking forward to upcoming trips to Plymouth Plantation and the Mayflower, and to the North Shore Music Theater.



Our third grade snack sale was a great success. The children earned \$695.00 for People Helping People.

We would like to thank the Rotary Club of Burlington for its donation of dictionaries to each third grade child.

# Physical Education News

## Mr. Ganley (Grades 3,4 & 5)

Mr. Ganley's classes began the new school year in typical fashion, with skills, lead-up games and team activities in soccer and football. While "doing your best" is stressed in all activities, sportsmanship, sharing responsibilities and being tolerant of others abilities and inabilities are the main concepts the children should take from the class. All Mr. Ganley's classes are now beginning physical fitness activities. All grades are tested on sit-ups, push-ups, pull-ups, long jump, shuttle run, 50 yd. dash, and some form of distance run (400 - 800 meters).

## Mr. LeV (Grades 1,2 & 3)

Mr. LeV's classes began the year with games of low organization that stress basic movement skills (running, hopping, skipping, etc.) and an introduction to ball skills and other manipulative activities. All kindergarten and first grade classes were given rules and safety instruction on the playground equipment; this is done in the fall every year. Safety is the "Health Theme" for the month of September and all classes practice emergency evacuation procedures. They are taught about fire safety procedures in school and at home. Do you all have a common place to meet outside of your home in case of a fire?

October is "Heart Health" month and activities that stress cardiovascular conditioning are practiced every week. Jumping rope and timed runs are used as warm-up activities each day before the regular lesson or class activity. This year the rhythms unit will cover the months of October, November and December. These activities stress listening skills and movements that enhance coordination and social skills. Pay attention to the weekly bulletins for possible "mini dance" shows for you to observe and enjoy.

Finally, the annual "Growing Healthy Children" series of parent seminars will change venues this year and move to BCAT. Pay attention to the newspapers and weekly bulletins for the showing times.

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# CALENDAR

## 2006-2007

### November

- 3** F End of first term
- 7** Tu No School (students) - Election Day; Professional development
- 10** F No School - Veterans Day (observed)
- 15** W PTO Meeting
- 16** Th Progress reports go home
- 17** F No School (students) - Parent/teacher conferences
- 22** W ½ Day - Early dismissal
- 23-24** Th-F No School - Thanksgiving recess

### December

- 4** M No School (students) - Professional development
- 25 - 1/1/07** No School - Mid-winter vacation

### January

- 12/25 - 1/1/07** No School - Mid-winter vacation
- 15** M No School - Martin Luther King Day
- 17** W PTO Meeting

### February

- 19-23** M-F No School - Winter vacation

### March

- 2** F End of second term
- 9** F Progress reports go home
- 12-13** M-Tu No School (students) - Professional development
- 21** W PTO Meeting

### April

- 3-10** Tu-Tu Religious Holiday - Passover (starts sundown M 2)
- 6** F No School - Religious Holidays, Good Friday and Orthodox Good Friday
- 17-20** M-F No School - Patriots Day, Spring vacation

### May

- 16** W PTO Meeting
- 28** M No School - Memorial Day

### June

- 11** M End of third/last term (1 week before last day of school)
- 18** M Last day of school (if no snow days used)
- 18** M Progress reports go home (last day of school)