



# Fort Report

Mrs. Pearson, Principal

February 1, 2018



Apart from June, February is the month where students attend school the fewest number of days. That puts a bit more responsibility on both students and their families to keep students cognitively engaged and stable in their skills. It's also the month where we cross the 100-day mark of the school year. I'm optimistic that families are familiar with the specific skills their student is working on and will compliment our efforts by taking advantage of the great learning links on our school website.

Fort Reports thus far have communicated information about our curriculum, assessments and approach to social emotion learning which we fondly refer to as our SMART plan. But our specials make unique contributions to students' growth, thinking and overall enjoyment of learning, too!

At our winter concert families undoubtedly noticed the influence music has on many content areas. Patterns, rhythm, counting beats, and recall all are skills that are important to transfer into other content areas such as math, science and language arts. These skills are important to music and further developed in art where students generate and appreciate artistic expression. Physical education is probably the easiest contribution to realize as students increase their endurance, test their limits, and strengthen muscles. As importantly collaboration, team work and cooperative social

skills get a work out that feeds right into our SMART Plan.

In our computer lab we use technology to offer students a powerful tool to expand their capability to learn. And being conversant in technology is a must to be successful in our high-tech world. By integrating the curriculum using appropriate computer programs and the internet, students are given the opportunity to learn in a motivating way. Our work on skills such as internet safety, navigating websites, and keyboarding help students escalate their ability to access and enjoy math and language arts activities which is part of our students' computer curriculum.

In addition to skills being activated in different settings, specials also provide varied learning experiences. Group participation and learning in physical education and music is balanced by independent and/or paired learning in computers and art. Our ability to adapt to different learning approaches and environments is an added bonus of specials. Hopefully you can appreciate how the interconnectedness of all disciplines is especially powerful for students in early elementary grades.

February is also the month where active planning for the next school year gets underway. Our School Site Council is examining budget needs and will tackle the difficult job of establishing priorities for spending. The Site Council will also be discussing the impact of this year's new school hours and the impact this may have on traffic and safety. Information becomes available on our school website.

Wishing all an enjoyable February break!

Your Partner in Education...

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# Shout OUTS!



**Congratulations** to our random SMART student winners for January.....

K students-Rida, Olivia B., Will R., Chace, Zolanysh, Jonathan G., Louie, Samantha L., Nevaeh, Victoria d., Zavier, Rahma, Katya, Nicholas, Ma, Bailey, Aiden, Athena

1st grade-Jadon, Skyla, Mikela T., Daphne, Liam G., Emily H., Daniel P. Audrey C., Spiros, Angel, Gabriela B., Isabelle O., Naima, Jonny P., Ruby. Ben. Kesharine, Daniella G., Elvys, Aaliyah P., Emily A.

2nd grade- Mia T., Maria D. Ava D., Joseph S., Kathryn C., Abby G., Sloane, Stephen B., Lorelei, Camilla F., Rebecca M., Zach R., Sarah B., Isaiah, Eden, Giselle, Teddy, Samuel, Phoenix, Kelsey T., Anisa

**Congratulations** to the following students who will have artwork displayed in the annual statewide Youth Art Month Exhibit at the State Transportation Building in Boston: Michael O'Mara-Gomis (K), Evelyn Anael (K), Jonvienne Hanlon (1st), Jazlyn Cuello (1st), Hayden Oosten (2nd), & Lily Krantrovitz (2nd).

**THANK YOU** to our amazingly generous PTO for the substantial and voluminous purchase of materials for students to enjoy during outdoor recess. What a difference you make!!



- 2/8 SITE COUNCIL MEETING at 2:30 in conf. rm.  
PTO MEETING at 6:30 in school cafeteria
- 2/19-23 February vacation

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