



Cushing Community School and Lura Libby School

Cushing Community School
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January Newsletter

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Math Matters - Trish Mellor, Title I Reading

A major focus in our district is that of math proficiency. Math skills can be developed through literature because math can be found in children's books. Books such as *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* by Eric Carle and *Mortimer* by Robert Munsch repeat in predictable ways. In math, children first need to recognize and predict patterns. Look for these patterns in books and songs. Poems and chants also relate to math, using counting, such as in *The Ants Go Marching One by One* or *One, Two, Buckle My Shoe*. Books such as *Over in the Meadow* or *Ten in the Bed* encourage counting. After reading, use manipulatives - count books, toys, pieces of fruit - anything in the house. The Madeleine series introduces skip counting by two, which is a precursor to multiplication. You can read *The Greedy Triangle* by M. Burns or *The Shape of Things* by D.A. Dodds. Then, hunt for shapes in your home, classifying circles, squares, rectangles, etc. Finally, a neat idea can be found in *Road-maker's Munch* by J. Croser, where recipes are at the end of the story. Cooking is a super way to develop math skills. There are many books that provide math connections. Look for those where characters count, use money, measure, or problem solve. Marrying literature and math in children's books is a winning combination, which enables you to help your child develop both skills in tandem.

The Wellness Corner



Cold season is here in full force! A cold is an infection of the upper respiratory system. This just means it affects the nose, throat, and ears. How do we catch them? When someone sneezes or coughs, mucus drops float in the air. Breathing in these droplets can spread a cold from one person to another. You can also catch a cold if you touch your eyes or nose after handling something with cold viruses on it. So **WASH YOUR HANDS REGULARLY!** How do you know if you have a cold? Some of the symptoms are: a low fever, body chills, sore throat, sneezing, runny nose, watery eyes, coughing, and congestion. How to feel better: Hot drinks soothe coughs and sore throats while also clearing mucus. A steamy shower helps stuffy or irritated noses. You can also run a humidifier. Eat a well balanced diet, get plenty of sleep and keep fit. Blow your nose. Take a nap and go to bed early. De-stress. Kids who are stressed out feel worse when they have colds. Relax and you might prevent a cold.

Information excerpted from: www.kidshealth.org

CONNECTIONS Presents Daughters 'n Dads ~ January 2008 Session

Knox County and Lincolnville **girls** in grades 3, 4, and 5 and their dads, step-dads, uncles or other significant men in their life are invited to attend the January sessions of the **Daughters 'n Dads** program. The sessions will be held at the Pen Bay YMCA on the following dates:

Tuesday, January 15 @ 6:00pm	Activities and Games
Tuesday, January 22 @ 6:00pm	Swimming
Thursday, January 31, @ 6:00pm	Rock Climbing

In its **sixth** year, the focus of the popular program, led by Hank Lunn, former school counselor is to have fun while enhancing the bonds between daughters and parents and provide information about issues such as not using tobacco or other substances, anti-bullying, increase physical activity, and good nutrition. Each evening starts with a "Getting to Know You" activity, followed by a light healthy meal and a short discussion on making healthy choices. The remainder of the evening will be spent playing games and activities that girls and adults can participate in equally.

Funding for the program is in collaboration with the Knox County Community Health Coalition (A Healthy Maine Partnership) and the Pen Bay YMCA.

The series is FREE, but you **must** register to participate. Sign-up today! To register, contact **Connie Putnam** at **594-5440, ext. 1** or **c-putnam@verizon.net**

IMPORTANT DATES	
2nd Quarter Ends	1/18
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day No School	1/21
Early Release	1/25
LLS Concerts Kindergarten—1:00 3rd grade	2/6
President's Day No School	2/18
February Break No School	2/19- 2/22

The Chickadee Award ~ by Ann Dodd-Collins

All Maine schools, home school groups, and libraries have an opportunity each year to participate in the Chickadee Award: A Maine Children's Choice Picture Book Project. Participating children in grades K-4 choose the award winner by voting for their favorite from among ten books that were selected by teachers, librarians and early literacy professionals. Students at Lura Libby and Cushing Community Schools have been involved in this project since its beginning four years ago and were some of the 9500 Maine students who chose *The Great Fuzz Frenzy* by Janet Stevens and Susan Steven Crummel as the winner of the 2007 Chickadee Award.

Students in our schools will be reading the Chickadee books during library time and on their own. In addition, third and fourth grade students who choose to give up one lunch/recess period a week will be making posters and devising other ways to campaign for their favorite Chickadee book. Voting will be at the end of March.