



# Dalton Elementary Newsletter



**Ami Hunt - Dalton Elementary Principal**

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I hope everyone had an enjoyable break. We are now preparing for the New York State Math tests that will be given to our 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders the week of March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The third and fifth grades will be testing on Monday and Tuesday of that week. Fourth grade will be testing on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. If you have any questions about the tests, please contact your child's teacher.

I am very pleased to begin using the Principal's Preferal part of our Peacebuilder program. This program recognizes students in the classroom who consistently demonstrate the principles of the Peacebuilder program. One student will be chosen from each classroom per month. The students who receive a Preferral will be invited to my office for a special recognition lunch.

This week I hosted our Kindergarten and first grade students that were chosen. What an enjoyable lunch!

Ami Hunt  
Elementary Principal



### Coping With High-Stakes Tests

- ▶ Help your child to be calm, focused, and rested on test day. This begins with a good night's sleep.
  - ▶ Prepare any needed materials ahead of schedule, and take time for a good breakfast before the exam.
  - ▶ Remind your children that you support their effort and that daily performance is a much better indicator of aptitude than a single test.
  - ▶ Plan a post-exam activity your child enjoys as a reward for his or her hard work.
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- ☺ I Noticed You Awards
- ☺ Gramma
- ☺ Librarian

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The world's biggest sharks -- the basking shark and the whale shark -- are also among the least dangerous sharks.

When an armadillo gives birth, it almost always has four babies.

Baby camels are born without a hump.

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# Kindergarten

## Snow Work

Have you ever heard of snowwork? The students in kindergarten have! For the past few weeks they have read various stories about the weather.

They have charted weather words, different types of weather, and wrote about their favorite stories they called Snowballs, by Lois Ehlert. The illustrations in this book



hold items used to create snow friends. These illustrations were also the basis of each child's snowwork. Every kindergarten student took home the outline of a snowman on paper and had to use items around their house to create their very own snow friend. All snow friends are on display in the kindergarten hallway. Stop down and see what creative kids we have!

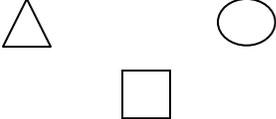
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# Snow Pals

The students in Mrs. Forrester's and Mrs. Macomber's class have been very busy with their Snow Pal Glyphs. A glyph is a picture that tells a story. Children are encouraged to follow a given key (legend) to create a story that is unique to the individual. When all steps are complete children are then encouraged to write about their creation and share their uniqueness with the class!

First we traced and cut three white circles, we glued them together to make a Snow Pal. Then we used the following legend to put the finishing touches on!

<p><b>Head Covering</b></p> 	<p><b>Ear Muffs – I am a girl</b> <b>Hat – I am a boy</b></p>
<p><b>Mouth</b></p> 	<p><b>On a cold day I'd rather...</b> <b>dots – drink hot cocoa</b> <b>smile – eat soup</b> <b>squiggly – have something else</b></p>
<p><b>Mittens/Gloves</b></p> 	<p><b>In winter, I'd rather...</b> <b>Wear mittens to keep my hands warm</b> <b>Wear gloves to keep my hands warm</b></p>
<p><b>Boots</b></p> 	<p><b>In winter, I'd rather</b> <b>Purple - go sledding</b> <b>Red - build forts</b> <b>Blue - throw snowballs</b></p>
<p><b>Nose</b></p> 	<p><b>When it snows, it's best when school...</b> <b>Triangle – is closed</b> <b>Circle – has delayed openings</b> <b>Square – closes early</b></p>
<p><b>Scarf</b></p> 	<p><b>Winter ...</b> <b>Solid – my favorite season</b> <b>Striped – not my favorite season</b></p>
<p><b>Broom/Shovel</b></p> 	<p><b>Broom - I like snow</b> <b>Shovel – I do not like snow</b></p>



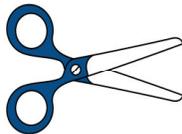
## Attention all Dalton Elementary Students & Families!

Keep sending in your Box Tops!

We are kicking off the New Year with something new to help collect Box Tops for Education in our school. On the back you will find a collection sheet that you and your child may color and decorate together for the month of March. As you collect Box Tops at home, encourage your child to tape the box tops onto their collection sheet. Simply return the finished collection sheet to Mrs. Privitera (4<sup>th</sup> grade). The money that is earned through our collection of box tops is used for student scholarships and other wonderful resources for our students!

Here are some easy steps to participate...

When you are finished with a box tops item, just cut off the box top label! Look for the symbol below if you are not sure.



**TAPE** each box top to the collection sheet and return it to Mrs. Privitera (room 1260) in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade.



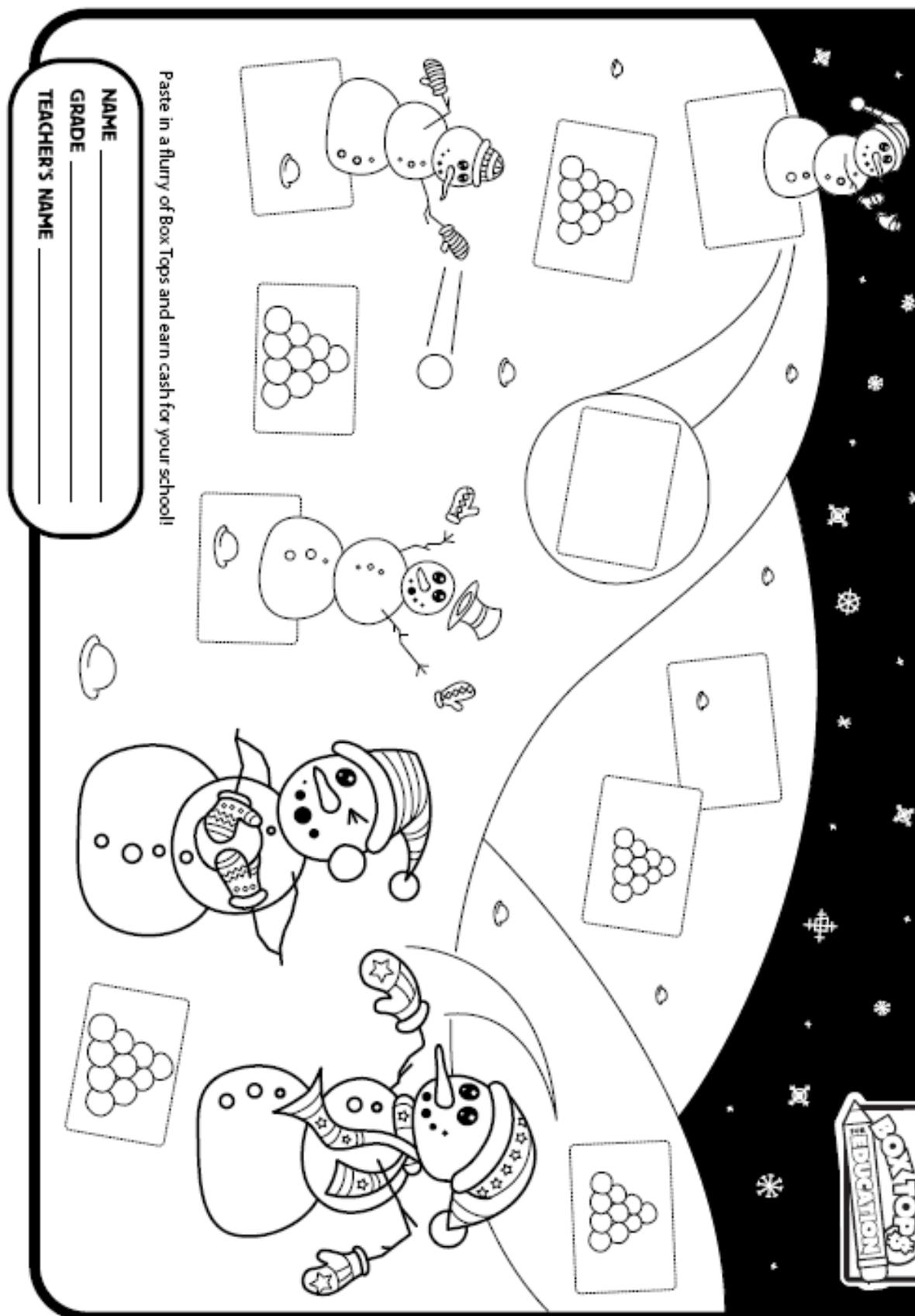
## Healthy Livingston HIP HOP Facts & Tips

### **FUN FOOD FACT:**

Did you know that there are over 500 different pasta shapes? Now that's variety! Speaking of variety, try to eat a variety of different foods every day. When you eat a variety of foods, you have a better chance of meeting your nutritional needs. Plus, it's more fun than having the same thing at every meal.

### **PHYSICAL ACTIVITY:**

When you're at a family get together, get up and move around and take the other kids with you. You'll entertain yourself, your brothers, sisters and cousins and you will all stay active at the same time. Plan ahead and bring a football, Frisbee or hackysac with you to any get-together. Teach a new game or skill and you will be the life of the party!



# 5th Grade Happenings



Students in Mrs. Brickwood's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class pose with Mrs. Lori Gray, our Junior Achievement business volunteer. Students spent five 45-minute sessions with Mrs. Gray, learning about a variety of topics including entrepreneurship, free enterprise, the importance of technology in our world, and job skills. We so appreciate the time that Mrs. Gray volunteered in our classroom!

## Rockin' It in the Science Lab

Some of Mrs. Brickwood's students have fun showing off their goggles that were used while investigating the effects of acid on rocks and minerals.

Who says Science can't be fashionable?



# Gramma Helps Young Readers

The most important job a first grader has is learning how to read. As the caring adults in children's lives, parents, teachers and caregivers need to use this time as wisely as possible. From the moment they are born, children's brains are busy all day everyday making connections with language and experiences. These connections are the foundation for learning to read. The more chances children get to listen to a story, talk about it and read, the better their brains will make connections for them to be successful independent readers.

Cecelia Gross is a part of the Foster Grandparent Program of Livingston County. She spends 4 hours a day with our first graders, providing one-to-one reading opportunities. Mrs. Gross is able to give children the gift of her time. As she works with each child she is able to talk about the story in detail. Often children have questions and Gramma is able to help them understand. The time spent reading and talking with the children is so valuable. Every time they hear another story or read another story language connections in the brain are reinforced and they take another step towards being a reader.



Playing baseball, riding a bike or sewing are all skills we can learn. In order to do well, lots of practice has to take place over a long period of time. Learning to read is the same. Young readers need lots of practice. They need to hear stories. They need to talk about them. They need to read lots and lots of stories that are just right for them. We are so lucky to have Gramma in our school. With her help, the children are getting more time to practice reading skills. They get some extra love too!

Amy Therrien-Borgus



## *February News from the Art Room...*

Well, it's hard to believe that February is over and spring is just around the corner. Students continue to work hard on their art projects to prepare for the Dalton Elementary Fine Arts Festival on this May 19<sup>th</sup>. There's much to be done before then! A display form is printed in this newsletter for those of you wishing to display your artwork along that of our students. Please put your work on display to act as a creative and positive role model for our students. You can also find this display form on our website and at the web link below.

Likewise, I want to let everyone know that I have just created an Elementary Art Web Page. If you go to the district web page and click on *Dalton Web Pages*, scroll down to my name and click on *Art*, and you can explore the pages and links. You can also type in the link if needed:

<http://teacherweb.com/NY/KeshequaCentralSchool/LindaStrathearn/index.html>

Like most teacher web pages, it is a work in progress and will continually evolve. Soon I will be uploading photos of students involved in creativity, as well as student work, and more art links.

### **PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN PROMOTING ARTS EDUCATION**

From [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)

Why is arts education so important? Arts education not only cultivates imagination, self-expression, and creativity, but also plays a vital role in the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills. It promotes visual literacy, which enables students to analyze and interpret the meaning of complex visual imagery that permeates the media and popular culture.

Additionally, the arts provide a point of departure for learning in other disciplines, including social studies, history, literature, science, and math. Research has shown that "arts education increases interest in academic learning, cognitive and basic skills development, and the development of academic achievement skills" (R.R. Konrad, *Empathy, Arts, and Social Studies*, 2000). Arts education presents a window through which students are exposed to a diverse and dynamic world of perspectives and cultures. And, among these many other benefits, arts education equips students with skills essential to success in the current economic environment. Schools that provide little or no arts education are denying students the opportunity to hone those skills that will best prepare them for the highly competitive labor market of the 21st century. Arts education is a basic core subject in the curriculum and is a fundamental component of comprehensive learning for grades K-12.

**How can parents make a difference?** Parents play a vital role in the survival of sufficient arts education in schools. Collaboration among parents, teachers, and arts leaders can create a powerful constituency advocating for arts programs in schools. Parent involvement is an integral part of guaranteeing the best possible arts education for all students.



Advance notice from the Elementary Art Room  
Hooray! It's almost that time of year again ...



**ATTENTION MEMBERS OF THE KESHEQUA COMMUNITY**

**COMMUNITY ARTISTS AND CRAFTERS ARE WANTED FOR THE UPCOMING  
KESHEQUA ELEMENTARY FINE ARTS FESTIVAL—DALTON BUILDING  
MONDAY, MAY 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2009 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM**

If you enjoy creating some form of artwork, whether it be painting, drawing, printmaking, graphic design, photography, fiber or textile design, quilting, needlework, stained glass, tole or china painting, sculpture, ceramics, woodworking, fine craftwork, flower arrangements, etc., etc., we invite you to bring your work to our Elementary building to showcase your artwork along with our student artwork at our Elementary Fine Arts Festival on Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. As an adult artist in our community, your participation serves as a positive role model for our children's education in the visual arts.

\*Please note that your work need not be new work, and it does not have to be mounted or framed. We encourage you to show previously shown work just as museums and art galleries do! Please tell your neighbors, family, and friends to display their work and see the show.

Please fill out the form below, and return to the Dalton Elementary School Art Room by May 15<sup>th</sup>, or as soon as possible.

If you would like further information, please contact Mrs. Strathearn at  
476-2234, ext. 1140, or email [lstrathearn@keshequa.org](mailto:lstrathearn@keshequa.org)

**Our students and our schools thank you for your participation in our Fine Arts Festival!**

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Reservations for table space will be available on a first come, first serve basis, however every attempt will be made to include all who want to participate! Thank you for showing your artwork with our students. **Please check all that apply:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would like to reserve a table at the Dalton building Elementary Fine Arts Festival on Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Size of Table required:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Full Table (10' x 29 1/2")      **Or**      \_\_\_\_\_ Half Table (5' x 29 1/2")

(Display tables may be set up anytime after 2:40 PM on Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Due to lack of permanent display space, artwork should be removed later in that same evening after the festival ends since the cafeterium will be used during the next school day for students. However, if this is difficult for you, please let Mrs. Strathearn know as we may be able to temporarily store your artwork until you are able to pick it up.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Artwork: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return form to: Keshequa Elementary School Art Room, or by postal mail to: Keshequa Elementary School Art Room P.O. Box 517, Nunda, NY 14517. You may also email this information to [lstrathearn@keshequa.org](mailto:lstrathearn@keshequa.org)



# WOULD YOU LIKE EMAIL NOTIFICATION

If so,  
just go to the Current Events link on our website  
and sign up today.

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



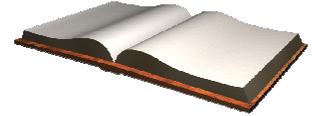
## I NOTICED YOU BUILD PEACE AWARDS!!

Johnny Bailey  
Macy Boss  
Paige Burley  
Hailey Moriarty  
Mariah Bishop  
Jessica Giambra  
Christina Gaddy  
Jocelyn Parthemer  
Adrianna Wilkins  
Branden Bennett  
Hayden Strobel

Olivia Howell  
Kole Andress  
Makayla Ribble  
Alicia Parthemer  
Craig Doty-Mann  
Zachary Prial  
Jacob Mitchell  
Ryan Thayer  
Mikayla Abbey  
Katelyn Shearing



## RAFE MARTIN'S STORIES



**BIRDWING** –Prince Ardwin is a boy with a wing. Is it a gift or a curse? In this mythic and heroic novel, he discovers his place in the world. *Grade 4 and up*

**THE WORLD BEFORE THIS ONE**—In this magical novel, drawing on thousands of years of Seneca Indian legend, the Storytelling Stone tells Crow the great stories of the Seneca—tales of the Long Ago Time, and Crow comes to realize his own power to change his people and his own destiny. *Grade 3 and up*

**THE SHARK GOD**—A thrilling suspense story, a powerful morality tale and a gorgeous glimpse of a beautiful land where a shark can be kinder than a king. *Grade 2 and up*

**THE ROUGH FACE GIRL**—An inspiring, award-winning re-creation of a Native American (Algonquin) Cinderella story. *All ages*

**THE STORYTELLING PRINCESS**—In this original, wild and wacky comedy of lost and found identities, destinies unfolding, and compelling storytelling, no one really knows the ending of the tale! *All ages*

**WILL'S MAMMOTH** - Almost wordless picture book about a boy's adventures with his dream come true and the power of the imagination. *All ages*

**FOOLISH RABBIT'S BIG MISTAKE** - Rafe's retelling of a well known tale from India that illustrates how jumping to conclusions can lead to trouble. *All ages*

**BRAVE LITTLE PARROT** - Is the determination and courage of one small bird enough to save the forest from a raging fire? *All ages*

**THE BOY WHO LOVED MAMMOTHS** - A story based on the picture book Will's Mammoth, about a boy who believes that mammoths exist and sets out to find one. *Grade 3 and up*

**THE HUNGRY TIGRESS** - A collection of 40, ancient and contemporary, Buddhist myths, tales and legends, with commentaries on their meaning. *Grade 4 and up*

**A STORYTELLER'S STORY**—A picture filled biography by noted photographer, Jill Krementz. *All ages.*

**AUDIO :** **RAFE MARTIN TELLS HIS CHILDREN'S STORIES** - storytelling of Boy Who Lived With the Seals, Boy Who Loved Mammoths, Foolish Rabbit's Big Mistake, Rough Face Girl. The four stories on this CD became Rafe's first award-winning children's books. Here they are the way Rafe tells them live. *All ages*



# BOOK ORDER FORM



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Rafe Martin will be appearing in our school soon! He will be sharing his stories and talking about being an author with our children on May 5, 2009

Rafe Martin's books and audiotapes are available for purchase so that your child/ren can take home a memory of his visit to be shared at home, over and over. Please complete the form below and return it with payment to your child's teacher prior to **April 9, 2009**. Rafe will personally inscribe each book to your child or to whoever you might like to give one of his books as a gift.

We are all looking forward with excitement to Rafe's visit!

STUDENT'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TEACHER \_\_\_\_\_

INSCRIPTION (if different from student's name) \_\_\_\_\_

BOOKS:		TOTAL
_____ Birdwing	<i>hardcover</i> \$16.95	_____
_____ Birdwing	<i>paperback</i> \$6.99	_____
_____ The World Before This One	<i>paperback</i> \$5.99	_____
_____ The Shark God	<i>paperback</i> \$5.99	_____
_____ Will's Mammoth	<i>hardcover</i> \$17.99	_____
_____ The Rough Face Girl	<i>hardcover</i> \$16.99	_____
_____ The Rough Face Girl	<i>paperback</i> \$6.99	_____
_____ The Brave Little Parrot	<i>hardcover</i> \$16.99	_____
_____ Foolish Rabbit's Big Mistake	<i>hardcover</i> \$17.99	_____
_____ The Storytelling Princess	<i>hardcover</i> \$15.99	_____
_____ The Storytelling Princess	<i>paperback</i> \$6.99	_____
_____ A Storyteller's Story	<i>hardcover</i> \$14.95	_____
_____ The Boy Who Loved Mammoths	<i>paperback</i> \$9.95	_____
_____ The Hungry Tigress	<i>paperback</i> \$16.95	_____

**TAPES:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Rafe Martin Tells His Children's Stories      \$9.95      \_\_\_\_\_



**GRAND TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Rafe Martin. Thank you.