



The Eagle

Mr. Christopher Rogers, Principal
Mrs. Dorothy O'Neil, Assistant Principal

March 2015

SOAR Behavior at AG!!!

We want to thank each and every one of our parents/guardians who took and returned our school climate survey. Overall we were pleased with the results. As a result of the survey, we have been able to identify certain pieces to improve upon. One such item, was several parents and guardians reported that they were not familiar with "SOAR" behavior and expectations at Abner Gibbs Elementary school. It is with that

in mind that we dedicate this section of the newsletter. "SOAR" is an acronym based on our mascot, "Gibbsy" the eagle, that represents our core values. These core values are what we are looking for from our students each and every day. The "S" stands for **Self-Respect**. The "O" reinforces our goal of **respecting others**. The "A" challenges our students to do their best with their **academic**

achievement. The "R" represents **responsibility**, as we strive to help our students be responsible citizens and learners. Students who exhibit "SOAR" behavior are given "SOAR tickets" as part of our PBIS program and many are recognized at our weekly school-wide meeting.

If you have any questions regarding SOAR behavior, please contact Mr. Rogers at 572-6418.

Special points of interest:

- ✓ Our school day for students begins promptly at 9:00 AM and dismissal is at 3:00 PM.
- ✓ If your child is to be dismissed from school, please send in a note in the morning.
- ✓ Anybody coming to school during the day must have a picture I.D.
- ✓ If your child is absent from school please call the main office in the morning. If we do not receive a call a member of our staff will be contacting you by phone regarding the absence.
- ✓ Thank You for all your support of our school!!!!

Spotlight on Fourth Grade

Students in 4th grade have been working hard on strengthening their reading comprehension skills using the strategy of citing evidence in their responses to text-based questions. Using a rubric (a visual example of writing expectations), students are developing and strengthening their writing skills by planning, revising, and editing through collaboration with their peers. The vast majority enjoy sharing their efforts with their classmates and welcome constructive feedback from their audience. Of interest, all of our students will be submitting a poem to the Westfield Athenaeum for the annual Poetry Contest in April. Thank you for your support!

Mrs. Hedge and Mrs. Ochs

MCAS SPRING 2015

As we head into Spring, we continue to have an intentional focus on student learning and achievement. Our classrooms are busy with the sounds and actions of student learning, engagement and centers. On several days during the months of April and May our students in grades 3, 4, and 5 will be taking the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests. These tests are a very important part of your child's education and your son or daughter needs to do the ab-

solute very best that he/she can. Our teachers and staff have been working hard all year to prepare them for the tests.

As we have told them, they need to be at school on time, rested, relaxed, and ready on the days of the exams. We want them thinking "I think I can" and having the mindset that they will succeed by trying their very best. Please visit our website <http://westfieldag.sharpschool.net> and click on the **School News and Information** tab to see an electronic copy of the letter we sent home regarding our MCAS schedule and what you and your child can do to help get ready for the exams.



Nurse's Corner

Spring is in the air, which means warmer weather is just around the corner! Did you know our skin is the largest organ of our body? We need to protect it by Sunwise Action Steps. Slip on a shirt! Cover your shoulders & if it is not too hot wear a long-sleeved shirt & pants. Slop on sunscreen! Use a SPF of 30 or higher that blocks UVA & UVB.

Reapply every 2 hours. Apply sunscreen even on cloudy days. Slap on a hat! Protect your face, neck, ears and top of head. The wider the brim on a hat the better protection. Protect your eyes by wearing sunglasses that block 99-100 % of UVA & UVB rays. Seek Shade! The sun's UV rays are strongest between 10a.m. & 4 p.m.



Dates/Events to Remember

- 4/2– Grades 3, 4, and 5 ELA MCAS
- 4/3 - No School
- 4/7– Grades 3 and 4 ELA MCAS
- 4/8 - Grade 5 ELA MCAS/Grade 4 make-ups
- 4/9 - Grade 4 ELA MCAS
- 4/10 - ELA MCAS make-ups
- 4/10-11—Into the Arts Festival—South Middle School
- 4/13 - ELA MCAS make-ups

Looking for more information?

Check out our website:

<http://westfieldag.sharpschool.net/>

Please join our parent/guardian email-notification system by contacting Mrs. Matyseck at 572-6418.