

ESL NEWSLETTER

"The ESL school to home connection"

Volume 1 issue 2

Northbridge Public Schools

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Si usted necesita traduciendo esta planilla, por favor contacte Andrea Amato



MARCH

ELL STUDENTS HAVE COMPLETED THE MEPA

The Northbridge ELL students have worked hard on the Reading and Writing MEPA and the testing is now complete. I want to congratulate all students for putting forth their best efforts on the long test. Now we have a breather before MCAS testing begins. You may be wondering about the following questions:

My ELL student has just completed the MEPA, so why does he now have to take the MCAS?

As I had written in the last newsletter, the MEPA measures the progress of all **ELL** (English Language Learners) **students** in the state of Massachusetts.

The MCAS tests all **public school students** in the state and measures performance based on the Curriculum Frameworks Learning Standards. MCAS is also used to show whether schools and districts are helping their students and that they are making adequate yearly progress. The results of the test will be sent to you.

In order to graduate high school, students must pass the grade 10 tests in English Language Arts and Mathematics. This year, student must also pass one of four high school tests in Science and Technology/Engineering.

How can I help my student prepare for MCAS?

Talk to your child's teacher to see what you can do at home to support your child's work in school.

Make sure your child is getting enough rest, eats healthy and arrives to school on time.

Ask you child about homework that is due and make sure the homework is done.

Help your child practice MCAS test questions.

Where can I get more information about MCAS?

You can go on the Department of Education's website and download a Parent's Guide to the MCAS. **This guide is available in many different languages.** The website is: www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/pgguide.htm.

If you do not have access to the Internet, please give me a call or send a note in with your student and I will print out a copy for you.

MARCH ST. PATRICK'S DAY

March 17th is St. Patrick's day. Parents may have some questions about this holiday.

Who was St. Patrick ?

St. Patrick was a priest who brought Christianity to Ireland. There is a legend (a story that is believed to be true but cannot be proved) that he drove all the snakes out of Ireland. He died on March 17, 461 AD.

Why is St. Patrick's day celebrated in the United States?

St. Patrick's Day was originally a religious holiday in Ireland. Irish immigrants brought the tradition of the holiday to the United States and it has become a welcome sign of Spring. Although some still consider it a religious day, most people of all nationalities and religions join in the festivities of the day by wearing green and eating corned beef (salted meat) and cabbage. There are parades and other activities which celebrate the day.

How can I celebrate this day with my child?

Many children will be wearing something green on St. Patrick's day, so you may wish to send your child to school wearing a piece of green clothing.

You may visit one of the many restaurants that will be serving a traditional Irish meal of corned beef, cabbage and Irish Soda bread.

You and your child may try to find a four leaf clover (a small green plant that grows low to the ground) which is believed to bring good luck. A three leaf clover is often found outside but a four leaf clover is hard to find. If you find one, you are very lucky!

ESL Classes

You are welcome to join other ELL parents in an English conversation group meeting a Whitinsville Social library on Mondays from 6:30-8:00 P.M.

ESL and Literacy: Tutoring is also available at the library. For more information, please call 508-234-2151 Extension 4

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