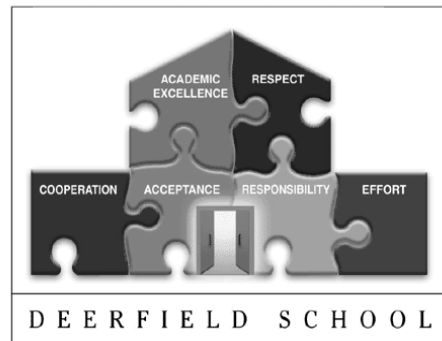


# Leaps and Bounds

Issue 34 June 16, 2006

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## Calendar:

Thursday, June 22nd:

Last Day of School – Dismissal at 12:05 – no lunch

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## Message from the Principal...

In this last *Leaps and Bounds* message of the school year, I want to publicly acknowledge the work of several members of the Deerfield community. The strength of the partnership between school and home is in the dedication of staff members and the involvement of parents in every child's education.

First a special thank you to the Deerfield staff members who will not be returning in September. Third grade classroom teacher Christine Harney will be leaving us. Her ability to step into Beth Robinson's role in March with no lead time meant that the students knew the person who would be with them for the remainder of the school year. Ms. Robinson is continuing her leave of absence during the 2006-2007 year. Literacy paraprofessional Molly Meltsner is moving to Seattle with her family. She has shared her expertise in reading and writing instruction with upper grade students and staff. Thanks to Psychologist Stephanie Patrick, who will be based solely at Hanlon next year.

The assistants at Deerfield form a support system for everyone in the building, and we thank Jennifer Mellor for her efforts on behalf of our students. In addition, high school senior Carolyn Haire has volunteered in the school every Monday. We wish her the best as she heads off to college in the fall.

Parents at Deerfield fulfill innumerable roles. My thanks go to outgoing PTO President Lee Kouri for her leadership over the past two years. Thanks also to Brenda Wight for stepping into the void left by Kathy O'Dea and to Gheed Itani who took over as Treasurer for David Smith in mid-year. Tammy Blum has served as Secretary, assuring that the information from the PTO gets to the whole community. Their commitment to the school is huge, adding countless activities to the calendar that build our community and enrich the children's learning.

Over the past year this newsletter has been efficiently word-processed, organized and copied by parent Donna Johnson. Each week she receives my message and includes the calendar as well as items from the community, formats the information, and copies the document. I could not have done it without her capable assistance.

It is an honor for me to work with the talented staff at Deerfield. We are all fortunate to be the beneficiaries of strong parental support and most of all, to spend time with the students who are our reason for being here. They are the heart and soul of the school, making my job rich with the rewards of seeing them learn and grow.

Soon after school ends you will receive your child's report card and class placement for next year. Class assignments are based upon the collaboration of many staff members. Student learning style, classmate compatibility and gender balance are some of the factors taken into consideration. Our teaching staff gives careful consideration to all factors in arriving at a proper placement decision. As you can imagine, it is a most difficult and important task, and is the result of concentrated effort.

Please keep in mind that children watch and listen to adult responses, learning how to react themselves by modeling what they observe. It is crucial that you temper any concern that you may have about a particular placement, especially at the moment that it is received. We urge you to trust that those who have observed and guided your child's educational progress have made a carefully considered decision about what placement is most appropriate for September.

As always, should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

A Happy Father's Day to all Deerfield fathers and to everyone in the school community, have a wonderful summer.  
Louise Lipsitz

## **SCHOOL NEWS...**

### **Bus Applications Due June 16, 2006**

**Reminder:** June 16, 2006 - Applications and payments are due for those eligible for bus transportation this coming September. If you have any questions, please contact Virginia Gillis in the Business Office at ext. 1343.

Email: [vgillis@townhall.westood.ma.us](mailto:vgillis@townhall.westood.ma.us)

### **Thank You to Field Day Volunteers**

Thank you to all the parents who volunteered their time for the games on Field Day. The weather was perfect and the kids had a great time. Thank you to Kathy Wallace, Gheed Itani, Susan Dellfeld, Bob Wallace, Lori Bass, Joan McKinnon, Noreen O'Grady, Diane Johnson, Claire Gotti, Annie Jessup, Wende Malster, Elizabeth White, David Woodman, Katrina Birle, Michelle Fallon, Kati Ryan, Colleen Campion, Mary Anne Antonellis, Ann Harrington, Julie Rosetti, Karen Gallagher, Mary Sennott, Kathy Giugliano, Christine Adams, Rob Malster, Maureen Erickson, Wendy Troy, Paul Greeley, Lisa DeCamp, Carol Frangieh, Nancy O'Hara, Evelyn Somers, Lee Kouri, Diane Heidelberger, Nina Barros, Amy Keith, Anne Colins.

### **Dismissal on the Last Day of School**

School ends for students on Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 12:05 PM. Lunch will *not* be served on that day. As on Early Release Wednesdays, there will be NO SEPARATE KINDERGARTEN BUSES. Kindergarten students who ride will be transported to their AM stops and those who walk will walk home.

### **Lost and Found**

Looking for that fleece jacket or baseball cap? It may be in the Lost and Found, located outside the school cafeteria. Please check before school ends. We will donate all leftover clothing at the close of school.

### **Open Enrollment Option**

The Westwood Public Schools has an open enrollment policy that enables parents to request an intra-district transfer for their children. The process is initiated by parents by sending a formal written request to the Superintendent by August 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Antonucci reviews the requests, making decisions with the principals based upon enrollment in the sending and receiving schools.

### **Deerfield Site Council 2006-2007**

The Deerfield School Site Council is seeking two parent members for the upcoming two- year term. The Council, a community advisory group mandated by Ed. Reform, meets throughout the year in the afternoons. The Council helps develop the School Improvement Plan, reviews safety issues and the school budget process. Anyone interested in participating should leave a message with Mrs. Miller or PTO President Brenda Wight.

### **First Day of School – Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup> for Grades 1-5**

It will be a **full day** of school. Kindergarten children will come for an Open House in their classrooms that morning and will begin school officially on Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **School Hours: 2006-2007**

Deerfield will be on a different schedule when school reopens. Please plan ahead.

Playground Staff Supervision will begin at 8:10AM

Start time: 8:25AM

Kindergarten Dismissal: September 8-22 10:55AM

September 25-June 1:10PM

Grades 1-5 Dismissal: 2:45PM

Grades 1-5 Early Release: 11:25AM (no lunch)

### **Specialist Schedules 2006-2007**

Thanks to the hard work of the directors of art, music, physical education/wellness, and library/media, we are able to offer a specialist schedule that does *not* rotate across the days each week. All students will receive one block of each of the four areas each week.

### **Lunch Prices Increase**

Lunch prices for next year will increase to \$2.50.

## PTO NEWS...

### **Parents ~ Have you completed your PTO Survey?**

The PTO is still collecting the **Parent Surveys**, which will be reviewed and addressed in September. We would like to hear from everyone. So, if you haven't completed one, please do so, and if you need another copy, simply email Brenda Wight at [MortgageWight@aol.com](mailto:MortgageWight@aol.com). Any questions, call Brenda at 781-329-4914.

### **PTO Needs Committee Chairs**

*To have another Successful \*Eventful\* 2006-2007 School Year  
We Need You!*

Please be sure to check your child's backpack for the *PTO Committee Chair and Volunteer sign up sheet* which was sent home earlier this week. Currently there are 7 PTO Committee Chairs vacant for next year. *Remember*, each committee chair is handed information, tips and advice from the previous chair holders ~ *YOU CAN DO THIS!*

## COMMUNITY NEWS...

### **Westwood Youth & Family Services**

Westwood Youth & Family Services will be offering a support group this summer for single parents in Westwood and surrounding communities. The group offers the opportunity for parents to discuss such topics as raising children alone, time management, finding time for personal interests, parenting strategies, and stress management. Parents are also encouraged to share their own accomplishments and struggles as well as hear from other single parents who may have had similar experiences.

This group is scheduled to meet for eight consecutive weeks from July 12<sup>th</sup> - August 30<sup>th</sup>: Wednesday evenings from 6:00 – 7:15 PM. Childcare will be provided along with snacks for both kids and parents. There is no charge for group participation. For more information and/or to register for the Single Parents' Support Group, please contact Danielle Sutton of Westwood Youth & Family Services at (781) 251-2575. *The deadline to register is June 30th. Space is limited and will be filled on a first-come-first-serve basis.*