



The Lion's Roar

Thursday / November 2 / 2006

Important Dates

November 2006

Wednesday, November 1

Parent Conferences
No School/Day of CORE

Saturday, November 4

ISEE Exam

Mondy-Wednesday November 6-8

Sixth Grade to Farm School

Friday, November 10

Veterans Day- No School

Sunday, November 19

Admission Open House
4:00-6:00 PM

Wednesday, November 22

Thanksgiving Break begins
12:30 PM

Monday, November 27

School resumes

Wednesday, November 29

Parent-Faculty Dinner
6:00-8:00 PM

December 2006

Friday, December 15

Winter Concert 10:30-12:00 noon
Community Luncheon
Holiday Break begins
Core Open/No ADVENTures

From the Chair of the Board of Trustees / Erich Schumann

Dear Parents,

We are fortunate to live in an area with many excellent public and independent schools. As parents and students we have many choices and as an independent school we have to reach for excellence. I am convinced that Advent School is the leading independent elementary school in the New England area. The Board of Trustees, together with the Head of School has the responsibility to maintain the high educational standards. In addition to the monthly board meetings different committees, meet bi-weekly and sometimes even weekly. Trustees spend many hours dedicated to the continued success of the school. One of our key challenges is to attract new board members and I am please to let you know that three new trustees joined our Board; please join me in welcoming Jonathan Ross – Wiley, Judy-Beth Taylor and Ann Welch as new members of the board of trustees.

*From the Head of School / Nancy Harris Frohlich

November 2006

Dear Families,

Each of our children comes to school with a different set of skills and proclivities- each with a rhythm all his own. In schools where expectations are identical for all students, some, like Goldilocks, find themselves in a chair that doesn't quite fit.

What is Advent's vision for teaching all children? How can our teachers both cultivate the talents and support the needs of every student in the group?

Here is Advent's story.

I believe that the genius of great teaching is the teacher's ability to orchestrate instruction to benefit everyone in her class, but not by creating a classroom with a different agenda for every child. Our teachers must know how to analyze student thinking and how to recognize when a child's thinking is powerful and secure. They must know when to stretch them, when to push children to build connections, and when to call for more practice.

Generally speaking, Advent children learn together in small groups and sometimes with the class as a whole. Advent teachers recognize every learner as an individual and ask themselves, "How do I support children who may have vastly different propensities within a cohesive group of learners?"

What does group learning mean and why is it so valuable? What is imbedded in the experience that impacts not just *what* children learn but *how* they approach the process, regardless of the subject?

Last week, at our annual ESHA (Elementary School Heads Association) Conference, we heard from many local professors including Dr. Gillian McNamee, of the Erikson Institute. She told us that, "In group collaboration, we lift the imaginations of all of the children." As teachers support and stretch their students, they pay close attention to each child's strengths. Their role is to engage and expand these strengths within the "work" of the entire class community.

News from the Specialists

****Science** / Susan Coolidge and Tooey Rogers

Grade 1-Continuing their study of plants and trees, the First graders were visited by Chef Chlorophyll last week. She showed them how to mix nutrients, water, and CO₂, and then "cook" the ingredients with sunlight to create tree's food. The students then drew their own imaginary interpretations of a food factory inside a leaf.

Last Thursday the First Graders went to Habitat, the Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary, in Belmont to learn more about plants and trees first hand. As well as plants and trees, the students had the good luck to discover a Swallowtail butterfly chrysalis as well as many mushrooms and some too-friendly bees!

Grade 2: Second Graders have started exploring bats, bat habitats and bat hunting techniques. They can be heard discussing echolocation and have drawn some interesting members of the bat family. Of course, the students continue to explore birds, recently spotting at least three hermit thrushes and ten red tailed hawks in the Boston Public Garden during a joint venture with the Third Grade. Soon Second Graders will experiment with the physics of flight.

Grade 3-We went bird watching! Last week the Third Graders and Second Graders walked from school to the Public Garden to inventory the birds they saw. There were many interesting sightings including a Wood Thrush and eight hawks circling far above us. In their study of the five vertebrate animal groups, the Third graders have moved on to amphibians. After a study of amphibian life cycles, habitats, and adaptations, each student will create an amphibian and its habitat.

Grade 4: Fourth Graders are completing some nearly life sized skeletons of their own and have ventured into the American Idol realm with Ms. Fiarman. They are practicing their own version of "Dem Dry Bones". They will be exploring the major muscle groups this month. The Museum of Science has an extraordinary exhibit titled "Body Worlds". It is not for the faint hearted, but it is well worth a visit. You should take your child simply because it may be a once-in-lifetime opportunity.

Grade 5- In their study of the evolution of vertebrate animals, the Fifth Graders are currently focusing on amphibians. A comparison with fish revealed just how much amphibians are similar and different from them. Looking at the life cycles and adaptations of amphibians offers the students a perfect opportunity to study the effects of pollution on these vertebrates as well as the issues surrounding invasive species. A look at the Cane Toad in Australia demonstrates how an introduced amphibian can have a profound effect on the natives species of its host country.

Grade 6: Moving into the exploration of electricity, the Sixth Graders have discovered that this form of energy gets its name from a sub-atomic particle (the electron). They have explored different ways to connect circuits, and are in the midst of creating their own circuit quiz board. This involves using wires to connect the correct answer to a question, thus completing a circuit and lighting a light bulb. The Sixth Graders will decide where to go from here!

Library / Amanda Bock

****Art** / George Anastos

From the Studio

In November we will be focusing on the Local Art Global Heart project. The children will be weaving recycled materials through metal grates. They will also be creating their self- portrait on plexi-glass using acrylic paint. We will study the artist Andy Wharhol's portraits and how he uses color.

The next Thursday morning open studio will be November 16 at 8:30am

Thanks to all of you who came in October.

Schedule for the year: December 7, January 11, February 15, March 22, April 5, May 17, June 7

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November 2, 2006

****CORE Program/ Sharon Knox-Hutchinson**

ADVENTures is moving into its second session on November 6, 2006. There are some places available in some classes. Please be in touch and I will see if we have a place in a specific class your child is interested in. CORE is continuing its study of Massachusetts. We are moving on to the study of the coastal areas of our state. During November we will focus on the first Thanksgiving and plan to create our interpretation of Plimoth Plantation from recycled materials and clay. We will learn about the daily routine of Pilgrim and how busy a day they had. We will create our own feast later in November. Please remember

CORE and ADVENTURES is closed on November 10th since school is closed for Veteran's Day. CORE and ADVENTURES closes on Tuesday November 21st at 6:00pm for Thanksgiving Break. All children are dismissed from school on Wednesday, November 22nd at 12:30pm. No extended day. CORE and ADVENTURES will re open when school does on Monday, November 27th.

****Physical Education / Anthony Pascetta and Marco Bonilla**

K: K continues to be a fine group of listeners. They are increasing their understanding of tag games, thereby becoming more adept in their body movements. We are working with the soccer ball to introduce upper body movement and strengthening and to improve both balance and footwork. Ask your child about "perpetual tag".

Grade 1- 2: Soccer skills involving toe taps, passing and overhead throwing will be used to in the upcoming unit. Fitness stations will be incorporated. In this situation your child moves through 10-20 stations staying at each station one minute.

Alert to all parents of grades 3,4,5 and 6. Homework has been introduced in PE when your child celebrates his/hers birthday. I will usually give a question pertaining to the game they were playing or sometimes a question regarding anatomy or body movements. The questions can be more challenging than your child is used to, so using the Internet and classic research materials is allowed. Please however, encourage your child not to just "print out" an Internet piece and hand it in. They should write a summary of the article to what they learned.

Grade 3 and 4: Both classes have worked on fitness, kickball and soccer activities. Classes will move forward to developing eye/hand coordination and movement skills. Team handball is one game to ask about regarding accomplishing these skills. Additionally, fitness stations will take place to challenge your child over the course of a half- hour. This station work involves your child moving through 10-20 stations staying at each station one minute

Grade 5 and 6: Classes will focus on throwing and catching activities and games. Fitness stations will be used in the upcoming classes. Both classes are doing a fine job in carrying out the new warm up tasks.

****Music / Rebecca Fiarman**

We are soon to start preparing for the Winter Concert! Students will be preparing concert songs for this occasion. When thinking about attire for the Winter Concert, please consider this a nice event. Students should dress up. Their attire should also be comfortable to sit in and warm enough for cold weather. The concert is on Friday, December 15, 2006, from 10:30 until NOON, which is the last day before vacation. Please plan on having your child there. We would truly miss them if they weren't. We also welcome you to come! It will be held at the MCLE at 10 Winter Place, once again. We hope to see you there! -RLF

News from the Specialists (cont'd)

****Español / Maria Acuña**

¡Hola!

In November we will elect our first alien governor. It has been a lot of fun watching the kids create and rally for their aliens. I personally can't wait to see who's elected. Some fifth graders and I will count a lot of votes next week. Why fifth grade? Because they came up with the entire project! (Inspired on Eli's drawing). We will also be very busy learning new vocabulary, grammar and phrases in our coming units:

Kindergarten will be learning their ABC's and animals in the farm.

First graders will be working with opposites.

Second grade will be working with transportation and the present progressive. This unit will link with their flight unit as they learn the vocabulary words of many things that fly.

Third grade will be describing animals from New England. This unit will link with their science unit on the same topic. We will also try to visit to the science museum together!

Fourth Grade will be working with the body and verbs that relate to being hurt or sick in the present tense.

Fifth Grade will be learning how to conjugate verbs in the past tense. We will work with verbs that relate to actions that take place around the house like: despertar (to wake up), etc.

Sixth grade will be learning how to conjugate verbs in the future tense. We will work with verbs that relate to actions that take place around the house.

We will work with regular, irregular and reflexive verbs.

We will all learn a bit of vocabulary related to Thanksgiving.

¡Feliz Noviembre!

News from the Classrooms

****ECC**

****Kindergarten:** The Kindergarten class has begun their Native American study. We will be constructing our *wetu* this week. Come by and take a look!

**** First Grade**

****Second Grade**

****Third Grade**

****Fourth Grade**

****Fifth Grade**

****Sixth Grade**

News from the Administrators

Director of Education / Arati Pandit

I am always struck by the level of sophistication that Advent students demonstrate in their thinking. Creating learning environments where thinking is stretched beyond one's expectations is an art. Earlier this week, I witnessed a teacher help a child literally take a peek inside her brain! Through carefully thought of questions, the teacher created an atmosphere of investigation and inquiry where the child was able to explain her thoughts verbally in a concise manner. In order to learn anything, it is important to link it with something you know, to experiment with ideas and to constantly analyze information. It's all about good teaching! I applaud the Advent teachers for their dedication to each child.

***Admission Office**/ Jaime Bard

From the Front Desk / Robin Wilson

Parent Committee

advent.parents@gmail.com

Head of School, continued:

There is something monumental about Dr. McNamee's message. Our job as educators is to help every child find a chair that *is just the right fit - within a community*. At The Advent School we recognize that each of us is only valuable to the extent that we are connected to a community. We take responsibility for providing more than academic excellence in our classrooms. We teach our children how to become part of a respectful, interrelated group.


As we said good-bye to our fellow school heads, we savored this lasting ideal: "The strength of the wolf is the pack and the strength of the pack is the wolf." - *Rudyard Kipling*

Sincerely,

Nancy Harris Frohlich, Head of School



November 2006

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday / Sunday
		1 No School Parent Conferences Day of Core	2	3	4/5 ISEE Exam
6 Sixth Grade to Farm School	7 Sixth Grade at Farm School	8 Sixth Grade at Farm School	9	10 Veterans' Day No School	11/12
13	14	15	16	17	18/19 Sunday (19) Admission Open House/ 4:00-6:00pm
20	21	22 Thanksgiving Break begins at 12:30 pm No Core or ADVENTures	23 <i>Happy Thanksgiving!</i> 	24	25/26
27 School Resumes	28	29	30	1	2/3

December 2006

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday / Sunday
				1	2/3
4	5	6	7	8	9/10
11	12	13	14	15 <i>Winter Concert</i> 10:30-12:00 noon Community Luncheon Holiday Break Begins Core Open No ADVENTures 	16/17
18	19 Winter Break	20 Winter Break	21 Winter Break	22 Winter Break	23/24
25 	26 Winter Break 	27 Winter Break	28 Winter Break	29 Winter Break	30/31