

Sedgwick School Community Newsletter

February 28, 2008

Congratulations Sedgwick Seahawks!

Congratulations to both Boys and Girls A Teams who finished in third place at the Coastal League Tournament held just before vacation. Both teams played exciting ball games and we thank them for their effort.

Attendance

Unfortunately, attendance at school has become a serious issue for some students. It seems wise at this point to remind both parents and students that attendance at school is mandatory for students and it is the parents' responsibility to make sure that their children attend every day. Under state law, permissible excuses are only for personal illness, appointments with health professionals that cannot be made at other times, observance of religious holidays, emergency family situations or planned absences for personal or educational purposes. All but the illness and family emergency must be approved in advance by the principal or superintendent.

When children are absent or will be late to school, parents should call the school to let Mrs. Grindle know. Otherwise, a call will be made to the home. If parents can't be reached at home or do not contact the school, the absence will be considered unexcused. Unexcused absences can lead to problems with truancy, a serious issue. **Effective Monday, March 3**, should any student be absent without an adequate excuse, we will send a letter to their parents indicating that their child's absence has been unexcused. Parents can then notify the office if there was an excuse or talk to the principal, who is also the Attendance Coordinator (Truant Officer).

Please make sure your children attend school every day and

when they can't, please let us know why. We need to account for student absences to the state and our percentage drops every time there is an absent student.

Town Meeting Coming Up & Vote for Town Officials

Town events will be held next Friday and Saturday, March 7 and 8 at the Town Meeting House. Voting for town officials will be held Friday, March 7. It is important for every citizen to exercise his/her right to vote. You lose what you do not use.

Saturday, March 8, Town Meeting officially begins at 9:00 a.m. It is always important for parents to attend town meeting to make sure their voices are heard. Town Meeting votes determine the budget for the school for the coming year as well as the Town's budget. It is a very important exercise in democracy and everyone who is a registered voter in town should take part.

MEAs Begin Next Week

Students in grades three through eight will be taking MEAs over the next few weeks. These tests are an important way to help determine how well your child is doing at meeting the Maine Learning Results and how good a job we are doing at helping him/her get there. **Please take the time to read the parent letter on the back of this newsletter.**

Technology Planning

Due to budget cutbacks over the last four or five years, little in the way of technology improvement, or even updating, has been done. Given significant staff layoffs and program cuts, there seemed to be little money to add programming. With the exception of students in grades seven and eight, who have the state laptop

program, technology use at our school has become haphazard at best and poor at worst. How should we best make use of the technology we have and how should we plan to improve this important part of the educational world? Where does the wise use of technology fit in Sedgwick? Where do we find the money to pay for hardware and personnel to support the use of technology in learning?

These are important questions that need to be answered. If you are interested in serving on a committee of three to five people, including a representative of the school staff, to

create a plan for presentation to the school committee next fall, please contact the principal. We want to get to work on this soon!

Basketball Awards/Pizza Party

The basketball teams' pizza party and awards will be held on Tuesday, March 4 at 5:30 p.m. in the gym. Invitations were sent home on Monday (2/25).

End of Second Trimester Coming Up

The end of second trimester is on Friday, March 14. This gives students in grades 5-8 two weeks to pull grades up and get homework in. For parents and students alike this is a good time to check with teachers and take advantage of study periods.

Gr. K-8 Report cards come out on March 21!

Next Week at Sedgwick

Fri.	Pee Wee White Practice 3:00-4:30 PM
Sat.	Pee Wee Games 10-12
Mon.	MEAs begin
Tues.	Basketball Awards 5:30 PM
Thurs.	Pee Wee Blue Practice 3:00-5:00 PM