



Morse Arts Committee Meeting

Tuesday, October 7th, at 6:30pm will be the first Morse Arts Committee meeting for the 08/09 school year. If you are interested in volunteering your time for the art and music program at the Morse, please come to our planning meeting. The meeting will take place in the Art Studio. Children are welcome.



Looking for....

Donations of used sneakers (in good condition) are needed in all sizes. The physical education teachers always like to have back-up sneakers in case the students are not prepared for class. If you have sneakers that your child has outgrown please consider donating them. All donations can be dropped off in the gym. Thank you in advance.



Flu Shot INFORMATION

“Flu vaccine protects you AND the people you care about most. Starting this year, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is recommending that all children between the ages of 6 months and 18 years should get flu vaccine. The Cambridge Public Health

Department is offering 15 free flu clinics this fall. The main flu clinic for families is on Saturday, November 8 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Tobin School (197 Vassal Lane, Cambridge). Parking is available. Children age 24 months and older will be seen at this clinic. Both flu shot and FluMist, a nasal spray vaccine, will be available. FluMist is ideal for children without a history of wheezing. For more information, call (617) 665-3855 or go to www.cambridgepublichealth.org.”



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Eating healthy food is an important way to help children pay attention in school and to learn to the best of their ability. For the past few years, The Cambridge Public Schools have been working hard to make school meals healthier. More fresh fruits and vegetables and more whole grains have been added. At the same time, many families are trying to send healthy snack foods to school with their children.

In health education classes, children learn how to make healthy food choices. The schools also try to make it easier to make healthy choices while at school. For example, children are not allowed to use soda vending machines during the school day.

Healthy snacks not only taste great, but they support learning and good behavior in the classroom. I would like to see children bring vegetables, fruits, cheese, yogurt and whole grain crackers to school for their snack. Including fruits and/or vegetables at snack time will help children get what they need every day. You can find more ideas for healthy snacks in the handout from the School Health Program of the Cambridge Public Health Department. The ***best drink***

to send to school with your children is water and Cambridge tap water is a great choice.

Let's work together to improve both the health and school success of all Cambridge children. Please do not send (or let your child buy) soda, candy, cakes, chips and other "junk food" for school snack. Thank you for your help. A list of healthy snacks can be found on the Family Info Station in the main lobby.



OCTOBER PROGRAMS AT FRESH POND RESERVATION

These events are FREE and open to the public. Children are welcome in the company of an adult.

I. ASTER AND GOLDENROD IDENTIFICATION

Sunday, October 5th - 10 am to 12 noon

Water Purification Facility Front Door
250 Fresh Pond Parkway

We will use an aster chart and goldenrod key to help you learn to identify aster and goldenrod flowers, using live cuttings from plants growing on the Reservation. Then we will go to the Kingsley Park bioswale to look at and identify some of these beautiful wildflowers in the field. Wear shoes for walking off-path and long pants.

II. AN AUTUMN WALK IN THE UPPER WATERSHED

Monday, October 6th - 5 pm to 7 pm
Water Purification Facility Front Door
250 Fresh Pond Parkway

Chip Norton, Cambridge Watershed Manager, will lead another of his popular walks through Cambridge-owned property in the upper watershed. This time we will explore open space land in Weston adjacent to Hobbs Brook and Hobbs Brook Pond. We will carpool from the Water Dept. parking lot, leaving promptly at 5. RSVP!

III. WATERFOWL WALK FOR SENIORS AND FRIENDS

Friday, October 17th - 9 am to 11 am
Neville Place Front Door
650 Concord Avenue

Join Seniors from the Cambridge Senior Center to look for migratory waterfowl on the Pond. To get to the water, we will take a leisurely walk through the new recreation areas around Neville Place. People of all ages and birding experience are welcome.

IV. MIGRATORY BIRD WALK

Sunday, October 19th 8 am to 10 am
Neville Place Driveway
650 Concord Avenue

We will look for migrating songbirds and ducks that have stopped to rest and feed at the Reservation while heading south for the winter. Beginners are welcome! We have binoculars to lend and will show you how to use them.

(FRESH POND Continued)

**V. TOUR OF THE WATER
PURIFICATION FACILITY**

Monday, October 20th 6 pm to 7:30 pm
Water Purification Facility Front Door
250 Fresh Pond Parkway

Learn where our Cambridge drinking water comes from, and how it is purified and piped throughout the City. Tim MacDonald, Manager of Water Operations for the CWD, will describe the process, answer your questions, and give you a tour of the building. The last tour in 2008 will be on Monday, November 17.

**VI. MAKING A DIFFERENCE DAY
AT FRESH POND**

Saturday, October 25th 9:30 am to 1:30 pm - Top of the Kingsley Park Hillside

Join us with your family for National Making a Difference Day, to rake leaves into the woods where they can hold and replenish the soil, and to put down wood chips around the sugar maples that first graders will tap in the spring. Wear work clothes. We will provide gloves, tools, water and a snack. If you have child-sized tools, please bring! Stay as little or as long as you like. All ages are welcome. No dogs please.

**VII. A BIRD WALK FOR
TEENAGERS**

Sunday, October 26th 8 am to 10 am
Neville Place Driveway
650 Concord Avenue

Father/son birders Jeff and Sam Talarigo will lead this walk to look for songbirds and migratory waterfowl at Fresh Pond.

Exclusively for teenagers, 13 to 17. No birding experience necessary. We can lend you binoculars and show you how to use them. You must register for this walk! Registration information below.

**VIII. PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE
BIOCONTROL
MONITORING**

IX.

Sunday, October 26th 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm - Water Purification Facility Front Door - 250 Fresh Pond Parkway

Help us count and measure the loosestrife plants in the Little Fresh Pond wetland where loosestrife-eating beetles were released in 2007. We will compare the new data with data that was collected a year ago to determine whether the beetle population has increased. We will send the results to you and to the State's database.

Please register for each event that you plan to attend. You will receive important information on parking after you register. E-mail Elizabeth Wylde at friendsoffreshpond@yahoo.com or call (617) 349-4793 and leave your name and phone number.

Visit our website at www.friendsoffreshpond.org for more information about Friends of Fresh Pond Reservation and Fresh Pond.



CPS TO UNDERGO STATE COORDINATED REVIEW

Thomas Fowler-Finn, Superintendent, of the Cambridge Public Schools was recently informed by the Commissioner of Education of an upcoming Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Coordinated Program Review. As part of this Coordinated Program Review, Department staff will visit the district during the week of December 1st.

Such visits are routinely conducted by the Department to satisfy federal and state requirements for the periodic review of specific education programs and services in schools throughout the Commonwealth. The Department is reviewing several programs during a single visit in order to use Department and school staff's time most efficiently and to encourage strong connections among the programs.

- The Department's Coordinated Program Review will address special education, vocational and technical education, civil rights, English learners education, and selected general education sections. After reviewing school district procedures for these programs, a Department of Elementary and Secondary Education team will make its onsite visit, during which it will review individual student records, interview administrators, teachers and parents, and observe instructional sites. After the onsite visit it will prepare a report for the Superintendent and School Committee, with detailed findings for each program.

- Using a scale of ratings ranging from "Commendable" to "Not

Implemented", the report will rate the implementation of each requirement reviewed by the Department of Education. Where requirements are found less than substantially implemented, the district must propose to the Department of Education corrective action to bring those areas into compliance with statutes and regulations. Districts and schools are encouraged to incorporate the corrective action into their district and school improvement plans and professional development plan. The school district may request technical assistance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in developing a corrective action plan.

- Both the Department's report and the corrective action plan are public information and will be available to the public upon request. Program Review Final Reports are also available on the Department's Internet website at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/pqu/review./cpr/reports/>.

- Any member of the public may request to be interviewed by telephone by a member of the Department's visiting team. Those wishing to be interviewed should call the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education at 781 338 3741 no later than Nov. 7th. A member of the visiting team will contact each person desiring an interview within two weeks after the completion of the onsite visit. If an individual is not comfortable communicating in English or requires some other accommodation, the Department will make arrangements to communicate appropriately with the individual.

- Superintendent Thomas Fowler-Finn indicated that he is confident that the Program Review will be a useful and positive experience for staff members and that the report will be useful in planning for the continued improvement of educational services for all students.

Translations available on the CPS website at www.cpsd.us