

Robert Mascenik School # 26 News



It's Time for Kindergarten Registration!

The registration dates for the 2012-13 school year are Tuesday, February 14th for children whose last names begin with the letters A to K, and all other children on Wednesday, February 15th. In case of inclement weather, the make up dates are February 22nd and 23rd.

Registration Times:
9:30—11:30AM
or 1:00—3:00PM

Qualifications:

1. Your child must be 5 or turn 5 by 10/31/12. No exceptions.
2. You must reside in Woodbridge Township.

Documentation to bring with you that day:

1. Your child. There will be a language test given.
2. Two proofs of residence. One must be a deed, lease, or a tax bill. The other

one must be a current utility bill.

3. Immunization records for your child.

4. Original Birth Certificate or Passport

Without these items, your child will not be registered for a class. Since we start to work on class lists in April, it would benefit you to have all of the necessary paperwork completed to avoid this delay.

Building a solid foundation for tomorrow's leaders

Volume 2, Issue 3

Inside this issue:

<i>Winter ICE Carnival</i>	2
<i>Read to Succeed Program</i>	2
<i>The December Giving Tree Program</i>	2
<i>Keeping the Dream Alive</i>	3
<i>Donations Graciously Accepted</i>	3
<i>Inclement Weather Reminder</i>	4
<i>Dates to Remember</i>	4

Blizzard of Books

The first grade students of Schools 18, 24, and 26 joined together for an evening of literacy fun at Iselin Middle School sponsored by the Iselin Community for Education. Students from Iselin Middle School read winter themed books to our children and their parents. This was followed by arts and crafts activities and time for hot chocolate and cookies. To the right, John and Bridget shared a moment with one of the readers. Ms. Quesada led a group in making bookmarks.



Join Us for the ICE Winter Carnival!

The annual ICE (I selin Community for Education) Carnival will take place on Saturday 2/25 at I selin Middle School. Our time slot, which will be shared with Schools 18 & 24, will be from 11:30AM-4PM on Saturday, Feb. 25th.

Have a blast with the I selin Community for Education. Join us for games, prizes, food and fun!

There are many gift baskets and many other raffle prizes including an IPAD, a Nook, bicycles, and much more. A super 50-50 raffle will be drawn on Sunday. We hope to see you there. The cost will be \$5.00 for a Family Admission. (\$7.00 at the door) Tickets will be available for purchase at our school. Come out and join the fun!



Our Read to Succeed Program is Underway!

Robert Mascenik School children are participating in an exciting program that encourages children in grades K through 5 to read for fun. Read to Succeed® is a free program from Six Flags and Discovery Education. Every student who completes six hours of recreational reading before February 13th is eligible for a

free admission ticket valid at participating Six Flags theme parks. Students will develop a greater appreciation for books when they see that you think reading is important too. You're sure to have fun as you investigate the world of reading together

Please review the reading log

that your child brought home. Your child should use this sheet to record what and how long he/she reads. Your child must complete six hours, or 360 minutes of recreational reading. Please initial each entry and then sign the reading log to verify that the six hours of reading has been completed.

Our Giving Tree—A Huge Success

Our December Giving Tree campaign to help the We Feed Woodbridge Township Food Bank was a huge success. Over 175 bags of food were received and donated by Robert Mascenik School families.

An ornament for our school giving tree was made and personalized with the family name of those who do-

nated. Colorful ornaments included wreaths, snowmen, sleds, mittens, snowflakes, and reindeer. The tree looked beautiful in our front foyer and was a symbol of our community who cares for others.

To the right, students get ready to assist Mr. Barcellona, coordinator of the Woodbridge Twp. Food Bank.



Keeping the Dream Alive

This year, fifth grade students participated in the township's annual essay writing project on keeping Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream alive. Umair Kadri's essay was chosen to represent our school and will be on display at the Woodbridge Municipal Building.



Bringing Change Through Letters By Umair Kadri

Martin Luther King Jr. was a willing and hopeful man with a goal for freedom and equal rights. Martin Luther King had a dream where people were not judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. His fight for freedom began with negotiations, but many people did not show interest towards his approach. He proceeded with peaceful protests and marches. While protesting for his rights, Martin Luther King was arrested and confined in Birmingham Jail. In the letter he wrote from Birmingham Jail, he indicated to clergymen why he showed civil disobedience and the reasons for his fight for freedom without violence. He had the quality of power of speech. One powerful quote in his letter was, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." This showed how Martin Luther

King Jr. felt about injustice.

There are two types of tears, tears of joy and tears of great sadness. Tears of sadness rushed into my eyes while reading Martin Luther King's letter. How would you feel when a six-year-old child asks an African American parent why she can't go to a themepark advertised on television that is only open to whites. You see tears coming down her lonely face. Kids found that the only themepark they were able to go to was closed to African Americans. This is what has touched me the most. When African Americans went on a car trip, many motels didn't accept them. They had to sleep in the car. Martin Luther King Jr. believed that you need to create tension in order to have change come about. If you think that something is morally wrong, you will notify someone. If there is a law that is thought to be morally wrong, you will create tension to notify people to take actions. I would agree with his belief.

Martin Luther King Jr. had mixed feelings about civil disobedience. Civil disobedience is nonviolent opposition to a law through the refusal to comply with it on grounds of conscience. Mr. King felt that he had to be civilly disobedient to bring change. Laws are there for everyone to follow and for the good of all. However, he did not believe that the law was right so he had to be civilly disobedient. He thought it was necessary to have peaceful protests and marches. When the clergymen received his letter, what did they think? Did the letter bring any change? When the clergymen received his letter, they probably did not take action but did understand why King wrote to them. The letter might not have brought change to people, but it probably did bring change in the clergymen's hearts. Words can really bring change.

Before reading the letter from Birmingham Jail, I only knew a little about Dr. King and what he went through. It brought more to me than "I have a dream." I learned about civil disobedience and what it is. I learned that Martin Luther King Junior used strong words and learned about just and unjust laws. Reading the letter brought a lot of insight to me.

Donations Graciously Accepted

Recently, members of the Colonia-Iselin Elks generously donated pocket dictionaries to our third grade students. The children are enjoying using them to increase their word power and improve their writing.



Sharon Strack, Principal

Robert Mascenik School # 26
300 Benjamin Avenue
Iselin, NJ 08830

Main Office Phone : 732-602-8526
Nurse and Absentee Hotline: 732-602-8529
Fax: 732-283-2665

Robert Mascenik School:
Building a solid foundation for tomorrow's
leaders.



Home of the bulldogs.

Incident Weather Reminder

Since the winter is upon us, I would like to remind you that information on delayed openings early dismissal and no school days can be found at the following locations:

- TV 36
- www.woodbridge.k12.nj.us
- Radio stations WCTC 1450AM and NJ 101.5
- Honeywell Instant Alert will call registered families by phone.



Dates to Remember



Feb. 3	American Heart Assn. National Wear Red Day
Feb. 6	H.S.A. Pizza Day, Gertrude Hawk Candy Sale Begins
Feb. 7	Second Marking Period Report Cards Go Home
Feb. 14 & 15	Kindergarten Registration
Feb. 16	ICE First Grade Reading Celebration at School 18 6PM
Feb. 17— 20	No School Presidents' Weekend
Feb. 21	H.S.A. Restaurant Night—Pizza Hut
Feb. 24	Gertrude Hawk Candy Sale Ends
Feb. 25	Winter Carnival at Iselin Middle 11AM -4PM
Feb. 27	All Star School Spirit Day—Wear School Colors
March 1	Spring Photos