



# MADISON ELEMENTARY PTA NEWSLETTER



JANUARY 2007

## IMPORTANT DATES

**January 3 -- WELCOME BACK!!**

**January 8 -- District/Council Level  
Reflections Reception  
Baldwin Round Room  
6:00pm – 8:00pm**

**January 15 -- NO SCHOOL  
Martin Luther King, Jr.**

**January 17 -- Madison PTA  
9:00am**

**January 17 -- PTA Meeting  
w/ Mr. Leahy  
11:30am BOE**

**January 18 -- Quincy PTA Council  
6:30pm  
Adams School**

**February 5 -- Madison Social  
Supper**

**February 12 -- PTA District 8  
Annual Meeting  
6:00pm**

**February 15 -- ½ DAY of  
SCHOOL**

**February 16 -- NO SCHOOL**

**February 19 - NO SCHOOL**

Dear Parents,

On the last SIP Day, December 8<sup>th</sup>, the K-6 teachers attended a Rebecca Sitton spelling inservice. Rebecca Sitton is the district's spelling curriculum that has been implemented for several years. However, we found out through training we (all Quincy Public Schools, K-6) need to tweak our method of delivery. Rebecca Sitton teaches a thorough list of research based spelling words at each grade level. These are known as core words. If a student truly knows how to spell these words, it is evident in their writing, not by memorizing a weekly list.

Therefore, after Christmas, parents **should not be seeing** Monday spelling lists with a test over these words on Friday. Research shows that this is not the best practice for teaching spelling. You are welcome to the entire list of core words that the students will be working on throughout the year, just ask your teacher. Please do not worry if these words seem too easy for your child, there is a section in this curriculum on ways to challenge students. On the flip side, there is an avenue to help those struggling spellers within the curriculum.

This spelling program focuses on skills as in reading, and these activities can be done at home on the take-home tasks. Students are responsible for knowing their grade level and previous grade level core words.

You will also see a list periodically coming home of "words to learn". These are the core words that students have not mastered in their writing. You can practice these with your child. If the students master these words, they will receive challenge words.

At some point, there will be a parent tutorial available on the Quincy Public School website and perhaps a letter from central office with further information about this curriculum.

For now, you can be assured that Madison School will provide a quality spelling curriculum to each and every child. Has the way we teach spelling changed from when we were in school? Absolutely! Do we still teach spelling? Absolutely! Is this really the best way to help children master spelling? Absolutely! Are the expectations in our society greater than they have ever been? Absolutely....so we want to make sure that our students can meet these demands with lots of success.

*Kelle Bunch  
Principal*

**Happy New Year!!**

It is hard to believe it is 2007!

Welcome back Madison kids and families. We hope your holiday was filled with enjoyable family times and plenty of relaxation. Holidays and celebrations usually create feelings of generosity and gratitude. We would like to express our gratitude to Lea Ann Eickelschulte for coordinating the holiday visit with Santa and the gifts he shared with students and staff. There were many happy and excited faces seen around the building. Also thanks to Beth Sasson for heading the Angel Christmas Campaign. Her enthusiasm helped to generate over \$400.00 in cash and much more in nonperishable items. Thanks to all the students and families who contributed time, money, and/or food. Due to your generosity, 11 Madison families received totes filled with a ham or turkey, food, toys, hats and mittens. Awesome!

Thanks to all those who have purchased a Red Chair for Madison School. The campaign has been a success and it is not too late to put your order in. These chairs will help ease the shortage of seats at our many functions.

Just a reminder, our next PTA meeting is January 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am in the teacher's lounge. Also mark your calendars for February 5<sup>th</sup>. This is our Social Supper, followed by the 1<sup>st</sup> grade program. Come join your Madison family friends for supper starting at 4:30pm and stay for the entertainment if you'd like. More information on this event will be sent home.

We look forward to 2007 and remember, our combined efforts and our participation provide for a successful and enriching school experience for our kids.

**Maureen Crickard and Debbie Gorman  
Co-presidents of Madison Elementary PTA**



## T-SHIRT ORDER FORM

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle desired size and color.

**Child T-Shirt \$8.00**    6-8    10-12    14-16    Red or Navy

**Child Long Sleeved T-Shirt \$13.00**    6-8    10-12    14-16    Red or Navy

**Child Sweatshirt \$15.00**    6-8    10-12    14-16    Red or Navy

**Adult T-Shirt \$8.00**    S    M    L    XL    XXL    Red or Navy (sizes may be limited)

**Adult Sweatshirt \$15.00**    S    M    L    XL    XXL    Red or Navy (sizes may be limited)

**Make Checks Payable to: Madison Elementary PTA**

