



Updates From Upham

August 28, 2009



Principal's Report
Update
Walk -a -thon
Class Dinners
Reading Breakfast
Pizza and Ice Cream Social
Green Team

T-Ball
2nd Grade Kickball
Toy Drive
Spelling Bee

Mark Your Calendar

September 2- First Day of School, Welcome Back Coffee/Orientation for Committee Chairs, 8:45, Library

September 3- Kindergarten Parent Coffee, 8:45

September 4- Welcome Back Assembly, 8:45

September 9- Room Parent Meeting, 8:45, Library

September 11- Reading Breakfast

September 13- Welcome Back Picnic/ Ice Cream Social, 5:00-6:30, Upper Field

September 24- Back to School Night

6:30-7:10pm ILC, 3, 4, 5 7:15-7:55pm PLC K, 1 and 2

September 30- Walk-A-Thon

October 3- Sports Carnival

Principal's Report

Dear Upham Families,

I hope you are enjoying the final weeks of summer. The weeks have gone by fast, and it is hard to believe that the start of school is right around the corner. I wanted to update you on the building project, staffing changes and school initiatives.

In terms of the project, we are on schedule. The tile floors look beautiful, as does the gym ceiling with its new lighting and acoustics. The roof work has been completed, and the boiler is in its final stage of completion. The movers arrived at Upham on Monday, August 24th, and now all the furniture and crates are back in classrooms.

Prior to the close of school, Carolyn Collins was hired for fourth grade. Carolyn comes to Upham with 12 years teaching experience at Schofield School. She taught both fifth grade as well as a four/five multi-grade before moving out of state. I am very excited that Carolyn will be joining our teaching and learning community.

I also want to welcome Lindsey Dieringer from Hardy, Andrea Pollack from WMS and Jenn Valera to Upham. Lindsay will be spending time in both the Kindergarten and the Primary Skills Language Classroom. Andrea will be working in first grade. Jenn will be working in both the second grade and the Intermediate Language Skills Classroom. Germaine Emslie has changed positions and will be working as the special education teaching assistant. Stacey Holland is our new elementary teaching assistant and I want to welcome her to Upham. We are fortunate that Joan Saslow will be helping with the transition back into the building until September 15th, the date of her planned retirement.

As previously noted, math will be a major focus this year for the staff at Upham. This year, teachers in kindergarten, first and second grade across district will be implementing the new Investigations Curriculum. We will also begin the school year with a staff book group focusing on Misreading Masculinity, which looks at gender differences in the area of literacy.

Once again, welcome back to Upham! For those families who are new, we look forward to getting to know you, and invite you to get involved in the school to the extent that your schedule allows. As always, teachers and administrators are committed to working with you and look forward to our continued partnership.

Best,
Tracey

Communication Update

We are excited to formally introduce you to our new communication tool, "Updates from Upham". We hope you have enjoyed receiving the first few

issues, and have found them to be informative and easy to read. After much research and discussion, the PTO Board has decided to replace the Upham Reporter, which was our monthly publication, with weekly Updates from Upham. It is our hope that this will help the Upham community to stay better informed of events and activities at Upham and in the community, in a timely manner. As all schools move towards being more environmentally friendly, these Updates will be emailed, and should arrive in your email inbox early each Friday morning. We hope to keep the information and articles as brief as possible so that the newsletter is quick and easy to read and digest. Several other Wellesley schools are using this tool, and have found it to be very successful.

If you would like to include something in the Updates from Upham, please email your article to [Amy Madden](#) by 9am the Wednesday before the newsletter goes out.

As this is a new tool for all of us, we expect some glitches along the way. Please let us know if you have any problems or suggestions. Thank you, and happy reading!



SAVE THE DATE

**Save the Date for the 1st ever Sports Carnival Walk-A-Thon
Wednesday, September 30 at 1pm. Details to follow!**

**And then... The 2nd Annual Upham Sports Carnival!!!
Saturday, October 3rd 11-3**

Please consider participating in the NEW Sports Carnival Sponsorship Program. It's a great way for your entire family to support Upham's big event! For more information, contact Jill Toomey by [clicking here](#).

Class Dinners

Thanks to the following families for graciously hosting this year's dinners. Details will follow, but please note dates.

Kindergarten- September 25th at The Roberts' home
1st Grade- September 11th at The Burns' home
2nd Grade- October 16th at The Francis' home
3rd Grade- October 23rd at The Raveret's home
4th Grade- November 6th at The Ledingham's home
5th Grade- November 13th at The Monaghan's home

PLC and ILC are TBD

READING BREAKFAST

UPHAM READERS ROCK!!!

Annual Reading Breakfast- Friday, September 11
8:45-9:00 Grades 1, 2, PLC
9:15-9:30 Grades 3,4,5, ILC

Want to help? Contact Marisa Mascaro at 781-235-1776 or email by [clicking here](#)

Pizza Picnic & Ice Cream Social

Sunday, September 13th
5:00-6:30 p.m.
Upper Field, Upham School

Come join new friends and old at Upham's annual Back to School picnic and Ice Cream Social! This year we will be offering families the opportunity to pre-order cheese pizzas to enjoy at the picnic. We hope this will make it easier to enjoy the picnic portion of the event. Please [click here](#) for more details and the pizza order form, which will need to be printed out and returned to the office.

Hope to see everyone there!

Questions? Contact Mary Mullen by [clicking here](#).

Child Care

Are You Interested in Before School Child Care?

7:20-8:15am Monday through Friday

Begins on 9/2/09. Fee is \$360 per semester.

Please contact Susan Hernandez, school secretary, by [clicking here](#)

The Green Team

The "Green Team" is coming to Upham! Get ready for a year of fun as students learn about environmental responsibility through various recycling, waste-reduction and other earth-friendly initiatives.

We'll kick off the program with a special assembly on September 25th, and will continue throughout the school year. Some of what students will see this year are:

- *Recycling in the classroom and throughout Upham, including the cafeteria
- *"Trash-free" lunch days
- *"Green tip of the week"
- *Efforts to reduce idling in the parking lots

Your Upham Green Team: Jessica Stanton (Chair), Ann Jenness, Maria Mascaro, Sandi Roth, Alexis Swan, Ellen Vaream, Susan Zelenko

First Grade T-Ball

1st Grade T-Ball will be held on the following dates this Fall: September 16, 23 and October 7 & 14. *(Please participate in the Upham Walk-a-thon on September 30th)*. Sign-up information will be sent out during the first week of school. We are looking for coaches to help out. If interested please email Larisa Alpaugh by [clicking here](#).

Second Grade Kickball

Join fellow classmates for afternoons of fun with second grade Kickball! Kickball will be played on four Wednesday afternoons from 12:30-1:30 p.m. beginning on September 16th. *(There will be no kickball on September 30th due to the Upham Walk-a-Thon.)*

Parent Volunteers are needed for coaching too! If you are interested in this, please contact Sarah Driscoll [by clicking here](#).
See you on the fields.....

Toy Drive

The Wellesley Service League is hosting it's annual toy drive September 7th- 17th. Please donate new or gently used toys for needy families. For more information [click here](#) or email Patricia Isley by [clicking here](#).

Spelling Bee

Gather your team...The 20th annual Wellesley Bee, an adult spelling event sponsored by the Wellesley Education Foundation, will be held on Thursday, November 5, 2009 at 7 p.m. This event is a major fundraiser for

the Foundation. Last year's Bee raised nearly \$30,000, for more information please [click here](#) .