

All Around AES

The (mostly) weekly newsletter from AES

Our mission: Exceptional instruction without exception

September 30, 2015

Calendar

- Oct 1 Pre-K to Cider Hill
- Oct 2 AES School Council 6:30 pm
- Oct 5 School Committee 7:00 pm AHS library
- Oct 7 Grade 1 to Topsfield Fair sponsored by the Charles E. Lerner Family Foundation
- Oct 20 Kindergarten to Applecrest 9:00 – 11:30



Principally Speaking

There are times when even the best laid plans come to a grinding halt and this is the case with the WGBH/Tufts University study. Both AES and CES have decided to withdraw from the study as the time demands required became much more than we originally were led to believe. Thank you to all of the parents in grades 1 – 4 who did sign and return the consent forms – which will all be shredded!

A concern that came up from several parents during this process focused on where we would find the time to run this program that focused on development of the social, emotional, and citizenship areas. It became clear to me that, as a school, we have not done a good enough job of letting you know that we are already providing lessons in this important area. In all five grades, students participate in the Second Steps program. In Kindergarten this is the focus of the sessions that Mrs. Moody, our school counselor, runs with each class once a week. In the older grades the lessons are often split with the teachers leading some of them and Mrs. Moody leading others. We began doing using this program in 2007. Since then, there has been a State mandate to include programming in this area that can lead to the reduction of bullying and Second Steps was one of the programs that met the State's criteria.

For many years, children's emotional and social development was primarily supported through the extended family as well as houses of worship, Girl and Boy Scouts, and many other agencies. As this responsibility has shifted to the public schools we are doing our very best to balance this with the demands of our academic programming.