



# ALLEN SCHOOL'S E-NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2007

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NUMBER 6

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**Report Cards**  
**Feb. 9th**

## Principal's Message

The beginning of the second half of the school year promises to be an exciting time at Allen School as our students continue to strive toward mastery of grade level benchmarks. In grades three, four and five, classes are busy preparing for the NJASK assessments. Feedback on the new Everyday Math program is excellent!

Many of you may be wondering what happened to the Talent Show. To accommodate preparing for the NJASK Testing in March, the Talent Show has been scheduled on April 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Upcoming events include Red Heart Day on February 14<sup>th</sup>, Riviera Pizza Day on Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, Ground Hog Day, Black History Month, the First Grade Sweetheart Breakfast, Valentines Day, and 100<sup>th</sup> Day. Parent conferences, by invitation only, will be held on February 16<sup>th</sup>, a scheduled day off for students only. We hope to see you at the Fifth Grade Science Fair and Ice Cream Social on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Art in Action program continues and our first graders will be making a visit to Medford Leas on Valentines Day.

The KC3 program continues with students, drivers, crossing guards, and staff focusing on Good Finders and positive labeling.

Warmest thanks are extended to our Home and School Representatives and the many volunteers who helped make our Family Fun Night a huge success. With over 600 in attendance, we extend a huge thank you to our resident DJ, Mr. B! It was a fantastic evening!

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Home and School Association for their generous gift of \$5000.00. The money will be put toward the purchase of new technology equipment. We truly appreciate the support of this dedicated group of parents.

### Contact Information:

**Mrs. Christine Pukenas**  
Principal

**Mrs. Susan Troy**  
Secretary

**Mrs. Mary Kondracki**  
Nurse

**Dr. Deborah Haggett**  
Guidance

**School Phone:**  
609-654-4203

<b>If you know your party's ext.</b>	<b>Press 1</b>
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<b>Office</b>	<b>Press 2</b>
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<b>Nurse</b>	<b>Press 3</b>
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<b>Guidance</b>	<b>Press 4</b>
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<b>Media Ctr.</b>	<b>Press 5</b>
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<b>Absence Line</b>	<b>Press 6</b>
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<b>Allen Info.</b>	<b>Press 7</b>
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<b>District Office</b>	<b>609-654-6416</b>
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**Emergency**

**Closing Number:  
668**

[click here for 2  
hr. delay info.](#)

Empathy is a person's ability to identify and feel others' concerns. Parents can help to develop this important virtue in many ways.

- Let your child know how pleased you feel when he or she behaves in a kind way.
- Point out positive differences made when children do kind acts, no matter how small.
- When reading with your child, ask how people in the books feel in their situations.
- Help your child identify how someone feels and then identify a way to help.

Source: *Building Moral Intelligence* by Michelle Borba

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World.com

Es for Empathy

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Please join me in welcoming Ms. Nikki Tait who is working as a teacher in fourth grade and two new classroom assistants, Ms. Jaclyn Grzeszczak and Ms. Stephanie Guiliano.

Be sure to check the Allen School Web Site. [www.allenschool.org](http://www.allenschool.org), for up to the minute Allen School news. Important information is sent via e-mail or hard copy (to parents who prefer this mode of communication) in the **Thursday Packet**. Please note the update about reporting your child's absences included in this newsletter and the Thursday Packet on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

It continues to be one of the best years ever at Allen School. We hope that you will enjoy the many special events planned for February. On behalf of our Allen School family, Happy Valentines Day!

*Christine G. Pukenas*  
*Principal*

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### February Events

This year is packed full of great happenings at Allen! Here a just a few of the exciting events happening in February:

- **RED SHIRT/ HEART DAY – February 14<sup>TH</sup>, LOOKING FOR THE GOOD IN OTHERS!**
- **SWEETHEART BREAKFAST – February 14<sup>TH</sup>, FIRST GRADE**
- **NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS/ TEACHER CONFERENCES- February 16<sup>TH</sup>, (by invitation only)**
- **No school February 19<sup>th</sup>, Presidents Birthday**
- **Science Fair & Ice Cream Social – February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30pm**
- **Riviera Pizza Day – February 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**[For more information and a complete list of ALL the 2006-2007 school year's events check out the online Allen School Calendar!](#)**

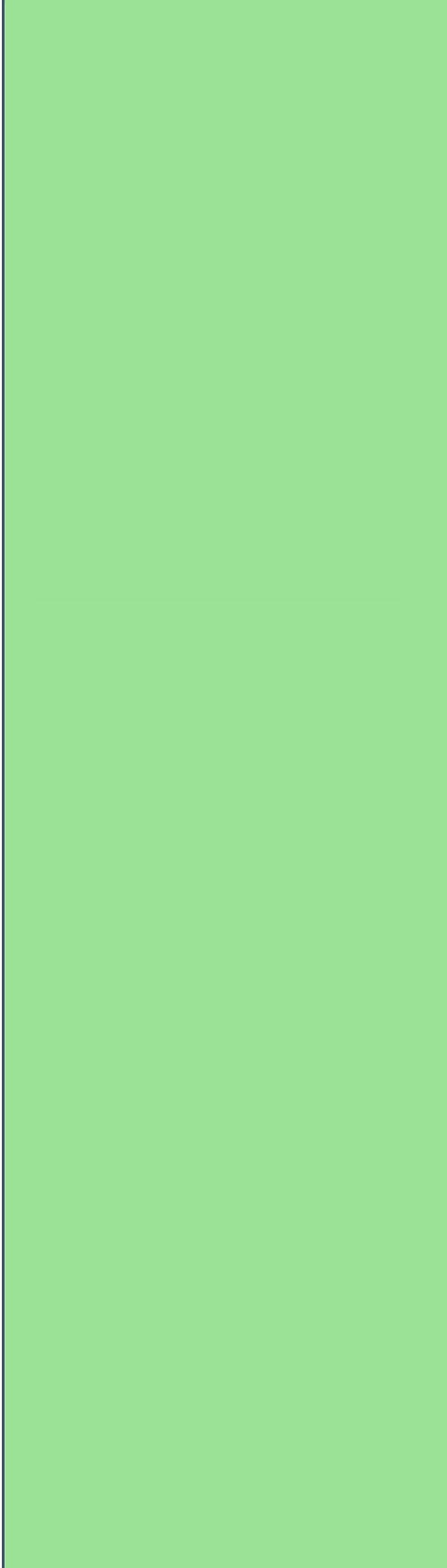
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### All in a Gator's Day

Here are just some of the things your children will be working on in February! [Disclaimer](#)

**Kindergarten**

We are very busy in kindergarten this month. We will be doing many exciting developmental activities to



	<p>celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school on February 13<sup>th</sup>. In math we will be continuing to practice tally marks, review pennies, dimes and nickels, and introduce the quarter. We are also doing a lot of graphing and are very excited to graph hearts for Valentine's Day! Writing workshop is one of our favorite activities. We love to write and illustrate stories to share with our classmates.</p>
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Grade</i>	<p>First grade will be taking a close look at Teeth, African Americans, and Presidents. We are still learning songs and poems for the Sweetheart Breakfast. We are busy preparing portfolios that will be coming home with report cards. We are also beginning an Author Study in Reading and Writing Workshop.</p>
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Grade</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In science, we're learning about the moon and planets in our solar system. We'll learn how astronauts, telescopes and satellites help us learn about space.</li><li>• We are working on a Space project in the computer lab where students will be the architects, fashion designers and vehicle engineers for a colony on the moon.</li><li>• We are wrapping up a unit on Geometric shapes in Math.</li></ul>

	<p>Students participated in cool <i>Geometry</i> explorations and built pyramids in class.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are talking about biographies in class while students complete a biography report at home.</li> </ul>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ We have a field trip to the Franklin Institute Science Museum and we will be celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School!</li> <li>➤ We are also starting a pioneer unit in social studies.</li> </ul>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Gearing up for NJ ASK Tests</li> <li>➤ Publishing Black History Chronicles</li> <li>➤ Decorating Valentine Boxes</li> <li>➤ DARE – <u>Giant Jenga Competition</u></li> </ul> <p>Good Luck to Mrs. McGinn’s Class, finalists in the tournament with two other 4<sup>th</sup> grades in the District.</p>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<p>“February may be the shortest month, but it is certainly a busy month in 5<sup>th</sup> grade! We begin with special sessions with the artist in residence. Then, we enjoy Chinese food as we read <u>In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson</u>. The month ends on a high note as we present our fifth grade Science Fair projects!”</p>

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### What's New on Allen's Website?

The Allen School website changes often! Make sure you check it daily! [Disclaimer](#)

- **["Wish it were Summer!" Pictures!](#)**
- **["Family Fun Night" Pictures!](#)**

**Guidance Page: Counselor's Corner February**

According to Phil, the Groundhog, spring will be here before we know it. With these frigid temperatures, that is great news. This month we can also look forward to celebrating Random Acts of Kindness Week, February 12 through the 19<sup>th</sup>. Acts of kindness can be as simple as showing others you are interested in them or noticing the positive qualities you see in them.

We will join the country in promoting acts of kindness through our KC3 Good Finder Program. This month we will send heart warmers to our Buddies and look for opportunities to “catch” others engaging in positive, kind interactions.

As part of the KC3 program, we will be providing students, staff and parents with star cut outs which can be used to acknowledge positive interactions witnessed by you. Please send in “stars” with a note written on them naming the person and describing the act of kindness or a good citizenship behavior you witnessed. The first star will be sent home to you. Other stars will be available in our office for all to use. The stars will then be placed in a box for our KC3 Good Finder raffle. Names will be selected and winners will receive an award for their positive actions. Please join us in kicking off this phase of our KC3 program by wearing your red Good Finder Super Hero shirt or any red shirt you may have on February 14<sup>th</sup>, Valentines’ Day. “Here’s looking at you, kid!”  
☺

**Nurse's Health Page**

**Reminders For Parents - Absence Notification**

The NJ Department of Health and Senior Services has requested that we communicate with them on a weekly basis regarding absenteeism in each of our schools. Along with the number of absentees, they have asked that we also report the types of illnesses our students are experiencing. This information is necessary to assist the Department with tracking viruses, communicable diseases, etc. In order to provide the Department with this information, we will need your help. We would appreciate when you call the absentee hotline, if you would also provide us with a short description of the symptoms/illness (e.g., stomach virus, vomiting, fever, head cold, sore throat, etc.) your child is experiencing. Thank you for your cooperation.

[Media Center:](#)

# READ ACROSS NEW JERSEY UPDATE

WOW!!!

21,466

books read and we are still counting!!!!

As soon as all lists have been counted and totaled, the classes winning a pizza party and the students who will be having lunch with John Runyon will be announced.

NJEA and Disney will notify the Grand Prize winner of the Disney concert during the week of February 21, 2007.

Cross your fingers!

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## **Learning Links for Kids**

Here are some great sites for kids that are fun and educational!

[Disclaimer](#)

[For more fun links and resources click here!](#)

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