

Canty Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 5

FEBRUARY 2012

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" . . . Nelson Mandela



Message from the Principal

"You gain strength, experience, and confidence by every experience where you really stop to look fear in the face... You must do the thing you cannot do."

Eleanor Roosevelt

February will be a very busy month for all of us as we are getting ready for the annual state test ISAT. We were working hard throughout the whole school year and we strongly believe that our students are very well prepared for this challenge. Now, we will be doing some reviews in our classrooms and preparing students for the technical part of the testing. You may also help your children at home. Some sample tests may be found at: www.isbe.state.il.us. This month when there will be days off, you may keep your children engaged. Please review the tips to success for test taking found below.

In March also, the 8 graders will take a very important test: EXPLORE. The test results are taken into consideration for student class placement in high school. Please talk to your children about the importance of this test.

The Canty 6th Annual Auction will be held on April 13th, 2012 at Elmcrest in Elmwood Park. More information will be shared by the Auction Committee and CPTC. Save the date and dust off your shoes. The Auction is a great tradition of Canty which supplies funds for our programs. The goal this year is the Achieve 3000 reading program. The cost per student is \$60.00. Please help us raise funds to sponsor this program for all our students. This event is also a wonderful community building gathering. We would love to see all our parents come and meet with us in a less formal setting. Please plan to attend!

I have an open door policy. If you would like to contact me, email me at Imirowska@cps.edu or come to the school. For all news and information check our webpage: www.cantyschool.org

Dr. Lucja Mirowska-Kopec



2011 - 2012 CANTY LOCAL SCHOOL COUNCIL

Parent Representatives: John Rice – Chairman, Wojciech Wloch – Secretary, Ryan Forbes, Francesco Paolucci, Javier Silva, Wayne Wiberg **Community Representatives:** Mary Anselmo, Blaire English
Teacher Representatives: Catherine Laduzinsky, Ronald Yak **Staff Representative:** Cynthia Mavridis
Principal: Dr. Lucja Mirowska-Kopec

Meetings Schedule for 2011-2012

All meetings are located in room 108 and take place on Wednesdays

February 8, 2011	March 14, 2011	April 11, 2011 ~ Community Forum 6 p.m.
May 9, 2011	June 13, 2011	July 11, 2011

Make a Difference – Run for your Local School Council. 2012 Elections will take place on April 18th for Elementary Schools and April 19th for High Schools. Applications for the Local School Council and judges for Election Day are available in the school office. March 8, 2012 is the deadline for submitting nomination papers.



INCLEMENT WEATHER

When the weather is 40 degrees or below, or it is raining, children are allowed into the building **after 8:40 a.m.** Please do not drop off your children before this time as there is no supervision. In the main building kindergarteners will continue to come in through the main doors. **ALL other grades** must come in through the playground doors off Paris. This will be the only door open for students to sign up for lunch and then go to their designated locations. Kindergarten parents we ask that you just drop off your children. Waiting becomes a hazard. Both modular's have an adult opening the doors after 8:40 a.m.



DIBELS/mClass MATH TESTING GRADES K-2

Kindergarten – 2nd grade students are taking DIBELS and mClass Math test with their homeroom teacher from January 9th – February 17th. Results will be sent home in February by the homeroom teacher.



SCANTRON TESTING GRADES 3-8

Scantron is a test given to all students in grades 3 through 8 three times a year (fall, winter and spring) to help teachers guide their instruction. The winter window for taking this test is January 17th – February 17th. Classrooms are assigned time using the computer lab to complete the assessment.



ACCESS EXAM

All bilingual students are given the ACCESS exam January 9th - February 17th.



8th GRADE GRADUATION PICTURES RETAKES

February 17th will be retake day for 8th graders. The photographers will only be here a short time in the morning to accommodate any students who were absent during the January 13th picture day or who want to retake their pictures.



YOUNG AUTHORS DAY/PAJAMA DAY

Feb 10 is Young Author's Day! Kindergarten to 4th grade students will buddy read the book they wrote. Student Council is also sponsoring a PJ day for all Canty students. Thank you to all students that wrote a Young Author's Book



8th Grade EXPLORE EXAM

The date has been set for the 8th grade students to take the EXPLORE EXAM, March 19th – 23rd. This test will guide the high schools on course selection.



ISAT TESTING

March 6th – 16th Grades 3rd through 8th



HERE ARE THE TOP TEN TIPS TO SUCCESS FOR TEST -TAKING!

- 1. Have a Positive Attitude**
Approach the big test as you'd approach a giant jigsaw puzzle. It might be tough, but you can do it! A positive attitude goes a long way toward success.
 - 2. The Morning of the Test**
Did you know that you think better when you have a full stomach? So don't skip breakfast the morning of the test. Get to school early and do a ten-minute power study right before the test, so your brain is turned on and tuned up.
 - 3. Wear comfortable clothing**
Wear clothes that are not tight or uncomfortable. Your focus should be on the test and doing your best.
 - 4. Be on Time to School**
Panicking because you are late makes you unsettled before a big test. Leave your house in plenty of time so you can relax.
 - 5. Test Time**
Before the test begins, make sure you have everything you'll need - scratch paper, extra pencils, your calculator (if you're allowed to use it). Understand how the test is scored: Do you lose points for incorrect answers? Or is it better to make guesses when you're not sure of the answer? Read the instructions! You want to make sure you are marking answers correctly.
 - 6. Manage Your Time**
Scan through the test quickly before starting. Answering the easy questions first can be a time saver and a confidence builder. Plus, it saves more time in the end for you to focus on the hard stuff.
 - 7. I'm Stuck!**
Those tricky problems can knock you off balance. Don't get worried or frustrated. Reread the question to make sure you understand it, and then try to solve it the best way you know how. If you're still stuck, circle it and move on. You can come back to it later. What if you have no idea about the answer? Review your options and make the best guess you can, but only if you don't lose points for wrong answers.
 - 8. Multiple-Choice Questions**
The process of elimination can help you choose the correct answer in a multiple-choice question. Start by crossing off the answers that couldn't be right. Then spend your time focusing on the possible correct choices before selecting your answer.
 - 9. Neatness Counts**
If your 4s look like 9s, it could be a problem. Be sure that your writing is legible and that you erase your mistakes. For machine-scored tests, fill in the spaces carefully.
 - 10. I'm Done!**
Not so fast - when you complete the last item on the test, remember that you're not done yet. First, check the clock and go back to review your answers, making sure that you didn't make any careless mistakes (such as putting the right answer in the wrong place or skipping a question). Spend the last remaining minutes going over the hardest problems before you turn in your test.
- This was taken from <http://www.teachervision.fen.com/study-skills/teaching-methods/6390.html#ixzz1CCLRxYyP>



KEY DATES

February 1st ~ 2nd Quarter Report Card Distribution
February 3rd ~ No School for students - Professional Development Day
February 8th ~ CPTC Meeting @ 5:30 in room 102
February 8th ~ Market Day Pick-up 5:45
February 8th ~ LSC Meeting @ 6 p.m. in room 108
February 8th ~ 10th ~ Lollipop Sale during lunch periods.
February 13th ~ Lincoln's Birthday – No School
February 17th ~ 8th Grade Picture Day Retakes
February 17th ~ Spelling Bee
February 20th ~ President's Day – No School
March 5th ~ Pulaski Day – No School
March 6th – 16th ISAT TESTING grades 3rd through 8th
March 19th – 23rd EXPLORE – 8th Grade Only