

Mary Rowlandson Elementary School

Update

October 26, 2018

<http://rowlandson.nrsd.net/> (Mary Rowlandson website)

Twitter [@MREschool](#)

A Focus on Literacy

Have you ever wondered just what the teachers are doing on those Friday half day afternoons once the children are dismissed? Those two hours for teachers are critical professional development opportunities. For the past two years, all the elementary teachers have been learning how to strengthen their teaching of literacy.

During these sessions, outside literacy consultants, Tammy Mulligan and Clare Landrigan of Teachers for Teachers have been working with all K-5 staff throughout the district. The focus of the learning has been implementing the workshop model for literacy. The workshop model is an instructional practice that consists of a short focus lesson where the teacher gives explicit instruction about a reading or writing skills and models that skill. After the focus lesson, students practice these skills within the context of their own writing or self-selected texts while teachers conference with individual students about their ongoing work or meet with small groups of students to provide targeted instruction and guided practice in identified areas of need. The intent is to develop independence in specific skills through a gradual release of responsibility. The goal is to develop within students the specific skills that they will need to effectively and independently analyze, evaluate, and communicate their thinking about content.

In addition to the half-day professional development sessions, five times during the year, the two consultants visit each school to work directly with each grade level team. During these site visits, they extend and enhance the theoretical work of the professional development sessions by modeling best practices with MRE students in authentic reading and writing lessons. This provides a wonderful opportunity for our teachers to learn directly from experts in the field and to see those best practices in action.

Literacy has become much more than just reading text on a page. Students are now being asked to analyze the many choices authors make when writing, to understand and identify the most important ideas or themes of a text through close reading, and to evaluate texts across a variety of genres and think critically about the ideas presented within.

The link below is to the State Standards that specify these expectations.

Quick reference guide for reading: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/ela/2017-06QRG-AnchorStandards.pdf>

Reading Close to Analyze Complex Texts: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/ela/2017-06QRG-Elementary.pdf>

In addition, students are expected to apply these skills in a variety of contexts and to a variety of media. You can ask your children after watching a television show, movie or video clip: What do think

the central message of that was? What did the filmmaker want you to learn or take away from the film/show? Does this movie remind you of something you have seen before?

The goal is for students to be able to evaluate and analyze information and entertainment across different mediums. This will also help them create, write and communicate more effectively.

The district has a 5-year plan for literacy professional development. We are currently in the second year of this plan. We are fortunate to be able to have access to high-level professional development that is targeted and focused on student learning. As you meet with teachers for conferences, you will hear more about the goals the teachers have developed for your student towards success in literacy.



PTO Spirit Wear

MRE Husky Gear: Shop will stay open until October 31, 2018

MRE Spirit day is November 5, 2018

Order Here: https://stores.inksoft.com/rowlandson_husky_spirit_store/shop/home

Community Activities

Please go to the following link for more information:

https://rowlandson.nrsd.net/news/what_s_new/community_news

Halloween on the Green

Vaping Presentation

Dollars for Scholars

Robotic Team Fund Raiser – Savers FUNDrive

Important Dates

DATES TO REMEMBER: October / November 2018

Oct 26 No School, Full Day Parent Teacher Conferences (more info to follow)

Oct 30 [SE PAC](#) - "An IEP for My Child", TBA

Oct 31 Halloween Walk (*or alternate activity*), 1:15

Nov 1 3rd Grade Field Trip, Plimoth Plantation (rain or shine)

Nov 5 Early Release, Afternoon/Evening Parent Teacher Conferences - 12:15 PM

Dismissal - *Lunch will be served including ½ day Kindergarten*

Spirit Day: School Spirit Day - All are encouraged to wear MRE, Nashoba or Huskies clothes or the school color of blue

Nov 6 No School - Election Day

Nov 12 No School - Veterans Day

Nov 21-22 No School - Thanksgiving Break