

## Survey Results

Last Spring Cole School parents were asked to complete an online survey as a way to gather input that would be used to identify areas for improvement within our school. Overall, feedback was positive in each area of focus: welcoming environment and school safety, respect, communication, curriculum, wellness and general information.

During the survey, parents were asked to answer questions using the following rating scale: 1= *Strongly agree*, 2= *Agree*, 3= *Neutral*, 4= *Disagree*, 5= *Strongly Disagree*. In addition, an area for comments was included at the end of each section so parents could have an opportunity to provide feedback, thoughts and/or any specific examples.

Overall, 180 parents responded; the breakdown of grade participation is as follows: 23% of preschool parents, 36% Kindergarten, 33% Grade One and 40% Grade Two. Below you will find the Detailed Survey Results, which includes an average rating score for each answer. Comments and/or actions taken by the school are also noted for your information.

### Next Steps

- **2010 parent survey will be administered within the next few weeks.** When you receive this survey, please take a few minutes to complete it. Your input is critical as it allows us to track progress and identify any other areas for school improvement.
- **Parent focus groups conducted in April.** As a way to obtain more details around certain areas for improvement, parents will be asked to volunteer one hour to take part in a focus group that will be conducted. Ideally at least one parent from each class will volunteer. Should there be a large number of parents who wish to participate, volunteers will be chosen on a first come basis.
- **Survey & focus group results provided before end of this school year.** All survey results and feedback obtained through focus groups will be synthesized and used to identify and prioritize school improvement initiatives for the 2011 school year.

Thank you in advance for your participation. Input from our parent community is vital for achieving and maintaining a high level of standards for Cole School.

## Detailed Survey Results

### Rating Scale:

**1= Strongly agree, 2= Agree, 3= Neutral, 4= Disagree, 5= Strongly Disagree**

#### 1. In the areas of **welcoming environment and school safety**:

- a. Our goal is to have all those who enter our school feel welcomed. From the office to the classroom, we want families to feel invited into our school. Efforts are being made to address this goal everyday.
- b. To address bullying/teasing: We work with the bus company on individual circumstances to mitigate any bus behaviors that children might experience. We use the Second Step Program to proactively teach children to practice important social-emotional skills. Children who learn and use these skills are more likely to get along with other people and to do better in school.

The school is clean and well-maintained. 1.4

I feel welcome at my child's school 1.7

	The school has emergency protocols/procedures in place	1.6
	I feel my child is safe traveling to and from school on the bus.	1.9
	My child is safe at school.	1.6
	I understand the behavior code of conduct at Cole School	1.5
	I feel my child's school addresses bullying issues/concerns.	2.0
2.	In the area of <b>respect</b> , results show that overall the students, teachers, principal and staff members treat each other, the students and parents with a high level of respect.	
	I am respected by the principal.	1.5
	I respect the principal.	1.4
	I am respected by my child's teacher and other faculty /staff members.	1.4
	I respect my child's teacher.	1.3
	Teachers show respect for their students.	1.4
	Students show respect for each other.	1.8
3.	<b>Communication</b> also was found to be clear, concise and timely throughout the staff and parent community. A few parent comments indicated a lack of email and websites for the classrooms, and steps were taken to correct those issues. To date all teachers have email and a classroom website.	
	I can easily communicate with the principal.	1.7
	There is open communication between parents and teachers.	1.4
	My child knows what his/her teacher expects.	1.4
	I know how my child is progressing in school.	1.5
	The principal responds to parent concerns in a timely manner.	1.6
4.	<b>Curriculum</b> is an area where a few parent voiced various concerns related to homework and the need for more challenging work for more advanced students. Teachers continue to address this issue individually with these parents and their children.	
	I have a general understanding of my child's grade level curriculum.	1.6
	The school expects quality work.	1.5
	The school assessment practices are fair.	1.7
	The school report cards are comprehensive and informative.	1.8
	My child is challenged academically.	1.9

My teacher recognizes the learning style of my child.	1.7
My child's homework is aligned with the School Committee's guidelines.	2.0
My teacher helps me to help my child at home.	1.7
New technology is used effectively in my child's classroom.	1.7

5. In the areas of **wellness and general information**: The Wellness Committee meets regularly to address healthy eating, exercise and overall student wellness as described on pg. 15 in the Wellness Section of the Boxford Elementary School Committee District Goals and Action Plan. More information about Wellness within our school can be found in the Cole School Health FAQ document.

Currently the PTO is partnering with our school to provide additional programs designed to raise awareness in this area. In addition, we are offering a parent information night on March 11th with Sue Bodwell, our Food Services Director, so parents have an opportunity to engage in a dialogue about our lunch program and provide direct feedback about it.

The school has an effective policy for addressing student allergies.	1.6
The school lunches are healthy and well balanced.	2.4
I read the Parent/Student Handbook with my child.	2.4
I know the Cole School Vision Statement.	2.3
I utilize the Cole School website.	1.8
I utilize my child's teacher's website.	2.2
My school has a good public image.	1.5
The school succeeds at preparing children for future work.	1.6