

From: Atrium School <news@atrium.org>

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Issue 1: September 19, 2010

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What is Compluvium?

In ancient Rome, the *compluvium* was a central opening in the atrium roof that let in light and air.



The Atrium *Compluvium* is a publication that you will receive via email five times a year. *Compluvium* includes news, articles and reflections from classrooms and the Atrium community.

We Did It! The Floor is Here!

Dear Atrium Families,

Welcome back to school, and welcome to the first edition of *Compluvium* for 2010-2011! Please read on for dates and information you'll want to have on hand.



We're looking forward to seeing you at Class Night tomorrow!

At Class Night, starting at 6:30pm on Tuesday, you'll meet your child's teacher(s), learn about the daily schedule and the arc of the year, and receive your class handbook. *Please note: this is an adults-only event; childcare is available (for a fee).*

Warmly,

Susan and Linda

Parent Math Evenings

Wednesdays, October 13 and 27, 6:30-8:30pm, at school

Come investigate elementary mathematics ideas! Children at the Atrium experience mathematics as fun and engaging, in a learning context that might be quite different than the one you encountered as a child. How do we do it? Many parents ask:

- What is this "new" math?
- How do I help my child at home?
- How will my child's skills translate to his/her next school environment?

We are pleased to offer a two-evening series that lets you try math from a young learner's perspective. Explore hands-on activities, ask questions, discuss the curriculum, and learn strategies for supporting your child(ren) at home. Note: please attend *both* evenings!

R.S.V.P: lecht@atrium.org by October 6th

Teachers: Jill Ferraresso, Merry Murray Meade, Susan Jacoby and math coach, Polly Wagner

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Sign-up for Fall Conferences at the front desk starting this afternoon, Monday, September 20.

In the course of an Atrium school year, you will have three formal opportunities to meet with your child(ren)'s classroom teachers, in addition to the informal conversations or emails with the teachers that we encourage you to have all year.

Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences

October 7, 1-4:30pm and October 8, 8am-3pm

Teachers and parents reconnect. Discuss your child's transition into the new year and some goals and expectations for the year.

February Parent/Teacher Conferences

February 3, 1-4:30pm and February 4, 8am-3pm

Explore the challenges, progress and successes of the year so far.

Portfolio Parent Teacher Conferences



Please stop by to enjoy the new flooring!

We Welcome New Families...

A special welcome to all our new families! We're delighted you have joined us.

and Invite Even More!

The most important way to strengthen and sustain our school is to ensure full enrollment in all grades. Help spread the word!

- Contact the directors of your child's previous school. Let them know how happy you are here!
- Invite your friends for a tour of the school.
- Attend an Open House to help energize prospective parents.
- Post Open House flyers. (*Available soon!*)
- Tell everyone what Atrium means to you!

Open Houses:

**Sundays, 1-3pm:
Oct. 24 & Nov. 7**

**Fridays, 9-10:30am:
Nov. 5 & Dec. 3**

Save the Date: BFG!

**Bring a Friend or Grandparent Day
Friday, Oct. 29**

BFG Day is a cherished Atrium tradition. Students may invite an adult relative or friend to experience school with them.

May 26, 1-4:30pm and May 27, 8am-3pm

Join your child and his/her teachers to reflect together on your child's portfolio and the breadth and depth of learning from the entire year. It's a wonderful celebration of your child's year of learning.

Conferences last 30 minutes, and we try to accommodate timing needs for families with multiple children in the school. There is no make-up day for conferences, so please sign up early to secure a time that will work for your family.

Top 10 Things to Know for New and Returning Families

1. How morning drop-off works

You are welcome to walk your child down to his/her classroom. Many classrooms have a morning routine - a morning message and/or assignment. Morning drop-off is a good time to give your child's teacher a heads-up if your child is feeling a bit down, is tired, will be leaving early or other helpful tidbits. It is not a good time for an in-depth conversation as teachers are busy welcoming children and helping everyone get settled. Set up a time with the teachers if you want to have a longer conversation about the classroom.

2. How to pick up your child from school

At the end of the day, classes walk out together down the ramp. Classes have consistent spots along the ramp where children and their teachers wait for pick up. Parents can park and walk over to the ramp. If you choose to drive up, please stay to the right in the pick-up line and -- this is important -- stay in your car. We will bring your child to you, help him/her into the car, and fasten his/her seat belt as needed. The car pick up line is not a good place to have a conversation with other parents or the teachers - so if you want to plan a play date or check in with a teacher, plan to park and walk to pick up.

Once your child is in the car, you can pull out to the left to bypass other cars that are still waiting, if a teacher or administrator cues you to go ahead. Do not, under any circumstances, leave your car unattended along the driveway during pick up, drop off, or any other time of the day. If you need to leave your car, please park in our parking lot.

If you will be late to pick up, call and let us know. Leave a message at the front desk if you can't reach Meredith, Linda or Susan directly. If you will be later than 3:30pm, we will send your child to the After School program.

3. Sign up for After School now or anytime

The After School Program is available for all children. The program is in session each afternoon 3pm-5:30pm with 15-minute grace period for pick-up until 5:45pm. On half-days, there are two After School dismissal times: 3pm and 5:30pm.

Families can contract at any time for specific days for the entire year (for example Mondays for the full school year) or families can purchase After School Tickets. If you would like to contract for an After School day starting mid-year, we can pro-rate for the remaining months of the year.

4. Stop by the Co-Directors' Office anytime!

Don't be afraid of the principal's office! Linda and Susan are here for you and your children. Drop in to grab a cup of coffee or just say hello. You'll find they know your children amazingly well and are delighted to talk with you about them.

5. Please check your Family Mailbox

Mailboxes are in the school entryway. Please check yours regularly to receive notes or invitations from other families as well as school newsletters, forms, and general communications.

6. Yes, you can use the playground after school

Feel free to hang around and play! Just keep in mind that the same school rules apply before, during and after school and that you are responsible for supervising your child. After School

Guests gather for coffee and conversation at 9:45am then join students for special activities in their classroom. BFG Day is followed by Harvest Assembly (see below).

Invitations coming soon!

Upcoming Events:

M 9/20 Conference Sign-Up begins

Tu 9/21 Class Night, 6:30pm

W-F 9/22-24 Project Adventure for 6th Grade

Fri 9/24 PTA Coffee with the Directors, 9-9:45am

Su 9/26 Pot Luck: Pre-K Families, 2pm - 4pm

Th 9/30 Pizza Lunch Begins

The complete school calendar is online at atrium.org and by [clicking here](#).

For more school information, please visit

atrium.org

staff supervise only the children in the After School program.

7. **You are always welcome at Friday Morning Assemblies**
Please join us, if you like, any Friday morning at 8:40am. All-school assemblies may feature songs, a skit, improvisational readings, student reports on classroom projects or study options, or performances by visiting artists. These are often events that encourage participation, rather than performance.

Mini-recitals offer children opportunities to showcase their individual talents in a safe and supportive setting. Students may sign up to perform a short musical piece (instrumental or vocal). You can find the mini-recital dates on the Atrium calendar.

Four special traditional assemblies during the school year celebrate seasonal rhythms. These are BFG/Harvest Assembly, Winter Solstice, Spring Sing and Graduation. You can check the Parent Handbook to learn more about these events. Parents, siblings, friends and BFG (Bring a Friend or Grandparent) Day guests are especially invited to attend these events.

8. **Get active: the PTA and Class Representatives**
Participate in the Atrium School PTA to help build, nurture, and maintain the powerful sense of community that is such a special aspect of our school. All parents of Atrium students and all members of the faculty and staff are members of the PTA.

One or two class reps for each classroom also help keep lines of communication open among parents, teachers and other friends of the school. You'll hear more about class reps at Class Night.

9. **Yes, we would love for you to share your talents!**
How can you get involved in the Atrium School? We welcome your passions and talents. Let us know what you love to do and we'll help you find a way to bring that to the community. Or, just get involved in the everyday life of the school - help set up chairs for events, offer to come to an Admissions Open House, ask the teachers what you can do in your child's classroom.

Right now, we're looking for Development Helpers:
Can't commit to specific times? The Development Office needs volunteers who can work on discrete projects from school or home. Please help with tasks from information gathering to simply labeling envelopes. Interested? Please email Ashley Nazemi, Director of Development, at anazemi@atrium.org or stop by the business office.

10. **Please donate and support our school**
As at almost every independent school, tuition alone cannot sustain the budget. For that, we need you. When the Atrium School Annual Giving Campaign approaches you about making a donation this year, and stretching to provide as much additional support as you can, we ask that you please give the request your full consideration.

A Pre-K-6 school in Watertown, MA, The Atrium engages children in hands-on experiences and meaningful learning. For nearly 30 years, an Atrium education has delivered small classes, passionate faculty strong academic foundations and innovative approaches. Our warm, involved and diverse community is what makes Atrium so special.

Thank you to each and every one of you for your insights, ideas and engagement.
With appreciation,

Linda Echt and Susan Diller
Co-Directors, Atrium School

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