



THE HAPPY HOLLOW HOLLER

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HAPPY HOLLOW SCHOOL & PTO NEWSLETTER
April 13, 2017

“Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other.” ~Abraham Lincoln~

Dear Friends,



Once again, spring is finally in the air! I wasn't sure it was going to arrive this year... However, once again, Mother Nature has turned her attention to the task of creating all things spring ~ trees that burst with new buds as the flowers become the artists that add color to the brown coat that March always seems to wear. The light is brighter and stays on for longer. The sky wraps around us ~ void of clouds ~ effervescent with a blue so strong that it can only be hinting at what the New England waters will soon sport for that warm summer fun... But before that all unfolds, we begin to plan and to showcase. It is an interesting yin and yang ~ we showcase and prepare to celebrate all things this year ~ and yet, we simultaneously begin the process of getting ready to open our doors in September.

Personally, I love the showcase. Fifth grade will put on the culmination of so many studies in their play and biography show. The fourth grade will meet wolves ~ almost face to face ~ after amazing endangered species presentations ~ and continue with many exciting content ventures that prepare them to take over as the leaders of the school. Third graders will showcase their work over the past three years as they sing and perform at their recorder concert ~ followed by an exciting grade level open house. Second graders will be all about the butterflies, Flat Stanley travels ~ and the North End ~ with amazing open houses that showcase what they have learned about types of communities. First grade finished maple sugaring studies with a fantastic pancake breakfast, and will open their doors for open houses that will show you the year in review ~ always spectacular as their first grade year is truly transformative ~ just like their life science studies that bring tadpoles and hatching chicks to our school. Our kindergarten classes will share how they are ready for first grade having grown so very much since walking in with one foot just out of preschool ~ showing knowledge regarding so many new skill sets ~ trees, wood, and one class even put on a “Cat in the Hat” play that told the story from start to finish! Finally, there will be musical performances from our band and strings students that showcase the growth that keeps our music program award-winning! Spring has sprung! ~ It is all very exciting indeed ~ our students have found the seed to succeed!

It is that time of year again. Students are succeeding ~ and we all believed that they would, could ~ and now we have seen that they have! I hope you have enjoyed our conference season. As always, staff has done an exceptional job in creating presentations of “who” your child is at this grade level and you have seen the growth! I am always in awe at the expertise with which they present your children to you ~ and at the incredible amount of work it takes to make that happen for every child in the school. There are portfolios, data and agendas that always come with so many personal stories. I also want to thank all of parents and guardians who take the time out of busy schedules to sit down and meet. Together, we create the partnership that makes us the extraordinary school we are. Success!

Students continue to synthesize their grade level learning, and we can all see the growth in formal and informal ways. Growth that crosses curricula, the social, emotional and all aspects of a child's school day!

We are at that magical time of year when students are working toward finding great success in meeting the grade level standards for one grade ~ while keeping an eye wide open looking toward the summer ~ **and even planning for the next year!**





So it's here. PLACEMENT for NEXT YEAR ~ the fall.

Yes, the fall. We are once again going to start forming our new class configurations in May. So please read the following to understand our process:

Classroom teachers will meet with specialists, guidance counselors and special education teachers to create well-balanced, heterogeneous groupings, which reflect diverse talents, interests and needs. The staff will also address factors such as gender, social and academic strengths, special needs and friendships - not necessarily "best friends" but students who have nice working relationships in school. The classroom groups will then be submitted to me for comments and/or adjustment. I will then sit down with the guidance/SPED department for a last look. ~ Finally, I will assign a teacher to each group.

It takes a full month to move through the entire placement process; and with so many factors involved, we **cannot accept requests for individual teachers**. At each grade level, there is a whole team that works meticulously to determine the best possible class groupings. **Every child is considered** and all staff are involved, advocating for your child's academic and social needs. You may write requests about placement **if the following circumstances exist:**

- Request that your child not be placed with a specific child due to personal experience and impact on your child's learning. (A list of children will not be honored.)
- Concerns about placement with a teacher due to your close relationship with that teacher or if you would like a different experience, due to having an older sibling in a classroom in a prior year. (Teachers may also make a request based upon personal experience with a family.)

All letters regarding placement are confidential. If you are writing a letter, please send it to me by April 28th as the first session for grouping is May 3rd. **Due to the complex grouping process, I cannot accept letters after April 28th. I also cannot guarantee that every request sent will be honored.** We will do the best we can to honor those requests that follow the above mentioned requirements.

This time of year is always filled with the magic that mirrors the spring season and buoyant bloom. We have a lot of time to continue to grow, to experience so many things in the final phase of the 2016-17 school year. So let's continue to wonder and ponder, to marvel and mingle, to show and showcase, and to bring together the success that defines years' worth of growth. This is elementary school at its finest. Each year is encapsulated in a time bubble that we name by grade and lock deeply in our minds and hearts. Our young people are seeing the world for the first time and we have the honor to be the audience that has the preferential seating to witness a phenomenon that will never occur again. Enjoy and treasure every moment.



Much peace,

Jim Lee, Principal

This and That from the Principal's Office:

Please dress for the weather! ~ We will hopefully not have many days that are still cold ~ but some will be rainy, a lot that will be muddy ~ and that means being extra, extra prepared! You may want to send some spare clothing for those days when a slide to make a play becomes a disaster for sitting the rest of the day...

April, May at Happy Hollow:

Friday, April 14	No School Good Friday	
Week of April 17-21	Spring Vacation No School	
Monday, April 24	Classes resume	
Thursday, April 27	Spring Reset: A Night to Learn about School Mindfulness	6:30pm Dinner 7:00pm – 8:00pm program ~ school age children welcome to participate ~ child care for younger or those who don't wish to participate ~ Happy Hollow Gym
Tuesday, May 23	5th Grade Play for Whole School	10:00am – HH Gym
Tuesday, May 23	5th Grade Play Parents and Families	7:00 pm - 8:00 pm HH Gym
Monday, May 29	No School Memorial Day	
Tuesday, May 30	Spring String Thing	7:00pm – 8:00pm WMS
Thursday, June 1	Happy Hollow Instrumental Concert	10:00am HH Gym
Thursday, June 1	Grand Band Concert	7:00pm – 8:00pm WMS

MCAS DATES

Wednesday, April 26th, Thursday, April 27th, Friday, April 28th: 5th grade ELA

Monday, May 1st, Tuesday, May 2nd, Wednesday, May 3rd: 4th grade ELA

Tuesday, May 9th, Wednesday, May 10th: 5th grade Math

Monday, May 15th, Tuesday, May 16th: 4th grade Math

Wednesday, May 17th, Thursday, May 18th: 5th grade Science

Wednesday, May 24th Thursday, May 25th: 3rd grade Math

We ask that you please avoid scheduling appointments that will cause your child to be out of school on these dates. Please also help your child to get a goodnight's rest and a healthy breakfast! Assembly Meetings ~ Due to MCAS testing and 5th Grade play rehearsals ~ we will have an assembly meeting on Monday April 24th ~ all are invited. After that, we will not have another meeting for the month of May. We will resume again on June

School Council: SC is planning a “Spring Reset Mindfulness Night” for Thursday April 27th ~ We hope it sets your spring in good stead. Come and learn about how we use Mindfulness and SEL within our school community. Teachers and students will participate and we will provide child care and dinner. Click this link for more information and to RSVP!

<https://waylandpto.wufoo.com/forms/z7icea30iz31rd/>

HAPPY HOLLOW SCHOOL HAS NEW PHONE NUMBERS!

All of the Happy Hollow School phone numbers have changed! We have implemented a brand-new school-wide phone system and the old phone numbers no longer work. Please update your contact lists and directories. Please notify all caregivers, emergency contacts etc. of these changes. A complete phone listing has been posted on The Happy Hollow website.

Happy Hollow Main Number: [508-358-8641](tel:508-358-8641)

Safe To School/Absence or Tardy Line 508-358-8641 **OPTION 1** (or hh_attendance @wayland.k12.ma.us)

Fax Number: [508-358-8642](tel:508-358-8642)

BASE: [508-358-8645](tel:508-358-8645)

Cafeteria: [508-358-8647](tel:508-358-8647)

Guidance - Ms. Santomena [508-358-8649](tel:508-358-8649)

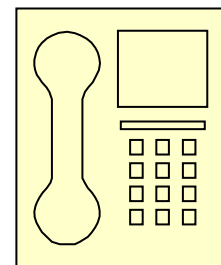
Guidance - Dr. Kline [508-358-8650](tel:508-358-8650)

Nurse: [508-358-8648](tel:508-358-8648)

Resource Room: [508-358-8644](tel:508-358-8644)

Speech and Language: [508-358-8651](tel:508-358-8651)

METCO Coordinator: [508-358-8652](tel:508-358-8652)



CURRICULUM CORNER

FROM THE COMPUTER LAB



3rd-5th Graders: The new Massachusetts Digital Literacy and Computer Science standards were passed in June 2016. As noted in the standards, students are working toward achieving the following keyboarding goals. Third graders - 15 wpm; Fourth graders - 20 wpm; and Fifth graders 25 wpm.

At home keyboarding practice (two times a week for 15-20 minutes) will help students reach their grade level goals. Students can access the All the Right Type website from “For Students” link on the [Happy Hollow website](#).

Specific details about grade level lessons can be found on my website. The links for each grade level are below!



[1st Grade Lessons:](#) Information about our Kid Pix penguin project and our next unit are posted on the [1st Grade website](#).

[2nd Grade Lessons:](#) Information about our research/continent unit is listed on the [2nd Grade website](#).



[3rd Grade Lessons:](#) Details about our new Google Apps presentation unit is posted on the [3rd Grade website](#).



[4th Grade Lessons:](#) We spent the month practicing our keyboarding and programming skills. Details are posted on the [4th Grade website](#).



Scratch



[5th Grade Lessons:](#) We are continuing our programming unit by using Scratch 2.0 the desktop software version of Scratch. More details are posted on the [5th Grade website](#).

HEALTHY HOLLER

FROM THE HEALTH ROOM:

Important information:

Dear Families,

Please be aware that we continue to see many cases of strep throat and flu at school and in our community. We ask that you be vigilant in monitoring your child at home. Your children should be evaluated by their physician for possible strep and/or flu if not feeling well. Please keep your children home until they are fully well. Please remind your children at home as we do at school that the single most important thing you can do to prevent the spread of illness is proper hand washing.



How can I prevent getting the flu?

Please review info at www.cdc.gov/flu/

Get flu vaccine every year as soon as it is available.

Wash your hands often with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based hand gel.

Cough or sneeze into a tissue or into the inside of your elbow if you don't have a tissue. Throw tissues away and wash your hands. Always wash your hands before touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

Use household cleaners to clean things that are touched often, like door knobs, toys, and phones.

Avoid close physical contact with people who are sick. Try to stay at least 3-6 feet from someone who is sick with the flu. People with young children, a weak immune system, or a chronic illness should avoid crowds, if possible.

Stay home from work and school if you get sick with a flu-like illness (fever with cough or sore throat) and avoid contact with others so the virus does not spread. Stay at home until you have been free from fever for at least 24 hours after your last dose of fever-reducing medication (like Tylenol, Advil or Motrin). For most people this will mean staying at home for about 4 days.

STREP: Please observe your child for the following symptoms. **Please note that your child may complain of only one symptom such as a headache. There may not be a sore throat and/or fever. Red eye(s) can also be strep.**

Symptoms: **Strep throat** – Your child may have a fever, sore throat, enlarged tonsils, swollen neck glands, headache, stomachache with or without vomiting, and a cough. **Scarlet fever** - rarely, a very fine raised rash appears at the same time as the throat soreness. The rash feels like sandpaper. The rash is most often on the neck, chest, elbow, groin and the inner thigh and folds of the armpit. Later on the skin on the fingertips may peel.

Spread: By coughing or sneezing. **Contagious Period:** Until 24 hours after antibiotics treatment begins.

Call your health care provider if anyone in your home has symptoms. A doctor may do a lab test and prescribe antibiotics. If your child is confirmed to have strep throat, please contact your school nurse. This helps alert other parents of possible infection. It will also help minimize the spread and help prevent recurrent cases.

All families should have a backup plan in place if a parent is not readily available to pick up their children from school when sick. Children should be picked up within an hour of receiving a call from the school nurse. Please consider using other people in your family or neighborhood.

Epi-Pen Recall

- All Epi-Pens have been checked at school. I have notified parents if your student's Epi-Pen was on the recall list. <http://www.mylan.com/en/epipenrecall>

Check your children for ticks:

- Here is important information about ticks and what you need to do to protect you and your family. Please read information on the following websites:
http://kidshealth.org/parent/firstaid_safe/sheets/tick_bites_sheet.html
<http://www.cdc.gov/ticks/index.html>
<http://www.tickencounter.org>

Spring allergies:

- Please be sure that you are observing your child for signs and symptoms of allergies
- It is important that your child be given allergy medication before symptoms start
- Many children will have watery, red, itchy eyes – and over the counter eye drops will help if given before school

Have a great, healthy April school vacation

Jeanne MacDonald RN

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508-358-8648