



THE HAPPY HOLLOW HOLLER

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HAPPY HOLLOW SCHOOL & PTO NEWSLETTER
November 11, 2016

“Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.”

~Winston Churchill

PRINCIPAL’S CORNER

November, 2016

Dear Friends,



“Ah ha!” moments are meant to be shared and often become the secret gems that sustain a pathway toward something good ~ something important. ~ Usually, we celebrate the retirement of our staff in early June. We honor them with speeches and celebrations that churn and mix with the frenetic and melancholy days that bring us into summer. They are always extremely well done and no two are ever the same. However, due to illness, there was such a gathering on Friday November 4th. Because the timing was unusual, the whole event stood out in important ways that I feel I would be remiss should I not share my observations with all of you.

There are many factors that go into sustaining our position as a leadership district and we actively engage in an ongoing process to ensure that we purport a protocol toward that end. We have an excellent Superintendent with great vision, a supportive School Committee that cares deeply about every learner in our district. We have curriculum teams and staff that research and consider studies and pedagogical practices that make professional development an integral part of our process in a manner that unifies us and keeps the district current in best practices. We have supporting organizations in our PTO and the Wayland Schools Foundation that spark creativity and cutting-edge thinking ~ and a community that supports the schools financially and with volunteer work that goes unrivaled by any like organization. ~ All of which become key ingredients that support our recipe for success.

Yet, there is another key ingredient that is not so readily apparent but I saw it so very clearly on that Friday evening when we honored one of our finest speech and language therapists as she moves on to a new phase in her life. I looked around the room and because this is my 25th year in Wayland, I could see the layers that create the “courage to continue” to which Winston Churchill refers in his quote that began this piece ~ the staff that is truly outstanding.

There is unity in the Wayland staff and it is a tie that defies the typical tangential turmoil that twists and turns the way that so many are forced to build a career path in this current day. The people standing to listen to the speech, the clever tributes and those who delivered them as well ~ consisted of retirees from long ago up to recent hires.

Although we continue to search for the best and the brightest, that alone does not account for a staff that is consistently strong and loyal in a way that gives each an ownership, a pride and a commitment to sustaining the

success of our district. We have the team that works for and receives “the gold watch” that coined the retirement in the days of old when most went into a career and went out of it through the same set of doors. It is the partnership that is key and should be noted and recognized as important ~ my reason for writing on the topic.

Most importantly, you are all a part of this partnership and should know that, so it always continues to be a component of who we are in Wayland. What makes our students happy and productive? It is not just the way we teach or even what we teach. It has everything to do with a community that creates a school system where people are drawn in ~ supported and granted the membership that creates success. That is why staff tenure is long and why the membership continues long after a retirement date.

Part of the retiree’s speech on Friday evening was a whole paragraph about how grateful she and her husband were for those who taught her two children ~ who are now highly successful and happy young adults ~ both graduates from Wayland Public Schools. She was not only a partner as an employee; she was a partner as a parent ~ not an uncommon phenomenon in the Wayland way. Staff often brings their children to Wayland for schooling, many live in the community and many who live in the community that are not on staff become volunteers or members of the Wayland Schools Foundation ~ or other governing bodies and committees. Students take note of this and welcome new students so that families find their place ~ and it is this all inclusive membership that makes us a district of note.

Make no mistake, it is a fragile occurrence and must be maintained or the ripple effect could take it all apart quickly. People come to Wayland because it is a warm and welcoming community, respectful of differences and always working to grow in that direction. What is important for us to know and to recognize is that we must always be purposeful in the way we protract this practice.

Today’s society and pop culture do not always support the fundamental strengths that define our school community. For now, it is alive and well... and as I listened to the list of things the retiree would miss, the top consisted of the children, families, colleagues and friends that defined her spectacular years of service to the town. ~ When my eyes welled with tears, I knew that I was so proud to be a part of this place and too, that I had to encourage you all to continue to treasure what we have and to work every day to maintain the support and sense of community ~ the membership ~ that links all that is good in the educational process to all that is important in being a true leadership district.

My door remains always open and I want to hear when there is a problem or concern, none too small to work to correct, and none too large that we can’t partner to make it improved. Our partnership in all matters is what matters and means our “Success is never final” ...and “our “failure not...fatal.” (Churchill)

Most sincerely,



Jim Lee
Principal



This and That from the Principal's Office:

To begin this section of my letter, my wish to you all is that you find the peace and happiness that makes for warm and wonderful family times as we approach the fall and winter holidays! ~

Although the PTO has already thanked you in the Happy Hollow Happenings, I want you all to know just how important I believe your efforts are to the well-being of our school community. My thanks is also heartfelt and I too, must send my gratitude for the following:

Movie Night ~ An amazing night of fun, family and friendship!

A Big "THANK YOU!" goes out to Melissa Hartford who created and led the magical evening! The children were so well-behaved and the fun of an old-time driven-in movie theater really came alive as it seems to do each year. Families had the opportunity to curl up on blankets, chairs and share a fun movie, delicious popcorn, treats and great company! It was the best of what makes all community events so wonderful! Special thanks also goes to the following parents who worked so closely with Melissa:

Concessions - Tori Alhart, Abigail Buffum, Jeff Chausse, Gayle Gledhill Hallway

Bouncer - Nate Buffum

Balloon Donation – Polina Bouriev

Candy Tickets - Students Julia O'Brien, Catalina Caulfield

Clean-Up - Danielle Agyeman & family, Pearlman family ~ and the Happy Hollow night custodial team

A Book Store in our School!

~ It is amazing when an open space becomes something new and wonderful. **Brooke Stein** converted the front of our building into a welcoming and wonderful book store. The atmosphere was fun, calm and all had a positive experience! I am so very grateful. There were many parents who assisted her in bringing about this huge success and they included: **Irene Rideout, Christine Walsh, Sara Langan, Danielle Agyeman, Inessa Shur, Daniela Vinci, Lidet Girma, Jennifer Pearlman, Marchella Lee, Alyssa Regan, Yan Gu, Melissa Lange, Randi Rose, Lisa Lavelle, Colleen Morneweck, Maria Peredna, Alexander Torrales, Amy Conner, Jessica Polozzotti, Kara Harrington, Linda Hines**

School Meeting Assemblies - will be every Monday unless otherwise noted. Assemblies run from 9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. All are welcome!

A Swiss Family is Traveling the World to Learn about Global Warming!

They are sailing around the world for the second time and have even crossed the Northwest Passage! They work with a group called TOP to TOP and live on their boat. In fact, all of the children were born on the boat during their extensive travel.

They are coming ashore long enough to visit the area ~ as they do at each stage of their travel. We are so lucky! They are coming to Happy Hollow from November 14 to November 23. The children will attend classes and the family will make a special presentation on Wednesday November 16, 2016 @ 9:00am in our gym.

The Schwoerers ~ Dario & Sabine, the mom and dad have four children ~ Salina, Andri, Noe, and Alegra and they are all looking forward to meeting us and to sharing their experiences with us. They also want to learn about us. One fun fact about them is that they actually speak 3-4 languages! Amazing!

They've presented to over 100,000 school children around the world, so they're experienced in how they speak to large groups. They will even ask us to help by picking up trash at our recess times.

Ethan Strimling, was the lead speaker at a recent press conference a TV Station did a very nice story - <http://www.wcsh6.com/news/local/swiss-family-traveling-world-lands-in-maine/343947723> - and Maine Public Radio aired a 4 minute piece on them as well, <http://mainepublic.org/post/swiss-family-documenting-climate-change-16-year-expedition#stream/0> , among other press pieces.

We sure are excited to welcome them to our Happy Hollow family!

November and December at Happy Hollow:

Monday November 14	Cultural Enrichment – no assembly	9:00-9:45 - Gr. 3-5 10:00-10:45 - Gr. K-2
Wednesday November 16	Top to Top presentation for students	
Thursday November 17	Grade 3 Plimoth Plantation field trip	
Wednesday November 23	School closes at 12 Noon No Lunch Served Happy Thanksgiving!	
Thursday and Friday, November 24 and 25	No School ~ Thanksgiving Holiday	
Monday December, 12	Strings and Band Loker and Happy Hollow	7:00pm WMS Auditorium
Tuesday December, 13	Instrumental Concert at HH for Strings and Band	10:00am HH Gym
Thursday December 15	Choral Concert	10:00am HH Gym 7:00pm HH Gym
Tuesday December 20	Grade 4 Cultural Celebration open house	6:00-7:30pm rooms 7,9,10
Friday December 23	Full day of school Holiday Recess begins at 3 p.m.	
December 26 through January 2	Holiday Recess	Classes resume January 3

CURRICULUM CORNER

FROM THE LIBRARY



The library has enjoyed a busy and bustling fall. Lots of books are being read and students are constantly checking out our topical book displays and new books. Grades K and 1 have been learning about how to choose a "just right" book. Grades 2 and 3 have been reviewing library organization and the Dewey Decimal System. Grade 4 has been reviewing higher level library organization and how to use the card catalog. Grade 5 has begun work on a year long "passion research project." Library class schedules may be viewed [here](#). The library is also open most mornings before school.

Library Borrowing Policy

Grades K-1 may borrow one book each week. Grades 2-3 may borrow two books each week, with an additional week grace period. Grades 4-5 are allowed to check out up to five books, and they may keep them for four weeks.

Did you know?

Did you know that you can view the [Happy Hollow Library Catalog](#) from any computer with internet access? You can see if we have a book before you even come to school!

Overdue Notices

Overdue notices will be handed out during library classes next week and emailed to parents after school on Friday 11/18. Please try to locate overdue materials and send them in with your child before the Thanksgiving break. If a book is lost and cannot be found, we ask for a check to cover the cost of replacing the book. Alternatively, we will accept (and actually prefer!) a new copy of the book. Please note that your child may not borrow additional library books if they have excessive overdues, Please feel free to email the librarian with any questions or concerns, especially if you feel that your child has received an overdue notice in error.

Keep reading!

Colleen Flannery, Happy Hollow Library Teacher

[Happy Hollow Library website](#)

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FROM THE TECHNOLOGY LAB

3rd-5th Grade Students: Just a reminder that students would benefit from keyboarding practice at home two times a week for 15-20 minutes. Students can access the All the Right Type website from the “For Students” link on the [Happy Hollow website](#).



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

1st Grade - Students are using ipads for drawing. We have looked at the apps Doodle Buddy and Drawing Pad. Drawing Pad allows the students to save their work so we will be using that app moving forward.

2nd Grade - Students will create an All About Me slideshow using Kid Pix. Students will learn how to import a picture of themselves, review word-processing tools and put their pages together with transitions and sounds to build a quick slideshow.

3rd Grade - We have begun our unit on using online resources. Students will learn how to use an online dictionary and encyclopedia to locate information. They will not be “googling” for the answer. Read more details about our work [here](#).

4th Grade: Fourth graders are working on their word-processing skills. Specifically, they are learning how to cut, copy and paste. We are using Google Classroom as a way to push out assignments to students. Read more details about our project [here](#).

5th Grade: Students are working on a Digital Superhero lesson. Students will design a digital superhero (using Kid Pix or Google Draw) and then write a story about how their superhero helps digital citizens make appropriate online decisions. Read more about our project [here](#).

HEALTHY HOLLER

FROM THE HEALTH ROOM:

I hope this finds you all healthy! We are beginning to see cases of coughs, colds, and strep throat. You may be aware that strep throat does not always present with a fever, and there may not be a sore throat. **Other** symptoms of strep throat are:

- *headache
- *stomach ache with or without vomiting
- *swollen neck glands
- *enlarged tonsils
- *unusual rash

If your child is confirmed to have strep throat, please let the school know. It will help to minimize the spread and help prevent recurrent cases.

When should I keep my child home from school due to illness? Please keep your child home if she/he:

- *has vomiting or diarrhea
- *has an oral temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher
- *has a severe sore throat
- *has pink bloodshot eyes with yellow or green drainage
- *has just begun antibiotics (must be on for 24 hours before returning to school).

Students must be free of vomiting or diarrhea and be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication before returning to school. We appreciate your adherence to this policy to help reduce the spread of illness.

Flu Information:

The CDC recommend that everyone 6 months and older get vaccinated.

Is it a cold vs flu? : <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/cdc/flu/cold-flu-comparison.pdf>

4th Grade Parent(s):

All 4th grade students are required to have an up-to-date physical for (2016-2017). Please send these in to the school nurse. It is required by the Massachusetts Department of Health.

Head Lice:

Parents should check their child's head as part of their daily routine at home. Early detection for head lice helps to prevent additional cases from occurring in a classroom. Please review the following websites:

www.cdc.gov/lice/head/factsheets.htm

www.headlice.org

<http://www.webmd.com/children/ss/slideshow-lice-overview>

Other Important Info:

Please be sure that your child is appropriately dressed with the colder days ahead (coats, hats, mittens, etc). Children in the lower grade levels should have a change of clothes available, placed in their backpacks in the event that clothes get wet during the school day. This will save a call home and trip to school during the day for you.

As always, I am available daily if you have any questions or concerns.

Have a wonderful , restful Thanksgiving recess!

Jeanne MacDonald RN

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