



THE
HAPPY HOLLOW
HOLLER

HAPPY HOLLOW SCHOOL & PTO NEWSLETTER

December 09, 2011

“The most important single ingredient in the formula of success is knowing how to get along with people.”

~Theodore Roosevelt



Hello Friends,

Despite the fact that we've been able to wear spring clothing and light weight coats, the calendar is letting us know that we are once again at the Holiday Season. The days might be warm, but they are too short and most certainly, too dark. With no snow in sight, it is as if we are hopping on Olympic style sleds ~ Bobsleds, Luge and Skeletons ~ barreling down the Holiday shoot that most often ends with a bit of a break! Phew!

Hopefully, you will all find the moments that make for many memorable occasions with your family and friends ~ filled with fun, and relaxation. In the meantime, we have concerts, projects and units to complete and lots to do before we close our school doors on Wednesday, December 21st.

Young people feel the tension of this season ~ some are too happy, some too sad, some just right ~ but the fairytale ending can sometimes be challenging to find. They are often tired. Sickness is around us and the newness of their class and year has worn off a bit. So how do we help our children to navigate this season so that they can enjoy it?

Edward Thorndike, an expert in social intelligence says we need to develop our interpersonal intelligence and understand that it is crucial to hold and/or be in the process of acquiring, “the ability to understand and manage men and women, boys and girls, to act wisely in human relations.” ~ In all school settings, regardless of the age ~ young children navigate a tricky social world and it is not easy ~Most especially at special times of the year such as the Holiday Season when there are many “extras” added on top of the usual. The Holiday Season brings out our differences. We all celebrate differently. If there has been a loss in a family or community, the Holiday Season can bring out the blues. Children may find themselves playing out some of the stresses in ways they don't understand and it can affect their social lives.



Because of this, we all must be cognizant that our children may need a few extras at home and school to keep happy and healthy. Those extras are not extra gifts, extra events and extra pressures. Katherine Lee, former editor and writer at *Parenting* and *Working Mother* magazines, and the mother of a 10-year-old son, has written numerous articles and essays on parenting and children's health and development for *Parenting*, *Working Mother*, *Wondertime*, *Ladies' Home Journal*, EverydayHealth.com, Sprig.com and About.com. Ms. Lee suggests the following as a simple guide for parents and all to whom children look as authority figures:

- “~Set a calm example.
- ~Set up conditions for good behavior.
- ~Remember the importance of routines.
- ~Watch what he's/she's eating.
- ~Get your child moving (*Save time for regular play and regular playdates.*)
- ~Avoid over-scheduling.
- ~Have your grade-schooler help you. (*Helping to prepare in ways that fit with your family values is a great way to show your child that you are proud of your traditions and that whatever you do as a family is your way of enjoying the time together.*)
- ~Schedule some quiet time.
- ~Remind your child -- and yourself -- what the holidays are really all about.”



Remind them of what is important to your family and why. Reinforce that you are proud of your traditions and that you are interested in the many ways others celebrate as well ~ even if that means not celebrating anything at all. Children need to feel proud of what they are doing especially if it is different from the way many are celebrating. Many social challenges arise when students feel they have to compete as to what is best or the best at this time of year. As always, take time to talk about what is going on and if there are concerns, contact the school. In this way, we all work to provide students with the tools to enjoy and have fun during the Holiday Season.

I wish you all peace, time to relax and much fun!

All best,
Jim Lee

This and that from the principal's office:

Service Projects completed since our last newsletter ~

Service Learning Projects:

MSPCA Raffle to help prevent cruelty to animals throughout Massachusetts ~ completed by Abigail MacDonald, Emma Levy, Gabriella Rostler and Christina Taxiarchis ~ Raised over \$240 ~ selling tickets for \$.25! They sure did a lot of work! Congratulations to each of them!

Team ~ Lego Electrical Engineers ~ Members included: Nico Alvarado, Jet Chung, Alex Dennis, Nicholas Lien, Michael Long, Calvin Neprud, Walker Whitehouse ~ The Project: Collaborative Learning and Presentation Skills ~ Taught at our morning PLC times for three days ~ competed at a regional Lego qualifier event and won the Rookie of the Year Award! Congratulations Team! That is a job really well done! ~ Also to all the adults who helped them especially, Diana Lien!

Like last month, there are many, many more in the works! Ask your child if he/she has a project about which he/she is passionate and on which he/she would like to begin the journey of service learning. I'll keep you posted as we move along!

As always, remember to visit the Happy Hollow and District Calendars for upcoming events.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<u>1</u> 09:00AM JLM -4th grade	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u> 09:00AM Promised Lands: Immigration Jo	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>11</u>	<u>12</u> 10:00AM HH Chorus Concert 07:00PM HH Chorus Concert	<u>13</u> Third Grade Open House - Akers & Dowd	<u>14</u> Third Grade Open House - Brenneman & Cohen 06:00PM Happy Hollow Band Concert	<u>15</u> 10:00AM Instrumental Music Concert 07:00PM Wayland Music (Strings) Winter	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u> December Recess	<u>23</u> December Recess	<u>24</u> December Recess
<u>25</u> December Recess	<u>26</u> December Recess	<u>27</u> December Recess	<u>28</u> December Recess	<u>29</u> December Recess	<u>30</u> December Recess	<u>31</u>

Please remember that on Wednesday, December 21, 2011 at the usual
Wednesday dismissal time ~ 1:50 p.m.

School reopens on Tuesday, January 3, 2012

Dress for the Weather: We go outside on most days ~ unless it is too rainy, too snowy or too cold (wind chill and/or temperature moves to unsafe levels). Because of this, we ask that you send your child to school with proper cold weather attire. Coats, hats or hoods, gloves or mittens, snowpants and boots are all necessary. We cannot let students who do not wear snowpants and boots play in the snow. In these cases, students have to play in restricted areas that are cleared of any snow and their freedom to play is limited.

Remember to check the lost and found: We have many things lost and few found at this point. Please check the bins and claim your lost items. To find the lost and found area, go down the main hallway and take your first left toward the exit ramp. You'll see the bins and hangers there. Thanks.

CURRICULUM CORNER



Greetings from Mrs. Calkins!



Grade 1

During the month of December, first graders will continue to explore dance as a social activity and experiment with movement as a means of distinguishing formal sections and phrasing in musical works. As a class, they will highlight the musical form of the March from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Ballet in a fun and engaging performance activity. We will also add to our repertoire of favorite songs while developing vocal skills.

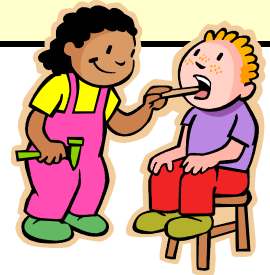
Grade 2

During the month of December, second graders will continue practicing mallet techniques while exploring the creative possibilities of melodic and rhythmic improvisation. They will learn about a famous and prolific composer, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, who began writing music at a very young age. They will sing an Alleluia melody by Mozart using solfege syllables and then play an arrangement of it on xylophones and metallophones.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at: susan_calkins@wayland.k12.ma.us



HEALTHY HOLLER



News From the Health Room December 2011

STREP THROAT

- There have been an increased number of “strep throat” cases here at Happy Hollow.
- Children that have been diagnosed have had very few symptoms and do not present with fevers.
- The first complaints by your children may be a headache and/or a stomach ache. Children do not necessarily complain about sore throats.
- If your child has these symptoms, you should bring them to their doctor for a throat culture. Some rapid strep tests done in the doctor’s office have been negative, with the throat cultures being positive 48 hours later.
- Children diagnosed with “strep” throat need to be on an antibiotic for 24 hours before returning to school, so they are not contagious to others.
- If medication is required during school time, please ask your pharmacy for a “school bottle” labeled from the pharmacy with medication name, dose, and frequency. We will also need a parent permission form/note.

FLU

- With the flu season upon us, more children may be sent home that come to school with colds/coughs. Your child’s health is an important concern. It is critical that children get the rest that they need to recover from both bacterial and/or viral infections.
- Please check your cell phone throughout the day as parents will be called if your child needs to be sent home.



The most important first line of defense against germs is good hand washing. Please continue to reinforce this at home. We will continue to educate children here at school.

All School Head Lice Screening

- Our next check will be after December school vacation, on Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at 8:45am.
- Please contact Elizabeth Curtin at escurtin@comcast.net if you can help. No experience is necessary as training is available.



4th grade

- Please send in a current medical physical for your child if you have not done so already.
- It is a state mandate that all 4th graders have a current physical on file for the 2011-12 academic school year.

Please feel free to contact the health room with any concerns at 508-358-6051.

Happy Holidays and stay healthy!

[Jeanne MacDonald@wayland.k12.ma.us](mailto:Jeanne_MacDonald@wayland.k12.ma.us)

Green Team Tips and Announcement

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Wayland Schools Green Team now meets every first Monday of the month at Happy Hollow. Anyone is welcome to join us. On Monday, December 5th, we will meet from 4:00 to 5:30. If you'd like to find out more, volunteer, or join the Green Team, check out our website and contact us at www.waylandgreenteam.org.

Food composting, recycling, and gardening continue to expand at our schools:-- Claypit is composting food scraps in the cafeteria and recycling all plastic containers, utensils, aluminum foil, cans and bottles (deep recycling).-- Happy Hollow has started deep recycling in the cafeteria.-- Middle School - The 7th grade is recycling all hard plastics, styrofoam and most food scraps from the cafeteria. Student volunteers are composting the food scraps during study hall.

We are not able to recycle our styrofoam trays (7th grade is an exception) and are throwing away about 270 per day and 5,400 per month. Cheryl Judd is working with the Green Team to consider alternatives to styrofoam.

TIPS:

To conserve energy this winter:

- 1- Test for air leaks next to windows, doors, electrical boxes, plumbing fixtures, electrical outlets, ceiling fixtures, attic hatches and other locations where there is a possible air path to the outside. These areas may need caulking, sealing or weather stripping.
- 2- Adjust your water heater's temperature to between 120 and 125 degrees and save on water heating costs. And if you go away for more than a weekend, turn it down to the "vacation" setting.
- 3- Replace your incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescents (these save about 70% on lighting cost per light).
- 4- Unplug electronics, TV and other equipment when not in use (using a powerstrip). Turn off your computers at night (this will not harm them). Taken together, these small items can use as much power as your refrigerator.

Thank you. -Wayland Schools Green Team

2011-2012 PTO Events: Happy Hollow Save the Date

Together We Can Make It Happen!

Dates subject to change

EVENT	DATE/TIME	CONTACT
Gift Your Child: Part 1	August – December 1	Amy Simmons
Cultural Enrichment	Ongoing	Alexia Obar and Seta Abrahamian
Just Like Me	Throughout the year	Jennifer Bonner and Susan Green
PTO Board Meeting	1 st Friday of the month 9:15 am at Loker library	Stephanie Leong
Coffee with Mr. Lee	December 8 (Th) at 2 pm HH Library	Andrea O'Brien
Holiday Teacher & Staff Appreciation	December 16	Loconzolo/Thompkins
Toy Drive	December	Alexia Obar
Fitness Challenge	January	Jeanne Brown
Lice Checks	Jan. 3 (T) at 8:45 am	Elizabeth Curtin
Town-wide PTO Meeting	TBD	Stephanie Leong
Gift Your Child: Part 2, Backpack Auction	January 2012	Amy Simmons
Lice Checks	Feb. 28 (T) at 8:45 am	Elizabeth Curtin
Talent Show	Mar. 2 (F)	Karen Wuerfl
Town-wide Bingo at WMS cafeteria	Mar. 16 (F) at 6:00 pm	Alexia Obar
World Fair at Loker	Mar. 31 (Sa) 1:00 – 4:00 pm	Amy Simmons
Lice Checks	Apr. 24 (T) at 8:45 am	Elizabeth Curtin
Earth Day Events	Apr. 28 & 29 (Sa & Su)	Christina Veal and Katrien Vander Staeten
Book Fair	Jun. 6 & 7 (W & Th)	Lynne Cribben and Val Erdekian
End of Year Picnic	Jun. 6 (W) at 5:30 pm Rain Date: Jun. 11 (M)	Nancy Funkhouser
Annual PTO Meeting & Thank you Breakfast	Jun. 8 (F) at 9:15 am HH Cafeteria	Stephanie Leong
Teacher & Staff Appreciation Event	Jun. 15 (F)	Loconzolo/Thompkins

PTO Events



COFFEE WITH MR. LEE- Topic: Gift Giving Policy

Thursday, December 8, **2 pm**

Happy Hollow Library

Join Mr. Lee for coffee before pick-up on Thursday, December 8th, at 2 pm in the Library. Come by just to say hi, or with a specific question. We will start off with an open discussion and then review the school district's [gift giving policy](#), as clarified by Superintendent Stein. Bring any questions you may have about these guidelines and discuss gift-giving ideas for the holidays. Little ones in tow are always welcome!

If you have any topic suggestions for a future Coffee with Mr. Lee, please contact Stephanie Leong at happyhollowpto@gmail.com.



PTO BOARD MEETING – All are welcome!

Friday, January 6, at 9:15 am

Loker Library

The Happy Hollow/Loker Board meets monthly. These meetings are open to the entire membership and everyone is encouraged to attend with any questions, ideas or suggestions. Little ones in tow are always welcome!

PTO Volunteer Needs



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BACKPACK AUCTION— Early December only!

The PTO is gearing up for the second (and final) part of their annual fundraising drive, the **Gift Your Child Backpack Auction**. The **Backpack Auction** is a really fun, silent-auction type event (conducted solely via backpack – not a live auction event) that will take place in late January. While the PTO's fall fundraising drive was a chance for families to gift our children with a donation to the PTO, the **Backpack Auction** gives our teachers, staff and the community (camps, coaches, fire department, police department, etc.) the opportunity to “gift our children” with a unique experience (ride to school with the police chief!), the chance to win a bargain camp week (Beach Buddies, Summer Adventure, Cape Cod Sea Camps, Champion Soccer and many more have donated in the past), or to bid on special time with a favorite teacher (most teachers participate and donate special or unique opportunities for a child to spend meaningful time with them outside of the classroom).

The **Backpack Auction** committee needs a couple of volunteers to help contact community resources (Fire Chief, Police Chief, Varsity sports coaches, and small/local businesses, etc.) who have donated in the past to see if they would be willing to donate again this year. This is an easy, *finite* job that can be done from home via phone or email (so PERFECT if you've been wanting to help out and volunteer this year but have little ones at home that make it difficult to do so in the classroom), and which you could easily split with a friend or two. The work would all be done in the first three weeks of December, and wrapped up before the holiday break. If you are interested in helping out, please email [Amy Simmons](mailto:Amy.Simmons@happyhollow.org), and she can explain to you more about both the **Backpack Auction** and how the committee needs help.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: HOLIDAY STAFF & FACULTY APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

Friday, December 16th

The PTO is planning a special Winter Luncheon for the staff and faculty of Happy Hollow on Friday, Dec. 16. We are hoping to pamper our hard-working teachers and staff with a delicious lunch. We are asking for soups (preferably delivered in a soup pot or a crock-pot), salads, hearty pasta dishes, drinks and sweets. To contribute, visit <http://www.volunteerspot.com/login/entry/642345634602428072>.

Thanks in advance for your support of this special meal. We know it's a very busy time for everyone and we truly appreciate your help!

LICE CHECK VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Tuesday, January 3 at 8:45am

We need parent volunteers for the Happy Hollow Lice Check on Tuesday, January 3, at 8:45am. Please email Elizabeth Curtin at escurtin@comcast.net if you are available. The more volunteers we have, the quicker the morning goes. The Happy Hollow school nurse will meet volunteers in the Happy Hollow gym for a brief demonstration for those who need it and to hand out gloves and other items needed to do the check.

This is an important task for the sake of your child's health, and the health of all the children in the school, as well as the teachers. Thank you in advance for your help!

PRIZES NEEDED FOR FITNESS CHALLENGE

We'll be holding our annual Fitness Challenge in January to help kids start healthy habits in the new year. We need prizes! We're looking for prizes that will encourage kids to be more fit, like sports equipment, fitness class passes, lessons, etc. If you have anything you can donate or contribute, or if you have a relationship with a vendor we could contact, please contact Jeanne Brown at jeanne_brown@comcast.net.



WEB SAVVY? Looking for a way to get involved from home?

The Happy Hollow/Loker PTO is looking for someone who is interested in helping to manage the [PTO website](#). No special technical experience is necessary; just be comfortable on the internet. You would shadow our current Website Manager. The great thing about this opportunity is that it is that it can be done from home, at any hour of the day. Interested in getting involved? Contact Stephanie Leong at

happyhollowpto@gmail.com.

PTO News



MOVIE NIGHT CHALLENGE

Gift Your Child has a challenge for Happy Hollow! If the Happy Hollow community can reach 50% *participation* in the PTO's **Gift Your Child** fundraising drive by the end of the year (December, 2011), the PTO will host a *bonus* Movie Night on Friday, February 3rd. That's Right!! Halloween Movie Night is a favorite school tradition, and we'll bring it back in February to celebrate if Happy Hollow can reach this milestone. But ONLY if, as a school, we can reach 50% participation in **Gift Your Child**.

Happy Hollow is currently right at the 30% participation benchmark, so this means we need to **double** our participation rate in one month. **ALL DONATIONS COUNT** – whether you can give \$25, \$50, \$100 or more...this is a *participation* goal, not a monetary goal!! Every donation you are able to make helps the PTO continue to fund all of the educational enhancement programs we currently provide. Everything from new playground equipment to teacher stipends to the recent *Iveria* cultural enrichment performance...these are all funded with your **Gift Your Child** donations.

You can donate with a credit card [via our secure website](#) (The website is a bit awkward...be sure to choose "Part ID: 001 Gift Your Child" to add to your cart, then, while "Viewing Cart," you need to adjust the number of \$1 donations you are making to reach your desired amount before checking out), or you can [download a new pledge card](#) and send it in, along with your check (made out to "Wayland PTO"), via your child's backpack.

Let's go Happy Hollow...we can do it!!!

Do You Know... Where the PTO spends your **Gift Your Child** donations?

****Halloween Movie Night**New Playground Equipment**Talent Show**
Recorder Concert**Plimouth Plantation Field Trip**Fifth Grade
Memory Book**Author Michael Tougias**Ball in the House**Boston Opera**Fifth Grade
Play**Museum of Science****

The PTO has provided this much (and more!) for Happy Hollow using **Gift Your Child** donations. Please contact [Amy Simmons](mailto:Amy.Simmons@happyhollow.org) with any questions or comments.

GEORGIAN SONG & DANCE

PTO-sponsored with Gift Your Child donations.

Your PTO dollars at work! On November 21, the Cultural Enrichment Committee of the PTO brought a performance by Iveria to Happy Hollow and Claypit Hill students. The ensemble's repertoire of 20 performers includes songs and dances from all regions of Georgia. Recreating the Georgian cultural folkloric show, the students experienced the Georgian dances, the breath-taking pageantry of colorful costumes, and poignant songs performed by Iveria. You can check out their website www.russianfolk.com/Iveria/Iveria.html.



ATTENTION 5TH GRADE PARENTS!

Please remember to send in your 5th Grade Activities fees. Checks for \$50 can be made out to Happy Hollow School. Please put them in the box marked "5th Grade Activities Fees" outside the office.

A big THANK YOU to those who submitted photographs! Please continue sending in the photos! We still need about 40 individual Kindergarten pictures so please look for a nice picture of your child around the age of 5. We need these photos as soon as possible. Begin gathering all of your school-time candids taken from K-5th grade. We need photographs from fieldtrips, assemblies, field days, class parties and other school events from kindergarten thru April 2012. **NOTE:** The Yearbook Staff will review all photos and determine final yearbook content. We cannot guarantee that all submissions can be used in the book.

- **Former Loker School students (2005-2007 class years):** We successfully collected all class photos! Thank you! We'd love to add any additional photos from those two years. Please take a moment to find some great Loker candids from 2006-2008.

PHOTO SUBMISSION: You can email photographs to hmemorybook@gmail.com, OR give hard copies or a CD to your 5th grade teacher or mail them to Carla Stafford, 35 Davelin Rd., Wayland, MA 01778. Please clearly label all photographs with student's name, year taken, and event. We will be sure to return all photographs submitted quickly.

Contact Carla Stafford & MaryBeth Hagen (hmemorybook@gmail.com) for more information.

*Please let Mr. Lee, Carla or MaryBeth know if you do NOT wish to

be included in the DVD and MemoryBook.

Health and Wellness

Favorite Healthy Snack Recipes from HH Kids!



We have received some great school snack ideas from Happy Hollow students.

Have you ever tried *Red Blood Lily Pads*?
What about *Henry's Humus* or *Devin's Crunchy Crisp Snack*?

These are just a few of the recipes that have been submitted in our Healthy Snack Contest.

We will be showcasing some of the snack entries on the week of December 6 at Happy Hollow.

There will be a sampling of the tasty treats along with the originators name and the students will have a chance to test the snacks. The winner will be announced at the end of the day!

FUN FACT: If all 600 muscles in your body pulled in one direction, you could lift 25 tons.

Happy Hollow Hurrah!

Thanks to...

.... to the **Almogs, Batts, Booths, Brooks, Browns, Burgress, Capassos, Carrs, Chungs, Cribbens, Croziers, Dilannis, Djafaris, Hanlons, Kolzs, Lehrs, Levines, Lisaks, McGahs, Micolisins, Nolans, O'Briens, Obars, Scheidemantels, Simmons, Slaters, Spooners, Teplows, Theobald, Togas, Wongs, Yemins**, and a few alumni families who helped buy gifts for 50 needy children in Massachusetts Department of Children & Families (formerly DSS). In many cases, the gift we give will be the only gift a child receives.

... Happy Hollow mom **Jeannie Brown** for facilitating a generous donation of binders to the teachers at Happy Hollow and Loker Schools by ITSMA (IT Services Marketing Association).

If there's anyone who's helped out that you wish to acknowledge, please email: juliesuratt@gmail.com.

Visit us online at happyhollowpto.org
