



THE
HAPPY HOLLOW
HOLLER

HAPPY HOLLOW SCHOOL & PTO NEWSLETTER

February 10, 2011

*“The one lesson I have learned is that there is no substitute for paying attention.
~Diane Sawyer*

Dear Friends,

The longer I work and serve in the field of education, the more I realize just how important it is to pay attention to the details ~ most especially when helping our young people understand and navigate our often complex and confusing world.

A first grader came up to me last Friday ~ after report cards went home on Thursday, February 2nd and said, “I got my report card, Mr. Lee!” He seemed happy enough and was rushing toward his bus.

“How wonderful!” I called after him. “I know it’s your first one, so you must be so excited!”

He stopped and squinted as he looked up at me and into the sun. His smile left his face. “I am,” he hesitated. “I only got two /D’s/ so... I guess that means I did good... Except I always thought /D’s/ were really bad but my mom said it was okay. So I told my big brother to please not say /D’s/ are bad. Do you think it was bad that I got /D’s/?”

“No! Not at all! They mean you are “Developing” ~ and that means growing and showing that you are trying your hardest. We don’t have report cards that are like /A/, /B/, /C/, /D/ and /F/. Those are for much older children.

“That’s what my mom said! Thank you!”

He ran off...

/D/, /P/, /ME/, /EE/ and maybe /N/. ~ Nothing confusing about that! Furthermore, explaining “Developing”, “Progressing”, “Proficient”, “Meeting expectations”, “Exceeding Expectations” and “Not Assessed at this time” really clears things up ~ especially for a young learner ~ Don’t you think so?

The fact is that no matter how we place them in the paradigm of explanation ~ once we begin to explain the words, a natural hierarchy forms. Everyone wants “Exceeding Expectations” ~ and why would anyone feel differently? ~ “Exceeding Expectations” becomes an /A/, “Meeting Expectations” becomes a /B/, “Progressing” becomes a /C/ and “Developing becomes a /D/ ~ with room for /N/ “not addressed” to stand alone on its own meaning. ~ Anyone who has ever been to school easily slips into this pattern of thinking ~ because that is how it has been for most of the years of public education. It remains that way once a student leaves elementary school. So why should anyone believe any differently? ~ Most especially our students? Therein lies my reason for writing this piece. To get started, we must realize as Diane Sawyer has “...that there is no substitute for paying attention.”

Howard Gardner, a professor at Harvard University and the founder of Project Zero ~ embracing multiple intelligences in all human beings ~ explains elementary school assessment well when he stated, **“A good assessment instrument can be a learning experience. It is extremely desirable to have the assessment occur in the context of students working on problems, projects, or products that generally engage them, that hold their interest and motivate them to do well.”** ~ which aptly describes elementary school settings ~ especially ours.

Next, I would ask you to consider using Dr. Gardner's lens as the context for looking at your child's report card. Each category is unto itself. Just as /N/ "Not Assessed at this time" stands without worry, without the analysis of an assumed rate of success ~ so too should each of the other categories stand. The elementary report card need not be viewed as a measurement tool, but rather, should be used to look at the big picture of how a student is doing. Elementary-aged students are all developing in one way or another ~ and they are assessed in many different ways each day they spend in school.

We are increasingly better able to collect and study pertinent data, plan explicit interventions and move all students toward increased levels of proficiency. We live in a time where there is a common core curriculum across the state; and we believe that learning and achieving should not have a predictable end. ~ It's a lifelong pursuit. There are plenty of measures both formal and informal along the way. Students will take state tests and school-based assessments ~ And, most importantly, we will tend to all of their individual needs.

However, for the five short years that we have your child or children at our school, we have time to help him/her or them, to develop, to make progress, to meet expectations and even to exceed them. All endeavors are developmental.

This is why it is crucial that we consistently encourage our learners; and that their report cards be used as the springboard for an honest discussion that leaves them feeling reassured, ready to take risks, accept new challenges and begin to understand how they are learning. You should discuss what each category means with language they can understand. Explain that we are on a journey ~ strengths and areas of challenge are a part of that process. You should assure your child/children that we are all partners en route ~ parents, teachers and even their peers..

A certain way to slow, create obstacles and even stops along the journey is to bring a young person to a place of doubt or uncertainly. They look to adults, scrutinize our expressions and words for affirmation and to comprehend that which they do not. And when they do not believe what we tell them; or when they feel something is missing from our explanations, they do as all humans at all ages do. They create their own interpretation. They believe what they think makes sense. ~ My first grade friend, described at the start of this article, was even asking for a second opinion! Children are smart and getting smarter with each day they live and interact with the world in which they reside.

Therefore, we must help them to form strong self-esteems and self-concepts. We must let them know that as long as there is a /C/ for "Consistently" under effort and personal growth descriptors, they are truly on the right path. Forming a young person is much more complex than a system of grade point averages and the language must be put in plain words that can be taken in by the listener/reader. Effective effort is the key to success at all levels of educating, but none so important as the years a person spends in elementary school. Marvel at their development and talk to them honestly about areas they are still working to develop. Explain how they are progressing and celebrate the ways they meet or exceed expectations. The more they understand, the more they will pay attention and the more proficient they will become.

All best,
Jim Lee

"I want my children to understand the world, but not just because the world is fascinating and the human mind is curious. I want them to understand it so that they will be positioned to make it a better place. Knowledge is not the same as morality, but we need to understand if we are to avoid past mistakes and move in productive directions. An important part of that understanding is knowing who we are and what we can do... Ultimately, we must synthesize our understandings for ourselves. The performance of understanding that try matters are the ones we carry out as human beings in an imperfect world which we can affect for good or for ill."

~ Howard Gardner 1999

This and that from the principal's office:

~Service Learning and Community Service Projects completed since our last newsletter ~

Service Learning Projects:



Operation American Soldier ~ Students Supporting Our Troops w/ cards and letters ~ completed by *Laura Clayton and Tali Wong*. They led the school in making cards and notes for our Troops and explained to the students what the Troops were doing and why the messages were important. They presented them at an all-school assembly to a soldier.

Poster Study on Martin Luther King, Jr. ~ completed by *Morgan Calverley, Ryan Ebright and Erin Lock*. They learned important facts about his life and teachings and presented them in a poster format that was shared at a dinner held in his honor at the Middle School.



Upholding Happy Hollow Core Values by Creating a Program that Encourages Respect for One Another and the Earth ~ *Dylan DeRubeis and James Paugh*. They created posters with messages for the good of the community, created a contest where teachers can “catch people in the act of doing what is good” and they will present and honor the winners after February 13th. They presented at an all-school assembly, at announcement time and during our before school meetings.

First Graders Created a Newspaper from Scratch to Teach and Learn More about the School Community ~ *Johnny Andreason, Eliza Teplow and Carson Whitehouse*. They interviewed staff members and wrote articles. They presented at our early morning school meetings for all grades and gave their papers to classes throughout the school.



Community Service Awards:

Helping Mr. Hernandez to Keep the School Clean ~ Caring for the School and Reminding Others to do the Same ~ *Sean Goodfellow*



Constantly assisting the Staff in Cleaning the Cafeteria Each Day ~ Going Above and Beyond ~ Demonstrating that Kindness Matters ~

Many more projects in the works!

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

| | | |
|------------------------|--|--------------|
| Monday, February 13 | Open House for Ms. Weig and Ms. Horgan | Rooms 1A & 2 |
| Tuesday, February 14 | Student Council Meeting 8AM | Room 7 |
| Wednesday, February 15 | 2 nd Grade Meet and Greet with Ms. Rogers 8AM | Room 3 |
| Wednesday, February 15 | String Jamboree | WHS |
| Thursday, February 16 | Band Fest | WHS |
| February 18-26 | Winter Recess ~ No School | |
| Monday, February 27 | Classes Resume | |
| Tuesday, February 28 | Student Council Meeting 8AM | Room 7 |
| Friday, March 2 | HH Talent Show | Gymnasium |
| Monday, March 5 | Assembly Meeting | Gymnasium |

On the Bus: Please review the rules and expectations for proper bus behavior with your children ~ refer to the student handbook and then discuss your expectations. We are receiving an increase in reports of inappropriate behaviors on the buses and students need to know that inappropriate actions on a bus, could lead to a bus suspension. Students must be safe and that includes avoiding acts of bullying such as name calling, hitting, pushing or any related behavior.

Dress for the Weather: We've been fortunate that it has been so warm. Check the weather each day to ensure that your child is dressed for the day's temperature. We have some fluctuation and it can be really cold on little hands that don't have gloves. Sad faces line the edge of the hot top when snowpants and boots are needed...

Remember to check the lost and found: Our lost and found is growing and we will be looking to find homes for the left clothing as we near the winter break. We are running out of storage space and too many clothes in the side hallway will create a fire hazard. Please take a moment to check if you have lost an item. Thanks.

Green Team Tips and Announcement

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Wayland Green Team is looking for parents, students and teachers to continue our efforts to make, real and lasting changes in our schools that will protect children and the environment in the long-term. Enhanced recycling efforts in the schools, new school gardens and composting of cafeteria/kitchen food scraps are just some of what the Green Team is doing.

If you would like to learn more, please check our website at www.waylandgreenteam.org, email us at info@waylandgreenteam.org, or come to our next meeting, Monday February 13, from 4:00-5:30pm, in the library at Happy Hollow School.

TIP:

-- If you're looking for somewhere to recycle e-waste (a growing challenge worldwide), including e-waste, including computers, smart phones, printers, fax machines and more, go to <http://earth911.com>. Be sure to ask if the materials are being recycled by a certified "e-steward" recycler. Consult <http://e-stewards.org> for more information.

Thank you. -Wayland Schools Green Team

CURRICULUM CORNER

STORIES FROM THE LIBRARY:



AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR BRIAN LIES TO VISIT
On Monday, February 13, 2012, author and illustrator Brian Lies will be visiting Happy Hollow School and speaking about his craft to all of the students. If students wish to bring in any of his books on that day, Brian will be happy to autograph them. His books include *Bats at the Beach*, *Bats at the Library* and *Bats at the Ballgame*. We are preparing for his visit by reading his books, doing research on bats, and other bat-related activities. A big thank you to the PTO for funding this visit.

Elizabeth Bryant,
Library Media Specialist

ORCHESTRA NOTES:

STRING JAMBOREE

On Wednesday, February 15, at 7:30 in the High School Field House, our 450+ Wayland string players will gather for our annual String Jamboree! You will be wowed by our fabulous musicians. Bring your friends!

Performers, please arrive no later than 6:30, as our rehearsal begins right at 7:00. Parents, if you're able to help, please send me a quick email!

Thanks, and hope to see you all there!

Mrs. Tandon



MUSIC BEATS:

A Heartfelt Happy February to You!

From: Mrs. Calkins, Music Teacher

Grade 1

During the short month of February first graders will sing, dance, and move to a variety of songs. We will focus on beat competency and music literacy, sing spirituals, and use game songs to practice skills. The traditional Afro-American spirituals "Train is a Comin'" and "Get on Board" will provide the framework for engaging movement activities and practice with mallet instruments. We'll also learn a Valentine song, just in time to share with loved ones on Valentine's Day.

Grade 2

Second Graders will continue to practice reading rhythmic notation, honing their skills with activities such as Rockin' Rhythm Raps and an interactive listening quiz. They will also compose and perform original rhythm patterns as they learn to distinguish the relationship between 'heartbeat pulse' and rhythm patterns and sequences. They will sing and play instruments on "A Musical Valentine" and participate in a variety of movement activities designed to enhance musical skills.

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 February 2012



Reminders:

- Please send in your child's 4th grade physical. Requests have been made and there are still student's that are missing them.
- Parents need to be checking their cell phones throughout the day as a message maybe left if your child is sick and needs to be picked up from school.



Head Lice Checks After Vacation:



- There will be an entire school, head lice check, following February school vacation. It will be conducted Tuesday, February 28th at 8:45am. Please contact Elizabeth Curtain (escurtain@comcast.net) the PTO head lice coordinator if you are available to help with this very important check.

Please observe your children for the following:

- There continue to be cases of strep throat throughout our community. Possible signs and symptoms of strep throat include: Headache, stomachache, sore throat, swollen neck glands, may or may not have a fever, cough- if you child has any symptoms please have them checked by their physician. Children need to stay home a minimum of 24 hours after receiving their antibiotic.



- There have also been a few cases of pneumonia and/or bronchitis.
- Norovirus (gastrointestinal virus) is on the rise in Massachusetts. There is sudden onset of vomiting, diarrhea, and abdominal pain-feeling very ill. Proper hand washing is the only way to slow it down. All surfaces must be washed down as well. There have not been any cases here at school.



- If your child has any of these symptoms, please keep them home for at least 72 hours to help prevent the spread of illness to others. Please call the safe to school line at 508-358-2160 if your student will be absent from school. If your child is sick please identify the reason so that we can monitor illness within our school.

2011-2012 PTO Events: Happy Hollow Save the Date

Together We Can Make It Happen!

Dates subject to change

| EVENT | DATE/TIME | CONTACT |
|--|---|---|
| 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 |
| Lice Check Party | 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 |
| 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) | Nell Getz |
| Annual PTO Meeting & Thank you Breakfast | Jun. 7 (TH) at 9:15 am HH Cafeteria | Stephanie Leong |
| Teacher & Staff Appreciation Event | Jun. 15 (F) | Loconzolo/Thompkins |

PTO Events



It's Coming....Happy Hollow TALENT OLYMPICS!

Auditions: Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2 – 3 pm, OR Thursday, Feb. 16, 3:15 – 4:30 pm
Happy Hollow Gym

No experience necessary!! Play, sing, hum, juggle, act, or recite a poem. Acts are 1 to 2 minutes long. All performers should attend only one of the scheduled auditions and must have an adult sponsor.

Bring your registration form (arriving via your child's backpack Friday, February 10) or email us to register.

Showtime: Friday, March 2, 6:30 pm- 8:30 pm, Happy Hollow Gym

Volunteer: The students really love this event, and it would not happen without the support of many parent volunteers. Commit to an hour or a couple of days. It's fun!

Contact: Karen Wuerfl at kwuerfl@jfwhite.com or Tracy Scheidemantel tscheide@comcast.net



HOT COFFEE, MUFFINS, and a RAFFLE for our Amazing Lice-Checkers!!

Tuesday, Feb. 28, 8:45
Happy Hollow Cafeteria

Ever feel like you deserve a prize for picking through 20+ noggins for lice? Or have you not volunteered as a lice-checker yet because someone would have to pay you before you'd go looking for creepy crawlies?

Well, we can't pay you, but we can reward our superstar lice-checking volunteers with hot coffee, muffins, and a raffle this February! It's simple: *You* volunteer for the Happy Hollow Lice Check on Tuesday, February 28th at 8:45am (see Volunteer Needs section below for details) and *we* treat you to hot coffee, homemade muffins, AND the chance to win one of **Amy Simmons' superbly decadent flourless chocolate fudge cakes**. So sign up to volunteer and come to the Cafeteria after you're done to wrap up your lice-checking experience with a warm fuzzy ... not with a creepy crawly!



ANNUAL PTO BINGO NIGHT

Friday, March 16, 6-8 pm

Wayland Middle School Cafeteria

Please save-the-date for the annual family bingo event featuring Bingo, pizza, popcorn, ice cream sundaes, face painting, raffles, and prizes. This event is always a huge hit and sells out quickly, so please mark your calendars! Sign-up sheets will be sent home in backpacks the week of Feb. 13th.

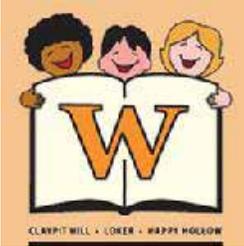
Needed – If you have any items that you would like to donate to our raffle such as unused gift cards (restaurants, spas, stores, kids' activities) or new/in-box quality toys (craft sets, or games), please contact Tracey O'Rourke at taora@verizon.net



PTO BOARD MEETING – All are welcome!

Friday, March 2, 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!



GIFT YOUR CHILD

A huge THANK YOU to the Happy Hollow community, area camps, and our teachers and staff for all your donations and generous support of the PTO through the Gift Your Child Backpack Auction. Together we were able to raise more than \$23,000 this year (\$5,000 more than last year!!!)—all of which supports the PTO's many educational enhancement programs in our elementary schools. For anyone who participated, winners (and ties) will be notified by Friday, February 10th. If you do not hear from us by then, thank you for bidding, but you did not win.

Payment for all items won will be due by February 17th. If you have any questions about an item, a winning bid or the Backpack Auction process, please contact the [Backpack Auction Committee](#). To learn more about what the PTO does with the funds raised through Gift Your Child, visit the [Happy Hollow/Loker PTO website](#).

MISSING SOMETHING?

Happy Lost 'n Found is brimming with many things. Items in the Lost & Found will be on display during the week before winter vacation in the front hallway. Come look - you might not even know what you are missing! All remaining items as of Friday before vacation will be discarded during break.



A REQUEST FROM THE 5TH GRADE MEMORY BOOK VOLUNTEERS

Please submit any pictures taken on the Tsongas Industrial History Center fieldtrip and Roll-On America Event. They can be submitted to hmemorybook@gmail.com or given your child's 5th grade teacher.

This is a last and final call for all **school candids** taken K-4. Get them in while you still can. Please submit everything to-date by February 17th. All photographs will be returned promptly.

Please contact MaryBeth Hagan or Carla Stafford at the above email with questions or suggestions. FYI: Class Photo will be taken in mid to late April...weather permitting of course! Date TBA.

RECAP: THE HAPPY HOLLOW FITNESS CHALLENGE!

The Happy Hollow Fitness Challenge was very successful, with great participation at the Open Gym Sessions run by John Berry, with help from the morning BASE staff, including Connie Burgess and Kathy Hodge.

We were incredibly lucky with sponsorship of the Fitness Challenge. Longfellow Clubs opened its doors to us, offering free admission to some of its classes. Other local vendors included:

- Boston Harbor Island Alliance
- Wayland Community Pool
- Roots & Wings Yoga
- Charles River Canoe & Paddle
- Metrowest YMCA
- Your Element Yoga
- SkyZone Boston
- Whole Foods Market
- Frozen Ropes

Let's hope our kids--and the entire Happy Hollow family--keeps up their activity now that the challenge is over!

PTO Volunteer Needs



LICE CHECK - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Tuesday, February 28, at 8:45 am

We need at least one volunteer for every classroom. The more volunteers we have, the quicker we can get to the socializing (see **Events** section above for details). The school nurse will meet with all volunteers in the Happy Hollow gym at 8:45am on the 28th for a brief demonstration for those who need it and to hand out gloves and other items needed to do the check. Please reply to Elizabeth Curtin at 508-647-9870 or escurtin@comcast.net to volunteer.



BUS DRIVER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

On March 7, we will be providing our bus drivers with a warm, inviting breakfast to show our appreciation. Please show your appreciation by providing an item to make the breakfast successful. Please follow this link: <http://www.volunteerspot.com/login/entry/172345634392950039> and the site will instruct you how to view the items needed and how to sign up for items to bring.

Thank you, Wendy Safe, Laura Malnight, Kathleen Rader, and Jacqui Stahl

JUST LIKE ME- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Just Like Me is a program for 3rd and 4th graders teaching children to understand what it's like to live with a disability. We are looking for volunteers for the last 4th grade unit, Autism Spectrum Disorder. Volunteers are needed on March 1 from 9 to 10:30 in Ms. Devlin's class and 10:45 to 12:15 in Ms. Chan's class. Volunteering is fun and a great way to be with your child. Suggested training is on February 16 from 7 to 8 PM at Claypit Hill School.

Please sign up to volunteer through our [webpage](#). For more information, [click here](#) or email Susan Green at susanegreen@hotmail.com. Thank you!

Happy Hollow Hurrah!

Thanks to...

... **Kathleen Newton** for helping with the Backpack Auction.

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

Visit us online at happyhollowpto.org

WELLNESS SUMMIT



All adults and middle school and high school students in the Wayland community are invited to attend a Wellness Summit on **Sunday, March 18, 2012 from 1:00-4:00 pm at Wayland High School**. The Summit will feature a series of three 45 minute workshop time slots. During each of these sessions, participants can choose from up to nine topics ranging from a bullying presentation for middle school students, concussions, on-line gaming, social media, nurturing our children's success and health, green products, social yoga for stress relief, among many others. The broad array of information will assure that adults and youth alike will find something of interest to them. It is hoped that attendees will share what they learned with their families and friends. Ideally the impact of the summit will be enlarged through ongoing conversations in a ripple effect. If there is sufficient interest, Wayland School Community Programs will provide fee-based care for children ages four years old through fifth grade. For more information about this, please email Rosemarie_Teti@wayland.k12.ma.us by February 27th.

For a complete program schedule and registration information, please visit www.WaylandCares.org. Registration is requested so that materials can be appropriately prepared.

This program is sponsored by WaylandCares and Friends of Wayland Youth and Family Services.