



THE HAPPY HOLLOW HOLLER

HAPPY HOLLOW SCHOOL & PTO NEWSLETTER

February 8, 2013

Navigate the Newsletter:

If you find yourself pressed for time, use this guide to help you skim and scan.

- **Principal's Quote and Note ~ Assessment! Assessment! Assessment! Read all about it!**
 - **February/March dates to remember**
 - **PTO Updates/Calendar**
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“Evidence-based education is the integration of professional wisdom with the best available empirical evidence in making decisions about how to deliver instruction.”

~Grover J. Whitehurst, Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement at the U.S. Department of Education ~

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

February, 2013

Dear Friends,

Why are we assessing your children so often? How do we use this information? Does it get stored in a child's permanent record? How has it changed our practices? Do we (all of us) think this is good? These are some of the questions that our School Council and staff have been asking and my reason for writing this piece.

The State Educational Research Center (SERC) has been in operation since 1969 through funding mostly from the Connecticut State Department of Education. Its mission has been to provide high-quality, research-based professional development to educators, service providers, families, and community members. Although its primary commitment has been to improve the achievement of Connecticut's children and youth, they now offer professional development and information on a much wider scale.

I was recently reading a short piece that they posted on their website about “Best Practices in Education”, and I was struck by how well we align with all of their suggestions for achieving “best practices”. We are at the very least in progress with all nine. However, one really stood out to me because it has been a primary focus of our district since we moved to implementing and sustaining a Response to Intervention (RTI) approach to instruction across all thirteen grade levels. SERC declares:

“In high-performing schools, teaching and learning are continually adjusted on the basis of data collected through a variety of valid and reliable methods that indicate student progress and needs. The assessment results are interpreted and applied appropriately to improve individual student performance and the instructional program.”

Soooo ~ this is why we are assessing your children often. We are using the data to “continually adjust” our “teaching and learning” practices based upon “student progress and needs.” Most think it has changed us for the better. It has changed our approach to educating because testing results are not a part of any permanent record but rather part of an ongoing progress monitoring to ensure that we are meeting the needs of all of our learners and differentiating our instructional practices to do so. Just as good, great and exemplary medical professionals move to new methods as research demonstrates there is an improved method, our staff ~ already outstanding ~ is on the move to new levels of excellence.

To me it always comes down to the human story. To that end, I have the following to share: I had the privilege to sit in on a data meeting last week. Present at the table were a grade level of teachers, a reading specialist assigned to that grade level, two special education resource teachers also assigned to that grade, teaching assistants and the curriculum director for ELA. They were reviewing data from recent testing ~ from across the grade ~ not one classroom. This was not one teacher looking at a class assessment and deciding what to do on his/her own. This was a table of distinguished professionals, all dedicated to looking at the results together. The discussion was lively and intense. All studied every student's progress. They celebrated even a few points to the better. They fretted over those who hadn't shown significant movement ~ and they planned. They created a list of specific interventions to be used with specific students. They planned who would work with whom and how each of the groups would help all learners. Amazing! This is the dream of every educator who enters this field.

This diagnostic, prescriptive and collaborative approach was helping all to be at their best ~ student, teacher, specialist, resource teacher and teaching assistant. I left the table proud to be associated with each of them and our outstanding district. This was the “caring” that we all want for every child. This was the “inspirational” teaching that would ensure that students were learning and, more importantly, would improve. This was Wayland at its finest.

Such data meetings are happening at every grade level, and they are followed with weekly planning meetings to ensure that necessary changes are made as progress is made or challenges uncovered. This is the reason for our RTI initiative and the reason that educators must plan collaboratively on a weekly basis.

Sitting at another table ~ with the Happy Hollow School Council ~ it was suggested that as part of our job to monitor student achievement, we should also share our school’s assessment practices with the larger community. It was felt that many parents and guardians might want to attend a session wherein they can learn about the assessments, ask pertinent questions and prepare for their child’s parent conference. We shared the idea and Claypit and Loker have joined with us so that we will bring an elementary Assessment Café your way on Thursday, February, 28th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Happy Hollow library. This means part of my note to you all this month is a heartfelt invitation for you to attend. We will explore the following instruments and give you all the information you wish to know:

DIBELS ~ Daze
Fountas & Pinnell
GRADE
GMADE
EasyCBM
Symphony Math
EDM Pre-tests/Post-tests

We will provide the babysitters and information. You provide the questions and interest. Exciting things are happening and this is among the most exciting as it reaches important learning at its core.

Stay warm and healthy!

All best always,



Jim Lee
Principal

This and That from the Principal's Office:



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.



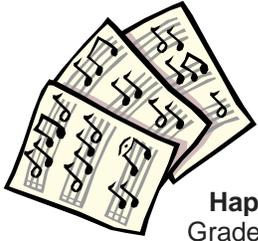
Dress for the Weather: Please continue to check the weather each day to ensure that your child is dressed for the day's temperature. We have some fluctuation and it can be really cold on little hands that don't have gloves. Sad faces line the edge of the hot top when snowpants and boots are needed...

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. Please take a moment to check if you have lost an item. This has been our best year for found items! Thanks so much!

February and March at Happy Hollow:

Week of February 18-22	Winter Vacation	
Monday, February 25	Classes Resume	
Thursday, February 28	Assessment Cafe	HH Library
Monday, March 18	MCAS – 5th grade ELA	
Tuesday, March 19	MCAS – 4th grade long comp	
Wednesday, March 20	MCAS – 5th grade ELA	
Thursday, March 21	MCAS – 3rd grade ELA	
Friday, March 22	MCAS – 4th grade ELA	
Monday, March 25	MCAS – 4th grade ELA	
Thursday, March 28	MCAS – 3rd grade ELA 4th grade long comp makeup	
Friday, March 29	Good Friday No School	

Curriculum Corner



MUSIC NOTES:

Happy Valentines!

Grade 2

During the month of February, second graders will construct original rhythm patterns using heart-shaped cutouts (as the heartbeat pulse) and Popsicle sticks (as rhythmic notation). "Rockin' Rhythm Raps" will provide a fun way of reviewing rhythmic reading skills. We will continue to explore concepts of form, tempo and dynamics as we move, sing and play instruments. Students will also be introduced to the life and music of the great American composer and jazz musician, Duke Ellington, through readings and listening/discussion activities.

I am always delighted to be working with Wayland's creative and talented young students. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.



Technology News February 2013:

1st Grade:

First graders are using the program [Kidspiration](#) to organize information around the topic of "Winter". Kidspiration is a visual learning tool which helps students strengthen their reading and writing skills. After brainstorming ideas about winter, the children are now organizing the information into categories. They will link each idea to it's category title. Look for the project to come home later this month.

2nd Grade:

Second graders are working on our programming-robotics unit. Robotics deals with the design, construction and operation of robots. We used the website [Turtle Pond](#), and the Beebots to review the four basic commands. This month students will carry over that knowledge and design an animated scene using the software MicroWorlds Jr. We will share this project with you in March.

3rd Grade:

Students are making progress with our 2013 Resolution project. Each student used Kid Pix to illustrate a picture of one of their resolutions. Then we uploaded their pictures to a website called [VoiceThread](#). We are ready for the final stage where students will record their voices explaining their resolution. We will share the link to our resolutions when we are finished. What are your resolutions for 2013?

HEALTHY HOLLER Jeanne MacDonald, RN

Flu and strep throat:



- There have been many children with illness at Happy Hollow.
- We have seen confirmed cases of strep throat without a fever and/or complaints of sore throat.
- We have confirmed cases of flu which is a respiratory virus with cough, (with and without fever). www.cdc.gov/flu
- If your child is coughing please have him/her checked for both strep and/or flu so that your child is not contagious to others.

Other information:

- Please be sure that your child has appropriate clothing to go outside during the winter months (coat, snow pants, boots, gloves, and hat)
- Students should have a change of clothes in their backpacks in the event that clothes become wet during the school day. This avoids calling a parent.

Medication policy:

- ALL prescription and over the counter medications require parental permission and a physician's order. Forms can be downloaded from the school website, under for families, health services. Medications cannot be given unless the required paperwork is received.



Head Lice Check:

- Check the PTO website for our next school head lice check. This check will be done the week after February school vacation.

Have a Happy, Healthy February Vacation!

Jeanne MacDonald RN

Jeanne_macdonald@wayland.k12.ma.us

508-358-6051

Green Team Announcements

Spring is around the corner, and the Happy Hollow and Claypit Hill schools are looking for parents interested in helping students plant new crops, add compost, etc. If you are interested, please contact Deborah Niles <deborah_niles@wayland.k12.ma.us> at HH, and Deane Coody <deane_coady@wayland.k12.ma.us> at CH. The Middle School is also looking for volunteers to help with various projects. Please contact Beth Ann Monahan at beth_monahan@wayland.k12.ma.us. Even though the ground is hard, we will be getting ready for planting by the end of February.

Plans for the High School will be coming soon. Let's work together to bring environmental literacy and sustainability to our schools. Learn more more about April Earth Day and other activities at www.waylandgreenteam.org.

Thank you. -Wayland Schools Green Team

2012-2013 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 & Seta Abrahamian
Just Like Me	Throughout the year	3rd Grade: Beth Byrne 4th Grade: Jen Bonner
Coffee with Mr. Lee	TBD	Rebecca Purdin
Fitness Challenge	January	Jeanne Brown
"Race To Nowhere" Presentation	TBD	Rebecca Purdin
Town-wide PTO Meeting	Winter 2013	Stephanie Leong
Gift Your Child: Part 2, Backpack Auction	January	Amy Simmons
Diane E. Levin, Ph.D. Lecture @ Loker Auditorium	Feb. 6 @ 7:00 pm	Stephanie Leong
Lice Checks	Feb. 26 (Tu) at 8:45 am	Elizabeth Curtin
Talent Show	Mar. 15 (F)	Nan Li
Town-wide Bingo at WMS cafeteria	Mar. 22 (F) at 6:00 pm	Alexia Obar
Lice Checks	Apr. 23 (Tu) at 8:45 am	Elizabeth Curtin
Earth Day Events	Apr. 27 & 28 (Sa & Su)	Katrien Vander Staeten
Annual PTO Meeting & Thank you Breakfast	Jun. 6 (F) at 9:15 am HH Caf	Stephanie Leong
End of Year Picnic	Jun. 10 (M) at 5:30 pm Rain Date: Jun. 11 (Tu)	Nell Getz
Book Fair	Jun. 10 & 11 (M & Tu)	Lynne Cribben & Gretchen Dresens
Teacher & Staff Appreciation Event	Jun. 14 (F)	Michele Loconzolo & Leslie Thompkins

PTO Events

IT'S COMING.... THE HAPPY HOLLOW TALENT OLYMPICS

Auditions: Wednesday, Feb 27th 2:00 – 3:00pm OR
Thursday, Feb 28th 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 15th) or email us to register.

Showtime: Friday, March 15th, 2013 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. 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!

Karen Wuerfl: kwuerfl@jfwwhite.com

Pam Bonaguide: pambonaguide@comcast.net

Vicky Sin: sinvick@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE - PTO BINGO NIGHT IS COMING!

When: Friday, March 22nd 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Where: Middle School Cafeteria

What: Bingo, pizza, popcorn, ice cream sundaes, face painting, raffles and prizes

Please save-the-date for the annual family bingo event. This event is always a huge out quickly, so please mark your calendars! Sign-up sheets will be sent home in week after February vacation.



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PTO News

GIFT YOUR CHILD



www.claypithillpto.org to learn more!

A huge THANK YOU to the Wayland Elementary School community, area camps, local businesses, and our teachers and staff for all of your wonderful donations and for your generous support of the PTO through the 2012-2013 Gift Your Child Backpack Auction. Together we were able to raise more than \$26,000 this year (\$2,000 more than last year!!!) – all of which will go directly back to the children throughout our elementary school community in many ways including classroom supplies, grade-level enrichment programs, playground equipment, field trip subsidies, cultural enrichment presentations, school-wide events, and many more. Visit www.happyhollowpto.org or

For anyone who participated, winners were all notified by January 31. If you have not heard from us, thank you for bidding, but you did not win. Payment for all items won is due by Friday, February 15. If you have any questions about an item, a winning bid or the Backpack Auction process, please contact the Backpack Auction Committee at BackpackAuction@gmail.com.

5th GRADE PICTURES NEEDED

Do you have any pictures from any of the 5th Grade Activities, Concerts or Field Trips? Please submit them for possible inclusion in this year's Memory Book.

Email pictures to hmemorybook@gmail.com

Mail pictures to 152 Boston Post Road

Or give them to your child's teacher



Trips?

Volunteers Needed

JUST LIKE ME

Our third unit of the 4th Grade Just Like Me Program is coming up soon and we are looking for volunteers!

Volunteers are needed for the Learning Disabilities Unit on:

- Wednesday, January 9 from 9-10:30am for Ms. Devlin's class and 10:45am-12:15pm in Ms. Cherwinski's class
- Thursday, January 10 from 9-10:30am in Ms. Rogers' class and 10:45am-12:15pm in Mr. Moynihan's class



looking

Volunteering is fun, rewarding and a great way to be with your child in the classroom. Kids really enjoy the program because they learn through lively and interactive activities led by parent volunteers. Training takes place on Thursday, January 3 at Happy Hollow from 7-8pm and is strongly suggested. If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions, please reply to Jennifer Bonner at jenbonner@verizon.net.

Thank you!

ALL SCHOOLS CALENDAR / DIRECTORY

PROJECT MANAGEMENT VOLUNTEER(S) NEEDED



Wayland PTO is looking for a volunteer(s) to manage/produce the All Schools' Directory and Calendar book sold in the fall to Wayland families with children in the public schools. The project requires the acquisition of times and dates for relevant events scheduled for the upcoming school year and entering them into a template for hard copy calendar pages in the final product. Cover artwork is selected with the assistance of the HS art faculty, photographed and formatted. Student listings must be acquired from the district and resolved with requested changes per parent input. Listings must be properly formatted in Excel for the booklet. The majority of work occurs at the end of the prior school year and in late August when the student listings become available. The book is then produced by a professional printer under supervision by the Wayland project manager. Please contact Kay D'Orlando if you are interested in the project: kjdorlando@comcast.net or 508-358-1135

Visit us online at <http://www.happyhollowpto.org/>

SAFETY ALERT—Please Post

Protect the Crossing Guards that Protect Our Children



A Community-Wide Concern

In the past four years, two Massachusetts crossing guards have been killed and many have been injured on the job when struck by vehicles. One of these guards prevented a child from entering into harm's way before being struck and killed by a car herself.

What can you do as a driver?

Use caution when driving. As a driver, you can look for warning signs that crossing guards and children may be in the road, and be prepared to stop. Crossing guards should receive traffic safety training and safety gear from their employers (see images below), but they also depend on drivers to be aware and heed their signals.

What can you do as a community member?

Speak up to help protect your community crossing guards. If you see a situation in which a crossing guard may be exposed to traffic dangers, take one of the following actions:

- Contact your local police department.
- Contact your local school department.

Drivers: Help protect both crossing guards and our children. Use caution when you see the following signs.



Crosswalks/Pedestrian Crossing Signs: One or both may be used to indicate a crossing area—a white crosswalk painted onto the street, or a pedestrian crossing sign placed in the middle or at the side of the road. If you notice crosswalks to be in poor condition, call your local City or Town Hall.
(Image courtesy NJ Safe Routes to School)



Reflective Vests: Crossing guards wear brightly colored and highly reflective clothing while on duty so that they are visible in traffic and in inclement weather.



Stop Paddles: These are hand-held stop signs that crossing guards hold up while walking out into the street to alert drivers that children are crossing.

**Remember, taking action to make work safer for crossing guards
also helps to protect our children.**

For more information on this or other work-related fatalities in Massachusetts, please visit our website:
www.mass.gov/dph/FACE

October 2012



FACE Facts | MA FACE MA FACE (Massachusetts Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation) seeks to prevent work fatalities by identifying and investigating these incidents and developing prevention strategies for those who can intervene in the workplace. MA FACE is supported by cooperative agreement # 2U60OH008490-06 from CDC-NIOSH. This document may be copied freely and found online at www.mass.gov/dph/FACE. If you have comments or questions, call the MA FACE Project at 1-800-338-5223.



Parents, It's all about the Love.

Define values and priorities to find **Balance** in Family life. Join Dossie Kahn of Wayland Youth and Family Services together with other Parents of school age children for a parenting workshop.

Tuesday March 5th, 2013
7:00-8:30pm, Loker School Auditorium, 47 Loker Street
Wayland MA

When do we want to push, back off, hold firm, be flexible? Most importantly, how are we leading our children through our example? Come join other parents to explore these issues and move toward finding the right balance for your family.

Dr. Kahn is a licensed psychologist. She is Assistant Director of Wayland Youth and Family Services with training and experience treating youths and adults, individuals, couples and families in a range of clinical and community settings.

The Wayland Public Schools Foundation

Annual Team Spelling Bee is Here!

Sunday, March 24, 2013

12:30pm – 5:00pm, Wayland High School

- The Bee is open to students in grades 2 through 5.
- Bee rounds are 20-25 minutes. Specific team times will be announced the week before the bee.
- Children form teams of three, with all three children in the same grade.
- Cost is \$30 per child (\$90 per team), which includes t-shirt & gift. Spelling Bee fees support grants for Wayland Public Schools!
- Online registration is by individual, but you will need your child's team name AND other team members' names to register.

Online registration runs February 4th to Sunday, February 24th.

Register @ www.familyid.com/wayland-public-schools-foundation

Parents please note: Finding a three person team can be socially challenging or difficult for some children, please take an active role in helping your child form their spelling bee team!

Questions? Email: waylandspellingbee@gmail.com

The Foundation is honored to have Middlesex Savings Bank, The Village Bank, and Oak Hill Architects as sponsors of the 2013 Spelling Bee.