



THE HAPPY HOLLOW HOLLER

HAPPY HOLLOW SCHOOL & PTO NEWSLETTER

March 8, 2013

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“Since children are different at home and in school, parent-teacher conferences enable both the parent and the teacher to gain a better understanding of the child, enabling them to be more effective in helping him or her.”

~ Lydia Spinelli, Ed.~ Contributing Writer to New York University Child Study Center

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

February, 2013

Dear Friends,

There are so many things about which to marvel when it comes to elementary education. No other time in life even remotely resembles an elementary school experience. Beyond it, things take shape that look more like the “adult” world. However, for the few short years that one spends in an elementary school setting there are so many things that are special and completely unique to that time of life. They will never be experienced again. At other times in life things may be experienced differently, but many are repeated. ~ Not so of the elementary years.

It's true. At any age beyond the elementary school time, try for example, walking around with your lost adult tooth hanging around your neck in a tooth-shaped case so you can put it under your pillow for the tooth fairy ~ knowing that a new one is on the way that isn't an expensive implant. The “magic” of losing a tooth, the fun in make-believe play and the feeling that if one plays a sport, dances, creates, he/she can most certainly become rich and famous for his/her unbridled talent and skill. Everything is unique ~ the birthday parties, the playdates, the sleepovers, the first-time discoveries are amazing moments. The willing suspension of disbelief is a gift that takes the young on journeys into transcendent situations ~ with the hope that they might be dreams come true. A trip to Disney World or Land is always magic but never as exciting as through the eyes of one in the primary grades of school. Our learners are new people. Their special birthdays fall in the single digits until they are two years to the end of the elementary school years ~ never again will a zero birthday fall with single digits comprising the passing decade.

So when we gather for parent conferences, they truly are a phenomenon and should be treated as such. At no other time in one's life will people gather ~ for free ~ around a table for the sole purpose of discussing a person's strengths, weaknesses, talents, hopes and dreams ~ all of which have taken place over the course of two months prior to the first conference, and four or so between then and the second ~

Therefore, even when parent conference meetings are complicated and challenging, they are always filled with possibility. So much at this age is still developing, growing and finding new ways. If we all come to the many tables around the school that will host these events with this in mind, there is less of a chance that the focus will be on deficits and desires to push, mold and change a student. There will be more of a chance that we will gather as partners~ as people dedicated to accepting a child where he/she is, looking at the data, the portfolios, the progress and discussing next steps that are reasonable and are truly beneficial for the learner.

In an article written for the New York University Child Study Center, Dr. Lydia Spinelli gives the following advice:

“Preparing for the conference can make the experience more rewarding. Ask your child if he has concerns or anything that he would like you to communicate to his teacher. Depending on the child's age, discuss whether or not family problems should be mentioned. If you are concerned about your child's work, keep copies of material that illustrate your concerns. If only one parent of a two-parent household can attend the conference, it is helpful to take notes or bring a tape recorder to share the findings with the absent partner. In order to gain information about your child's behavior and progress, you might prepare some questions. Here are some possible examples:

Early Childhood

- Does he share and take turns?
- Does he focus during large-group activities? Small-group activities?
- Is he self-directed in choosing activities during free time or does he need your help?
- What are his favorite activities?
- Is he willing to take risks?
- Is he able to settle conflicts verbally?
- Does he prefer working alone or with other children?
- Is he a leader or follower or combination?

Elementary School

- Should I help her with homework or do you prefer that it be totally her work?
- Is it better for her to leave blank what she doesn't understand or should I try to explain it?
- Should I correct her homework?
- Do you have a means of communicating with parents if she isn't doing her homework?
- Does she follow directions?
- Is there a time that you meet with children who need some extra help?
- Are there any indications of academic problems?
- Is she sensitive to the needs of others?
- Does her choice of friends interfere with her ability to focus on academic work?
- Do you see any social or emotional warning signs?

Most parents feel some degree of anxiety as they wait outside the classroom for their turn to hear how their child is doing in school. The degree of anxiety depends on several variables. If the child has an easy temperament and has previously been a successful student, the parent feels relatively confident. If the child has a more difficult temperament and has had some rocky school experiences, the parent is bound to feel more nervous. Parents can't help but feel that they are being judged as parents by the teacher. It is hard for parents not to measure their own success by their child's success. These feelings may be further complicated by the parent's own school experiences. If the parent was not a good student, approaching a teacher will stir up past experiences and feelings of inadequacy and arouse even more anxiety. Some years, the teacher-student match is better than others. Obviously, it is easier if the match is a good one. However, parents must remember that life will not be tailor-made for their child and it is helpful for the child to learn to deal with different personalities.

The fact is, though, that some children are harder to parent than others and some require much greater skill than others to support as a student. Parents should not feel responsible or defensive if their child is struggling. In recognizing that their child may be a challenging student, parents should approach the teacher in a collaborative manner and seek to work with him or her to support the child.”

In the end what matters is that you leave the table with a plan and points to discuss with your child. One of the most important ways to make a parent conference time optimal is to have a discussion with your child/children when you go home. They too, need to be partners in the process and they will be curious ~ as any of us would be if we knew people were sitting around any table talking about all aspects of our job performance. Children are full people at every age. They may not have the same experience and may experience things differently, but they nonetheless are fully competent and as curious as any other person at any other age. Making them partners in the process only makes for a more productive school year.

Finally, use the conference information to support, not to create, a separate home program. Forcing a child to do extra work, read above his/her reading level and “pushing” him/her to achieve more most always results in a young person feeling disenfranchised, nervous and with feelings of poor self-esteem. Children want to please the adults in their lives. Let them know you are pleased with their efforts. Develop a plan of how to help at home with the classroom teacher and stick to that agreed upon plan.

Wishing you all a fantastic conference season!

All best always,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jim Lee
Principal

This and That from the Principal's Office:

Tardy! Please work to have your child here for the start of school. The doors open at 8:30 and those who have a chance to visit a bit, settle into their day and relax find many more strong starts to the school day. Remember, a good start can make all the difference in how one finishes. The same can be said for the school day. On behalf of your children, thank you for making this a priority.



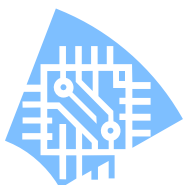
Dress for the "Whatever!" ~ We are coming into that time of year when it is just warm enough to keep our back playground on the wet side. Even when snow disappears ~ there is mud. Please keep the snow pants, boots and gloves/mittens coming for a while longer. It makes play less restrictive and much more fun. One can slide into a muddy snow pile in snow pants and get up with a smile.

Keep the "found" in the "Lost and Found" active. We have been doing so much better this year. Many lost items are being claimed and I am so happy that people are taking the time to look. Thank you.

March and April at Happy Hollow:

Tuesday, March 18	MCAS - grade 5, ELA	
Tuesday, March 19	MCAS - Grade 4, long composition	
Wednesday, March 20	MCAS - Grade 5, ELA	
Thursday, March 21	MCAS - Grade 3, ELA	
Friday, March 22	MCAS - Grade 4, ELA	
Monday, March 25	MCAS - Grade 4, ELA	
Thursday, March 28	MCAS - Grade 3 ELA Grade 4, long composition makeup	
Friday, March 29	Good Friday No School	
Week of April 15-19	Spring Vacation No School	
Monday, April 22	Classes resume	

Curriculum Corner



Technology News MARCH 2013:

1st Grade:

First graders are almost done with their "winter" graphic organizer using the program [Kidspiration](#). The children have brainstormed ideas about winter, searched for pictures to represent their ideas, organized their information into categories, and labeled each category. We are putting on the finishing touches then the projects will be coming home. Just an amazing job!

2nd Grade:

Second graders are continuing to building their programming knowledge by using MicroWorlds Jr. to animate a butterfly scene. The project began with the children designing the background or setting. We talked about setting the right stage for their butterflies. The children could draw their own background, choose a ready-made background or a combination of both. After the setting was completed, the children began working on programming the butterflies and other moving objects that make sense in their scene. Factors to consider when programming: direction, speed, and movement. This project will finish up in the next few weeks. We will definitely share our work with you. I've seen great thinking and problem solving from the second graders!

3rd Grade:

We have two projects happening in class. Students are recording their voice in our 2013 Resolution project.

When they are not recording, they are working on a rock and mineral slideshow using Kid Pix. A program they love to use. The slideshow project began shortly before February break with the students selecting a topic and doing some research. Thank you for supporting your child at home with the research. It is not an easy task! The slideshow project builds on the tools we learned in second grade when students created a continents slideshow.

We will share the link to our resolutions and slideshow when we are finished.



ART NEWS!

ART NEWS! Please check out our March program updates. You can find this link under Curriculum/Art at Happy Hollow's website or copy the link below. Thank you!

Christine Soeltz
Art Instructor

<https://sites.google.com/a/wayland.k12.ma.us/happy-hollow-art-program/highlights-from-2009-2010>



MUSICAL NOTES:

Grade 2

We'll celebrate the month of March with a Jig and an Irish folk song. Second graders will be introduced to the instrument families of the symphony orchestra through a variety of interactive listening activities. Highlighting the strings, we will listen to a variety of musical styles especially suited for this family of instruments. Second graders will also begin working on a performance of *The Erie Canal*. The song offers wonderful opportunities for multifaceted lessons in which students will learn about the history of the canal and perfect a performance of the song by incorporating pitched and non-pitched percussion instruments.

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.

Susan Calkins, DMA <susan_calkins@wayland.k12.ma.us>

Green Team Announcements

The next GT meeting will take place in the Happy Hollow library on March 11th from 4-5:30pm. All are welcome.

If anyone is available to help with spring garden set up at Happy Hollow, Claypit Hill or the Middle School, please contact Christina Veal at christina.veal@gmail.com.

HEALTHY HOLLER
Jeanne MacDonald, RN

NEWS FROM THE HEALTH ROOM March 2013

All School Head Lice Screening

- A big **“Thank you”** to all the parents who came and screened for head lice on **March 5, 2013**. We could not do it without you!
- Thank you to Elizabeth Curtin our PTO head lice coordinator
- **Our next check will be Tuesday, April the 23rd, at 8:45am, after April vacation.**



Check your child!

- **Please continue to check your child’s head at home as part of their daily routine. There continue to be cases of head lice in our community and here at Happy Hollow**
- **Please review the following websites for information and/or call the Happy Hollow health room if help is needed.**
 - www.cdc.gov/lice/head/factsheet.html
 - www.headlice.org

Snacks and water:

- Please be sure that your student eats a healthy nourishing breakfast every morning. If possible, they should have a morning snack sent into school with them. Students should be encouraged to drink plenty of water throughout the day to be well-hydrated.



Parents of 3rd graders:

- The Massachusetts Department of Public Health School Health regulation requires a physical examination be completed within 1 year prior to the start of 4th grade or within 30 days after school entry. Any physical dated 8/1/12 or later will fulfill the requirement. Please send copies to the health room.

Please contact the health room with any questions and/or concerns.

Thank you

Jeanne MacDonald RN
jeanne_macdonald@wayland.k12.ma.us
508-358-6051

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
Race to Nowhere Movie and Discussion	Mar. 8 (F) at 6:00 pm	Rebecca Purdin
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

"RACE TO NOWHERE" SCREENING AND DISCUSSION



When: Friday, March 8th 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Where: Happy Hollow School

What: Movie screening, community discussion, and pizza

Child Care provided by BASE.

Join Principal's Jim Lee and Brian Jones for a screening and discussion of this important film.

"Race to Nowhere" is a film that calls us to challenge current thinking about how we prepare our children for success. Named by TakePart.com as one of "10 Education Documentaries You Don't Want to Miss", "Race to Nowhere" brings communities together to spark dialogue and galvanize change in America's schools.

Students across the country are being pushed to the brink by over-scheduling, over-testing and the relentless pressure to achieve. Through the testimony of educators, parents and education experts, "Race to Nowhere" reveals a silent epidemic in our schools.

THE HAPPY HOLLOW TALENT OLYMPICS

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

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@jfwhite.com

Pam Bonaguide: pambonaguide@comcast.net

Vicky Sin: sinvick@gmail.com

PTO BINGO NIGHT

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 hit and sells out quickly, so please mark your calendars! Sign-up sheets will be sent home in backpacks the week after February vacation.

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE TALENT SHOWCASE



Do you know everyone is talented in different ways and all your talents are gifts? You can use your talents to encourage others and make a difference in the world! You are encouraged to share your talents on "Happy Hollow Talent Show" night and on this special "Talent Showcase Stage" throughout the year.

No limit, no expiration! There will be year-long opportunity for you to show your gifts/talents and share them with the world. A few bulletin boards and showcases will be open for our "Talent Showcase" in March. We'll keep two of them open after March.

You just bring in an example of your art, writing, crafting, building, even a trophy or picture showing your talent. Drop them off in the "Showcase" box in the lobby. Please label it with your name, and grade, the year it was completed. Please email Nan Li at annie060303@hotmail.com if you have any questions.

PTO News

5th GRADE PICTURES NEEDED

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

Email pictures to hhmemorybook@gmail.com

Mail pictures to 152 Boston Post Road

Or give them to your child's teacher



Trips?

PTO Applause

THANK YOU FOR HELPING WITH LICE CHECK



The PTO would like to send a huge Thank You to the following volunteers for helping out with last Tuesday's Lice Check at Happy Hollow: Lynne Cribben, Carrie Greenberg, Federica Ponce, Daisy Powers, Ruth Kaplan, Michele Loconzolo, Pam Kainz, Vicky Sin, Rui Chen, Megan Smith, Nan Li, Jinglei Whitehouse, Jill Zukerman, Abby Brogan, Nava Almog, Samantha Richter, Jennifer Dennis, Philomena Quinn, Ling Ding, Sujatha Thundivalappil, Kate MacDonald, Rebecca Purdin, Kate Bachus and Jean Chang.

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!
JLM- DEAFNESS AND HARD OF HEARING UNIT – 3RD GRADE

The first
3rd Grade Just Like Me Unit
will be held on
Wednesday April 3rd and Thursday April 4th at Happy Hollow.

The Deafness and Hard of Hearing Unit is part of the HH curriculum and will be the first Unit for the 3rd graders this year. Please consider helping out - we are always in need of volunteers! This is a great way for you to be a part of your child's classroom and an amazing program.

Here is the class schedule:

Wednesday 4/3/13

9-10:30am Ms. Dowd

10:45am-12:15pm Ms. Chan-Moynihan

Thursday 4/4/13

9-10:30am Ms. Akers

10:45am-12:15pm Ms. Cohen

Training will take place on **Tuesday March 19th 7-8pm at Happy Hollow** and is strongly suggested but not mandatory. If you would like to help out, please contact **Beth Byrne at ea_byrne@yahoo.com** . Thanks in advance for your support of this very important program!

What does medical marijuana mean to you?

How could it impact our youth and our community?



Medical marijuana is now legal in Massachusetts. What does this mean for communities? What's in the law? What's not in the law? What are the implications for our youth? And what's the best conversation to have with our children about marijuana to prevent teen use?

Learn from the experts:

- ◆ Yasmin Mashhoon, Ph.D., Neuroscientist at the Behavioral Psychopharmacology Research Laboratory of McClean Hospital and Instructor at Harvard Medical School will discuss 21st-century pot, its components, its harms, and its impact on youth. Dr. Mashhoon will explain the effects on the adolescent brain, and related health issues such as addiction, mental health and latest research on physical and cognitive functioning.
- ◆ John Sofis Scheft, Esq., Principal of Law Enforcement Dimensions, will explain what the medical marijuana law does and does not include: for what conditions can marijuana be recommended? Who can use it as medicine? Who can provide a recommendation? Who can grow marijuana in their home? Atty. Scheft will also address best municipal practices to protect local public health and safety.
- ◆ James Broadhurst, M.D., a family physician also trained in sports and addiction medicine and delegate of Massachusetts Medical Society, will discuss the medical community's perspective on medical marijuana. What do people need to know in considering marijuana as a medical treatment?
- ◆ Local authorities will explain initiatives in Wayland that address public health and safety related to marijuana.

This program is for the entire Wayland community.

Sponsored by WaylandCares and the Wayland High School Guidance Department

Tuesday, March 19, 2013, 7:30 pm Wayland High School Auditorium