



THE HAPPY HOLLOW HOLLER

HAPPY HOLLOW SCHOOL & PTO NEWSLETTER
February 14, 2014

Navigate the Newsletter:

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

- **Principal's Quote and Note ~ Classroom Observations: A Staff Progress Report**
 - **Dress for the weather!**
 - **Lost and Found**
 - **February/March dates to remember**
 - **PTO Updates/Calendar**
-

“It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.”

~Albert Einstein~

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

February, 2014

Dear Friends,

Last month, I wrote to you about the new progress report for our students. It is one way that we are working to better understand the needs of every child in our school ~ a tool that can focus our attention as partners ~ parents and teachers together.

This month, I would like to complete a circle of which you may or may not be aware. One of the district goals for this year is to put 50% of our staff on the new State Teacher Evaluation. It is a complex shift from our past evaluations system; and like the new progress report, it requires all educators, teachers, principals and district administrators to analyze our work, to provide evidence or proof that we are constantly working to grow our practice in ways that increase the depth and quality of student learning. Like a standards-based student report, this is a standards-based evaluation system. There are four standards under which fall elements and indicators that isolate every aspect of educating. The four major areas are: Standard I - Curriculum, Planning and Assessment; Standard II – Teaching All Students; Standard III – Family and Community Engagement; Standard IV – Professional Culture. All are explained in detail on the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) website.

So why am I writing to you about this ~ most especially if you can read about it on the DESE website?

In addition to spending hours on professional development endeavors, our staff is actively involved in the process of an ongoing dialogue around best practices for reaching all types of learners ~ really these conversations are a solicitation by staff to look for new ways to grow their practice. I wanted you to know about it because I am especially proud of what I am seeing as I work on one aspect of this evaluation process ~ the classroom observation.

As principals, we are required to spend more of our time observing staff and providing them with written feedback. This is all kept in a data system called TeachPoint. Staff receive their feedback within 24 hours of the visit ~ most often on the same day. There is a reflection component ~ one for the evaluator and one for the educator. Observation time is between 10 and 20 minutes and there is a form that focuses the evaluator's attention to key elements that support excellence in learning and teaching. I find this part of the new process exciting and want you to know all of the areas that are under consideration across our school, every single day.

They include:

Looking for a clearly apparent lesson objective; student engagement level; strategies used to ensure engagement, instructional practices used to help students interact with the content, frequency of “checks for

understanding” ; student instructional mode – individually, in a small group, as a whole class, in partners; teacher instructional mode, and teacher/administrator reflection.

What I can tell you is that I am finding proof of all of these elements at work in our school across classrooms and grade levels. Wayland has always been a place where staff sought quality professional development ~ a place where conversations around innovation and student need have remained paramount; but under this new system, I have the honor of being able to document it in very specific ways. Just like in the field of medicine, we are in the “practice of teaching”, and I can tell you, the practice is getting better all the time! It is truly a privilege to work with such a dedicated, experienced and talented staff. We are indeed fortunate ~ and I wanted you to know the extraordinary efforts that are taking place to ensure that your child is finding a powerful educational journey.

Much peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Lee". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a white rectangular box.

Jim Lee
Principal

This and That from the Principal's Office:

A Winter Reminder ~ 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: Vacation week is coming up and it would be great if our lost and found dwindled down to only a few items that are lost. Having extra winter clothing for winter break is a good thing, so please stop by our Lost and Found!

February and March at Happy Hollow:

Week of February 15-23	Winter Vacation	
Monday, February 24	Classes Resume	
Monday, February 24	PTO Cultural Enrichment Program	
Thursday, February 27	Student Council Meets	8:00 a.m. HH Room 7
Thursday, March 13	Student Council Meets	8:00 a.m. HH Room 7
Sunday, March 30	Wayland Schools Foundation Spelling Bee	WHS

Curriculum Corner



FROM THE LIBRARY :

Award winning author visits Happy Hollow

Local author **Elizabeth Suneby** spoke to the fourth and fifth grade students at Happy Hollow School in Wayland about her recent book, "Razia's Ray of Hope". featuring CNN Hero from Massachusetts, Razia Jan. "Razia's Ray of Hope" tells the story of a young girl from Afghanistan who is determined to attend the new school for girls being built in her village.

Students participated in interactive workshops learning about themes of education for girls, discrimination, and determination. Students learned that 69 million children world-wide do not go to school and were able to try on the burqas that women and teenage girls must wear out in public.

Visit her website : <http://www.elizabethsuneby.com/books/razia/> for more information.

Thank you to the PTO for funding this special event



Maryann Cocca-Leffler visits Happy Hollow

Author and illustrator Maryann Cocca_Leffler spoke to the first, second and third grade students on February 6 entertaining them with stories and inspiring them to pay attention to their own stories and write them down. Through her presentation, "The Story Behind the Story", she showed how a book is developed from concept to finished book. Many of her books are based on her own childhood or that of her children and she encouraged the children to "follow their passion" for whatever they choose to do in life.



Maryann Cocca-Leffler draws her character "Princess Kim" while students watch and listen to music from "Princess Kim the Musical"

Many thanks to the PTO for funding this extraordinary experience for our students.

Elizabeth Bryant,
Library Media Specialist

Technology News for Grades 1-5 from Ms. Crozier February 2014

1st Grade: As a culminating project to our exploration of Kid Pix, students will create an animated penguin picture. The picture will consist of a typed fact (we will focus on some word-processing skills), along with an animated illustration. This is our first saving project of the year, which can be tricky. Students are learning the saving steps and taking care to save their work to our school network. We will be sure to share the project with you upon completion.



Kid Pix Deluxe 3D

2nd Grade: Second graders are continuing with a programming-robotics unit. Students are designing an animated butterfly scene using the software MicroWorlds Jr. This project builds on their knowledge from 1st grade, where they created an animated water scene. A new challenge to their study is how can I use multiple pictures when I program an object? How can I keep my animated object on the screen? Solving these challenges takes lots of problem solving skills. It's been amazing to see the children help each other and to work through the challenges.

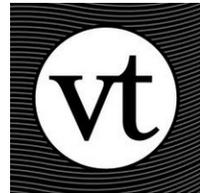


MicroWorlds JR

3rd Grade - After the December break, students were introduced to several online tools in technology class (All the Right Type) and more recently Google Apps for Education. [Please read about these tools as well as VoiceThread on this google form.](#) We are asking for your permission to use VoiceThread so please read the form in it's entirety. Thank you.

Students are continuing their keyboarding practice by using Google Apps for Education. Students were introduced to Google Apps and in particular Google Drive in mid-January. Students are writing about their knowledge of LARK (Legal, Appropriate, Responsible and Kind). We use the LARK acronym to model appropriate online etiquette and behaviors.

4th Grade: Students have been busy drawing and gathering pictures to go with their small moment story. We are in the final stages of editing their stories and pulling all these pieces together in VoiceThread. If you did not give permission for your child to use VoiceThread, then your child will create their story in iMovie. We will share these projects upon completion.



5th Grade: We are wrapping up our Digital Superhero Comic Strip. Once all movies have been created, we will share them will. I'm very proud of the effort and work by the students. You can see their talents shine in this project. Our next project involves creating QR Codes

HEALTHY HOLLER
Jeanne MacDonald, RN



News From the Health Room February 2014

Head Lice Check:

- The ALL school head lice check will be February 25th, 2014 at 8:45 am. Please meet in the school lobby for instruction.
- 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.
- You can help minimize this nuisance by being vigilant in identifying additional cases.
- Please check the following web pages for educational information:
www.cdc.gov/lice/head/factsheet.html and/or www.headlice.org

Strep throat and illness:

- 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.
- If your child is coughing please have them checked for both strep and/or flu so that your child is not contagious to others.
- Please keep your children home if they are not feeling well. Cold symptoms make a child sick due to a virus. Runny nose, cough, etc. will make your child not feel well and the best cure is rest at home.
- Remember that good hand washing is the most effective way to prevent the spread of germs and infectious disease. It is important to remind your child to wash their hands before eating or touching food, after using the bathroom, after blowing their noses and/or coughing, after touching pets or animals, after playing outside, and after visiting a sick friend and/or relative. Please reinforce this practice at home, as parents are the best role models!

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.

Please call with any questions and/or concerns.

Have a Happy, Healthy February vacation!

Jeanne MacDonald RN

Jeanne_macdonald@wayland.k12.ma.us

508-358-6051

2013-2014 PTO Events: Happy Hollow

Save the Date

Together We Can Make It Happen!

Dates subject to change

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Are you looking to get involved at school? We are in need of volunteers for many unique opportunities. Most of these volunteer opportunities require only a small time commitment, but have a huge impact on our schools and our children. Take a peek at the events calendar and contact the committee head to learn more or email Amy Simmons at: happyhollowpto@gmail.com.

EVENT	DATE/TIME	CONTACT
Cultural Enrichment	Ongoing	Alexia Obar & Seta Abrahamian
Just Like Me	Throughout the year	3rd Grade: Laura Byrne & Jamie Janoff 4th Grade: Jen Bonner
5 th Grade Activities	Events/Dates TBA	Tamara Kolz
Nutrition Challenge		
Fitness Challenge		
Gift Your Child: Part 2, Backpack Auction	January 2014	Amy Simmons
Lice Checks	Feb. 25 (T) at 8:45	Jeanne MacDonald
PTO Board Meeting	Mar. 7 (Fri) at 9:00 in Loker Library	Amy Simmons
Fifth Grade Roller Kingdom Trip	Mar. 13 (Th) from 4-6 pm	Marci Alvarado
Bingo Night	Mar. 28 (F)	Alexia Obar
World's Fair	Mar. 29 (S) 1-4 at Loker	Becky Lloyd
PTO Board Meeting	April 4 (F) at 9:00 in Loker Library	Amy Simmons
Talent Show	April 4 (F) 6:30-8:30 PM	Vicky Sin
Lice Checks	April 29 (T) at 8:45	Jeanne MacDonald
Earth Day Events	TBD	Katrien Vander Staeten
PTO Board Meeting	May 2 (Fri) at 9:00 in Loker Library	Amy Simmons
Florence Adler Walk/Run	May 10 (S) registration 9:00 at Wayland Middle School	
Fifth Grade Play	May 22 (Th)	Kristin Neprud
Annual PTO Meeting & Thank you Breakfast	Jun. 4 (W) at 9:00 am HH Caf	Amy Simmons
End of Year Picnic	Jun. 9 (M) at 5:30 pm Rain Date: Jun. 11 (W)	Cathy Caulfield
Book Fair	Jun. 9 & 10 (M & T)	Lynne Cribben & Gretchen Dresens
Teacher & Staff Appreciation Event	Jun. 5 (Th)	Jill Zukerman & Samantha Richter

PTO Volunteer Needs



BOOK FAIR COORDINATOR FOR NEXT YEAR

Do you and your children love the book fair? It is a Happy Hollow favorite, and the PTO is looking for a Scholastic Book Fair coordinator for next year. We are hoping to find a parent who is able to shadow our long-time coordinators for the last two book fairs of the school year (March and June) to learn the ropes. If you are interested, contact Lynne Cribben (lcribben@yahoo.com) to learn more!

JUST LIKE ME VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Just Like Me

We are currently looking for parent volunteers for the final 4th grade unit, **Autism Spectrum Disorder**, which will take place on **Wednesday, February 26th and Thursday, February 27th**.

Volunteers are needed:

Wednesday, February 26 - 9-10:30am - Ms. Devlin
10:45am-12:15pm - Ms. Aronian

Thursday, February 27 - 9-10:30am - Ms. Cherwinski
10:45am-12:15pm - Ms. Rogers

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 **Monday, February 24th from 7-8pm at Claypit Hill** and is strongly suggested. For more information, email Jennifer Bonner at jenbonner@verizon.net. Thank you!

PTO News & Events

Lice Checks – Tuesday, February 25th 8:45 am

A reminder that the next lice check is scheduled for February 25th (after Winter Vacation). Volunteers should meet in the school lobby for instructions and supplies.



Coffee With Mr. Lee – Save the Date

Join the PTO for Mr. Lee's monthly coffee on **Thursday, February 27th, at 7:00 pm** in the Happy Hollow Cafeteria. Topic TBA. Join us with any questions, concerns, comments or suggestions – this is the perfect opportunity to talk to Mr. Lee in a small group setting. Light refreshments will be provided. Please contact Amy Simmons at Happyhollowpto@gmail.com with any questions



PTO BOARD MEETING – Join us!

The next Happy Hollow/Loker PTO Board will be on **Friday, March 7th, at 9:00 am** in the Loker Library. Come see what your PTO is working on! 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!

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

Auditions: Wednesday, March 19th 2:00 – 3:00pm OR
Thursday, March 20th 3:15 – 4:30 PM

Location: Happy Hollow Gym

No Experience necessary!! Play, sing, hum, juggle, act or recite a poem. Acts are one to two minutes long. All performers should attend only **one** of the scheduled auditions and must have an adult sponsor. Bring your registration form (arriving home via your child's backpack Friday, February 14th), or email us to register.



Slide Show picture submission: Your child may have talents that are off the stage: arts & crafts, hobbies, you name it! Send us a picture of a memorable moment with your child's name and description of the talent to annie060303@hotmail.com by March 19th. We will try our best to include your entries in our slide show, which will be running before show time!

Showtime: Friday, April 4th, 2013, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. in the Happy Hollow Gym

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

Contact Vicky Sin: sinvick@gmail.com



PTO All-Schools Directories are 50% off!

The Wayland PTO is selling off the remaining 2013-14 All-School Directories for only \$7.50 each. Replace a lost Calendar, or get an extra for your car in time for the spring sports carpooling season. Go to www.waylandpto.org and order yours today!

Happy Hollow Hurrah!

HAPPY HOLLOW HURRAH

Many thanks to...

The many lice checkers who helped January's lice checks run smoothly and quickly.

And many thanks to those we might have left off this list! If there's anyone who's helped out that you wish to acknowledge in future newsletters, please email the information to Andrea O'Brien at aobrien68@gmail.com.

Welcome 2013-2014 Board

President & Townwide Rep	Amy Simmons
Vice President	Andrea O'Brien
Treasurer	Pamela Cerne
Ways and Means	Abby Brogan & Heidi Renneker
Secretary	Cathy Davies
Social	Cathy Caulfield
Kindergarten Rep & Townwide Rep	Lisa Lappi
Kindergarten Rep	Christine Walsh
Past President	Stephanie Leong

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

Mass Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Parent Survey:
HELP YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL TO BE A GOOD PARTNER: YOUR FEEDBACK COUNTS!

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) invites you to complete an online parent survey and share your feedback with your child's school. We want to know about the efforts made by your child's school to help you feel welcome as a partner in your child's education.

The purpose of the survey is to see how well your child's school communicates with you and promotes your engagement in your child's learning. The survey should take ten minutes to complete. Survey results will provide your child's school with answers about parent-school partnership, transition, and family training. Research shows that schools that are good partners with families have better outcomes for the students they serve. Your feedback will allow us to learn how effectively schools partner with parents.

ESE is working with an outside contractor to conduct this web-based parent survey. We will not collect any personal information regarding your child on this survey. Your survey answers will remain anonymous.

To begin the survey, you will be asked for your child's school district, and school name.
If more than one child in your family attends school in the district during the current school year, please fill out one survey per child.

You can complete the survey by going to: <http://maparentcohort2.com/>

Please complete the survey and submit it by Friday, March 21, 2014.

If you are a parent/guardian needing assistance reading and interpreting this survey in a language other than English, Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian/Creole, or Vietnamese please seek assistance from your school district.

If you have any questions on this survey, please call Martha Daigle at: [781-338-3366](tel:781-338-3366).

Thank you very much in advance for your help with the survey.
