



THE HAPPY HOLLOW HOLLER

HAPPY HOLLOW SCHOOL & PTO NEWSLETTER
March 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 ~ How are we teaching the social and emotional aspects of our Curriculum? How do they tie to academic achievement?**
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“Recent studies have revealed that an average student enrolled in a social and emotional learning program ranks at least ten percentile points higher on achievement tests than students who do not participate in such programs.”

~ T. Shriver and R. Weissberg ~

~Timothy P. Shriver is the chairman of the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning and of the Special Olympics.

~Roger P. Weissberg is a professor of psychology and education at the University of Illinois at Chicago and president of the collaborative.

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

March, 2014

Dear Friends,

This week's rehearsal with the fifth grade emcees in preparation for the Monday morning all-school assembly began with one of the four asking, "Are we going to do a skit this week?" I told her I didn't think we would have time. The room went flat and I had eight sets of eyes looking as though I had just taken away recess! "We have an idea." She continued in a most assertive manner. When I inquired what her idea was, she described a situation that is all too often very real. "We want to show how some kids invite people to a birthday party and others feel excluded. We have it figured out and we want to use the Superflex guy. We need to look at the characters and then we can tell you how it will go. Please?"

The irony in the above situation is that the fifth graders have been exposed to very little of the Social Thinking program as their formal teaching was more through Open Circle. Although we have been using the other programs, it is only this year that we have embraced the language and direct teaching at our younger grades. I was delighted! They had not only been listening as we presented in a way to help our younger students learn to use the techniques they were learning, they too had internalized them and knew exactly how to use the overarching social thinking strategies to solve real problems. Needless to say, they are doing their skit and we are doing something right.

One of our school goals for this year has to do with explicitly teaching the social competencies that lead to healthy relationships between our students. We have always done this, but this year, we are looking to begin the process of assessing how well we are doing it and to what extent it is a part of student life. As you know, it is not an easily measurable content. The above example with my fifth grade emcees shows it is happening, but documenting that in a way that we can better teach it is clearly our next step. Although we continue to wrestle with some soft measures, we are simultaneously working to understand how we are building the layers that make our approach multi-dimensional and diverse enough to engage all of our learners. This is no easy task because just as our students come with varied needs in the academic areas, so too do they in the social and emotional areas of school endeavor. So in this piece, I would like to give you an update on all that we are using and how we are working to understand how it all fits together.

Most of our approaches have a research-based component that relates to very specific programs. In addition, just as when we teach isolated reading skills including: learning to decode, encode, understanding phonemes, digraphs, the importance and practice of reading fluency and comprehension strategies ~ we must eventually show learners how they integrate to make them better readers. With any isolated skill, it must become part of a greater end result or it remains in isolation. A reader can be great at decoding and never learn to monitor for meaning ~ thus never really reading ~ unless we give specific instruction about how to use the decoding to understand passages of written material ~ across genres. So too, it is with social competencies. We can use a

Open Circle is a universal SEL program focused on two goals:

- Strengthening students' SEL skills related to recognizing and managing emotions, developing care and concern for others, establishing positive relationships, making responsible decisions, and handling challenging situations constructively
- Fostering safe, caring and highly-engaging classroom and school communities

At the heart of Open Circle are 15-to-20 minute classroom meetings led by teachers twice per week throughout the school year. These interactive meetings include group discussions, role-playing, literature, and community-building activities. Students learn and practice important SEL skills such as listening, cooperating, speaking up, calming down, expressing anger appropriately, recognizing dangerous and destructive behavior, and problem solving. Lessons are then reinforced throughout the school day and beyond by teachers, administrators, school support staff and parents.

(Open Circle Homepage)

The Responsive Classroom is again a research-based approach to elementary education that is designed to increase academic achievement, decrease problem behavior, improve a child's social skills and lead to more high-quality instruction. It includes the following:

Morning Meeting to begin each day in a cohesive manner that sets the class on a path toward inclusion, respectful response and membership. Other components of the program include: Rule Creation, Interactive Modeling, Positive Teacher Language, Logical Consequences, Guided Discovery, Academic Choice, Classroom Organization, Working with Families and Collaborative Problem Solving.



Service and Community Service Learning: In our home-grown version of both concepts, students are given the opportunity to apply these skills. They have to form a group, work through the many group dynamics that partner with this process. They have to decide upon a common passion. They are responsible for setting up a meeting with the principal by making an appointment and coming during a "free time". They receive next-steps for bringing their project to fruition. This may include coming back for another planning meeting or moving ahead with scheduling a presentation, advertisement and an action plan. In the end, they are rewarded in front of the whole school by being recognized with paper awards. Many of their action plans also require planning for a sale, running a school-wide campaign and this year, partnering with local businesses. They must contact outside organizations and this applies any number of academic and social skills. Many times, they have to find an adult advisor, working outside of the school day. Some even create the things they will sell out of duct tape and the like. We are currently working to design an exit tool that will begin the process of evaluating how this ties to their social learning. Stay tuned!



In a world that is increasingly connected by social media, collaborative business and research practices and the need to respect and even honor differences related to culture, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation and lifestyle, our young must have the social and emotional tools to partner with their academic skill and content knowledge. To lead, they must understand another's perspective. They must feel connected and important and they must know how to attain those feelings. They must temper their success with benevolence and this is more important than ever as the world grows more interconnected each year and people are only a click away from one another and millions of choices. We need an educated future population that makes not only good decisions, but right decisions. ~ This is where kindness meets cognition, links to academic success and creates a brighter future for us all.

All best always,

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 (and if) the snow (ever) 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 17	MCAS - grade 5, ELA	
Tuesday, March 18	MCAS - Grade 4, long composition	
Wednesday, March 19	MCAS - Grade 5, ELA	
Thursday, March 20	MCAS - Grade 3, ELA	
Friday, March 21	MCAS - Grade 4, ELA	
Monday, March 24	MCAS - Grade 3, ELA	
Tuesday, March 25	MCAS – Grade 4, ELA	
Thursday, March 27	MCAS – Grade 4, long composition makeup	
Sunday, March 30	Town-Wide Spelling Bee Sponsored by the WPSF	
Friday, April 18	Good Friday No School	
Week of April 17-27	Spring Vacation No School	
Monday, April 28	Classes resume	

Curriculum Corner



FROM THE LIBRARY : THIS MONTH IN THE LIBRARY

Recently library classes have been hard at work studying everything from folktales to the use of primary sources for research and checking out many books each week.

Fourth and fifth graders participated in the Massachusetts Childrens' Book Award this year, along with other 4th,5th and 6th graders in Massachusetts, and have read many books from a list nominated by librarians in Massachusetts. They voted for their favorite book and all votes will be sent to Salem State College for final tabulation. We will hear about the statewide winner in May.

In fifth grade this month we are exploring the biography genre and learning about various reference sources, including use of primary sources.

In fourth grade we are reading Greek myths and other traditional literature.

Third graders are learning about the organization of the library including use of the computerized card catalog, locating materials and using an encyclopedia.

In second grade we are learning about character, plot, and setting while reading Caldecott Award books.

First graders are reading folktales from around the world and comparing and contrasting various versions of the same tale from different cultures.

I welcome any questions.



MUSIC NOTES FROM MS. POHL

Second graders are exploring the folk tale titled “Too Noisy” by combining music and drama. The children are using xylophones to accompany a song and a variety of other percussion instruments to create noisy sound effects. While part of the class plays instruments the others act as the animals, old man, or wise woman. The message of this story is to stay positive and appreciate what we have.

Third graders are doing a wonderful job playing recorders in music class. We are working on using slow, steady air and learning our first songs. Please remind your child to bring his or her recorder and yellow music folder on music day.

Mondays: Akers Wednesdays: Moynihan Thursdays: Cohen and Dowd

Ms. Aronian’s fourth graders just finished a unit on improvisation culminating in a wonderful performance at Monday’s assembly. I was impressed with their musicianship and creativity. Our current project is titled “Winter Be Gone!” For this piece we use speech, body percussion, and the children choose the instruments.

Fifth graders are focused on the play. In class we are discussing how to develop a stage voice and how to sing clearly in preparation for our performance. The students are doing a wonderful job learning the songs from the play and I am looking forward to the performance on Thursday, May 22nd at 7:00 pm.



HEALTHY HOLLER Jeanne MacDonald, RN

NEWS FROM THE HEALTH ROOM March 2014

All School Head Lice Screening

- A big “Thank you” to all the parents who came and screened for head lice.
- Our next check will be Tuesday, April the 29th, 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. .
- 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 8/1/13 or later will fulfill the requirement. Please send copies to the health room.

BMI for 1st and 4th graders:

- We will be measuring BMI for 1st and 4th graders. You may exempt your child by sending us a note. No letters will be sent home this year, but data does get reported to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Illness:

- We continue to see strep throat/stomach aches across all grade levels.
- *Strep throat:* Please observe your children for symptoms of head ache and stomach aches. We have seen many stomach aches with only vomiting that have tested positive for strep throat.
- Students may not complain of sore throat and/or have a fever. Fevers may be absent or low grade at 99 F.
- Your child will be sent home from school if they are complaining of stomach aches during the school day. Please be sure to see your health care professional to rule out possible strep throat if you see these complaints in your child.

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

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		
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
Annual Joint Fundraising Meeting	April 11 (F) 9:00 am Loker Cafeteria	Amy Simmons
5th Grade Bash	April 11 (F) 6-8 pm at WMS	Alexia Obar
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 upcoming 3rd grade Deafness Unit.

Volunteers are needed for the following dates:

Wednesday, April 2nd - 9-10:30am - Ms. Moynihan
10:45am-12:15pm - Ms. Dowd

Thursday, April 3rd - 9-10:30am - Ms. Akers
10:45am-12:15pm - Ms. Cohen

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 Tuesday, March 25th **from 7-8pm at Happy Hollow** and is strongly suggested. For more information, email Jamie Janoff at jamie.janoff@yahoo.com or Laura Byrne at triplelfff@gmail.com. Thank you!

PTO News & Events



Coffee With Mr. Lee – Service Learning Projects

Tuesday, March 18th, 8:45 am in the Happy Hollow Cafeteria

Join the PTO for Mr. Lee's monthly coffee on Tuesday, March 18th, at 8:45 am in the Happy Hollow Cafeteria. Mr. Lee will be joining us at 9:00 to discuss Happy Hollow's tradition of Service Learning Projects, and how this teaches our children to be responsible citizens, followed by a general question and comment period.

Please join us to learn more, or with any questions (they don't have to be related to this month's topic), concerns, comments or suggestions that you would like to share – 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.

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



5th Annual Wayland Elementary School World Fair

Saturday, March 29th 1:00-4:00 pm at Loker School \$8/individual or \$20/family

You may know that soccer is Italy's most important sport but what you might not know is that many historians believe soccer originated in China around 1000 BC!

On **Saturday, March 29th** you will have the opportunity to take a fun and educational tour around the world at the 5th annual Wayland Elementary School World Fair. From **1:00-4:00**, **Loker** will be filled with families sharing and learning from one another. 12 different cultures will be featured at booths offering informative displays, cultural artifacts, food samplings, crafts, games and other creative elements to educate our kids in a fun way.

So far we have booths representing Mexico, Israel, Rwanda, China, India, Ghana, Ethiopia, Italy and Greece. There will be mini-tasting stations and cultural performances throughout the afternoon in the little theatre.

We'd like a few more countries and more volunteers. If you are interested in helping with a booth or the day of the event please email waylandworldfair@gmail.com.



PTO BOARD MEETING – Join us!

The next Happy Hollow/Loker PTO Board will be on **Friday, April 4th, 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!

ANNUAL ELEMENTARY FUNDRAISING MEETING

Friday, April 11th at 9:00 am in the Loker Cafeteria

Join the joint elementary PTO boards on Friday, April 11th at 9:00 in the Loker Cafeteria to review this year's fundraising results, discuss feedback from the community, and to determine the 2014-2015 fundraising approach for *all three* elementary schools. This is a great opportunity to give feedback and to learn more about how our elementary school PTOs raise funds to support the many programs (Cultural Enrichment, Author/Artist visits, community events, etc.) that we sponsor in Wayland's elementary schools.



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!

Many thanks to...

The many lice checkers who helped February'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.
