



THE
HAPPY HOLLOW
HOLLER

HAPPY HOLLOW SCHOOL & PTO NEWSLETTER
February 13, 2015

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“We must, indeed, all hang together or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately.”

~Benjamin Franklin ~

PRINCIPAL’S CORNER

February, 2015

Dear Friends,

It begins long before we start our school day. The empty auditorium is cold and has the smell of people gone and stillness. In an instant the action begins and although there are many involved in making it happen, each works as part of a smaller team. The first crew works at the physical arrangements. They are of course, followed by the technical crew. Sound checks are completed, microphones strategically set for the arrival of the hosts. The set up for the musical segments is also concurrently coming into coordination. Brightly colored cones indicate where the audience should gather, and the ushers arrive in time to organize for the large crowd that will follow. The script is reviewed and the hosts arrive to prep. Now there is that chaotic clamber that happens when many things have to occur in a short time and simultaneously; so that, on second glance, it is all so impressively well orchestrated. There are camera crews everywhere, snapping stills and making certain that the pre-show is ready to run. The technical director arrives setting the projectors, clips and even commercial messages in place so they are ready to run on cue. The musical director also arrives and begins preparation the morning’s entertainment. The announcer is ready and stands with the director as they call them down ~ 5-4-3-2 and 1 ~ Then we’re live!

Although I could have been describing the preparation for Good Morning America and/or the Today show, I was actually describing what has become one of Happy Hollow’s treasured secrets. I call it that because it runs every week to very little fanfare ~ and over the years, has developed much like the top-rated morning shows. We know they are there, but we know very little about all that goes into them, and although their impact is often far-reaching, they are seldom the shows that everyone speaks about at social gatherings. I am talking about the Happy Hollow Assembly Meeting. If you haven’t been to one recently, you’re missing something that is truly amazing!

Why do I say this? Staff at Happy Hollow decided that we would work on developing a weekly Monday morning assembly/meeting model. And we have. Each week, it is like a live show that comes together and the ultimate benefit is that in that time we “hang together” as Benjamin Franklin describes in his quote that suggests we either develop a strong sense of who we are as a community ~ or we develop in ways that pull us apart. We have chosen the former way to build and support our strong school climate and our Monday morning Assembly/Meeting is a crucial foundation toward that end.

So what is so good about it? I’m glad you asked! ~ It begins with students and staff alike offering to share around academics, talent, service learning and all the most desirable moments that create our school. Then a script is written. Fifth grade students meet with me during their lunch and recess and develop the script so that it fits the format of a well-run morning show. They are the anchor team. Once the stories are organized into four segments, they rehearse and this all happens in the week prior to the actual assembly that they will host. Ms. Crozier meets with the technical team and that too begins the week prior to the scheduled show. Ms. Pohl prepares a musical segment and what forms is the following:



***There are four emcee/anchors ~ all fifth grade students.**

~One welcomes and calls all classes to the meeting... the countdown I mentioned is really the order in which this anchor calls the classes down to the gym ~ taking great responsibility for bringing together almost 500 people in less than five minutes. The one who welcomes also leads the Pledge of Allegiance, a segment called "Staff Announcements" ~ wherein any staff member, sometimes a student representative ~ student council member or other ~ and even community members make special recognitions, reports or tell of something interesting about an individual, a class, grade level, or any news at all from around our school. This part of the assembly brings us together and reminds us that we are a community.

~The next emcee/anchor honors all those who have or will celebrate a birthday since our last gathering. The birthday celebrants stand, a special birthday song follows ~ led by Ms. Bergeron singing and Ms. Pohl playing the piano. When we do this, we are letting every member of the community know that he/she matters ~ it is important that they were born and that we honor that happening.

~The third emcee/anchor leads the classroom/individual shares. During this time, staff showcases the learning from across the grades. Individual students also share talents such as singing, playing an instrument or even doing a complex Rubik's Cube in record time ~ shown by the technical crew through a document camera on a large screen so all can see as though they are standing beside the person/people who are sharing. Ms. Pohl then leads an all-school sing-along ~ allowing us to raise our voices as one in a fun and sometimes poignant way.

~The fourth segment of the assembly meeting begins when this emcee/anchor calls order to the "business meeting". In this time, students share service learning projects and outcomes through very professional presentations that are often PowerPoint presentations, iMovies or through well-written speeches. They initiate this learning and service by meeting with me and planning projects that benefit others ranging from those in our school community to all around the world! ~ The "business meeting" is also a time when we meet on social competencies. Some of these times include student skits about how to solve a problem, include others or any number of crucial community-building messages. Our motto comes alive during the business meeting ~ Kindness matters... ~ and we demonstrate it and reinforce it.

*Throughout the meeting the technical crew ~ also fifth graders ~ take photos and prepare movies and slide shows that become the pre-show for when students enter and are awaiting the beginning of the assembly/meeting. They create these shows with Ms. Crozier during meetings that occur between assembly meetings. They also run all of the equipment from the computers to the projectors to the sound system and lights.

*Presenters learn to speak in front of a large audience in a competent and confident manner. Sharing academics and talents gives a forum for setting the tone that effective effort is important and honored. We are serious about our learning and proud of those efforts.
~ As I stated at the start of this article ~ AMAZING ~ and ongoing every week ~ all of this! Phew!

Finally, we close each assembly meeting with the Happy Hollow song, which reinforces all of our core values. This sends us off for a week of learning that is committed to and connected to a community of learners. Learning postures must be demonstrated and there has to be a common core for how we let students know what our expectations are and how to meet them. ~ When we are a community, so many good things fall into place and to me there can be no more formidable way to express and define our school culture. The Happy Hollow Assembly/Meeting is a treasure and you are all invited to come as often as you'd like.

Much peace, and I hope the February vacation brings you all time to relax, reset and rejuvenate.



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!

Kindergarten 2015 Packets have been mailed

The registration materials for next year's kindergarten class have been mailed to Wayland families. If you have a child eligible for kindergarten in 2015 and have not yet received your packet, please contact Gretchen Lutz at [508-358-6818](tel:508-358-6818). Here is the link to the important dates for kindergarten information and Dr. Stein's welcome letter. http://www.wayland.k12.ma.us/district_info/kindergarten_information

February and March at Happy Hollow:

Week of February 16-22	Winter Vacation	
Monday, February 23	Classes Resume	
Monday, February 23	PTO Cultural Enrichment Program	Two shows 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, March 22	Wayland Schools Foundation Spelling Bee	WHS 12-4 p.m.
Thursday, March 26	Talent Show Audition parent required	HH Gym 3:00-4:30

Curriculum Corner



Technology News for Grades 1-5 from Ms. Crozier What's coming up in February?

1st Grade: Students continue to work on their penguin picture in Kid Pix. We are currently focusing on typing. This is quite tricky for our young learners. Students are expected to type their fact in proper sentence format (capital letter at the beginning and a period at the end) and spell words correctly (with some teacher assistance). Students will also learn how to change font, size and color, which are beginning word-processing skills.



2nd Grade: While students have been using iPads for several years, we are taking several classes to make sure students understand how to navigate this tool. At times, we expect students to work independently on the iPad so it's important we provide them with the necessary skills to support their learning. Students will also explore the subscription activities on the "[More Starfall](#)" website. The link can be found under Computer Lab Links on each tab K through 2.



3rd Grade: Students will be learning more and more about their Google Apps for Students account. So far students have logged into their account. Our first project will be a word-processing project using Google Drive (Docs). In this project, we will address many basic word-processing skills.



4th Grade: We have used technology class to support students with their immigration research project. Students have completed a keyword search lesson - focusing on the importance of keywords when you perform an internet search. Students have also used several websites to locate country facts.



5th Grade: Students continue to make good progress on their Digital Superhero Comic Strip. Most students have finished planned their story using google docs. Now they have moved on to drawing their scenes.



BAND

February Band Newsletter

Band students will be performing in Bandfest 2015 this year. Please join us on Thursday, February 12th at 7:30 in the High School Field house. Band students from 4th grade through 12th grade will be performing. We hope to see you there!

HEALTHY HOLLER
Jeanne MacDonald, RN

News From the Health Room February 2015

Head Lice Information:

- Parents need to be vigilant, checking their child's head at home as part of their daily routine.
- You can help minimize this nuisance by identifying additional cases early.
- Please check the following web pages for educational information:
www.cdc.gov/lice/head/factsheet.html and/or www.headlice.org
- Your school nurse is available if help is needed.

Illness:

- There have been cases of flu and flu like illness.
- Please keep your children home if they are not feeling well in the morning of school or the previous night. Cold symptoms can 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!

It is cold and snowy outside:

- Please be sure that your child have 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.**

3rd & 4th Grade Parent(s):

- An up- to- date physical is required on students entering 4th grade. Please send in an updated physical after August 1, 2014. This is a requirement by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Please call and/or stop by with any questions and/or concerns.

Enjoy February vacation!

Jeanne MacDonald RN

Jeanne_macdonald@wayland.k12.ma.us

508-358-6051

PTO News and Events

THE BACKPACK AUCTION IS COMING SOON!!

The PTO is kicking off its annual Backpack Auction in early March! The Backpack Auction is Part 2 of the PTO's annual Gift Your Child fundraising campaign, and is a silent-style auction that gives our teachers and community the opportunity to 'gift our children'. The proceeds from the auction go directly toward funding educational enhancements at the elementary level.

This year's auction includes a variety of camps (Camp Cody, Camp Longfellow, Sewataro, Linx, Summer Adventure, Beach Buddies); classes and lessons (Dancer's Workshop, Frozen Ropes, Wayland Youth Soccer, Codecampkidz); parties and family fun (Bruins, Red Sox, and Celtics Tickets, Wayland Town Beach Passes; White Mountain Condo Weekend); "grown-up" gifts (gift certificates for gardening, architectural and graphic design services and to local eateries, such as The Local, Mel's, and Liberty Pizza); donations by the police and fire departments and, of course, those fun items from our elementary school teachers and staff! And, much more!!

When your Backpack Auction booklet comes home, take a look, browse with your family, coordinate with your friends and send in your best bids! If you have any questions, please contact Andrea O'Brien and Cathy Davies at hhptofundraising@gmail.com.

Join us for the PROVIDENCE BRUIN'S game!

The three Wayland elementary school PTOs are organizing a **March 15th** (Sunday) outing to a Providence Bruin's game at the Dunkin' Donuts Center (1 La Salle Square, Providence, RI 02903).

Tickets are \$18 per person and each student will receive a free P-Bruins baseball hat. The game starts at 3:05. Each family arranges their own transportation but Wayland families will be seated in the same section.

Your check should be payable to "The Providence Bruins" and submitted by February 13th. Please email Jennifer Pearlman at HappyHollowPTO@gmail.com to sign up and arrange payment.

**2014-2015 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 in your child's 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 below and contact the committee head to learn more. Or, email the Happy Hollow PTO President, Jennifer Pearlman, at: happyhollowpto@gmail.com.

Gift Your Child, Part 2: Backpack Auction	Early Winter	Andrea O'Brien & Cathy Davies
Lunar New Year Celebration (formerly known as The Chinese New Year Celebration)	March 1st (Sun) 2 – 5 PM High School Aud.	Nan Li
Town-wide PTO meeting	March 13th (F)	Stephanie Leong
Bingo Night	March 27th (F)	Julie Suratt
World's Fair	March 28th (Sat) Loker	Samantha Richter
Bus Driver Appreciation Breakfast	April 1st 9:00 High School Commons	
Talent Show	April 10th (F) 6:30 PM – 8:30 Happy Hollow Gym	Vicky Sin
Earth Day Events	TBD	Jennifer Hood-DeGrenier
Elementary Joint Social – Disco Party!	May 9th (Sat) Sandy Burr Country Club	Cathy Caulfield
Annual PTO Meeting & Thank you Breakfast	June 3rd (W) at 9:00 AM in Happy Hollow Cafeteria	Jennifer Pearlman
Teacher & Staff Appreciation Event	June 4th (Th)	Jill Zukerman & Catherine Theobald
Town-wide PTO meeting	June 5th (F)	Stephanie Leong
Book Fair	June 8th & 9th	Sara Langan & Christine Walsh
End of Year Picnic	June 8th (M) at 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM Rain Date: June 10th (W)	Cathy Caulfield

The 2014-2015 Board

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>email</u>
President	Jennifer Pearlman	jenniferorzo@yahoo.com
Vice President	Meg Flatley	megflatley@gmail.com
Secretary	Julie Suratt	juliesuratt@gmail.com
Treasurer	Christine Roberts	christine.j.roberts@gmail.com
Ways/Means (1)	Cathy Davies	cdavies@rtegroup.com
Way/Means (2)	Andrea O'Brien	aobrien68@gmail.com
Social	Cathy Caulfield	ccaulfield16@gmail.com
Past President	Stephanie Leong	stephanie_leong@alum.wellesley.edu

