



THE
HAPPY HOLLOW
HOLLER

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HAPPY HOLLOW SCHOOL & PTO NEWSLETTER

April 8, 2016

"In order to succeed, we must first believe that we can."

-Mikos Kazantzaki, poet, novelist, essayist, philosopher, playwright, travel writer

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

April, 2015

Dear Happy Hollowians,

It is that time of year again. Students are succeeding ~ and we all believed that they would, could ~ and now we have seen that they have! I hope you have enjoyed our conference season. The staff has done an exceptional job in creating presentations of "who" your child is at this grade level and you have seen the growth! Year in and year out, staff do an incredible amount of work ~ putting together portfolios, data and agendas that always come with so many personal stories. I also want to thank all of parents and guardians who take the time out of busy schedules to sit down and meet. Together, we create the team that makes all of our learners successful. Students continue to make sense of their learning and it is very exciting. They are working to synthesize the grade level ideas they have been learning and we can all see the growth. Growth that crosses curricula, the social, emotional and all aspects of a child's school day!

Along with parent conferences, Ms. Pohl and the fifth graders are gearing up for the annual fifth grade play, lots of field trips are occurring... The talent show was last Friday night ~ and a huge success! There are project presentations and studies for the biography show and endangered species presentations taking root! First graders had their pancake breakfast ~ and will soon be doing the exciting life science studies that bring tadpoles and hatching chicks to our school. Our second graders will know everything about Flat Stanley traveling and the North End~ Our third graders will perform a recorder concert and our kindergarten students will be able to tell you all there is to know about trees and wood! ~ We are far from the end of the year, and yet, the grade level learning for this year is well in place and making sense for all level learners.

We are at that magical time of year when students are working toward finding great success in meeting the grade level standards for one grade ~ while keeping an eye wide open looking toward the summer ~ **and even planning for the next year!**

Looking toward the fall, we are once again going to start forming our new class configurations in May. So please read the following to understand our process:

Classroom teachers will meet with specialists, guidance counselors and special education teachers to create well-balanced, heterogeneous groupings, which reflect diverse talents, interests and needs. The staff will also address factors such as gender, social and academic strengths, special needs and friendships - not necessarily "best friends" but students who have nice working relationships in school. The classroom groups will then be

submitted to me for comments and/or adjustment. I will then sit down with the guidance/SPED department for a last look. ~ Finally, I will assign a teacher to each group.

It takes a full month to move through the entire placement process; and with so many factors involved, we **cannot accept requests for individual teachers**. At each grade level, there is a whole team that works meticulously to determine the best possible class groupings. **Every child is considered** and all staff are involved, advocating for your child's academic and social needs. You may write requests about placement **if the following circumstances exist:**

- Request that your child not be placed with a specific child due to personal experience and impact on your child's learning. (A list of children will not be honored.)
- Concerns about placement with a teacher due to your close relationship with that teacher or if you would like a different experience, due to having an older sibling in a classroom in a prior year. (Teachers may also make a request based upon personal experience with a family.)



All letters regarding placement are confidential. If you are writing a letter, please send it to me by April 29th as the first session for grouping is May 4th. **Due to the complex grouping process, I cannot accept letters after April 29th. I also cannot guarantee that every request sent will be honored.** We will do the best we can to honor those requests that follow the above mentioned requirements.

This time of year is always exciting and holds so much that mirrors the beautiful bloom that is all things spring. There is so much left to experience, about which to wonder and ponder, to show and showcase, and to bring together the substantive growth and success of a year's work and learning. This is elementary school at its finest moment. No other time in a person's life will be recalled with such amazement. Our young people are seeing the world for the first time and we are all witness to this awesome happening.

Much peace,

Jim Lee, Principal

This and That from the Principal's Office:

Please dress for the weather! ~ We will have many days that are still cold, some rainy, a lot that are muddy ~ and that means being extra, extra prepared! You may want to send some spare clothing for those days when a slide to make a play becomes a disaster for sitting the rest of the day...

April and May at Happy Hollow

Wednesday April 13	High School Service Day at All Elementary Schools	
Week of April 18-22	Spring Vacation - No School	
Monday, April 25	Classes resume	
Saturday, May 7	Florence Adler Walk/Run	Wayland Middle School
Wednesday, May 25	5th Grade Play School Performance	10:00 am. -11:00 am 7:00pm – 8:00 pm Happy Hollow Gym
Monday, May 30	No School Memorial Day	

Happy Hollow PARCC & MCAS testing- 2016

This year grades 3-5 will be taking PARCC using Computer-Based Testing (CBT). In addition, the 5th grade will take the Science & Technology MCAS in May.

PARCC is administered once this year. The testing window is April 25- June 6. The testing window for Science & Technology MCAS is May 10- May 24.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
APRIL 25	26 PARCC Math Unit 1 Grade 3 60 min.	27 PARCC Math Unit 2 Grade 3 60 min.	28 PARCC Math Unit 3 Grade 3 60 min.	29
MAY 2 PARCC Math Unit 4 Grade 3 60 min	3 PARCC ELA Unit 1 Grade 5 90 min.	4 PARCC ELA Unit 2 Grade 5 90 min.	5 PARCC ELA Unit 3 Grade 5 90 min.	6
9 PARCC Math Unit 1 Grade 5 60 min.	10 PARCC Math Unit 2 Grade 5 60 min.	11 PARCC Math Unit 3 Grade 5 60 min.	12 PARCC Math Unit 4 Grade 5 60 min.	13
16 PARCC ELA Unit 1 Grade 4 90 min.	17 PARCC ELA Unit 2 Grade 4 90 min.	18 PARCC ELA Unit 3 Grade 4 90 min.	19 Sci/Tech. MCAS Grade 5	20 Sci/Tech. MCAS Grade 5
23 PARCC ELA Unit 1 Grade 3 90 min.	24 PARCC ELA Unit 2 Grade 3 75 min.	25 <i>5th grade play</i>	26 PARCC ELA Unit 3 Grade 3 90 min.	27
30 <i>No School</i>	31 PARCC Math Unit 1 Grade 4 60 min.	JUNE 1 PARCC Math Unit 2 Grade 4 60 min.	2 PARCC Math Unit 3 Grade 4 60 min.	3 PARCC Math Unit 4 Grade 4 60 min. Leftover/ makeup

		ELA Unit 1	ELA Unit 2	ELA Unit 3	Math Unit 1	Math Unit 2	Math Unit 3	Math Unit 4
Grade 3 ELA	Unit Time (minutes)	90	75	90				
Grade 3 Math	Unit Time (minutes)				60	60	60	60
Grades 4-5 ELA	Unit Time (minutes)	90	90	90				
Grades 4-5 Math	Unit Time (minutes)				60	60	60	60

HEALTHY HOLLER

NEWS FROM THE HEALTH ROOM April 2016

IMPORTANT PLEASE READ:

All schools are seeing an uptick in illness: flu, flu like illness, strep throat, and vomiting. As parents, you have a tremendous impact on our ability to limit the spread of contagious illness that inevitably hits the school population. We ask that you strictly follow our health protocols.

You can protect yourselves and your family by making sure everyone washes their hands after using the bathroom, before eating, and before touching their face and mouth. Soap and water is the preferred method, but alcohol based hand sanitizer will do if soap and warm water are unavailable. Although the length of time various viruses live on surfaces varies, it appears they last longer on hard surfaces. With that in mind, the following are areas in your home to be especially aware of:

- Doorknobs
- Refrigerator handle
- Computer keyboards and mice
- Video game controllers
- Microwave buttons and handle
- Faucets
- Remote controls
- Toys

Did you know you that your child does not need to have a fever or a sore throat and still may have strep? Often they only complain of one symptom, such as a headache or stomachache. Please observe your child for the following symptoms: fever, sore throat, enlarged tonsils, swollen neck glands, headache, stomachache with or without vomiting, or a cough. Please see your health care provider if your child has any of the above symptoms. Please keep your student home if they report any of the above symptoms or they are not feeling well. **And please let me know if your child is diagnosed with any contagious illness as this helps us identify any trends or problems.** We recognize this can be an inconvenience but thank you for your efforts to keep us all healthy!

Check your children for ticks:

Here is important information about ticks and what you need to do to protect you and your family. Please read information on the following websites:

http://kidshealth.org/parent/firstaid_safe/sheets/tick_bites_sheet.html

<http://www.cdc.gov/ticks/index.html>

<http://www.tickencounter.org>

Spring allergies:

Please be sure that you are observing your child for signs and symptoms of allergies. It is important that your child be given allergy medication before symptoms start. Many children will have watery, red, itchy eyes – and over the counter eye drops will help if given before school

Extra clothing alert for all grades:

Please send in extra clothes with your child as clothing does get wet/damp and muddy from playing outside. This will avoid a call home and a trip to school for you as the clothing supply in the health room is VERY limited.

ATTENTION 3rd Grade Parents:

Please send in your child's updated physical. All 4th grade students are required by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to have a physical on file before going into 4th grade. (2015-2016)

Have a great, healthy April school vacation!

Jeanne MacDonald RN

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CURRICULUM CORNER

FROM TECHNOLOGY

1st Grade: First graders finished their Kid Pix penguin pictures. I am working on compiling them into a class slideshow. These will be shared with you when completed. Our next unit will be an introduction to programming with Beebots.



2nd Grade: Students have been using a variety of online resources to find information for their study of continents. Some classes have been deepening their learning around focus topics. In addition to their classroom projects, students will create a Kid Pix slideshow of their continent during computer class.



3rd Grade: Students did a great job with their first Google Docs writing assignment on LARK. We have begun our new project on rock and minerals. Students have selected a topic. They are using pre-selected websites to read and find the answers to three questions. Research will be wrapping up before vacation. Students will then create a google slide presentation with their research.



4th Grade: Students having been programming and drawing shapes using Probots. The drawing of shapes has been a review of their geometry unit. It can be difficult to determine the angle degree for a variety of triangles and polygons. Do you know the repeat code needed to draw a hexagon or an octagon?



5th Grade: Students are finishing up their Digital Superhero Chatterpix projects. They will be shared with you shortly. We have started our next project which is creating a Google Map with placemarks from at least 6 American Revolution battles. This project coincides with their learning in social studies class.



FROM PHYSICAL EDUCATION

We have wrapped up our volleyball unit and are currently in our dance unit. Students in grades 4 and 5 have learned basic dance moves along with a few current popular dance routines. They have been challenged to work in groups, or work solo, with the goal of creating their own dance routines. It is really nice to see students putting their creative minds together to produce a mini routine. The groups, or solo artists, have the opportunity to show their dance to the rest of the class, which many decide to do.

The K-2 students have also been introduced to the dance unit. For our first class, we discussed the idea of dancing as a great form of exercise. Then, students followed along to a wide variety of dance moves and directions. The "Cha Cha Slide" was a big hit for the students, along with the "Ants in Your Pants" dance. We will continue dancing activities this week as well, with freeze dancing, along with a "follow the leader" dance activity.

I hope that everyone has a fantastic April Vacation!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me: daniel_oconnor@wayland.k12.ma.us

PTO News & Events

TONIGHT! – “LOL” with other Happy Hollow Parents

The Happy Hollow PTO has organized a COMEDY NIGHT. Three comedians will perform for a 90-minute show. This is a new type of event for us and it's a fun way to bring Happy Hollow parents together. We can even reserve "class tables" so you can sit with other parents from your child's classroom.

Date: Friday, April 8th
Time: 7:30 p.m. – cocktails (cash bar) and mingling
8:00 p.m. – Comedy Show (about 90 minutes)
Where: Sandy Burr Country Club
Tickets: Only \$12 each! [Comedy Tickets](#)
Note: Not for the kids! Book a sitter.

YOU MAY ALSO PURCHASE TICKETS AT THE DOOR

Visit us online at [Wayland PTO Website](#)

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