



THE
HAPPY HOLLOW
HOLLER

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HAPPY HOLLOW SCHOOL & PTO NEWSLETTER
December 11, 2015

"We, the People, recognize that we have responsibilities as well as rights; that our destinies are bound together; that a freedom which only asks what's in it for me, a freedom without a commitment to others, a freedom without love or charity or duty or patriotism, is unworthy of our founding ideals, and those who died in their defense." ~President Barack Obama

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

December, 2015

Dear Friends,



If I told you that over the past six years approximately 234 students ~ ages 6 to 11~ have acted in leadership roles, leading about 2,400 other students ~ giving almost \$40,000 to charities that span the globe, would you be impressed? Although approximate, the aforementioned are facts about the students at the Happy Hollow School for the past six years. How is this possible?

Like many other wonderful ideas ~ the think tank that comprises our School Council was the body that ignited the spark that has led us to where we are today in terms of student service learning. Jennifer Steel first raised the idea and wanted very much to tie it to curricular efforts. During the first year of its inception, we had banners that defined the goals of each grade level based upon the content that each grade studied in Social Studies. To give staff time to meet, I would cover a morning duty that entailed watching eight classrooms of children ~ three mornings a week. This gave Jen and me the time we needed to connect with students and to begin the work. What happened since that time is truly amazing.

Although it was not possible to link the work directly to curricular efforts due to the many demands already calling on the time of staff and students throughout any given day of school, it was possible to discuss the idea with students that if they were passionate about a cause and cared deeply about it ~ their age was not a barrier to making a difference. They could research a topic, find out how to help and develop a plan that would affect a positive outcome. The first project was led by Jen's son and a friend because during a family trip out of the USA, the friend discovered that dogs were in danger. What followed was research, and a school-wide effort to help.

From that group on ~ students have helped the environment, engaged in cancer fighting efforts, provided food and supplies for people and animals, taught lessons for awareness, ran anti-bullying campaigns ~ one student even led a whole school spirit day around accepting others and celebrating differences. Impressively, she ran the day and a campaign on the same theme as a second grader. Now a part of our culture, there are always projects happening. Some raise money, but many do not. Many are awareness and some even ask for personal cards or notes.

So what are the requirements to begin a project and see it through to fruition? There are many steps. The first is that students have to form a group, get a partner or decide to work on their own ~ but they must find an idea about which they are passionate. The idea has to involve learning. Students may use something they have learned to do a project and/or they must research a topic and teach about it in a whole-school setting. We use the business meeting portion of our assembly meetings to have students present. The second step involves making a recess/lunch meeting appointment with the principal. Students must come to the office, present their idea to Ms. Corner, request a meeting time and then show up. The third step happens during the luncheon/recess meeting with the principal. A planning sheet is created, specific to each group. An action plan is formed and students are set to work. Like in the case of the group Destination Imagination, the children must do the work, but they also must find a parent or staff member to be an advisor. This is crucial due to new School Committee rules about student activities that involve raising money. The fourth step is that students meet. They meet among themselves and/or with their chosen advisor. They create scripts for PA announcements/commercials about their cause and plan. They create posters advertisements/fliers and most often put together a presentation for the whole school assembly ~ in PowerPoint format, Google Presentation or in a scripted play format ~ very impressive! The fifth step is they must put their plan

into action. This may involve running a school-wide drive, campaign, sale, working with community members, writing letters to pertinent authorities or creating a document such as a comic strip and/or newspaper.



The sixth step is crucial and because of this, it receives a new paragraph. After running a project, the most important part is making sure once the fun is done ~ the details are well cared for and promptly too. If they collected money, under the new regulations, an advisor must come to the school and count the money with the administrative assistant in the office. The money may not leave the school. There are forms to complete and the group even has to write a paragraph about their project and intended charity that they will assist. The money is then deposited into the school's student activity account and a check is written to the intended charity. Students then mail their check.

Finally, they receive awards at an all-school assembly. Some report back to the school with notes of gratitude from groups that have been helped, others follow-up to make sure that if they started a "clean up the litter on the playground group" ~ it is still ongoing.

All of this is service and learning at its best. Our service learning develops organically from the children. They are the leaders and lead others. This is what makes us unique and what makes the program so very exciting. Last year, a kindergarten student ran a project with her brother ~ inspired by an experience they had with their family around a cousin's stay at Children's Hospital. The sky is the limit for what kids can do to make a difference in the world ~ and no one is too young to start. Making the world a better place begins with one's sphere of influence and can touch any corner of our earth...

*"I touch the future. I teach."
~Christa McAuliffe*

All best ~ happy holidays to you all and enjoy a restful and wonderful break!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Lee".

Jim Lee
Principal



This and That from the Principal's Office:

School Meeting Assemblies will be every Monday unless there is a holiday or school cancelation. Assemblies run from 9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. All are welcome!

Traffic Concerns at Drop Off and Pick Up: This comes directly from a concerned parent who sits in the line and does the right thing...I could not agree with her more...

"Many do not follow the rules. I actually think it might help speed things up if everyone was 'on the same page'.

*Pull as far forward as possible - many stop in front of the Kindergarten door.

*Do not cut in line - don't use the live lane, then cut into the drop off lane where there is an opening, or edge out someone waiting.

*Don't get out of the car to help kids out of the car. If they need help opening the door and getting their backpack out, pull into a parking space.

*Don't get out of the car to walk kids to the door and to hug goodbye on the sidewalk. Pull into a parking space to do that.

*Don't park on the hill at pick-up and get out of the car to walk to the front of school to pick up your kid. Pequot is dangerous at pickup since the road is too narrow and only allows one lane of thru-traffic. Parking holds up the whole lane. Again, park in a parking spot if you need to pick up your child from the front the school.

*Be careful at the crosswalk at the entrance to the school. Cars are coming from 2 directions pulling into the driveway, and in the morning often times don't see the kids are trying to cross at the crosswalk.

Simple rules, but not all are following. It is frustrating for those that do. None of us want to be in line, even those waiting patiently to drop off or pick up our kids. That doesn't give an excuse to not follow the rules."

Thanks to the parent who said what we all know to be true so aptly. Let's work together to make our school model at pick up and drop off times. Thank you so much.



Lost and Found:

Please check the lost and found before you leave for the winter break. We have many items and it would be great if the children could have them at home for the vacations. Thank you!



Gift Giving Policies:

Gifts Given to a teacher or staff member:

- Public school teachers, as municipal employees, may not accept gifts valued at \$50 or more. Nor can staff members accept (from one family) a number of smaller gifts which together are worth \$50 or more.
- A teacher accepting a gift of less than \$50 from a current student may be required to disclose that gift if it creates the appearance of a conflict of interest.
- A teacher may accept a group gift of up to \$150 per year from his or her class as long as the gift is identified as being from the entire class, and the identity of the contributors and the amounts given are not identified to the teacher. In addition, no individual family may make a contribution of \$50 or more to a group gift.
- Gifts to individual teachers may be given in the form of gift cards as long as they are in accordance with these limitations.

Gifts Given to the classroom or school:

- Gifts of \$200 or more to individual classrooms, schools, or the district (as opposed to the teacher) require School Committee approval and acceptance. Gifts of less than \$200 may be approved and accepted by a principal or the superintendent.
- Classroom gifts in the form of cash must be deposited and processed through a town account, although reimbursements may be made after an authorized gift purchase.
- Under no conditions can gift cards be given as a classroom gift since they cannot be deposited in a town account.

Gifts In General:

- The School Committee policy recommends: "In lieu of gifts to individual teachers, parents are encouraged to make contributions to school support organizations such as the PTO, CAPA, Boosters, and the Wayland Public Schools Foundation."
- Finally, many teachers truly experience "Thank You" notes as one of the best gifts they can receive.

December Calendar and more

Tuesday December 15	Chorus Concert	7-8pm Auditorium
Wednesday, December 23rd	Full day of school Holiday Recess begins at 1:50 p.m.	
December 24th – January 3rd	Holiday Recess	
Monday, January 4th	Classes resume	
Monday, January 18th	NO SCHOOL Martin Luther King Day	
Possibly Friday, January 22 nd	Martin Luther King Dinner	Wayland Middle School 6-9 pm
Friday, February 12th	Full day of school Winter Recess begins at 3 p.m.	
February, Feb 22nd	Classes resume	

HEALTHY HOLLER

Important information about your child's health:



- If your child has a complaint of headache, stomachache, with or without fever and/or sore throat, sometimes with a cough, and these complaints do not go away, then you should take your child to their doctor to check for strep throat. The rapid strep test done in the doctor's office can sometimes be negative, with the throat culture being positive 48 hours later. Strep throat is very contagious in the school setting.
- Children diagnosed with "strep" throat need to be on an antibiotic for 24 hours before returning to school, so they are not contagious to others.
- If medication is required during school time, please ask your pharmacy for a "school bottle" labeled from the pharmacy with medication name, dose, and frequency. We will also need a parent permission form completed.
- Your child's health is an important concern. It is critical that children get the rest that they need to recover from either a bacterial and/or viral infection.
- Please have your child protected from influenza (a viral infection) by getting them the FLU vaccine-it is not too late.
- Resource for parents on many topics:
 - <https://www.healthychildren.org>
 - <https://www.kidshealth.org>

Other Info:

- Please dress your child appropriately with the winter months upon us (coat/mittens/boots/snow pants, change of clothes). For younger children there should be a change of clothes in their backpack (underwear/pants/socks).
- Children should have a daily snack/drink provided from home.
- Please check your cell phone throughout the day as parents will be called if your child needs to be sent home.
- The most important first line of defense against germs is good hand washing. Please continue to reinforce this at home. We will continue to educate children here at school.
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Please feel free to contact me with any questions and/or concerns at 508-358-6051.

Happy Holidays and stay healthy!

Jeanne MacDonald RN

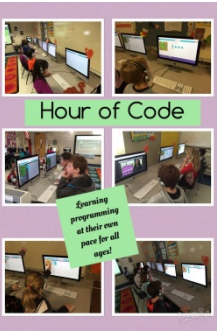
Jeanne_MacDonald@wayland.k12.ma.us

508-358-6051



CURRICULUM CORNER

FROM TECHNOLOGY



During the month of December, computer classes are participating in the [Hour of Code](#), which is being held worldwide from December 7th - 13th. The Hour of Code is an opportunity for millions of students to try computer science. At the elementary level, we have been exposing children to programming for many years. We build the foundation for programming in Kindergarten by introducing the Beebot (a WPSF Grant that was funded many years ago). We continue to use Beebots, Probots, and Scratch in our technology program. Students will use code puzzles on [Code.org](#) and on [Tynker Coding for Kids](#) which is mostly block style programming. Students can see the JavaScript behind the blocks when they have completed the puzzles. There are a few set of puzzles that let you program directly with JavaScript. Students may continue their coding practice while at home by accessing their Code.org classroom login from the [Computer Lab links page](#). Each student has their own account on Code.org so their progress will be saved. I then access student data and see how the students are progressing.



3rd-5th Grade: Just a reminder that students would benefit from keyboarding practice at home two times a week for 15-20 minutes. Students can access the All the Right Type website from the "For Students" link on the [Happy Hollow website](#).



4th Grade: Fourth grade students will practice their coding skills in January. We will use December classes to support students with their immigration and cultural project. Students have completed a keyword search lesson - focusing on the importance of keywords when you perform an internet search. Students will use several websites to locate facts. Many of the resources can be found under "For Students" on the Happy Hollow website - CultureGrams, and Encyclopedia Britannica are two examples.

5th Grade Tech Crew - It has been wonderful working with Ms. Devlin's tech crew students. If you'd like to see their Animoto video work, please visit the [HH School Meeting website](#). Ms. Candini's class will now be taking over the tech crew responsibilities through February. Thank you to all the families and students for your support and commitment to this volunteer program.

FROM ART

December 2015



Guest speakers in our 4th grade classes on Dec 11, will be Ms. O'Heron and Ms. Santos, Wayland parents. We are excited to hear them tell and demonstrate some of their artistic techniques in creating their larger than life sized sculptures!

"Drop Into Art" Winter Session

when: Wednesday Mornings in December and January (December 16, 23 January 6,13,20,27)

who: Open to all 4th and 5th grade students and offered by Ms. Soeltz

where: Happy Hollow Art Room - No Sign Up Necessary

what: "Drop In" at 8: 10 am and create until school begins! Get your brain circuitry flowing!

FREE!

Our Winter Session will begin with students swapping art lesson information straight from their class assignments. Students at each grade level agreed to the idea of introducing their recent projects to the alternate grade level. What this means is that the 4th graders will assist 5th graders in their understanding of how to create the effects achieved in the 4th grade "Graph Paper Color Posters". Lots of color theory is applied in the underlying structure of these posters!

Likewise, the 5th graders will assist 4th graders in their understanding of the concepts behind the contour drawings they have worked on this fall. All students will have the opportunity to start their own long- term projects based on the foundations of these concepts. Once launched, students may wish to take their work in directions outside the concepts laid out in the original classroom assignments.

PTO News & Events

JOIN US FOR THE NEXT PTO MEETING

When: December 18th, 2015 (Friday)
Where: Happy Hollow Cafeteria
Time: 8:45 AM

PTO Volunteer Opportunities

5th GRADE MEMORY BOOK AND SLIDE SHOW

POST PICTURES OF YOUR FIFTH GRADER!! These pictures will be used for the yearbook for the 5th graders and for the end of year slide show. We would like four pictures of each child. Ideally, it would be pictures of your child as a baby, a toddler, first grader and a current picture. We'd also like to collect any pictures you might have of any class field trips from grade 1-5.

Please post these pictures to this site <http://1drv.ms/20Est96> and be sure to label each file. For the **pictures of your child**, save them using *firstname.lastname#*. So, John Smith's baby picture should be *john.smith1*, his toddler picture should be *john.smith2*, etc. For the **field trip pictures** from John Smith's family, please indicate grade and your last name. For example, *Grade1Smith1*, *Grade1Smith2*, etc. We want to be sure we include pictures from every child so the naming conventions are important.

The kids love to see their pictures on the screen, so please get them posted as soon as you can. If you have trouble posting them, please email your pictures to pburgess1995@outlook.com

BACKPACK AUCTION-GIFT YOUR CHILD PART 2

Do you have a talent or ability to share with the community? Do you have a product that you would like to donate? Consider donating to the Gift Your Child Backpack Auction!

The **Gift Your Child Backpack Auction Committee** is busy rounding up annual favorites including camps, experiences with the local fire and safety departments, varsity sports, and teacher items for this year's Backpack Auction. Over the past few years, with great success, we expanded the Backpack Auction offerings a bit to include some of the many talented members of our community. We would like to, again, extend the invitation to anyone within the Wayland community who might be able to offer a unique or special experience to please consider donating to the auction. This could be anything from sharing a hobby (knitting lessons, sports lessons, photography, baking lessons, cooking an ethnic dish, etc.), to something pertaining to your career (author, musician, athlete, artist, event planner, etc.), or a donation from a family-run, Wayland business (architect, baker, photographer, musician, restaurant, etc.) in the form of a product or an experience. If you have an idea for an experience that you could share with a winner (adult, child and friend, group of children, etc.) or something you'd like to offer to the elementary school community to bid on, please contact Cathy Davies and Andrea O'Brien at HHPTOfundraising@gmail.com by January 15, 2016.

...And look for the Backpack Auction booklet coming to a backpack near you this March!!

PTO Appreciation – Be sure to thank our volunteers when you see them!

Oops!

We neglected to thank **Katya Fonkych** for joining the Cultural Enrichment team and helping to organize last week's assembly. Thank you, Katya!

ROLLER KINGDOM - 5th GRADE ACTIVITIES

Thank you to **Carrie Greenberg** for organizing the 5th grade trip to Roller Kingdom. We would also like to thank the following Happy Hollow parents who chaperoned:

Jenny Harding
Elena Taxiarchis
Cathy Davies
Elizabeth Nolan

THANKS FOR YOUR DONATIONS

A huge **THANK YOU** from the PTO to the Happy Hollow families for all of your generous Gift Your Child donations. Your participation in the first part of our annual fundraiser goes a long way in helping to fund the many programs the PTO supports in our schools.

To learn more about where the PTO uses these donations in our school, please visit our website at waylandpto.org/happy-hollow-pto.

If you would like to take advantage of the tax deduction before year-end, donations are always welcome, and can still be made at waylandpto.org or by sending cash or check (made out to "Wayland PTO") in to school with your child in an envelope marked "PTO – Gift Your Child".

And keep your eye out for the **Backpack Auction** (Part 2 of Gift Your Child) in March 2016, with perennial favorites from Wayland's elementary schools' faculty and staff, area camps, and community organizations as they "Gift Our Children"!

Visit us online at [Wayland PTO Website](http://WaylandPTOWebsite)

Join us on Facebook [Happy Hollow PTO on FB](https://www.facebook.com/HappyHollowPTO)