



THE
HAPPY HOLLOW
HOLLER

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HAPPY HOLLOW SCHOOL & PTO NEWSLETTER
February 12, 2015

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

- Principal's Quote and Note ~ A Happy Hollow Treasure! ~
 - Dress for the weather!
 - Lost and Found
 - February/March dates to remember
 - PTO Updates/Calendar
-

"I think the running game is very important to every offense. Being balanced is extremely important. There are times where you have to throw the ball. You could be down late in the game, you need to come back; you have to be able to pass it when they know you're passing it."
~Tom Brady~

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

February, 2016

Dear Friends,

We have WESA! What? Don't worry, you can't catch it! ~ They are people....You don't know who they are? ... Most certainly you do! You encounter this membership at every turn if you have anything to do with our district. They are the WAYLAND EDUCATIONAL SECRETARIES' ASSOCIATION (WESA). ~ I am sure that doesn't really clear things up too much, and may add some more confusion to the opening of this piece. After all, we have administrative assistants who are extremely important to the function of all aspects of our administrative and school team ~ but secretaries? We haven't really had official secretaries in many years. Those jobs have certainly changed in their focus and responsibility, morphing into a level that most certainly combines the secretarial responsibilities with many administrative responsibilities as well.



However, what you may not know is that this collective bargaining group is made up of many people: "Unit Description--In accordance with the provisions of G.L. Chapter 150E, the COMMITTEE recognizes the ASSOCIATION as the sole and exclusive bargaining organization for employees serving in a unit of all permanent full- and part-time positions including all administrative assistants, secretary/receptionists, secretaries, media center assistants, language lab assistants, teacher assistants, student supervisors (indoors), student supervisors (outdoors), computer lab assistants, and science lab assistants, but excluding the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, the Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent, the Administrative Assistant to the Director of Student Services, the Administrative Assistant to the Business Administrator, the Administrative Assistant to the METCO Director, the Accounts Manager, the Benefits Manager, the Payroll Manager, System-wide Computer Technicians, and all other employees of the Wayland Public Schools." ~ A most distinguished and dynamic group to say the least! Our schools would not run without this part of our team, and I wish to take some time to share some of what they mean in our Happy Hollow halls, classrooms, cafeteria, on the playground and in every small teaching space you can imagine.

With the Super Bowl in the shadows and so much talk of teamwork, I couldn't help but to see the parallels between Tom Brady's quote about a balanced teamwork is so necessary to any winning team. Our WESA group is often the team we throw the ball to ~ and they have to know we are throwing it and they have to catch it too! Most impressively, they always do!

In our school, it starts in the front office. Beyond seeing these people welcome you all, answering the phones ~ and most questions that are on the other end of the line ~ beyond dismissing your children and always making sure to do so with the utmost care for their safety and well-being ~ they also maintain our information systems, accounts that must be presented to auditors, all of the special education paperwork, the school frontline security systems, including maintaining the CORI files and ensuring that all are sufficiently screened before they enter the building for any reason. Every newsletter, document or communication that leaves our building always involves this team. In addition, they work many hours beyond what is expected, either related to their own concentration or even joining the teams that comprise our Mentor Program for our Boston resident students and even our student council. ~ The list is endless, but suffice to say, they are involved in all aspects of creating the supports and systems that define a winning, top-notch school.

As the play moves down the hall and throughout the school ~ there are still plenty of WESA teammates who are catching the late game passes that help us win every day we are in session. The teaching assistants (TAs) are a group comprised of five areas this year. We have special needs TAs. We have kindergarten TAs. We have building substitute TAs. We have one English Language Learner (ELL) TA, and we have two Title I TAs.

The special education TAs are assigned to work with individuals and small groups of children across the school who have significant special needs that require a great deal of support throughout every school day. They make certain this happens for all of those under their charge, but also become an integral part of every class community with whom they work ~ often referred to by all students in a given class as "my second teacher." These para-professionals ~ many of whom are certified teachers or working toward that end, work with the special education team and under the direction of a special education liaison. In this capacity they help to modify curriculum, learn to present material in a variety of ways so they can teach to the academic, social and emotional needs of our students as defined by their Individual Educational Plans (IEPs). They attend weekly planning meetings for working as integral members of the classroom teams with whom they are assigned to work. They assist with our RTI model, teaching small groups and adding to the grade level team's ability to keep the groups to no more than four students. They supervise the unstructured times for all of our students, covering all of the cafeteria supervision and recess duties in partnership with the Wayland Teachers' Association (WTA) staff (-this group is all of our classroom teachers, specialist, guidance, speech and language, ESL and SPED teams). Impressively, as they assume their supervisory duties, they look to teach students how to navigate the unstructured times in their days ~ providing instruction around self-regulatory interventions, conflict resolution and even the basic manners of eating in a "kids'



restaurant"/cafeteria. You are even greeted by two members of this team each morning and that is the second part of that job, which begins with meeting and supervising our Boston resident students prior to the 8:30 a.m. opening time. Unbelievable!



The building substitutes assume every job across the school in the absence of a WTA or WESA employee. And when they are not serving as substitutes, they run a schedule, so they too assist with the RTI models for math and ELA. They run extra help sessions and tend to the individual needs of students who present with academic, social and emotional needs ~ most often for students who are not on IEPs. They even are called upon to cover front office responsibilities when needed. Amazing!

The kindergarten TAs partner with the lead kindergarten teachers to meet the diverse needs of our youngest people in our school. These jobs require that they work in tandem with their lead teacher for setting up lessons, preparing and helping to maintain the many materials that teaching this age group requires, and teaching small group or whole class lessons with their assigned teacher. They, too, offer the cafeteria supervision that their counterparts offer, but their duties include teaching our brand new people how to eat in a large dining area, how to manage organizing their lunch so it is prepared to eat and making sure they balance the social time with actual eating time ~ no easy feat! They possess strong conflict resolution and social competency teaching skills to help all kindergarten students navigate the unstructured times in their days, and they do so with the utmost professionalism.

The ELL TA is a relatively new position in our district, but enables us to meet the needs of our students for whom English is a second language. This requires working closely with English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers and the teaching staff across the school. They have the ominous task of modifying curriculum in a way that helps our English Language Learners (ELLs) to learn both the spoken and academic language that gives them access to their academic and social times in their school days. Hugely important!

Our two Title I TAs are with us because we qualify for Title I services this year. Their focus is all academic. Both work 19 hours per week and provide extra support during RTI times and other crucial academic times in the school day. They change grades constantly and work across the whole school. Incredible!

So needless to say, we owe these people a great deal of gratitude that cannot possibly be adequately expressed in an article such as this ~ or with mere words. Hopefully, we show them every day that they are appreciated more than they could ever know and that without them, all of our late-game plays would be fumbled. They are the unsung heroes of our fantastic team. I couldn't help but to take this mid-year time both to sing their praises and to allow you a glimpse of what it means to be a proud member of the WESA group here at the Happy Hollow School and across our extraordinary district. We are so very fortunate!

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! We have a second grader who has agreed to join forces with our PTO to perform a service learning project of getting lost items to the Cradles to Crayons group. While we think this is a worthy and wonderful way to ensure that these items find a proper home ~ we would much rather you and your children find your many lost items.

February and March at Happy Hollow:

Week of February 15-19	Winter Vacation	
Monday, February 22 nd	Classes Resume	
Monday, February 22 nd	Grades K 1 2 Cultural Enrichment	HH 9:00-10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, February 24	Kindergarten Information Night	CHS 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Thursday, February 25 th	Coffee with the principal topic: Social Smarts	HH 6:15-8:00 p.m. dinner will be served
Tuesday, February 29 th	String Jam	WSH 7:30-8:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 3 rd	Math Night/Presentations and games	Loker Café 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 9	Wayland – Boston Technology Showcase	Twelfth Baptist Church 150 Warren St, Roxbury 7:00 p.m.
Thursday March 10	Author Visit Sharon Draper	HH Gym 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, March 16 and Thursday, March 17	PTO Talent Show Auditions	2:00 – 3:00 p.m. 3:15 – 4:40 p.m.
Sunday, March 20	WPSF Spelling Bee	WHS 12:00-4:00 p.m.
Monday, March 28	GR 3, 4, 5 Cultural Enrichment	HH 10:00 – 10:45 a.m.

HEALTHY HOLLER



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:

- We continue to see an increased number of cases of "strep throat" here at Happy Hollow at each grade level.
- The first complaints by your children may be headache and stomachache, with or without vomiting. Children do not necessarily complain about sore throats and may not always have a fever. They may have swollen neck glands. If your child has these symptoms, you should bring them to their doctor for a throat culture. 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.
- Please keep your children home if they are not feeling well as they spread their germs to others.
- 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!

Zika Virus

- We imagine you are all familiar with the attention surrounding the Zika virus. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has a dedicated web page for information regarding this virus. <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/> You will find a wealth of information as well as a link for travel notices to areas where transmission is ongoing.

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

Enjoy February vacation

[Jeanne MacDonald@wayland.k12.ma.us](mailto:Jeanne_MacDonald@wayland.k12.ma.us)

508-358-6051



Kindergarten Registration

The Kindergarten letters were mailed out on Tuesday January 19th to families with children eligible for Kindergarten in 2016. If you did not receive a letter, please contact Gretchen Lutz at [508-358-6818](tel:508-358-6818) or Gretchen_lutz@wayland.k12.ma.us

Kindergarten On-Line Registration will open at 9:30am on Monday February 29th.
The registration link will be available [HERE](#) on 2/29.

CURRICULUM CORNER

FROM ORCHESTRA AND STRINGS

On February 29th, almost 500 string players in grades 3-12 will perform in the annual String Jamboree! This exciting event will take place in the High School Field House beginning at 7:30 pm. Students should plan to be there in time for a 7:00rehearsal. Ms. Tandon and Ms. Jacobsen will send more details as the performance gets closer, but be sure to mark your calendars now and let them know if you have any questions! We look forward to celebrating a great night of strings with you!

FROM TECHNOLOGY

1st Grade: We have started our first Kid Pix's project this month. Students will create a penguin picture which incorporates their classroom learning about penguins. This project will include word-processing skills, adding pictures, creating animation and voice recording. Lots to do. Look for the project to be completed at the end of March.



2nd Grade: Students will finish their All About Me slideshow. This was a quick project teaching students the basics of building a slideshow ~ create pages, add to the Kid Pix Slide Sorter, add transitions and sounds! Voila!



3rd-5th Grade: Just a reminder that all 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](#).

3rd Grade: Students have been learning about their Google Apps for Students account. Thus far students have logged into their account, and created a 3rd grade folder to help organize their work. Our first project will be a writing project, which will address many basic word-processing skills.



4th Grade: We had a focus lesson on [CyberBullying](#) from the Common Sense Media Digital Citizenship Curriculum. This lesson focused on what is cyberbullying, the similarities and differences between bullying and cyberbullying and what to do if you encounter the situation. Through our discussions, children have had some different experiences and knowledge of cyberbullying. I encourage all families to know what activities, apps, and accounts your children are using. Read the privacy policy of apps or websites before creating accounts. Many websites and apps state the minimum age to create an account is 13 and/or require parent permission. Please stay involved in your child's online activities. As a follow up, students played the Evolve game on Common Sense Media's [Digital Passport](#) website. A fun way to reinforce appropriate online behavior.



5th Grade: Several students are putting the finishing touches to their Digital Superhero project. As an extension activity, students will create a 30 second infomercial using the Chatterpix app on iPads. The infomercial will promote good digital citizenship.



ONLY TWO WEEKS AWAY...RSVP REQUIRED

PRINCIPAL'S "COFFEE" – Join us for a pasta dinner followed by student demonstrations of Social Smarts in action.

Topic: Social Smarts! How do we explicitly teach social skills, help students understand social situations, hold students accountable for their behaviors, and prepare them to deal well with their current social world; so they will find success in all of life's future endeavors?

Come see it all! ~ Live!

Open Circle ~ is our core social competency curriculum. See a lesson and understand the scope and sequence of the updated curriculum roll out currently in progress.

Social Thinking ~ is a supplement to our core curriculum, adding key perspective taking and strong visual examples to dive into our core content in a manner that ensures we reach students at all developmental levels.

Responsive Classroom ~ is a general approach of teaching practices that consists of a set of structures and strategies including: morning meeting, logical consequences and interactive modeling. It provides educators with a methodology that helps children become socially responsible members of a community.

Power of One ~ is an easily accessible way to teach all students anti-bullying strategies. Combined with the social stories and consequence sequence that comprises our student handbook, it becomes a high impact tool for leading the way in conflict resolution, and for holding students accountable when bullying behaviors occur ~ before they become bullying cases!

Format: Dinner and casual conversation first ~ a brief opening ~ viewers rotate through three (15-minute) **actual sessions** from the list above ~ quick closing and questions ~

DATE: Thursday, February 25th

TIME: 6:30 PM pasta and salad dinner for all, 7:00-8:00 PM presentation

LOCATION: Happy Hollow School, 63 Pequot Rd.

CHILDCARE: Provided in the library, must be potty-trained

SPONSOR: Happy Hollow PTO

RSVP: Please RSVP to happyhollowPTO@gmail.com for the total number of adults and children. *Please specify how many of the children will go to childcare. Children that are able to pay attention may stay for the presentation with parents.*

MATH IN ACTION: GOING BEYOND JUST THE ANSWERS

DATE: Thursday, March 3rd

TIME: 5:30pm - 6:30pm (Prior to Family Fun Math Games)

DINNER: Pizza & beverages beginning at 5:30pm

PRESENTATION: Elementary Parent Presentation 5:45pm-6:30pm

LOCATION: Loker School Theater

RSVP: Cathleen_Holmes@wayland.k12.ma.us with the total number of adults and children who will go to childcare.

Feeling puzzled by your child's math homework? Does math instruction feel like it has changed significantly since you were in school? Do you wonder why students are learning this way? Join Elementary Math Coaches Aidan McCann and Becky Lepow to explore some of the math strategies your children are learning in class. Come see how these strategies are helping students build a deeper understanding of math concepts, and learn how you can support your child at home. Childcare will be provided, must be potty-trained.

Followed by...

FAMILY FUN MATH GAME NIGHT

DATE: Thursday, March 3rd
TIME: 6:30pm-7:30pm
LOCATION: Loker School Cafeteria

RSVP: Lynn_Featherstone@wayland.k12.ma.us

Want to have fun and strengthen your math skills at the same time? Bring the whole family to play popular board games and card games. All elementary school families are welcome to this district-wide math celebration! Enjoy refreshments while learning more about how to encourage mathematical thinking at home. Sponsored by the Wayland Public Schools Elementary Math Team.

DEADLINE FOR 5TH GRADE SLIDE SHOW PICTURES-MARCH 30, 2016

Here are the pictures we'd like to get:

1. Infant
2. Toddler
3. Kindergarten or first grade
4. Current

Nice to have, but not mandatory, would also be group pictures of Happy Hollow 5th graders or any field trip pictures of this class from any of their 5 years at Happy Hollow.

Here's how you get them to me:

1. My preferred method and this will be easy for you if you have a Microsoft account i.e. (think Xbox), then go to this site below and upload the pictures. Please be sure and label each picture for your child. Please post these pictures to this site <http://1drv.ms/20ESt96>
2. Likely the easiest for you is to email them to me at pburgess1995@outlook.com. Please be sure to indicate your child's name in the email.

If you have any questions, email me at pburgess1995@outlook.com or call me at 617-797-4740.

SAVE-THE-DATE **ANNUAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS PTO FAMILY BINGO NIGHT**

When: Friday, March 11, 2016
Time: 6:00 p.m – 8:00 p.m.
Where: Wayland Middle School Cafeteria

Please save-the-date for the annual PTO Family Bingo Night and enjoy bingo, pizza, popcorn, ice cream sundaes, face paintings and a raffle! This event typically sells out very quickly so please mark your calendars. Registration information will be sent out the week after February vacation.

RAFFLE ITEMS -- If you have any items that you would like to donate to our raffle such as unwanted/unused gift cards (restaurants, spas, stores, kids activities) please contact Pamela Weltz Zilembo at p_weltz@yahoo.com.

SAVE THE DATE- ADULT COMEDY NIGHT

Friday, April 8
(evening), Time TBD
COMEDY NIGHT
Sandy Burr Country Club

Book your sitter and join your fellow Happy Hollow friends for a night of laughter and fun. This will be a different kind of event and a way to meet and socialize with other Happy Hollow families so we hope you all can join! Complimentary snacks will be provided. Cash bar. Tickets will go on sale soon! More details to follow.

Questions contact ccaufield16@gmail.com

JOIN US FOR THE NEXT PTO MEETING

When: February 11th, 2016 (Thursday)

Where: Happy Hollow Cafeteria

Time: 8:45 AM

Join us to find out what we are planning and how you can get involved. Feel free to bring your little ones to the meeting. Hope to see you!

JOIN the HAPPY HOLLOW PTO on FACEBOOK

We're keeping parents informed and having fun on Facebook!

It's a closed group so an administrator will add you as a member. We will only add people we have verified are members of the Happy Hollow PTO community.

Click on the icon.



that we

PTO Volunteer Opportunities

PLANNING FOR 2016-2017

Would you like to be a part of the Happy Hollow PTO Board next year? There is no experience necessary and experienced volunteers will be available to guide you in the position. We meet once a month in the morning at 8:45 at the school. We are very flexible and accommodating to individual situations.

We are looking for some fresh faces to get involved. We have positions suited for working and stay-at-home parents. If you have interest in any of the following positions, please contact Jennifer Pearlman at happyhollowpto@gmail.com for more details.

President
Vice-President
Treasurer
Secretary
Social
Fundraising (2 positions available)

Visit our website:

<http://waylandpto.org/happy-hollow-pto/>

Join us on Facebook:

[Happy Hollow PTO on FB](#)