



THE HAPPY HOLLOW HOLLER

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whh.wayland.k12.ma.us

HAPPY HOLLOW SCHOOL & PTO NEWSLETTER

April 12, 2019

“Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or the present are certain to miss the future.”
~John F. Kennedy~

PRINCIPAL’S CORNER



Dear Happy Hollow Friends!

This is the time of year when we have changed. The grade level skills are now in full bloom and all the work will culminate in a year of growth. The days are longer, brighter and warmer. Despite the absence of snow this year, we have journeyed through the amazingly cold winds of winter and somehow, the ice that melted into the mud has lost its hold. The back playground stands firmer, and the tint of green grass spreads, running happily toward the tall trees that watch over our yard- just begging them to become vibrant in the same way. The out-of-doors is quickly becoming an extension of our winter hideaways, and as the bloom begins... so too does the “boom” that spring activity seems to carry.

Spring sports abound ~ many with late night “under the lights” game times. There are more family events to attend ~ weddings, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, Confirmations, First Communions, Passover, Easter and vacations for many.

At school we have our own special recipe for a version of what I call the “Change Whirlwind Mix”. It’s easy enough to make... because all the ingredients are easily accessible and ready. Chef hats on – we are ready to start...

**Begin with our third, fourth and fifth graders ready for a heaping portion of fresh MCAS exams.*

**Gently add in the 5th grade play. Sprinkle with strings and band concerts coming up.*

**Add a generous scoop of the following in grade level order or according to family interest: open houses, a whole fifth grade biography show, field trips – fourth grade meeting the wolves as part of their endangered species study, a third grade recorder concert; Flat Stanleys return to second graders with the North End trip and butterflies abounding; first grade maple sugaring and their special breakfast, topped with memory shows - chicks hatching and a tadpole or two; kindergarten students demonstrating knowledge regarding so many new skill sets and setting off to different spring field studies...*

**Throw in a pinch or two of school meetings, a field day, the Happy Hollow picnic... and so much more...*

**You can add to the list to taste but the end result is much the same. The last ten weeks of school tend to be a perfectly prepared dish of “Change Whirlwind Mix”! On top of that, the building heats up ~ sometimes it feels like 350 to 425 degrees and remains preheated ~ And if it does so early, it can make it more challenging for some to concentrate. The mix is complete when we stir in the end of the year with move along day and farewell times ~ Shake well and you are full before you begin!*

On the other hand, this is also the most exciting time of the year! As you have just heard in parent conferences – so expertly crafted by our wonderful staff - all of our students continue to make great strides forward in all areas of their schooling. They synthesize their grade level learning, and we can all see the growth in formal and informal ways. Growth that crosses curricula, the social, emotional and all aspects of a child's school day! **Finally, it is the time when we begin planning for next year even before the summer begins! Toward that end, I take time in this issue of the Holler to explain the process our staff and I will embark on for creating next year's class groupings.**

The following is 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.

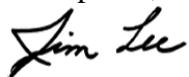
(Teachers may also make a request based upon personal experience with a family.)

All letters regarding placement are confidential. If you are writing a letter, please send it to me by Wednesday, May 1st, as the first session for grouping is Wednesday, May 8th. **Due to the complex grouping process, I cannot accept letters after Wednesday, May 1st. 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.

In closing, we indeed have a lot of time to continue to grow, to experience so many things in the final phase of the 2018-2019 School Year. So let's continue to wonder and ponder, to marvel and mingle, to show and showcase, and to bring together the success that defines years' worth of growth. Let's enjoy each ingredient of the "Change Whirlwind Mix" - elementary school at its finest!

Our young people are seeing the world for the first time and we have the honor to be the audience that has the preferential seating to witness a happening that will never occur again. Each year is sealed in a time capsule that we name by grade, and it lives locked deeply in our hearts and minds. Take pleasure in, and treasure every minute.

Much peace,



Jim Lee, Principal



This and That from the Principal's Office:

Please dress for the weather! ~ We will hopefully not have many days that are still cold ~ but some will be rainy, a lot that will be 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, May and June at Happy Hollow

https://whh.wayland.k12.ma.us/for_families

Week of April 15-19	Spring Vacation No school	
Monday April 22 nd	Classes Resume	
Tuesday May 21 st	5th Grade Play For Grade K-4	10:00am HH Gym
Tuesday May 21 st	5th Grade Play For Parents and Family	7:00 pm HH Gym
Monday May 27 th	Memorial Day No school	After school in the HH Gym
Wednesday June 5 th	Happy Hollow Instrumental Concert	10:00am HH Gym
Wednesday June 12 th	Spring String Thing	7:00pm Wayland High School
Wednesday June 12 th (June 13 th rain date)	Field Day	Wayland High School Fields
Thursday June 13 th	Grand Band	7:00pm Wayland High School
Tuesday June 18	Tentative Last Day of School	

MCAS DATES

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tues, April 9 ELA MCAS - Grade3 • Thurs, April 1 ELA MCAS - Grade3 • Thurs, April 25 ELA MCAS - Grade5 • Fri, April 26 ELA MCAS - Grade5 • Tues, April 30 ELA MCAS - Grade4 • Thurs, May 2 ELA MCAS - Grade4 • Fri May 3 Last day ELA MCAS make-ups • Tues, May 7 Math MCAS - Grade 5 • Thurs, May 9 Math MCAS - Grade 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tues, May 14 STE MCAS - Grade 5 • Wed, May 15 STE MCAS - Grade5 • Thurs, May 16 Math MCAS - Grade4 • Frid, May 17 Math MCAS - Grade4 • Mon, May 20 Math MCAS - Grade3 • Wed, May 22 Math MCAS - Grade3 • Fri, May 24 Last day Math/STE make-ups • Tues, May 28 "Extraordinary Circumstance" Math & STE make-ups day |
|---|--|

We ask that you please avoid scheduling appointments that will cause your child to be out of school on these dates. Please also help your child to get a good night's rest and a healthy breakfast!

Assembly Meetings - Due to MCAS testing and 5th Grade play rehearsals ~ we will have an assembly meeting on: Monday April 29, Monday May 6 & 13, and June 3 & 10. -- **All are invited!**

CURRICULUM CORNER

FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICE

For parents of students in grades 1, 3, and 5: Information regarding the sexual abuse awareness program

In the weeks after April vacation students in grades 1, 3, and 5 will participate in a program designed to educate children about personal safety and sexual abuse prevention. The goals of the program are to help children 1) increase their awareness of abuse and exploitation; 2) develop skills and understanding that will help them avoid potentially abusive situations; 3) know how important it is to tell a trusted adult if they have been sexually abused; and 4) understand that a child who has been abused is not at fault.

We will be working in each classroom, viewing and discussing a video presentation. There will be opportunities for parents to preview the videos used in the program on the following dates: **Wednesday May 1 at 8:45 a.m. with JoAnn Kline and Thursday May 2 at 8:45 a.m. with Beth Santomenna.** Locations will be posted in the front lobby the morning of the preview.

If you have questions about the program, concerns about your child, or wish information about additional resources, please contact one of us.

-Guidance Counselors Beth Santomenna (508)358-8649 and JoAnn Kline (508)358-8650

FROM ART

Drop Into Art - Open and FREE to grades 4 and 5

Our next session will begin in April and will follow the schedule below. There is no need to sign up as it is on a "Drop In" basis.



Students are welcome to attend on the dates that work best for them. We will be working on play props, amongst other things!

Tuesdays 8 am to 8 30 am: 4/23, 4/30, 5/14, 5/21

FROM THE LIBRARY

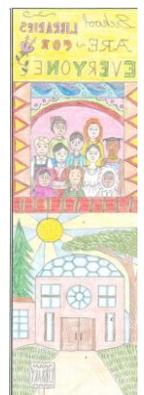
Author Visit

Many thanks to the PTO for sponsoring our annual author visit with author and illustrator Scott Magoon on Monday, April 8th. Scott was recently honored with the 2019 ALA Schneider Family Book Award for Children (for a book that embodies an artistic expression of the disability experience for child and adolescent audiences) for his collaboration on the book *Rescue & Jessica*. Scott met with all students to discuss the writing and illustrating process by sharing how a story transforms from a manuscript to an actual book. He demonstrated his talents via digital art for our students, who had lots of questions about art, chopsticks, and service dogs. We were also treated to a preview of his brand new book *Linus, The Little Yellow Pencil*, to be published in June. Visit him online at ScottMagoon.com.



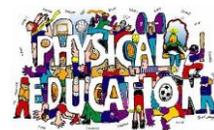
Bookmark Contest

Congratulations to 5th grader Marley Eggers, whose bookmark was honored at the state level of the [Massachusetts School Library Association Bookmark Contest](#). Marley's design using this year's theme of "School Libraries Are for Everyone" won first place in Division 3 (grades 4-6!) This is the second year in a row that a student from Happy Hollow has been recognized in this contest. Marley and his family have been invited to take part in the award ceremony next month at An Unlikely Story, a bookstore owned by *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* author Jeff Kinney. Congratulations to Marley! We are so proud of you!



FROM PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This year, I was able to purchase four brand new pop up hockey goals, that the students really enjoyed using!



In grades 3-5 we spent a lot of time practicing our striking skills. We were able to use the pillow polo sticks (similar to a hockey stick, but a giant foam q-tip ending) and foam hockey sticks as well. We did passing, ball handing, and shooting drills. Students that were interested were also provided the opportunity to play goalie. At the end of our unit, classes played a giant game. In our final game, we had two teams face off against each other, with two goals on each end of the gym. Many times, the older students want to keep score. I understand the desire to have a winning team and a losing team, and occasionally we keep score, but this activity is very hard to keep track of totals! Along with four total goals to score on, we use three balls to maximize the participation level. Once we start playing, they completely forget the winning and losing aspect of the game and just focus on playing good offense and defense.

Students in 1st and 2nd grade had the opportunity to practice all of the same skills as the older students, and used both pillow polo and hockey sticks. We start things nice and easy, making sure everyone knows how to properly hold their stick, and we talk a lot about safety. At the end of the unit, we play a couple of games that they already know, that are typically throwing games. We play messy backyard, and pin guard, which are both team games. Students are placed on a team, and must stay on their side of the gym. They practiced striking balls to the other teams side. Pin guard is a lot of fun because they were able to strike to hit targets.

We have now moved on to kicking skills, and all students will have the opportunity to practice dribbling, trapping, passing, and shooting. For some of the older grades, we will be playing mat ball, which is a version of kickball. Younger students will be playing some smaller sided games, and will have the chance to use the new pop up goals, which I think they will really love!

I can't believe that it's already April vacation, we have so many more activities planned before the end of the year! Field Day is going to creep up on us really fast. I hope everyone has a fantastic vacation, and I look forward to seeing everyone rested up and ready to go when we are back.

Take Care,
Mr. O'Connor

HEALTHY HOLLER

Think Spring!

We ask that you be vigilant in monitoring your children at home for possible illness. Please keep your children home until they are fully well, as this reduces the spread of illness to others. Please remind your children at home as we do at school that the single most important thing you can do to prevent the spread of illness is proper hand washing. We continue to see strep throat and cases of flu which continue to circulate in MA.



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 children for signs and symptoms of spring allergies. It is important that your children 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.

Sun screen and/or insect repellent:

Parents are responsible for applying sun screen and/or insect repellent on elementary school children. Please apply this at home before children come to school. School staff is not permitted to apply sun screen and/or insect repellent on children. Protective clothing is also recommended.

Exceptions are made for students with a medical diagnosis that requires application before outdoor activity. A physician's order with parent permission must be on file for the school staff to apply the product.

Thank You!

5th Grade Postural screening:

5th Grade boys and girls will have postural screening during gym at the end of April. Boys are screened by Mr. O'Connor, our physical education teacher, and girls will be screened by the school nurse. Parents may send in a note if they wish to exempt their child.

Additional Resources for parents:

www.healthychildren.org

www.onetoughjob.org

Have a great, healthy April school vacation

Jeanne MacDonald RN Jeanne_MacDonald@wayland.k12.ma.us

Kelley Bradford RN_Kelley_Bradford@wayland.k12.ma.us

508-358-8648

PTO News and Events

Letter from the PTO Vice President

My family has lived in Wayland for over two years now, so our opportunities to play the “new-to-town” card are legitimately waning. Before that right is completely gone, let me tell you about the talent olympics. Yes, I will admit it.... When I initially heard there were over forty acts, I experienced a series of...um....complex emotions. I wondered how in the world this would get pulled off without complete and utter bedlam. The evening arrived and was phenomenally successful, and more significantly, it captured the essence of the Happy Hollow community.

Indeed, what made the talent show work first and foremost were the kids themselves - they were amazing! However, in front of those kids and undergirding them was the huge, standing-room-only parent fan club - the parents that repeatedly show up, cheer, move chairs, calm siblings, help to seat grandparents, and make kids feel like they are performing at Madison Square Garden. These are the same parents I see on the soccer fields and basketball courts, at the strings and chorus concerts, and selling cookies throughout the town. However, there was yet another layer. The volunteer help from parents, PTO members, and Happy Hollow staff provided structure, flow, and guidance throughout the talent show organizational process and evening. Kids knew where to go, what to do, and how to support one another. With the layers of this community working together, the kids thrived, and forty one acts made for a pretty awesome night.

I was equally struck by the recent PTO backpack auction, which to date has raised over thirty thousand dollars and counting. Again, at the center of this event are our kids. Making it possible are the generous donations from our community members - including our teachers, who offered up items for auction or bided generously on those items. And, pulling it all together are the volunteers behind the scenes who solicited donations, organized the auction, and energetically drew attention to its cause. These multiple layers of support ensure that our kids thrive as they grow up at Happy Hollow.

As we look forward to spring, there is much to anticipate. Planning is underway for the fifth grade bash and other fifth grade rights of passage. Additionally, we prepare reluctantly to graduate another member of our Happy Hollow community, Mr. Lee, whose vision helped to create the culture that makes our school so special.

Moving forward, the PTO will be looking for volunteers to help with spring activities and to get involved with leadership opportunities in the coming school year. For many of you, this is old hat by now, so thank you in advance. If you are “new” to the community like my family sort of is or you’re just interested in participating, then please get involved. I hope to see you out there.

Happy spring! Take care,
David Green

<http://waylandpto.org>

We appreciate your patience as we continue to update the website for 2016-2017