



THE HAPPY HOLLOW HOLLER

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HAPPY HOLLOW SCHOOL & PTO NEWSLETTER

June 14, 2019

“Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other.”

~Abraham Lincoln

PRINCIPAL’S CORNER



June 14, 2019

Dear Friends,

This is my final Holler article to you all... With clouds across my eyes and a heart that is full, I am reflecting on how strong our school is and how very proud I am to have been a part of its growth to this point. Wayland is that amazing town locked between two cities with wooded lanes and a ribbon of river that becomes the finishing bow on a people who are the gifts that form the town. The beauty that cascades from every neighborhood reaching up from the tallest of trees to touch the stars mirrors the possibility that defines our collective approach to educating. We hold the children like strong ladders as they climb to reach for the stars and to fly as high as they can to all the success and happiness that is the essence of a human life well spent. This is what educators now call a growth model and it means there is no limit to what a person can achieve – no ceiling on ability and no fixed way of determining what a person is capable of with the support that is excellence in teaching and learning. We have been on a special journey over these last twelve years to build our interpretation of a growth model – and we’ve done it exceptionally well.

We sport a staff of leaders –remarkable leaders that create new teaching and learning models that include shared teaching at all levels through our Response to Intervention (RTI) and special education planning meetings that enable us to target areas of need until they become areas of growth. We share special content across grade levels and even offer shared teaching models around content for our fourth and fifth grade students. Social and emotional learning (SEL) happens across the grades because we directly teach it and apply strategies toward that end. This is where we have guidance counselors teaching side by side with classroom teachers and the principal – so that we coach children through challenging behavioral emotional and learning needs – with restorative justice as our common goal. We have mindfulness, a school meeting that supports all of our efforts. We are a school fully engaged in service learning, environmental studies including greening efforts, gardening and composting. We celebrate our diversity through student presentations, our book stop and through an increasingly more culturally diverse content in classes and field studies. We have break spaces, fidget tools, stand-up desks and a variety of sensory furniture. Our music and fine arts programs are second to none with productions and presentations that are professional and invite all students to develop and demonstrate related proficiencies until they are also talents. And these are just some of the many things we have built, both as our own school endeavors and in implementing district wide initiatives and fitting them into our school culture.

We are a teaching school and have developed relationships with outside universities so that we have interns and student teachers throughout our school including in SPED and Guidance.

When one leads leaders – what I always hear is – “Well we could be doing more in that area...” – Next year let’s try...”; “Our team is thinking we would like to...”; “Who wants to take a course together?” (Most often

such course work becomes a grade level or team goal or theme on which we agree to work together.) So, my leadership style has been to work side by side with staff, families and ultimately our students to develop, nurture and grow this happening – and that has been my privilege. With you all I have been able to facilitate and together we have been able to formulate with no limit for opportunity and success. – Leaving you in this way could not make me any more pleased or proud.

Summer recess will happen in a matter of days and I like to share these annual thoughts once again. -Wherever we are, whether we travel or stay, whether we sit, run or swim. There will be time to linger, time to read, time to eat ice cream, and to catch up on what it is we left behind when the calendar brought us back to the last school year.

Students at the K-5 grade levels fundamentally understand that these are the days that feel endless - overflowing with magic and the sweet taste of freedom. For the adult part of our community - they bring forth a flavor of our youth - as there are fewer around our work places and some of the urgency is forced to recede. Part of it, of course, is that the children have time and need supervision ~ so it is a natural time for family vacations and to spend time together. - Yet, part seems to be the child that lives in all of us - the one who recalls the smell, taste and action that summer freedom embodies - and some part of us is young again! If there is a fountain of youth - one key ingredient is a huge scoop of all things summer - sprinkled and mixed with a cup of creamy, yellow sunshine that is baked into the core of human happiness.

Simultaneously, there is a feeling of finish with a time stamp that becomes the end-of-year report card. A whole year is remembered fondly or not. Most adults can recall their teachers from these formative years and vivid memories of special days in a moment's notice. The phenomenon is one of which I still stand in awe. No other time or place can create what happens in an elementary school. - We come together for exactly 180 days. There is a classroom and the same people assigned to it each day show up and bring whatever is shaping who they are developmentally and what is happening in their world beyond school. They learn together, laugh together, go through fun times and challenges together, and share a part of the history that makes our lives, that defines our spirits and builds who we are and who we will be in the days and years to come. No matter if you are a student, a family member, a staff member or a volunteer in the school, you are a part of what happens over the course of those 180 days. After that, the summer follows and it is all new. The past year, past classroom(s) and classes have all vanished ~ never to be seen again - except in the hearts and minds of the participants. - They may be in the space when we all gather at the end of August, but the faces around her/him are all new - furniture has moved ~ new items added to the walls and new names are on the desks and doors.

At 2:05pm on the June 18th, after the all-emotional clap-out walk, we will leave the school grounds ~ and everything will be different, quiet and still. Only contemplation continues on ~ sometimes for years to come. Some parts of a year will be remembered vividly, and others might be a blur, but it will be a dream we will never, and can never forget.

Each year, perhaps a bit more deeply this year as I come close to my final moments as your principal - I stand in awe of this wonder just as I did when I was a young student and throughout my career as an educator. Words cannot ever adequately capture the emotion, but the sum of my emotion is that I am so very proud of the many successes and amazing things that happened each day your children walked through the arched mosaic that is the gate to our “Community of Learning ~ Friendship, Respect and Scholars.” - I never tire of reading those engraved words because they are the core of what we do and who we are at the Happy Hollow School.



As every year, I have observed first-hand - spectacular learning and teaching that crosses curricular areas, the social, emotional and personal areas of development that become a year in the life of a child - your child - your children. I remember the smiles, the cute stories - a first lost tooth - and all of the excitement of young people discovering the world one lesson, one day, one year at a time. - Sharing in the life of a young learner is one of the greatest and most powerful of all human gifts and it is given to the constituents of a school each year. So if you are a student, a

parent, a staff member or a friend of our school, you just traveled that journey through a time that will be like no other.

I remember the faces of our fifth graders each year – only this year I will be with them. Through misty eyes, I always wonder what their futures will bring. I wonder how many I may meet when they are grown or when and how often our paths may cross again. I am filled with unbelievable joy - and at the same time, the kind of sadness that goes hand-in-hand with each milestone in a human life. We are forever changed as we reach these defining moments and yet as we move on, we leave behind that segment of our development.



Thus, my tradition has been to use my final newsletter to capture all that I just described, and to let you know how much I treasure the opportunity to have served in my capacity over the past twelve years. It continues to be a treasured privilege to be a part of these formative years ~ in each and every Happy Hollow student's life. I must spend some time to thank you all for every effort, every way you have supported your child, children and our school as a whole. I will attempt to recognize you all –

- Thank you to the PTO and all who work on so many committees to bring us support for all we endeavor. Whether our treasured Wish List, teacher funds, field trips, stipends, cultural enrichment, our beautiful garden, an outstanding student talent show, a family movie night, or all of the many items and endeavors that keep the creativity flowing and classroom teachers enriched with materials and opportunities to grow. *Your many efforts* remain the foundation that makes a school community prosperous in every sense of that word - from programs to financial support.
- Many thanks to the Wayland Schools Foundation for their generous grants that touch all aspects of learning across the grades. What they have given to our school and all of the Wayland Schools is truly invaluable. They are forward-thinking and spirit all that is cutting-edge - adding one more path to excellence for the entire Wayland community.
- Special thanks to the School Council for continued support in providing us with the structures and programs that help us to understand our strengths and areas in which we will continue to improve - most importantly for their continued work over the most recent years around our social and emotional curriculum and our school "Report Card" survey. Many have served more than one two-year term and I am so very grateful!
- Thank you to all of our many volunteers ~ for their compassionate contributions in the form of time and countless hours of direct service with staff and students - most especially to our Just Like Me teams!
- Thanks to our many student interns from nearby colleges who share their talent and recent educational experiences as they work to become certified educators.
- "Thank you!" to Central Office staff working behind-the-scenes support that keep the district running smoothly.
- To our hardworking School Committee ~ "Thank you!" from the Happy Hollow faculty and me for hours of volunteer time to guide and oversee our school community.
- A huge "Thank you!" to Mabel Reid-Wallace, Latoya Downes and the whole METCO program and related committees for the many ways they enrich all of our lives by making us an outstanding METCO school district.
- To the parent and guardian group ~ it is your partnership that becomes the link that binds it altogether. You continue to be the life coaches that navigate your young through the many tricky situations that are

all a part of any school year. You offer praise and encouragement. You contact us when you need our assistance and you offer your assistance when we contact you. You help us teach your children well each time you sit with them to discuss homework, a project, a field trip, a special time, a fun or frustrating friendship. You volunteer in our school. You attend field trips, performances, assemblies and all that lets your children know that their efforts - effective efforts - are the key to the perseverance and stamina that builds success.

- To the extraordinary Happy Hollow Staff - talented, dedicated and always looking for ways to improve! You work around the clock - during all seasons - even the summer - learning, creating new ways to approach your already exceptional practice of educating. You take courses to keep current, spend hours (during the school day and long after - on weekends, holidays and vacations) giving feedback to your students and their families. You create assess and consistently update your curriculum so it reflects best practices in the field. You work with your grade level teams and the larger school to create the climate that invites all level learners into the partnership that teaches them that they can learn and will learn. - Then you work equally as hard to ensure that they find the means toward that end. You bring consummate professionalism to our classroom settings, to our playground, to our cafeteria - to all of our constituents - each day of every year. I cannot express what an honor it is to know and to work with each of you every day.

Finally, it has become my tradition give you a list from which to begin a conversation with your child/children about the year past. Use the summer to revisit the year in a way that sets your child up for a new year that is filled with all that was good from the last one. This year, I offer you the following list:

(Note: I modify it each year and hope you find it helpful. Please feel free to send me feedback and/or an addition or two based upon where your conversations take you this summer...)

- What new ideas did you think about this year?
- What was special about the year?
- For all you are grateful ~ Who had a hand in your success? How do you know that?
- Name five things you didn't know about before the year started.
- What did you get better at this year? How did you get better at it?
- What people did you meet ~ in school ~ on field trips ~ in cultural enrichment ~ etc.?
- What projects did you do? Which ones came out the best and why?
- When were you kind to someone and how did that turn out?
- Did you participate in service learning in some way? What was that like? Will you do it again or for the first time?
- When did you try something new?
- Did you take any risks?
- Name one happy time. What were you doing?
- What was fun?
- What was challenging? How did you make it through?
- How are you better at self-regulating? Do the "Zones of Regulation" help you here at home and will they this summer? If so, how?
- What is perseverance? Did you develop the ability to persevere?
- What is stamina? How did you show stamina this year?
- What did you learn about friendship this year?



- When were you a good friend and what did that feel like?
- When was someone a good friend to you and what did you learn from that?
- Are you still working on a challenge? How can I help you when the new year begins?
- Who helped you and will you ever be able to help someone in that way?
- When were you helpful?
- How did you bring the core values (the ones in our rap) of the school alive?
- Why do you think people say that, “In the end, only kindness matters?” Do you agree? Why/why not?



Discuss with your child or children a time when they felt most successful, triumphant. Tell them to remember what that time was like and how they felt so they can keep that in mind and know that at least one way to learn is by building upon successes. Remind them that learning from mistakes and the times of challenge are equally important because how we learn to navigate those times becomes the strength and courage that we need to get us to the successes and joyful times.

After Move-Along Day: Please be positive about the new placement/new school setting brought home at the end of Move-Along Day. Point out the good in the class make-up and share your belief that things will be great - that discussion goes a long way for alleviating anxiety and for building confidence. Every staff member will provide for a wonderful year that will offer all described above. Help your child to be open to the possibility. Don't dwell on who is not in a class or which teacher you did or did not get. You will have a great year if you set your mind to that way of thinking.

To the Fifth Graders: Congratulations to our 2019 fifth grade students and to your families who have supported you to this point in your educational journey. You have clearly reached a milestone in a manner in which you should all be ***very proud***. Congratulations!

After 12 years as the principal of the Happy Hollow School, I am writing to you as my final group of graduating 5th graders. I keep saying, “I am graduating with you, my friends!” Toward that end, I could not be leaving with a nicer group of young people, and there are so many reasons why.

I have long marveled at your benevolent spirit (that began in kindergarten for most of you). You started as the kind of group who cares so much for each other, our town, state and world and those who have joined as your classmates along the way have followed in the same manner. It is truly remarkable when you find a group like yours! You understand so very deeply our motto, “Kindness matters.”, and you really work to bring it to fruition in all you do.

You bring that spirit to the way you learn and that means you are set to learn much, and to change the world with all you learn – one person or one group at time. You use your learning in so many good ways - to complete service learning projects - in all of your classes, as you solve problems in multiple ways - and do so collaboratively. You understand and use technology in many of your endeavors – and always use it in a way to learn more, to have fun – and in appropriate ways. You work to include everyone. - I have long admired how so many of you have powered through friendship problems with an eye toward working to resolve differences in order to keep the friendships remaining strong.

Therefore, my quote to you is from Helen Keller – who as a “change maker” learned and made the world a truly better place. She was born unable to see or hear, and in a time when very few new how to communicate with people like her. She showed persistence, empathy, interdependence and learned all she could in spite of people

saying she never could or would. Her writing and teachings still make us better people. As a group, you embody her spirit. So your quote is:

“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart.” ~ Helen Keller

Keep on learning all you can, but don't lose the ability to feel with each new adventure. Feel it all deep in your hearts. Consider the things that are good in life and strive to bring them alive in all you do. There is no limit to how much or how deeply you will continue to learn. However, you combine your caring and keen intellect with an ability to care about others, the earth and people far and near. You really want the world to be a better place – and so it will be, everywhere each one of you go. In the end, those who know “Kindness matters.” find the most happiness, the most fulfilling lives – and ultimately, the most success. You are set for that ultimate success!

To Everyone: Please remember that good, solid education is never a race, practice is key. You do not have to master everything the first time you are exposed to it. You have twelve years to learn all you need for college and life. Take your time and be gentle with yourself as you meet and master new challenges. Continue to choose what is good. Continue to find ways to help and support one another and continue to forgive and forget often. Kindness means giving second chances and helping others to learn from their mistakes. Continue to be involved in things that make you and the world better. Our choices become who we are.

I hope the summer is good to you all and that you all find some quiet space to discover and feel much peace and all that is happiness. I wish you all success and happiness in all the years to come and know that the greatest honor of my life has been to be your principal.

All best always,



Jim Lee, Principal



This and That from the Principal's Office:



******Dismissal time on the last day of school, Tuesday, June 18th, is following a typical **Wednesday schedule. We will dismiss at 2:05 p.m.**** Lunch will be served as it always is, but dismissal will be at the usual Wednesday time. Please take note as waiting in the office on the final day of school for a late pick-up is a sad last image for a great school year.

******Lost and Found: Look through the bins and racks. We want every piece of clothing to be found by its rightful owner. Thank you!**



MOVE ALONG

Move-Along Day: Monday, June 17th ~ 9:30am – 10:00am

We will have a Move-Along Day to offer all students the opportunity to meet with their new teachers and classes. Please tell your children not to expect one teacher over another and not to expect all of their friends to be in their new classes. Be upbeat about the changes and they will come to that point as well.

Let our students know that they will find success and happiness in any possible class configuration (or school setting) and with any of our fine staff members. This will help it to be a positive and productive time for all. It is our hope that knowing will relieve some of the anxiety that grows over the summer when they are wondering whom they will have and who will be in their new classes. Seeing the new room and meeting the new teacher most often helps children to feel secure, most especially if they have your home support.

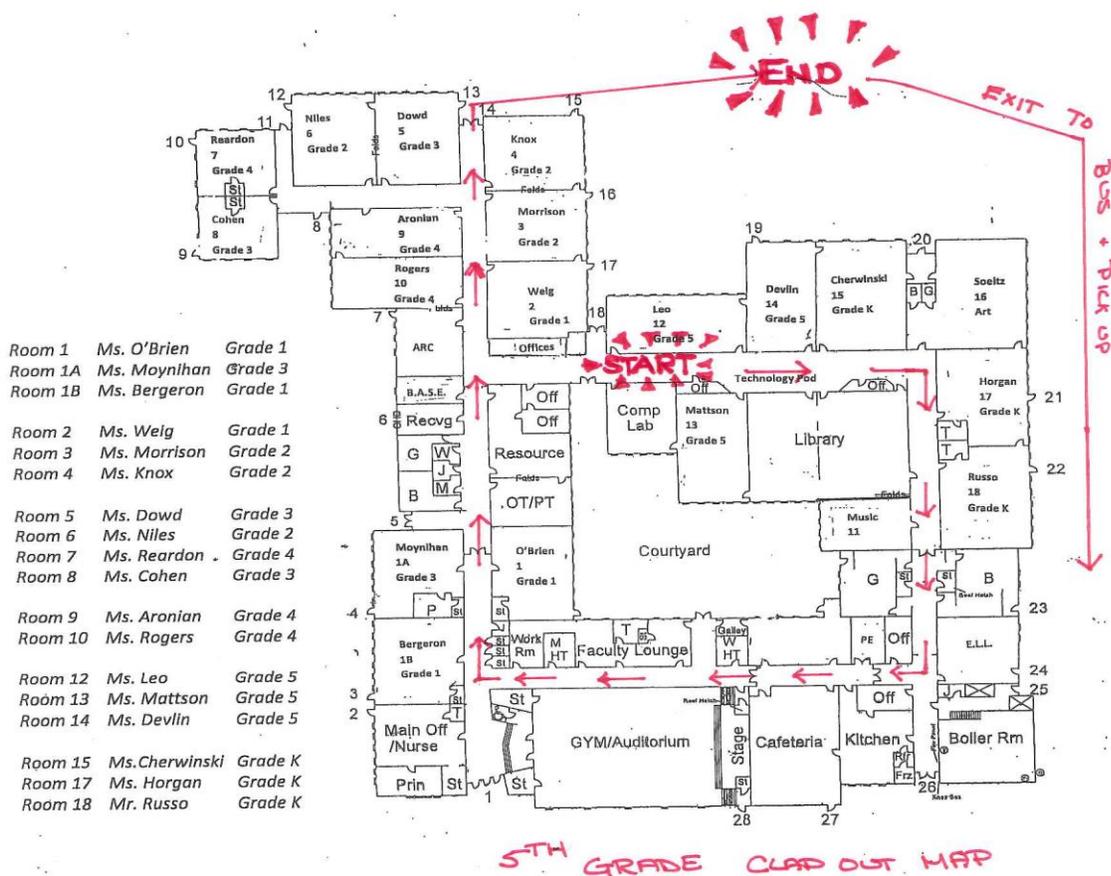


5th Grade Clap Out!



Clap Out:

“Clap-Out” will begin at 1:50pm on June 18th, and follow the route of the map below. Grades 1-4 will line the main school hallway and “Clap Out” the fifth graders at 2:05 p.m. We will exit to the back of the building and are asking you to form a corridor that extends to the side of the school by the fourth grade wing. No one should exit the back playground via the route by the modular classrooms to the parking lot. We are asking that all go up the side path by the fourth grade wing and out to the front of the building. This is to keep everyone safe.





Highlights for the last week and days of school

- Monday, June 10th - All School Assembly – Meet Jenna Cramer – Student Principal for the Day too!
- Monday, June 10th - Fifth Grade Pool Party - Fifth graders leave at 2:45pm
- Tuesday, June 11th Third grade recorder concert/open house 8:30am - 10:00am
- Tuesday, June 11th- Spring Harvest Day
- Wednesday, June 12th - Spring String Thing @ HS 7 pm
- Wednesday, June 12th - Field Day, Grades K-2
- Wednesday, June 12th - Tech Committee Meeting 2:30pm - 3:30pm (ALL are welcome)
- Thursday, June 13- – Field Day, Grades 3-5
- Thursday, June 13th - Grand Band @ HS 7 pm
- Friday June 14th-Russo Open House-8:00am-8:30am
- Friday, June 14th--3rd grade Lexington Concord Field Trip all day
- Friday, June 14th - Horgan - Kindergarten Celebration 9:00am-10:00am
- Friday, June 14th - Fourth-Grade Speaker 8:30am - 9:30am Cafeteria
- Monday, June 17th - Grade 4 Endangered Species Open House 8:00am - 9:00am
- Monday, June 17- – MOVE ALONG DAY – 9:30am – 10:00am
- Monday, June 17th - 5th Grade Global Cardboard Arcade on the Playground at Lunches
- Tuesday, June 18- – Last Day of School Assembly – 9:00am in the gym (fifth graders on stage, Fourth graders in chairs at back)
- Tuesday, June 18th - Fifth grade Fun Day at Happy Hollow (The high school is unavailable this year.)
- Tuesday, June 18th - Fifth grade slideshow and clap-out at end of day
- Tuesday, June 18th last day for students (Dismissal - Wednesday schedule)

CURRICULUM CORNER

FROM THE LIBRARY



ALL LIBRARY MATERIALS ARE NOW DUE!

Children may not check out any more books this year. Overdue notices were emailed home on June 7th, and paper copies will be handed out in classes the week of June 10th. *There are never any fines for late books.* Lost books should be paid for or replaced with a new copy (*preferred*) before the last day of school. Please get in touch with me if you have any questions or feel that your child received an overdue notice in error. Many thanks for your help to get all books returned!



SUMMER READING

Please encourage your children to continue reading over the summer. Research shows that children are more motivated to read when they are given a choice of well regarded titles. Reading over the summer also helps to avoid the "summer slide." Make frequent trips to the library as part of your summer plans and offer plenty of interesting books at home. Don't miss the Wayland Public Library's Summer Reading Program for even more summer reading fun. Choosing a book for a family read-aloud is another wonderful way to share and discuss good books. For guidance, the elementary librarians have prepared a list of summer reading suggestions, which can be accessed [here](#).

A NOTE OF THANKS

I'd like to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who helped out in the Happy Hollow Library this year. The library simply wouldn't function without all of you! I hope to see you all back again next year. Special thanks to graduating parents Stephanie Leong, Amy Conner, and Irene Rideout, who have volunteered so many years of their time here in the library.



I don't really know how to say goodbye to the incredible Debbie Bell, who has served as the Library Volunteer Coordinator since **2011!!** Debbie helped me so much during my first year here at Happy Hollow and has been such a wonderful friend and volunteer for all of these years. You will be greatly missed, Debbie!

Finally, a big thank you to the fantastic Beth Rothschild, who will be taking over for Debbie as the Library Volunteer Coordinator next year. I look forward to working with Beth for many years to come. Thank you so much, Beth!

To all - enjoy your summer, and happy reading!
~ Colleen Flannery, Library Teacher

HEALTHY HOLLER

THANK YOU to the PTO, parents, and all of the Happy Hollow staff for your help and support this year. It has been a pleasure getting to know your children and sharing in their elementary journey.



ALL medications (prescription and/or over the counter) need to be picked up the last day of school (June 18, 2019), by a parent or designated adult. Epi-Pens and Albuterols may go home with student.

Reminders for September:

New medication orders (prescription and/or over the counter) are required for each academic school year, and will be necessary for the start of school, September 2019. These orders need to be signed by BOTH a parent and licensed prescriber. Forms can be downloaded from the Happy Hollow School web page (<http://whh.wayland.k12.ma.us>) under “For Families/Health Services/Health Info & Forms”. Orders can be faxed to the school at 508-358-8642 attention: school nurse.

4th grade parents:

Please submit your child’s most up-to-date physical to the school nurse (2019). An updated physical is required on all students entering 4th grade in September.

Additional summer information:

Please read information about tick borne and mosquito borne diseases: Lyme, West Nile, Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), and ticks on the Massachusetts Department of Public Health webpage at www.mass.gov/dph search health topics A-Z or www.cdc and search topic.

Have a great summer! Stay healthy and active!

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

Kelley Bradford RN Kelley_bradford@wayland.k12.ma.us

508-358-8648

On behalf of the entire Happy Hollow community we wish Nurse Jeanne MacDonald many years of Happy Retirement! And thank you for keeping our students and staff healthy and happy for all these years!

Much Gratitude,

The Happy Hollow Staff