

# THE HARRINGTON HERALD

HARRINGTON SCHOOL ♦ 148 MAPLE STREET ♦ LEXINGTON, MA 02420 ♦ (781) 860-0012

David C. Crump, Principal ♦ Suzanne Cherson & Mary Ann Stewart, PTA co-Presidents

## A Message from the Principal

*David C. Crump*

Happy birthday to Harrington! In case you haven't heard, Harrington School turns 50 years old this year. It's a real Jubilee!!! This is cause for celebrating. And celebrate we will. A number of activities are being planned by the PTA Jubilee Committee to commemorate this momentous occasion. If you wish to be a part of the planning please join the Jubilee Committee. Otherwise, keep your eyes open for the events and be a part of as much as you possibly can. Remember, Harrington School will only turn 50 years old once.

This year we will have our Curriculum Night prior to the International Food Festival. In the past, International Food Festival has been in September and Curriculum Night has been in October. In order to hopefully get better attendance at Curriculum Night, we will have it in earlier. The date is **September 21**. The format will be different as well. You will receive more information about the time and new format in home folder mail. So mark your calendars and plan on making this Curriculum Night one of the best attended we've ever had. The date for the International Food Festival is **October 12**. This event has always been one of the best-attended social events each year. It's a fun time for the entire Harrington Family. This year, however, we will not have an open house as we have in the past. So don't plan on visiting classrooms on that evening.



*Continued on page 2*

## Upcoming Events SEPTEMBER



- 5 Welcome Back Teacher Luncheon 12-1 pm (teachers and staff only)
- 6 **First Day of School** – Kindergarten dismissal: 10:30am; Gr.1-5 dismissal: 11:45am
- 6 "Welcome Back Breakfast" (for all parents) 8:15am
- 7 Early Release: Kindergarten dismissal: 10:30am, Gr.1-5 dismissal: 11:45am
- 8 First full day of school - Kindergarten dismissal 11:45am; Gr. 1-5 dismissal: 2:45pm
- 13 Gift Wrap sale begins
- 13 PTA Meeting 7:00-8:30pm: Q & A with Principal David Crump
- 18 Big Backyard Parent Training (Gr. 2, 3, 5)
- 19 Big Backyard Parent Training (Gr. K, 1)
- 21 **Curriculum Night** (6:30-8:00pm)
- 26 Instrument Rental Night (6:00-8:00pm) at the Lexington High School (Gr. 4 and 5)
- 27 School Pictures (no rain date)
- 30 Family Picture Day (first date offered)

## A Message from PTA Co-President

*Suzanne Cherson*

Welcome to the 2006-2007 School Year! I will be serving as your PTA co-president for the next two years, and I'm honored to share this job with "co-prez" Mary Ann Stewart. I'm looking forward to working with Mr. Crump, Mrs. Turo, our new assistant principal, the PTA Board, committee members, parents, teachers and staff to provide fun and enriching programs and activities for our kids and community.

*Continued on page 2*

As we begin this new school year, our whole school will be focused on two major ventures. One will be the training of teachers in the social competency program called **Open Circle**. As teachers begin their training in October, we will also begin to implement the lessons in every classroom over the course of the rest of the school year. This program has been very successful in other schools. With Harrington getting on board, all of the elementary schools in Lexington will finally be involved in a very comprehensive program with common language and common expectations about positive interactions with one another.

The other big venture will be a whole school focus on Math. When we had such a focus on Reading and Writing, we were able to significantly improve the performance levels of all students. Now it's time to put the same focus and emphasis on Math. My expectation is that all students will be able to perform at higher levels of understanding and higher proficiency levels than they have in the past. During the course of the year, I will report on some of the changes we will make as well as the results of those changes. With the entire school engaging in improving students' Math performance, I believe we can make some significant progress in how well students do. Don't get me wrong. Our students have been performing fairly well over the years. However, I believe that they can do better. It will be up to all of us, including parents, to make sure that this does happen.

I hope that each of you had an enjoyable summer vacation. But as summer comes to an end, it's time to get back into the school routine. We are all ready here and we hope you are too. Let's all work together to make this Jubilee year one that we will always fondly remember.

David C. Crump, Principal  
Harrington School  
148 Maple Street  
Lexington, MA 02420  
Phone: (781) 860-0012  
Fax: (781) 860-5818  
E-Mail: [crump@sch.ci.lexington.ma.us](mailto:crump@sch.ci.lexington.ma.us)



I'd like to tell you a bit about myself. At this point in my life, I am heavily into "parent" mode. My husband Andy and I have 2 children: Daniel is in second grade and Matthew is a toddler who starts a parent/child class with me at the Waldorf School this month. Before kids, I had a financial planning practice and worked in banking and investments on Wall Street and in San Francisco. We moved to Lexington 3 years ago, from Northern California with a 2-year stint in Newton, MA. Like many Harrington families, we chose Lexington for the great schools, town services, proximity to Cambridge and Boston, etc. But what really made a difference for us is something less tangible than MCAS scores and property values. It is the sense of community, connection and what Lexington author Robert Putnam calls "social capital" that makes me feel at home.

Most of my friends across town love their schools, and I am no exception. However, I really have noticed some unique characteristics of the Harrington community that I would like to highlight. There are countless examples of Harrington parents who have reached out to our family and others to have fun, share parenting concerns and provide support during illness. The teachers are remarkable in their energy, enthusiasm and support for the child and his or her family.

I just love that our Halloween celebration means that everyone in the entire school is dressed in costume! Our Field Day compares to none in fun, organization and fostering community and responsibility among the children and staff. We can have as many room parents as we want! I have told this to friends across the country and they are envious. Our high school and college student neighbors still talk about their teachers and how much they loved Harrington.



Continued on page 3

A Message from the PTA Co-President, cont'd from page 2

When I'm not doing mom stuff, I like to walk and relax with friends, read and cook. For the past two years, I have worked on the Healthy Lunch Task Force (HLTF), originally a PTA committee formed to involve parents in decision making to improve the quality and nutritional value of the school lunch program. During the past year, we worked with Superintendent Paul Ash and the School Committee to develop a Wellness Policy. We are looking forward to working with Ms. Kate Cremens-Basbas, the new LPS Director of Phys. Ed. and Wellness on many projects. I have also been involved with Lexington Stand for Children, various political campaigns and Temple Isaiah volunteer projects. One of these days, I plan to start knitting again, and I definitely will go see former Harrington PTA co-president Leora Tec at one of her comedy improv shows!

I hope you were able to come to the "PTA Welcome Back Breakfast" on the first day of school. We sent out an invitation asking two questions:

1. What is the #1 concern that you have about raising your child/children today?
2. What do you need help with in raising your child/children today?

Mary Ann Stewart suggested asking all of you to tell us about what you need. This is really what it's all about for me. Please email me at [chmabo2b@rcn.com](mailto:chmabo2b@rcn.com) I would love to hear from you.

Suzanne Chersonson



## COME SEE CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY!!!!!!

Cheer on members of the Harrington Community, past and present, as they perform in the Lexington Players production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory at Cary Hall. Friday **September 8** and Saturday **September 9 at 7:00pm** and Saturday **September 9** and Sunday **September 10 at 2:00pm**. Harrington community members include: Alison and Ellen Cameron; Donna and Emma Feinberg; Fiona Gorry-Hines; Caitlin Hughes; Nathan Magid; Catherine Sillari and Leora Tec.



## State Primary: September 19

Don't forget your vote in the State Primary Election on Tuesday, September 19. Most Harrington citizens are in either Precinct 1 or Precinct 5 and the polling place for both is the Cary Memorial Building, between the Police Station and Town Hall on Mass. Ave. in Lexington center. Polls will be open 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM. To view the Warrant for State Primary in PDF format, visit the Town of Lexington website: <http://ci.lexington.ma.us/>

## Picture Day

The school picture day is Wednesday, Sept. 27, and Family Picture Days will be held on two weekends this year, Sat. Sept. 30th with a rain date of Sun. Oct. 1, and then again on Sat. Oct. 7 with a rain date of Sun., Oct. 8. Those participating will be able to choose between either weekend. The reason for the two dates is because there are quite a few schools participating so they are calling it a town-wide picture day with the option to choose either weekend. Volunteers are needed for the

school picture day on Wednesday, Sept. 27 from 8:15 till 12:30 (give or take). Volunteering for just a few hours will be helpful too. ☺

## Harrington Sweatshirts and T- shirts Are Here!

Harrington T-shirts and sweatshirts with the new Harrington Hawk logo are available to purchase and/or order! T-shirts in two colors: \$12 each  
Sweatshirts in two colors: \$20 each

Show your Harrington pride in our 50th (Jubilee) year and order yours now! ☺

## International Food Festival

Join us for Harrington School's International Food Festival Potluck on Thursday, October 12, from 6:30 - 8:00pm

Bring your family's favorite dish and drinks to share. Enjoy food from all over the world and meet your child's teacher. ☺

## School Committee Update

*Mary Ann Stewart, School Committee Liaison*

At the last School Committee meeting on August 24, Superintendent Dr. Ash announced an Interim Director of Food Services for Chartwells, Ken Wolfe, until a permanent director can be hired for Lexington. Also in his report to the Committee, Dr. Ash said that a design partnership has been selected to conduct the K – 5 and Central Office master plans; Dr. Ash will be presenting his enrollment projections in September so that his report may be used in determining those plans. His Projections Report will support the review of capacity issues in each school, which further impacts the Redistricting Committee's work. This ultimately affects how long the "old" Harrington may be used as a swing space; the "new" Harrington is viewed as the template for space requirements for any new schools to be built. Further discussion items included a comprehensive report from Facilities Department Director, Bill Hartigan, a draft of the 2006-2007 system goals, and a report on the ambitious 2005-2006 goals.

Staying on top of School Committee discussions and actions helps us understand the impact of decisions affecting students and families in the Harrington community and in Lexington. Meeting time is generally 7:30 PM on the announced date, except during Town Meeting when meetings are earlier (and shorter); the agenda is posted on the School Committee website by 6:00 PM the day of the meeting: <http://lps.lexingtonma.org>. Harrington PTA members are encouraged to get to know School Committee members and to contact them with their concerns (there is also a link to their emails on the Harrington School website: <http://harrington.lexingtonma.org>). The first part of the meeting is devoted to public comment—written comments are to be presented to the School Committee and oral presentations are not to exceed three minutes. The next School Committee meetings will be:

- Thursday, September 14 – 7:30 PM at Clarke Middle School Auditorium
- Tuesday, September 26 – 7:30 PM at Lexington Town Hall, Selectmen's Meeting Room
- Tuesday, October 3 – 7:30 PM at Lexington Town Hall, Selectmen's Meeting Room
- Tuesday, October 24 – 7:00 PM at Humphrey Occupational Resource Center, Roxbury ☺

# Getting to Know...Ron Miles, Harrington's New Custodian

*Leora Tec*

This summer I had the pleasure and the privilege of meeting Ron Miles, the newest addition to our already stellar custodial staff of Paul Cuzzupe and Mark Freitas. Actually Ron and Paul have known each other for years (just as Mark and Paul have), they are fishing buddies.

Ron was born in Rome, New York, but grew up in Chelmsford, MA. He holds a BA in physics from Holy Cross College (he was too modest to tell me this, I heard it from Paul Cuzzupe). He currently lives in Somerville.

For the past two years Ron has been self-employed in the firewood business—selling cut and split firewood. He has also done logging, land clearing, tree work and landscaping. If you need any firewood for this winter, look no further!

Before that Ron was a custodian at Hastings for 5 years. He also did some construction and sheetrock work.

Ron likes anything to do with the outdoors. His hobbies include: fishing, skiing (both downhill and cross country) hiking and watching wildlife. He has completed over 100 skydiving jumps! He is looking forward to someday doing a fishing trip to Alaska.

Ron loves working with Mark and Paul and is looking forward to being a part of the Harrington community. Ron will be working the late shift that the late Ralph Mills worked last year. That is 2:30 to 11:00. I told him we are all friendly. So when you are here for evening events make sure to say hi to the curly haired guy with bright blue eyes—that's Ron Miles.



## Fall Back into Harrington's Big Backyard

The salamanders, dragonflies, colored mushrooms, and wild flowers are in full bloom just in time for Harrington's students to begin this year's Big Backyard program (BBY)! BBY tailors Harrington's unique surroundings into written guides. These guides are used by parent volunteers to lead small groups of students on seasonal explorations of the Harrington grounds during class time. Except for Grade 4, all classrooms will participate before Columbus Day weekend.



Permission slips are required by the town and can be found in the PTA's Back-to-School packet. Please turn these in promptly.



Parent participation is required in the BBY program. A minimum of 3 trained parents per classroom are needed to volunteer. No parental experience is necessary! The commitment is but 4-7 hours per year. This is a great way to keep in touch with your child's friends, teachers, and the curriculum. If the scheduled training date is not convenient, please contact me to reschedule. Without parent participation, your child's classroom will not be able to participate!

### Parent Training Dates

- Sept 18 Grade 2 (9-10am), Grade 3 (10-11am), Grade 5 (11-12N)
- Sept 19 Grade K (9-10:30am), Grade 1 (10:30-11:30am)

This year, I will run the parent training sessions and materials preparation. Ben Ryterband and Guila Paliotti will be the classroom coordinators. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Judy Crocker  
[rjcrocker@msn.com](mailto:rjcrocker@msn.com).



### Help us win \$1,000.00 for the Harrington Library!

Simply sign up to join the Battle Green Walk to Help Children with Dyslexia on October 1<sup>st</sup> and The Masonic Learning Center in Lexington will donate the Lexington elementary school with the most participants \$1,000.00 for their library!

For more information, please contact: Jeanne Krieger at 781-862-7730, or [jkkrieger@rcn.com](mailto:jkkrieger@rcn.com)

Go to: [www.dyslexiawalk.org](http://www.dyslexiawalk.org) to download a registration form. (Make sure you write "Harrington PTA" on the top of the form.)

Thank you for your support!

Tricia McLaughlin  
[PMcL781@aol.com](mailto:PMcL781@aol.com)

## Two Family Friends Coordinators Needed!

As the former Coordinator for this hugely valuable program, I'd like to urge you to consider volunteering for the 2006-2007 school year. If you're even *mildly* considering helping out with some of the tasks, but aren't willing to coordinate the program alone, please call me or email me so I can answer any questions you might have and/or clarify the tasks involved. Your agreeing to help out with just one of the parts (e.g., just emails or just phone calls) will nudge someone else towards the to decision to help out as well. We can do this, Harrington Parents! Let's pool together and make it work.

Call me at home or email me at [kpike@partners.org](mailto:kpike@partners.org). Thank you!! Kathy Pike

---

**"Without meaningful social contact,  
talk of tolerance and cooperation is nothing but an abstraction."**

--US Federal District Court Judge Nancy Gertner regarding school integration efforts

---



### ABOUT METCO, INC.

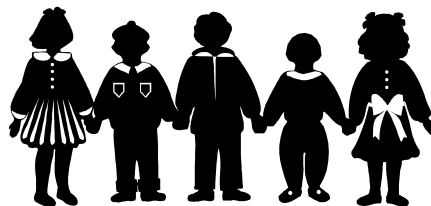
The Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity, Inc. (METCO) founded the METCO program and supports METCO students and families. Today it is America's largest voluntary school desegregation program. Forty years ago, on September 6, 1966, the first 220 Boston students rode their "yellow chariots" to classrooms in seven communities to gain better educational opportunities; Lexington was one of those communities. Now, 3,269 Boston and Springfield students attend public schools in 38 suburban communities.

This year, twenty children from Boston will be attending school at Harrington. Harrington host families are needed to partner with our Boston families one Thursday afternoon a month for eight months (not in September), from dismissal at 11:45 am till their bus pickup at Harrington at 3:00 pm. The role of the Coordinator is to pair a child with a host family and bridge communications. Having two people share this responsibility expedites the process, keeps things manageable, and doubles the fun!

The Harrington community extends a warm welcome to all of our Boston families -- we look forward to getting to know you!

### Services provided by METCO, Inc.:

- Tutorial Programs
- Academic Test Preparations
- Counseling/Psychological Services
- Summer Enrichment Programs
- Transportation Coordination
- Community Support
- Oversight & Research
- Central Administrative Services
- Student Referrals & Continuation
- Legislative Outreach/Advocacy
- Guidance counseling
- College Scholarship



# Join Harrington's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Art Jubilee!

'Walk for the Arts' has had a **Jubilee Makeover** and is now known as the *Harrington Arts & Dance Café*. The *Harrington Arts & Dance Café* will be a great new way to enjoy numerous forms of Art and hopefully become a meeting place where people can come to find out about Art happenings and raise funds for arts enrichment programming at Harrington.

Expect to have a lot of FUN for all ages...and we do mean all ages. There will be dance instructors teaching dance from the 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's, 90's, and even the latest dance trends. You can learn to dance, brush-up on what you once knew or just take a seat and appreciate the *Art of Dance!*

Would you like to see poets, musicians, painters, sculptors, digital artists, performance artists, animators and much more? Meet local Artists who will show their works and share about themselves. You will find easy, creative crafts and learning activities for kids and everyone in the family. There will even be unique things to buy. And remember, if you are part of our Harrington community, you are invited to join the "Jubilee Marketplace" by contributing \$65 for a table.

What would a day of Art be without the Art of Cooking? International food options will also be available for purchase as well as cooking classes.

Bring family and friends to the *Harrington Arts & Dance Café*:

**Sunday October 15, 2006 1-5pm** at the Harrington Elementary School

Ticket Entry Price includes all free crafts and dance lessons and is only \$5 per person

This event will be one-of-a-kind so, please join *Harrington's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Art Jubilee Celebration* and remember that all the funds raised will go to ACT.

All questions and Jubilee Marketplace table reservations should be directed to:  
[bethgaudette@msn.com](mailto:bethgaudette@msn.com) or [skoffmagid@comcast.net](mailto:skoffmagid@comcast.net)

## See You There!



## ROOM PARENT SIGN UP



It is time to sign up to become a head room parent or room parent for the upcoming school year. It is our continued hope that the role of room parents at Harrington school is to make all the children and their families feel welcome and involved in school activities.

The Head Room Parent is the parent coordinator for the room parents and classroom. The responsibilities include:

- 1) maintaining open communication with the teacher, including scheduling a meeting with the classroom teacher in the fall to find out how parents can assist in the classroom;
- 2) dividing the classroom families into groups with one room parent contact for each group, in order for all to share in participation;
- 3) communicating with other head room parents in the grade
- 4) to maintain consistency throughout the grade.

The Room Parents call and introduce themselves, welcoming new families and finding out how the parents would like to be involved in the classroom. They will share responsibilities for classroom celebrations, collections, and other tasks to be determined by the teacher. Many hands make light work; having a number of room parents per class has proved advantageous.

If you have any questions, please contact Tina Bowling or Kerry Heyda. Please sign up by completing the form below and returning it to the PTA box at school or sending the info to Tina at [cpbowling@comcast.net](mailto:cpbowling@comcast.net) .

-----

**Name of parent:** \_\_\_\_\_

**phone number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **email** \_\_\_\_\_

**name of child #1:** \_\_\_\_\_

**classroom teacher** \_\_\_\_\_

**check one: head room parent** \_\_\_\_\_ **room parent** \_\_\_\_\_

**name of child # 2** \_\_\_\_\_

**classroom teacher:** \_\_\_\_\_

**check one: head room parent** \_\_\_\_\_ **room parent** \_\_\_\_\_

**name of child #3:** \_\_\_\_\_, **teacher** \_\_\_\_\_, **hrp** \_\_\_\_\_ **r.p.** \_\_\_\_\_

# HARRINGTON READS!

Now in its fifth year, Harrington Reads is a popular parent-child book group for **fourth** and **fifth grade** families that meets twice a year—once in the fall and once in the winter. The program provides an opportunity for parents and children to come together for the purpose of shared reading and discussion. Discussions are led by parent volunteers in relaxed, small group settings.

This year our fall selection will be the award-winning book **From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler** by **E.L. Konigsburg**. The novel chronicles the adventures of Claudia and her brother Jamie when the two decide to run away from home. Claudia, however, is the type of child that "...could never pull off the old-fashioned kind of running away. That is, running away in the heat of anger with a knapsack on her back." Instead, she carefully plans her trip and decides to live in comfort at the Metropolitan Museum of Art! *ALA Booklist* comments that the novel is "fresh and crisply written with uncommonly real and likable characters."

Join us to discuss this novel on **Thursday, October 19th from 7-8pm in the Harrington School library**. Signing up is easy! Let us know you want to participate by filling out the form below. Then you and your child read the book and meet with other parents and children for a lively evening of book talk! **Regrettably, we will be unable to provide you with a copy of the novel. However, the book is widely available in both bookstores and libraries.**

Please contact Tracy Burke or Leslie Fagen with questions.

---

**YES! Sign us up for Harrington Reads!**

**Parent** \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to lead a discussion group? We will provide you with a discussion guide in advance of the evening. YES\_\_\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_\_\_

**Child** \_\_\_\_\_


**Classroom Teacher** \_\_\_\_\_


Please return this form to your child's classroom teacher or drop it off in the Harrington Reads box, located across the hall from the main office.


## Our Heartfelt Thanks to ...


*We are off to a fabulous school opening! With every best wish for a successful year, our heartfelt thanks go out to...*




 *The custodial team, **Mr. Cuzzupe, Mr. Freitas, and Mr. Miles** for working so hard over the summer to thoroughly spiff up the school and make it sparkle for September. Special thanks also to their college interns **Mike Manfredi and Brian Quinn** for all of their support in getting the job done!*

 ***Mrs. Donovan and Mr. Crump** for their tireless work throughout the summer.*

 *All classroom teachers and specialists who spent time thinking about how to make this year even better and prepared their rooms and materials to receive our children for another inspired year of learning.*

 *All of the awesome people who stepped up to chair a committee this anniversary year—thank you!*

 *A hard working PTA Board, who never stopped planning, organizing, emailing, and putting in time and energy for the Harrington community (even though it was summer)! We are excited about the upcoming year!*

## The Harrington Herald

### Editors:

Hua Dong,, [huadong@rcn.com](mailto:huadong@rcn.com)  
Miriam Fein-Cole, [Feincole@yahoo.com](mailto:Feincole@yahoo.com)

**Proofreader:** Leora Tec

*The Harrington Herald* is the monthly newsletter of the Harrington PTA, published ten times a year. Newsletter material may be emailed as a Word, plain text, or rich text format attachment to [huadong@rcn.com](mailto:huadong@rcn.com). If you cannot email your submission, please call or email Beth to make other arrangements for delivery.

In keeping with the PTA Newsletter Policy, the *Herald* will print items directly related to the schools and their PTA's. This includes curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular activities that are PTA- or system-supported, and school-sanctioned projects. All articles are subject to editorial discretion.

Visit the Harrington School Web Site at <http://harrington.lexingtonma.org>.

**Webmaster:** Jerry Michelson, [jerry@michelsonshoes.com](mailto:jerry@michelsonshoes.com)

## Next Deadline: October 20, 2006