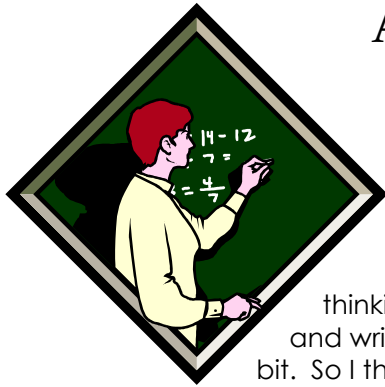


THE HARRINGTON HERALD

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

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



A Message from the Principal

David C. Crump

This year I will be thinking about, talking about and writing about Math quite a bit. So I thought I should know a little about what is important to know about Math. I went to the web site for the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM, <http://www.nctm.org/>) to find out what they said was important for students to know and be able to do. According to the NCTM, in the early years and early grades, "Developing a solid mathematical foundation from pre-kindergarten through second grade is essential for every child. In these grades, students are building beliefs about what mathematics is, about what it means to know and do Mathematics, and about themselves as mathematics learners. These beliefs influence their thinking about, performance in, and attitudes towards mathematics and decisions related to studying mathematics in later years."

If this is true, then what should I, you and we be doing? The NCTM suggests that, "Adults can foster children's mathematical development from the youngest ages by providing environments rich in language and where thinking is encouraged, uniqueness is valued, and exploration is supported." As a teacher, I agree with that suggestion. But since mathematics in all grades involves more than just numbers, (the NCTM has 10 standards including Numbers & Operations, Algebra, Geometry, Measurement, Problem Solving, etc.), what should we focus our attention on to help students at the early grades learn what they need to know?

Upcoming Events November



- 1 Teacher Conferences (11:45am dismissal)
- 2 Teacher Conferences (11:45am dismissal)
- 7 **No school** – Professional Development day
- 9 LEF Trivia Bee (7:00pm, Cary Memorial Hall)
- 14 Sally Foster gift wrap delivery
- 15 School Picture Retake Day
- 15 PTA Meeting (7:00-8:30pm)
- Who Cares About Public Education?**
- 16 METCO Family Friends Day
- 22 Half day, 11:45am dismissal
- 23-26 No school** – Thanksgiving Vacation
- 27 School Resumes

Who Cares About Public Education?

A Message from PTA Co-President

Suzanne Chersonson

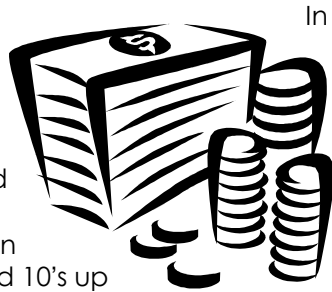
The short answer to this question is anyone who is reading this cares. We in the Harrington School community are blessed with a wonderful public school. Understanding how and why it works seem mind boggling for those of us who are not professionals in the field—and probably even for those who work in education! Our PTA and Fisk's PTO are co-sponsoring an exciting event on Wednesday, November 15th, from 7:00 – 8:30 pm at Harrington School. Lexington Superintendent Dr. Paul Ash, Mass. Representative Jay Kaufman, and the Mass. State Director of Stand for Children will address our concerns and questions about public education. Issues such as funding, curriculum

Continued on page 3

To help me with my thinking, I asked the primary grade teachers to tell me what they thought the children in grades K-2 needed to be able to be successful in Mathematics. The advice I received will be helpful to parents as well.

In Kindergarten, have children count. They should count anything. They should count everything. The more they count, the better they have an understanding of one to one correspondence, the concept of one more and one less, and a general idea of quantity and number relationships. In addition to counting, Kindergartners will need to be able to recognize and write numerals up to 20 before they go to grade 1. They should also begin to recognize, extend and create patterns.

In grade 1, students will need to expand their counting ability into the hundreds. They should learn to read, write and say numbers when counting by 2's, 5's and 10's up to 100. In this grade students will begin to see patterns using numerals and number grids. This is also a good time to have students get interested in money, especially coins. They should be able to identify and tell the



“Just knowing math facts and how to compute is not all there is to mathematics.”

difference between a penny, a nickel, a dime, a quarter and a dollar. It's good for them to know how much

each is worth.

Students in second grade will need to work on becoming proficient at counting money and telling time. Knowing addition and subtraction facts to 20 is helpful. And of course beginning to understand and make use of place value is key. Recognizing and working with number patterns is also important.

We must keep in mind that just knowing math facts and how to compute is not all there is to mathematics. Students must learn how to represent their thinking by using models. $14-6=8$ is a math fact, but without the conceptual

What Families Can Do

Ideas to Help Your Child Succeed in and Enjoy Mathematics

1. Be positive!

If you have a negative attitude about mathematics, chances are your child will too. Help your child have a “can do” attitude by praising your child’s efforts as well as her accomplishments. Acknowledge the fact that mathematics can be challenging at times and that persistence and hard work are the keys to success. Relate mathematics learning to other endeavors that require hard work and persistence, such as playing a sport. Struggling at times in mathematics is normal and is actually necessary to, and valuable in, understanding mathematics.

2. Link mathematics with daily life

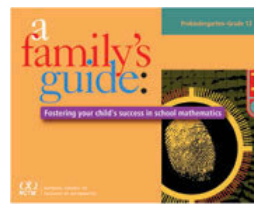
Every day, people face situations that involve mathematics, such as deciding whether one has enough money to purchase a list of items at the store, reading a map to find out where one is, building a budget, deciding on the shortest route to a destination, developing a schedule, or determining the price of an item on sale. Help your child realize that mathematics is a significant part of everyday life. Suggestions for discussing mathematics with your elementary, middle, or high school child during everyday activities are listed at the end of this section.

3. Learn about mathematics related careers

Mathematics is foundational to a wide variety of interesting careers. Research different careers with your child, and find out what she should be doing now to prepare for these options. Help your child understand that the school courses she takes now and the grades she earns will affect her future. One source of information on the many career possibilities that involve mathematics is *Career Ideas for Kids Who Like Math*, by Diane Lindsey Reeves.

4. Make mathematics fun

Play board games, solve puzzles, and ponder brain teasers with your child. Your child enjoys these kinds of activities while enhancing his mathematical thinking. Point out the mathematics involved, and have your child discuss the strategies he used.



From *A Family's Guide: Fostering Your Child's Success in School Mathematics*. Copyright © 2004 The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Inc. www.nctm.org.

From the Librarian ...

Sponsor a book is extended until **Nov 10th**. If you didn't get a chance to sponsor one earlier there is still plenty of time. Stop by the library at the beginning or end of school to pick out a book with your child. They get to be the first reader of the book and it helps the library stretch its limited book budget. There are still lots of good books to choose from. Thanks for your support.



Mrs. Sarah Widhu
Library Media Specialist

Nurse's Note

Flu season is approaching! I have just received some interesting facts about the flu vaccine from the Center for Disease Control. If you would like more information about whether you or your children should get a flu shot, you can go to the website www.cdc.gov/flu. I will also post information on the bulletin board in between the front doors of Harrington School.

Top 3 reasons to get your flu vaccine:

1. It prevents influenza-related death. Each year over 36,000 people in the U.S. die because of the flu – most are 65 or older. More people die from flu than from any other vaccine preventable disease.
2. It prevents severe illness. In the U.S. influenza puts about 200,000 people in the hospital each year. Children younger than 2 years old are as likely to be hospitalized as adults who are 65 or older.
3. It protects other people. You should get vaccinated if you live with or care for others who are at high risk of complication from the flu. Getting a flu vaccination yourself can help protect your family members, including seniors and young children.

Influenza and your Child:
Information for Parents

The following people need to be vaccinated each year to prevent the flu:

1. Children 6 months and older until their 5th birthdays.
2. Children 6 months to 18 years of age with chronic health problems like: asthma or other problems of the lungs, immune suppression, chronic kidney disease, heart disease, HIV/AIDS, diabetes or sickle cell anemia.
3. Children 6 months to 18 years of age who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy.
4. Close contacts and out-of-home caregivers of high risk children.

Will you be pregnant this flu season?

Doctors recommend that you get a flu shot. Being pregnant increases your risk of getting very sick from the flu. Stay healthy during your pregnancy. Get vaccinated.

The best time to get vaccinated is October or November.

Margaret Waugh,
RNBSN




A Message from the PTA Co-President, cont'd from page 1

testing requirements and policies affect every one of our children and all of our public schools. Please join us for an informative and lively discussion.

Whatever personal political views you may have, I encourage everyone to vote in the upcoming election on **Tuesday, November 7th**. Take your kids to the polls with you. It is a great way to get them interested in the political process.



Please take a few minutes to look at the "heartfelt thanks" section of this month's Herald. I don't think anyone will mind if I add a few words of thanks to all the parents, teachers, staff and children who contributed so much to the International Food Festival, the first ever Harrington Arts and Dance Cafe and all of the wonderful fund raising activities so far this year. 

A Message from the Principal, cont'd from page 2

framework, (start with 14 objects and physically take 6 of them away, leaving 8 objects) it has a lot less meaning or value. It is also valuable when children can make reasonable estimates (50 is a reasonable estimate of 20 objects, but 200 is not).

Of course there is much more in the area of mathematics that children will need to learn and use. However, the information provided is a good place to start. So how can you help at home? You could give your children money and have them time themselves while they count it. Or you could find thousands of ways to reinforce these important learnings in fun and interesting ways.

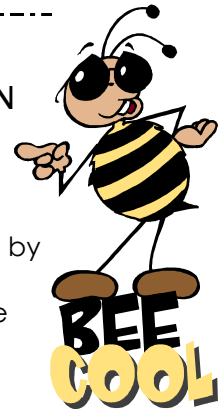
David C. Crump, Principal

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LEF FUNDS PROJECT TO AID STUDENTS STRUGGLING WITH MATH

The need for early intervention in Mathematics has been clearly shown. The Lexington Education Foundation (LEF) has funded a grant for \$7,840 to Karen Tripoli, Elementary Mathematics Specialist, to support the education of elementary mathematics specialists in discovering tools and strategies to help elementary students (K-2) who struggle with math. The goal of this project is to ensure that the academic needs of students are identified and matched with appropriate and effective curriculums and instruction experiences. Math specialists from all Lexington elementary schools attended a summer program for training in "Assessing Math Concepts." Funding will also be used for materials to help implement the program. The assessments and interventions will be used by the math specialists with their students during the school year 2006-2007. At the end of the year, the math specialists will collaborate to create a protocol for their building-based support of students to be implemented in 2007-2008. ☺

**LEF TRIVIA BEE
SUPPORT THE HARRINGTON
HAWKS TRIVIA TEAM!!!!**



This year Harrington will be represented at the LEF Trivia Bee by parents Jeanne Clifford and Leora Tec and HED Director Rose Culkins. Together they are THE HARRINGTON HAWKS. Come cheer them on as they take on teams from many other schools and community groups on **Thursday, November 9th** at the Cary Hall. It's Harrington's JubilBEE year, let's show them our stuff!

**Lexington Children's
Place**

An Integrated Preschool Program
in the Lexington Public School
System

invites you to an
**Open House for Prospective
Families**

Thursday, November 9, 2006
6:30-8 pm
At the Harrington School

**Entrance next to 318 Lowell Street
Lexington, MA 02420**

Please call 781-860-5823 for more
information.

Please come and learn about the exciting programming offered for preschoolers. Programs include 3, 4 and 5 mornings or 3-4 afternoons a week. Children must be 2 years 9 months to begin but may begin mid-year. Programs offered for children 2 years 9 months to Kindergarten entry age. Exciting, developmental, diversity oriented program with high teacher student ratios and curriculum based on the Massachusetts Department of Education Preschool Standards.

Andy Stern: "Change is inevitable – progress is optional."

Mark Twain: "I'm all for progress – it's change I can't stand."

Public Education: change, progress, or more of the same?

Who Cares About Public Education?



With the dramatic changes in education that have occurred since the Education Reform Act of 1993, marked by high stakes testing and accountability, is progress in public education optional? How do schools balance the many competing missions and mandates, and the many different kinds of students? What are your thoughts on the mission, governance, and finance of our public education system? What is the future of public education? Come and be part of the process that generates ideas to bring to the new governor.

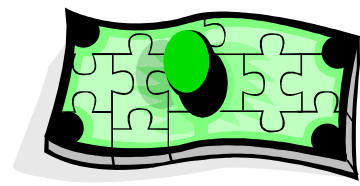
with:

Representative Jay Kaufman
Lexington Superintendent, Dr. Paul Ash
MA Director of Stand for Children, Meg Ansara

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

7:00 – 8:30 PM

Harrington School
148 Maple Street, Lexington



Hosted by Harrington PTA, co-sponsored by Fiske PTO

**Harrington PTA General Meeting Minutes
September 13th,
Harrington School Art Room**

Co-president Mary Ann Stewart opened the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mrs. Waugh is looking for parent volunteers for vision & hearing screening
- Judy Crocker will be conducting training sessions for Big Back Yard

Mary Ann Stewart announced results of the "Welcome Back" surveys, which were available at the PTA breakfast on the first day of school.

Parents listed as some of their # 1 concerns regarding their children

- positive social interactions
- making sure their children have a moral compass
- increasing and maintaining confidence in children
- managing chronic medical conditions (i.e. allergies)
- bullying

Parents listed as some of their needs in regard to raising their children

- building a support network
- support for adoptive families
- setting limits with children

Harrington's 50th anniversary will be celebrated with an Arts Jubilee – more information will be coming in the next few weeks

METCO Family Friends program is still in need of a coordinator to match up families and students and coordinate with Lexington Metco coordinators. METCO also needs volunteer hosts in some grades – families can host children of any grade. Mr. Crump emphasized the importance of METCO, both to the children in the program and to the Harrington community as a whole. METCO students spend a great amount of time commuting to Harrington, and it is important that they have a place to stay on Thursdays and on days where there are evening events at Harrington. It is also important to provide METCO students with a sense of community and belonging in the Harrington/Lexington community.

BUDGET 2006-2007

Treasurer Helen Goodreau presented the budget for the upcoming year. The PTA currently has \$55,700 in our bank account. Helen provided an in depth presentation regarding last year's cash inflows vs. outflows and recommended a 2006-2007 budget of \$47,505, which is the same as last year. Discussion of last year's actual expenses and this year's recommended budget followed:

Last year brought in more money than expected due to several outstanding fundraisers, including the Spring Fair and Parents Night out. Parents Night Out and Walk for the Arts will not take place this year. This year will be a "transition" year for fundraising as we search for alternatives to Walk for the Arts. Harrington t-shirts and sweatshirts will be sold this year and proceeds will be donated to ACT.

ACT programming was discussed. Henrietta Mei, one of the ACT co-chairs, discussed the fact that ACT programming goes along with the curriculum for each grade. Walk for the Arts will not continue this year, as it has become an increasingly unprofitable fundraiser. New fundraising ideas are being discussed. Henrietta stated that ACT tries to decrease costs by, among other things, sharing programs with Fiske – obviously, this will not continue when Fiske moves to its new home.

JUBILEE

The 50th anniversary Arts jubilee will include, among other things, a vendor sale, where, for a fee, local vendors can display their wares. There will also be dance groups and art projects. Rancatore's has agreed to supply Harrington with ice cream (perhaps even a flavor in honor of Mr. Crump!). Whole Foods will also donate food.



T- SHIRTS

A special thank you to Shelley and Jonathan Isaacson for their contribution in making the very popular Harrington t-shirts and sweat

shirts.

HARRINGTON BRICKS

The bricks should be arriving any day now, they were ordered by Irene Dondley in July. A special dedication ceremony will take place when the bricks are laid.

MISC.

The PTA increased the discretionary budget for teachers and administrators.

Money was also allocated to the everyday math program. The PTA will fund the purchase of items for the everyday math program.

Moved and seconded to accept the budget unanimously

Mr. Crump introduced Mary Turo, our new assistant principal.

The Jubilee banner was displayed in the library window. It was designed by Beth Gaudette – check it out!

Mr. Crump noted that the transition to the current school year has gone very smoothly. There are currently 380 children at Harrington School. The multi-cultural calendar is going up again. Mr. Crump is looking for new members of the diversity team.

Q&A WITH MR. CRUMP

Q: When is it anticipated that Fiske will move? Will Harrington return to its former schedule once Fiske moves?

A: There is a possibility that Fiske could move as early as Thanksgiving. However, given the difficulty of arranging bus schedules, etc., Harrington will remain at the same schedule through the rest of the year. Next year, Harrington will return to its former schedule.

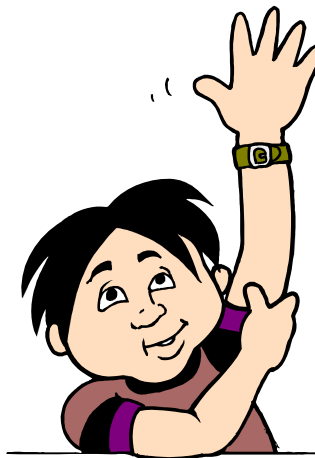
Q: Has Harrington applied for a LEF grant this year? How is it being spent?

A: Yes, Harrington is spending \$15,000 to train all teachers in the Open Circle program

Q: What is the Open Circle program? How is it being implemented by Harrington this year?

A: All Harrington teachers will be trained, and the Open Circle program will be implemented this year. Mary Yardley, one of our Kindergarten teachers, who was trained in Open Circle last year, was present at the meeting, and helped to describe the program. Open Circle is a social competency program developed at the

Wellesley Centers for Women at Wellesley College. It is an excellent program and teachers who implemented the program last year appreciated the opportunity and structure for discussing and emphasizing social competence. There is a curriculum for all grade levels. Teachers receive 4 full days of training, as well as on-going program support. Each class meets twice per week for Open Circle. Parents will receive letters when a program/lesson takes place. Open Circle programs include community building activities and problem-solving activities and emphasizes respecting differences. While the curriculum differs among the grades, the Open Circle program shares common language and rules that provide consistency for all teachers and students (i.e. "the school listening look"). For parents who would like more information and training in the Open Circle program, Amy Chamberlain will offer parent workshops during the year.



Q: Would it be possible for children to bike to school?

A: No. It is too dangerous given Harrington's location at the cross roads of three major roads. This would be a major safety issue for the children and has never been allowed at Harrington for this reason.

Q: Why is Back To School Night no longer taking place at Harrington?

A: There have been increasing concerns about the hectic and chaotic nature of Back to School night. Both parents and teachers were surveyed about Back to School night, and it was decided that the format will be changed for this year. Curriculum night will occur as usual, without children. International Food Festival will also take place, but the classrooms will not be open afterwards (teachers have been invited to the IFF).

Q: What is happening with the issue of redistricting schools in Lexington?

A: Superintendent Paul Ash is working with design partners to look at optimal educational capacity for the Lexington schools. There will be a meeting with the redistricting team in October. Dr. Ash will present his findings. In November the design team will present their findings. November – January there will be discussions regarding

findings. Superintendent Ash did an enrollment projection, which he will revise and redo and the design time will also look at. The goal will be to implement the new redistricting plan in the Fall of 2007. This will be an open process, and parents will have the opportunity to be involved. Russ Heyda and Duncan Stewart have volunteered to represent Harrington school in the redistricting process.

Q: Can you discuss the math curriculum for Harrington?

A: Currently, Harrington school is focused on improving, refining, and revising its math curriculum. Teachers and administrators have been experimenting with creative ways to improve and emphasize the math curriculum. Children are being put into small groups and more

adults are being added to ensure that all children's needs are being met. A previous goal for Harrington was on early literacy – and the children made phenomenal progress. The current goal is for every child to become proficient or better in math. Mr. Crump also emphasized the need for parents to reinforce math skills at home. Kindergarteners should be encouraged to count everything; 1st graders should be encouraged to use money/coins frequently; and 2nd graders should be encouraged to use addition and subtraction in their daily lives.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Bruno

School Committee Update

Mary Ann Stewart, School Committee Liaison

School Improvement Plans were first on the “Discussion Items” at the October 3 meeting. Each Principal from the nine Lexington schools took questions from committee members. Of note is that all schools are following a uniform format that includes at least one academic content area; Harrington is targeting improvement in Mathematics.

Dr. Lynne Sarasin, Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development, presented an overview of the new K-12 curriculum review process. The last time there was such a review in the Lexington schools was in 1997. The curriculum review is expected to be a high priority in the upcoming budget to be forwarded by the Superintendent. The process will take three years for each academic discipline (Mathematics, Physical Education/Wellness, English Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, Fine Arts, Foreign Language, and Performing Arts) and take six years to complete. During this school year, the review focuses on the first phase of examining Lexington's curricula for Mathematics and Physical Education/Wellness, which were described by Carol Pilarski and Kate Cremens-Basbas, respectively. The two curriculum committees began their work in August. Overall, the curriculum review process is a thorough, research-based endeavor that involves appropriate stakeholders for each discipline who articulate clear standards and resources for each academic area.

Redistricting was not discussed at this meeting, but the report from the Redistricting Committee is expected to be presented at the November 28 School Committee meeting. Harrington PTA members are encouraged to stay informed about redistricting. Redistricting questions and/or concerns may be forwarded to: redistricting@sch.ci.lexington.ma.us

The next School Committee meetings will be:

Tuesday, November 14 – 7:30 PM, at Lexington Town Hall, Selectman's Meeting Room

Tuesday, November 28 – 7:30 PM, at Lexington Town Hall, Selectman's Meeting Room

Tuesday, December 12 – 7:30 PM, at Lexington Town Hall, Selectman's Meeting Room

PTA Meeting – October 17, 2006
Harrington School
Internet Savvy & Internet Safety



PTA co-president Mary Ann Stewart opened the meeting and welcomed members of the Lexington High School and general Lexington community, as well as members of the

Harrington community in attendance.

Mary Ann then introduced the evening's speaker, Nora Mann, from the Middlesex County District Attorney's Office.

Ms. Mann began by asking the audience what brought them to the meeting. Some of the responses were:

➤ **Fear that children will inadvertently find an inappropriate site**

- Ms. Mann stated that this was absolutely a fact of life; the Internet is here to stay and is everywhere; now it is no longer just at home it is on cell phones and everywhere we go. Filtering software can't filter everything.

➤ **Internet predators**

- Ms. Mann started by noting that most people who hurt children are usually close to the child (i.e. family members, etc...). However, close to home has taken on a new definition. Children on the Internet have a new definition of "friends."

- We need to be aware and present to make sure our children are not at risk. Although we may not be able to tell our children that these Internet "friends" are not their friends, we need to make them aware that they cannot treat them the same as friends they have met in person. We really don't know who these "friends" are – could be anyone. It is important for children to develop strategies for dealing with on-line friends.


➤ **Social Networking sites** (i.e. My Space, Face Book)

- Social networking sites are web-based platforms where people can set up their own web-based pages and network with others (including instant messaging, sharing music, etc...) Even though the site is somewhat

protected (i.e. invitation only, password protected, etc...) it is still inherently public. It is important for parents to negotiate these sites so they can see what information our children are putting there. It is the norm for children to share lots of information on these sites, even personal information.

- Parents should be aware and careful of what information is placed on public websites (i.e., soccer team sites, etc.). Any identifying information should not be revealed.
- One of the inherent problems of the Internet is that it is impossible to tell what is true on-line. Anyone can set up a fake site and make it look official. Unlike a published journal, for example, nobody is going to be held accountable for the content of a website. The mere fact that it is an .org or .edu site does not mean that there is not a bias or a perspective or even false information. It is very difficult to separate junk from reliable sources, and our children need to be made aware of this.
- Children need to know that if they come to us with inappropriate web sites, content, etc..., that we will be there to help explain and process the information with them. Kids need to be able to tell a trusted adult if they are viewing content that makes them scared or uncomfortable.
- Most children who are bullied or threatened never tell an adult. It is important that they feel comfortable to do so.
- If anything threatening or harassing is sent to them, it should be reported to the school and/or the authorities.
- What happens on the Internet can affect the child's ability to learn.
- Parents cannot rely on technology to be a panacea or "silver bullet" to prevent these issues from arising. Most technology can be circumvented. And children may be able to use the Internet elsewhere (i.e., a friend's house). It is important that parents set rules and limits regarding the Internet, but parents must recognize that these limits can be circumvented. It is important to have open communication with parents regarding computer



- and Internet use.
- Parents should begin discussing their concerns regarding the Internet at a developmentally appropriate level for their children. Each child is different and so each discussion and the age/timing of these discussions may be different.
- Browser history – parents can click on “help” and check the history of their computer to find out what sites their children have been viewing.
- An important way to prevent problems from occurring is to keep the home computers in a public space so parents can monitor their use.
- Parents need to develop a level of knowledge about our kids’ Internet use and develop convictions/limits for its use. Parents should take the time to find out what their children are being exposed to on the Internet. Parents should set limits on the computer’s use and follow through with these limits. Just because children have access to technology, doesn’t mean they must use it. 

Getting to Know..... Kate Cremens-Basbas, Lexington’s New Director of Physical Education and Wellness

Leora Tec

Did you know that Lexington has a new Director of Physical Education and Wellness? Her name is Kate Cremens-Basbas and she is the first to occupy this new position in the Lexington Public Schools. The position evolved out of two previously existing positions: the Coordinator of Health and the Director of Physical Education and Athletics. Kate, as the new Director of P.E. and Wellness, is responsible for bringing Health and P.E. together as a Wellness program.

Kate Cremens-Basbas grew up in Cambridge. She currently lives in Maynard with her husband and 17-year-old son. Her number one hobby is her golden retriever, “Macksy,” who her family rescued from neglectful owners. Macksy is the best dog in the world. Another hobby is refereeing. Kate referees in the greater Boston area for field hockey, basketball, soccer and lacrosse for all ages. She also plays soccer. She likes to read and is currently reading “Dogs Don’t Bite When a Growl Will Do” for pleasure but assures me she is quite eclectic in her reading choices.

This is the first year of the curriculum review process for Physical Education and Wellness and part of Kate’s job is to work with a committee to review current literature visit exemplary programs, and make recommendations for curriculum. There are both parents and teachers on the review committee. Kate stresses that Lexington has an excellent program and that what is necessary is to articulate a Wellness model that aligns with the Massachusetts Comprehensive Health Framework, whereas formerly health and physical education were distinct and physical education was aligned with athletics.

In the former schema of looking at things there was a pyramid-like structure with physical education on the bottom and elite and talented athletes on the top. The recent, more inclusive way of looking at things is a rectangle where everyone has a place at both the top and the bottom. “The former model of physical education was an athletic model,” says Cremens-Basbas, “and now we are

looking at health-related models." For example, fitness used to mean who is the fastest or who could do the most in terms of competition and achievement. Now there are health-related fitness assessments based on components that relate to living in a healthful manner with scores that focus students to set goals to improve and reach healthy fitness zones.

Kate told me about the six dimensions of Wellness as outlined by the National Wellness Conference. They are: emotional; social; spiritual; physical; intellectual and occupational. Attaining balance in these six dimensions is a goal for people who want to achieve wellness. It certainly is exciting to have such a well-rounded way of looking at wellness. As Kate likes to say, "It's not your mother's gym class anymore!"

Kate Cremens Basbas has had an opportunity to get to know the staff in Lexington and quite a few community members and is happy to report that everyone is very supportive and the job is a good fit. We are certainly lucky to have someone with such a holistic view of wellness and physical education in our midst. Welcome, Kate! ☺



The Health Protection Advisory Council (HPAC) is seeking new members from the community to join the Council for the school year 2006-2007. Our next scheduled meeting is Monday December 4, 2006. The role of HPAC is to support the development of a comprehensive K-12 health education curriculum in the Lexington Public Schools. Members of HPAC advise the new Director of Physical Education and Wellness, the nursing departments and the health education staff on the development and implementation of new health education programs as well as reviewing and updating existing curricula. HPAC members also assume an advocacy role for health education. You may be aware that the elementary health educator positions were lost to the town last year and that the fifth year of a five-year substance abuse grant was also canceled. The last group of Lexington students to receive monthly health education during their elementary school years entered the high school as freshman in September.

HPAC has been instrumental in a number of areas including supporting funding for health education classes at the elementary level, supporting the biannual administration of the Youth Risk Behavior Assessment survey, and utilizing the survey results to determine where best to target health education efforts. Several PTAs worked with us during the 2005-2006 year and appointed liaisons. We hope the "PTA health and wellness liaisons" will attend our meetings. We are concerned about the education of our students that prepares them to make healthy choices in their lives and also in the dissemination of health education to the entire community.

We meet at the High School in the Library Media Center, Room 149 from 7-9 p.m. on Monday nights. Our current HPAC membership consists of LPS teachers and administrators, parents and concerned community members. If you cannot join us on December 4, 2006, we hope that you will consider one of our other meetings scheduled for March 5, 2007 and May 7, 2007. Please contact us if you would like more information.

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ACT Corner

ACT - Art Created Together is a committee at Harrington that brings enrichment programs such as art, music, and dance as well curriculum-based programs such as literature and history to the school. In the past years, funds that support ACT were raised through the annual Walk for the Arts. This year, because of our 50th Anniversary Jubilee Celebration, we raised ACT funding through the Art & Dance Cafe and Vendor's Marketplace on Sunday October 15th. All monies raised on that day go to support ACT programming during the 2007-2008 school year.

Many of you are probably curious how much money was raised through the event on Sunday and how much we traditionally spend on ACT programs throughout the year. We strive to provide each grade with 2 grade-level events, and we also schedule 2 all-school events per year. The cost of these events is between \$5,000 and \$6,000 per year. This past Sunday, we raised a little over \$3,000. This is a preliminary number, but as you can see, it's not quite at our usual level of funding.

ACT programming for the 2006-2007 school year is already in full swing. We started off with an all-school joint event with Fiske on Sept 27th with David Zucker from Young Audience of America. His performance titled "Poetry in Motion" mesmerized our children and sent their imaginations off to a new realm. David's presentation deepened their understanding of what poetry is and brought life to words. It was a delightful performance that was enriching for students and teachers alike.



Other scheduled events include:

- 👶 Kindergarteners enjoyed a musical performance by David Polansky on October 16th and will learn the history and art of Chinese Ribbon Dancing on March 6 through a presentation by Chiao Bin Huang.
- 👶 The fourth grade learned about researching ancient civilizations through an Archaeological Workshop at the Museum of Our National Heritage on October 19th and 23rd.
- 👶 Our first graders will enjoy a presentation by author and illustrator Miko Imai on November 1. Her book titled 'Mr. Lumpy' is available to borrow from our school library.
- 👶 Both Kindergarten and first grade will learn about Mime through a presentation by Vladimir Bulovic, one of our very own Harrington parents. That is a treat in itself as Mr. Bulovic was a professional mime performer in his earlier career.
- 👶 Our second Graders will be meeting Catherine Hunter - 'Native American Story-telling' in the Fall and 'Clara Barton' from Historical Perspectives for Children in the Spring. Both performances are selected to reinforce their curriculum, making learning more fun and interesting.
- 👶 The third grade Colonial unit is always enhanced by a visit with the Bay Colony Educators team who share artifacts and anecdotes about living in this area during that period. This is scheduled for March
- 👶 We are also exploring additional programs for the future such as adventures in science, a healthy eating presentation, fun with math, and a brass quintet.

Without your generous support, we will not be able to continue bringing such exciting programs to benefit our children. Direct donations to ACT are always welcome and appreciated. If you wish to donate directly, write a check to the Harrington PTA with ACT in the memo line.

If you would like additional information about ACT programming or have suggestions for future programs, please contact Carmen Mincy or Henrietta Mei. We appreciate your continued support. 🐾

BOX TOP UPDATES

Box Tops are off to a great start. We were so surprised how many of you remembered to bring in your BOX TOPS on Tuesday mornings!! (Even after the long weekends).

Our first count is the end of October, so in the December Herald we will tell how we are doing.

Don't forget to go to www.boxtops4education.com when placing an online order. Harrington gets 2-8% of your purchases without costing you a dime. So when you order things from Oriental trading, or Nordstrom's, even Lands' End, go thru the Box Top web site and help the school.

Keep clipping and we will see you on Tuesday mornings. Any questions: Ellen Cameron eusol@aol.com, Suzanne Lowry lowrysuz@gmail.com



The Box Top Team

METCO FAMILY FRIENDS' NEW COORDINATOR

I am the new METCO Family Friends Coordinator for Harrington and wanted to give you an update on our program for this school year. We have twenty-one Boston students and all but three have been connected to a Lexington Host Family! Thanks so much to all the families who are hosting these children--I am confident that it will be a rewarding experience for all parties.

Additionally, I wanted to make my plea for the remaining 3 children that seek a host family or families. I ask that you please consider hosting. It is simply a three-hour play date one Thursday a month--for however many months you can commit. I will coordinate another family to share the hosting dates if you can't commit to them all.

There are two third grade boys and one fourth-grade boy who are seeking host families. I welcome families of all grades to consider being a Family Friend to these children.

The new dates for METCO FF this school year are:

Nov 2
January 4
February 1
March 1
April 5
May 10
June 7



Thank you for considering this important program. I look forward to hearing from you.

Leslie Zales

METCO FF Coordinator,
Harrington School
LSZALES@rcn.com

SALLY FOSTER NEWS

The gift wrap sale was a big success again this year. Total sales were: **\$11,163.00** and Harrington receives half of this: **\$5,582.00!!!**

Thank you to everyone who placed orders and a special thank you to those who helped me check the orders: **Raana Khavandgar, Michelle Mabardy, Lisa Smith, Linda Resnick, and Amy Zaslow.**

Tricia McLaughlin

SEPAC MEETING

On Thursday November 2nd at 7:30pm, the Lexington Special Education Parent Advisory Council welcomes Maura Johnson, Supervisor of Student Services (Grades 6-8) and Denise Oldham, Supervisor of High School Special Education for an overview of Special Education in Lexington at the Secondary Level. Please join us in the LHS Library Media Center, room 147. Following the hour-long presentation, there will be time for networking with other parents. If you have any questions or a need for accommodations, please contact the PAC co-chairs, Larry Belvin or Dale Hernquist.

Our Heartfelt Thanks to ...



...**Tina Bowling** and **Kerry Heyda** for organizing our Room Parents for the year and to all who have taken on the role.

...**Henrietta Mei** and **Ase Grydeland** for another welcoming and successful International Food Fest Potluck.

...**Sarah Widhu** and **Karen Skoff** for coordinating our annual Book Fair and Sponsor a Book Program at International Food night.

...Thank you for coming, and sharing your favorite food at International Food Festival on Oct 12. We all enjoyed an excellent meal with food from around the world, as well as meeting new and old friends. Join us in thanking the many people who made it happen. **Laura Bologna, Genevieve Chiu, Raana Khavandgar, Hiroko Kim, Penjan Kridaratikorn, Iris Rosenberg, La'keia Soloman, Janet Trombley, Roberta Wilson and Regina Wiryaman.**

...All the fifth grade students and their teachers for making the interesting flag centerpieces for the International Food night.

...**Beth Gaudette** and **Karen Skoff** and all of the volunteers for pulling together Harrington's 50th Jubilee Art and Dance Café Extravaganza with grace and enthusiasm!

...**Miriam Fein-Cole** for organizing 1st Grade Family Math Night.

...**Regina Wiryaman, Leora Tec, Stephanie Wiryaman** and **Liam Gandelsman** for organizing and making our Harrington Hawk tee shirts and hoodies available in September and October – Hawks Rawk!

...All of the teachers, staff, kids, and parents who participated in Harrington's one-of-a-kind Halloween assembly.

The Harrington Herald

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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. 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>.

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Next Deadline: November 20, 2006