

THE HARRINGTON HERALD

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

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

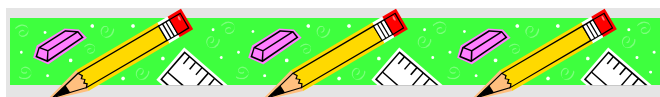
A Message from the Principal

David C. Crump

The Harrington School Diversity Task Force has been an important part of our school community for nine years. The Task Force has played a prominent role in promoting respect for and appreciation of human differences. Putting a spotlight upon positive aspects of our diverse school community has helped children and adults to be more accepting, understanding, compassionate and appreciative of the many benefits we attain from the having such diversity in our school.

Sadly, though, the Diversity Task Force has not been active this year. This is because almost all of the former members have graduated with their children to the middle school. We are now in need of new members to carry on this important work.

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Upcoming Events

March

- 1 METCO Family Friends Day
- 2 Tony Vacca's World Rhythms Concert, with internationally acclaimed Senagalese tamba "talking" drum player Massamba Diop and featuring Harrington 4th and 5th graders (7:00 pm)
- 8 Bingo Night (6:30 – 8:30 pm)
- 14 Grades 2 and 3 concert:
8:30am performance for school;
7:00pm performance for parents
- 16 Talent Show (6:45 – 9:00 pm)
- 22 PTA Meeting (7:00-8:30 pm):
What ALL Families Need to Know About Special Education
- 29 Science Fair (7:00 – 8:15 pm)

A Conversation with Our Legislators

A Message from PTA Co-Presidents



Just after the November election, the Harrington PTA had a conversation about public education - over sixty parents and teachers from Harrington and the other Lexington public schools attended.

Continue the conversation by joining with other PTA members from across town for a discussion with all four of our state legislators at a forum organized by the Lexington Chapter of Stand for Children. The forum will be held at Follen Church on Wednesday, March 7th at 7:00 PM. Our legislators, Representatives Jay Kaufman and Tom Stanley, and Senators Susan Fargo and Robert Havern, will be on hand to hear what you have to say.

Many of you are concerned about the budget constraints on our schools and town; our superintendent and members of our School Committee have publicly asked citizens to lobby our legislators for more funding. Come to the forum on **March 7th**; listen – and voice your questions and concerns. A unified voice makes an impact. Adding *your* voice will help us make a big impact at the forum and on Beacon Hill.

We want to affirm that it is important for people to engage in the process of knowing a variety of leaders and to find ways of being involved in advocating for our children. Advocacy is like an ever-flowing river, one that you can step into at any place at any time. And whether you choose to dip your toe in at the calm shore, or wade in

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Harrington School has a very diverse student population. More than one third of the children are nonwhite. Many speak languages other than English. The goal of the Task Force is mainly to be proactive in making sure every member of our school community is recognized, accepted and reflected in our school environment. This task is not necessarily easy, yet it is of the utmost importance for a school such as ours.

If you are willing and able to be a part of our new Diversity Team, please contact me by phone, e-mail, or by writing me a note. Once we have interested new members, we will establish a time to meet. One of the great things about our school is that parents do participate when there is a need. I hope some of you will be able to step forward, join in and lend a hand to keep a valuable part of our school functioning in the best interest of us all.

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

LEF Awards School Community Grant to Harrington

The Lexington Education Foundation (LEF) School Community Grant Program was first offered as a pilot program in 2003 to encourage, support, and enable creative educational initiatives generated by each school. LEF School Community Grants are intended to provide a funding source for smaller-scale proposals to be implemented during the current academic year. A 2006-2007 School Community Grant of \$3,000 has been awarded to Harrington Elementary School for two initiatives: (1) Social competency training will be held for reading specialists, SPED and other support staff as part of the Open Circle program, and (2) Drummers Tony Vacca and Massamba Diop will lead an assembly, hold workshops for 4th and 5th grade students, and present an evening concert as part of Community of Rhythms Drum Residency.



'til you are knee-deep, your presence there has already changed the course. It's important to learn the vocabulary – and to create our own! We look forward to joining with you on March 7th.

Harrington PTA is a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) organization and does not endorse the election or defeat of any candidate or party. It is critical that all PTA members demonstrate their role as child advocates by becoming educated about candidates for public office and their positions on issues that are important to our children and schools. By exercising our democratic right to vote, we are able to give children a voice. Your vote can make a difference for our children and community. **Remember to vote this Monday, March 5.** Polls open at 7:00 AM and close at 8:00 PM. To view the complete candidate roster and polling locations visit Lexington's town website: <http://ci.lexington.ma.us/>

Suzanne Cherenson

Mary Ann Stewart

Harrington School PTA Co-Presidents

Harrington PTA

presents

What You Need to Know About Special Education

with Mary Sullivan Kelley, Ed.D.
Director of Student Services

and Liz Billings-Fouhy, M.Ed.
Director of Lexington Children's Place Preschool

Thursday, March 22, 2007
7:00 PM

Harrington School cafeteria

*childcare will be provided – RSVP to Regina Wiryaman
regina.wiryaman@rcn.com*

School Committee Update

Residents are asked to carefully examine the superintendent's Recommended Same-Service Budget and Recommended Supplemental Budget at <http://ps.lexingtonma.org/>. The School Committee has not yet voted to approve these recommended budgets. Questions and concerns about the budget(s) should be directed to our elected School Committee members at school-com@sch.ci.lexington.ma.us before the final school budget is submitted to Town Meeting in April. Dr. Ash is expected to announce his "At Risk List" of cuts to the school budget at the next School Committee meeting: Tuesday, March 6 at Clarke Middle School, 7:30 PM. The "At Risk List" is what fits the constraints of Proposition 2 ½ and what can be accomplished without an operating override.

Mary Ann Stewart
School Committee Liaison

LEF Educated Tastes: Great Party, Great Food, Great Cause

This year's *Educated Tastes* will take place on Sunday, March 18th, 2007, from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Boston Marriott at Burlington. Lexington's most lively and elegant fundraising event, *Educated Tastes* is a party, a celebration and a fundraiser, all rolled into one evening. It's an opportunity to join with old and new friends and sample food from some of the area's best restaurants and caterers -- all while celebrating excellence in public education. All proceeds from *Educated Tastes* benefit the Lexington Education Foundation's grant and fellowship programs to enrich education for the students in Lexington Public Schools. If you would like to donate an auction item, become an ET sponsor, or inquire about tickets, please email educatedtastes@lexedfoundation.org.



METCO Family Friends

I hope you all had a great February vacation. During that time, I emailed information about METCO's 5th **Annual Student Essay Contest** as well as the **METCO March for Equity**. The deadline for the essay was March 1 and I hope some of our Harrington students felt inspired to submit an essay explaining how METCO has transformed their lives to the attention of Governor Patrick.

Additionally, the METCO community is being encouraged to participate in the 40th Lobby Day including a March for Equity. The METCO Caucus Chairs are working hard to get the language changed in the 2008 State Budget.

They need us to help advocate this change to the rest of the legislature and Governor's office.

Thursday, March 22, 2007
9 AM to 10:30 am – METCO Rally
Grand Staircase – 2nd Floor, Massachusetts State House
10:45 am – Legislator Visits Begin

All METCO Families are invited to ride the METCO Inc. bus to the State House
Departs: 8:30 am from METCO Inc. (40 Dimock St., Roxbury) & Returns: 1:30 pm

For more information: METCO, Inc. 617-427-1545 ex 11 or MPLC@METCOInc.org

Leslie Zales
METCO FF Coordinator, Harrington School
LSZALES@rcn.com

FAMILY BINGO NIGHT

Come to Family Bingo Night on **Thursday March 8th (6:30pm check-in/ games start promptly at 6:45pm to 8pm)**. You and your family will have an enjoyable time and will have the chance to win great prizes. You could win a gift certificate, the chance to be a bus caller for a day, go to the front of the line on Pizza day or be the Principal for half the day. Any questions call Diane Coste email: dcoste@rcn.com or Helen Goodreau, email: Ehhgood@aol.com. **Please remember to bring a highlighter.**

THIRD GRADE MATH MORNINGS



March is finally here, and we will be starting our Third Grade Math Mornings. Math Mornings is a math enrichment program designed to provide third graders with new and fun approaches to solving challenging math problems.

Third Grade Math Mornings will run on Thursday mornings before school from March 29 through May 31 from 7:15 AM - 8:00 AM. Look for the sign-up sheet in your child's backpack.

The success of Math Mornings is dependent on having parent volunteers to help students with their problem-solving skills during these sessions. If you are interested, please contact Jeanne Clifford at jclifford@rcn.com.

BOX TOP UPDATES

Our submission was due at the end of February, but we can keep collecting through the end of school year. Just a reminder we cannot collect Campbell Soup labels as part of the Box Top Campaign. In addition the children need 5 Box Tops to redeem a prize on Box Top Tuesday mornings every Tuesday before school till about 8:15am. So clip and save and choose a prize.

Any questions feel free to contact the Box Top Team: Ellen Cameron at eusol@aol.com or Suzanne Lowry at Lowrysuz@gmail.com. Also if anyone is looking to join the Box Top team for next year, please let us know. It is a nice way to be involved with the school, fun to see the children, and a nice fundraiser as well.

Harrington Spring Fair

Sunday, June 3rd 12-4pm

Spring Fair Dreamin'

(sing to tune of California Dreamin')

Harrington Spring Fair dreamin' on such a winter's day!

All the grass is green

The grass is green

And the weather's warm

The weather's warm

Cookin' on the grill

Playin' games in the sun

Games in the sun

Dunkin' fifth graders in the dunk tank

In the dunk tank

All the kids are walking to win a cake

To win a cake

Harrington Spring Fair dreamin' on such a winter's day!

The Spring Fair planning is underway and there are lots of new and exciting ideas to make this year's Spring Fair the best ever!

We need your help to make this year's Spring Fair as successful as the one last year. Start thinking now about how you would like to volunteer. Do you want to paint faces, make tie-dyed T's, work the grill, run a game or hand out prizes?

Call or e-mail Michelle Mabardy at MMMABARDY@aol.com to volunteer.

Our Heartfelt Thanks to ...

... to all of the Kindergarten and First Grade students who joyfully presented their music for our school and their families; to their teachers **Ms. Gerzon, Ms. Little, Ms. Yardley, Mr. Dagley, Ms. Krasco, Mrs. O'Neill,** and **Mrs. Sherriff** for assisting them with their cues; and to **Mrs. Stumpf**, Harrington's fabulous music specialist, for sharing her love of music with us all!

... to everyone who came out for Hobby Night and for the students who shared their and hobby passions with our community.

... to **Holly Stumpf** for organizing the Family Dance Night with our special guest, **Andrea Ostertag** – and to all of the families who joined in the delightful fun!

... to all of the awesome people who came out for the Big Backyard training day – BBY wouldn't happen without you!



The Harrington Herald

Editors:

Hua Dong, donghua9901@yahoo.com

Miriam Fein-Cole, 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. 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

Next Deadline: March 20, 2007