

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

““Milton Man New Lexington Principal” was the headline 13 years ago when I became principal at Harrington School. I’m sure I’ve spent more time in Lexington than in Milton since then!

Every morning when I’ve gotten up, I’ve looked forward to coming to work at Harrington. The kindergarten class of 1994, the year I started, is graduating from high school as I retire as principal. As I think about what I might say to some of these students, I remember the advice my mother gave me: go to college after graduation. My friends and I had a singing group in Gary, Indiana, just one street away from another group. We competed against each other at school talent shows — we usually won. The other group decided to pursue a music career and did not attend college. You may have heard of them: The Jackson Five. I headed off to Northeastern University and then taught in Boston and Concord, and I’ve never regretted it. I had over 18 years of teaching experience with high-caliber colleagues, which prepared me to become a principal. Having been a veteran teacher, as principal my mission has been to provide the best education for all children. We need to stretch kids, to challenge students at all ability levels so that everyone comes out a winner. I am the biggest winner of all, because I thoroughly love my job. I love working with children, helping them learn, watching them grow, and seeing them become competent, productive citizens.

1994 was a year of great change in Massachusetts, with the Education Reform Act of 1993 dramatically affecting school funding and setting statewide standards for education.

...Continued on page 2

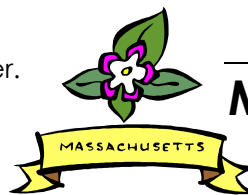
A Message from PTA Co-President Suzanne Cherenon



This morning I attended the Little League Opening Day parade for the first time. It is the first year for my second-grader, so I’m feeling a little anxious about how it will all go. I know the point is to have fun, but as parents, we always find something to worry about. It was wonderful to see all the Harrington families and when I saw my son with all of his Harrington buddies, I knew he would be fine. Neither my husband nor I are particularly athletic, and I know nothing about baseball, and it doesn’t really matter, because Daniel will find his own way with this. As he nears his 8th birthday, I am more aware of how the friendships and camaraderie with classmates will play a growing and changing role in his life.

The Harrington community is preparing for some significant changes, and it is our great fortune to have close-knit parent, teacher and staff relationships. At a recent PTA Presidents Council meeting, several people told me how impressed they are about how Harrington makes people feel welcome. They noted this when they visited our school for events but also from contacts with Harrington families off campus.

...Continued on page 3



MAY CALENDAR

- 3** Grades 4 and 5 concert: 8:30am performance for school; 7:30pm performance for parents
- 7-11** Teacher Appreciation Week
- 10** Teachers’ Luncheon (12:15pm)
- 10** METCO Family Friends Day
- 17** PTA Annual Meeting and Elections (7:00-8:30pm)
- 28** **No school** – Memorial Day

Parent Advocacy - Lexington SPED Parent Advisory Council Meeting

Thursday, May 3rd at 7:30pm



Kevin Johnson, a Lexington parent, will speak to the Lexington SPED Parent Advisory Council about his efforts to have Lexington High School adopt technology that would allow students, teachers, and parents access to information about assignments and grades online in a timely

fashion. This technology would benefit many students in regular and special education, would simplify the job of resource teachers and parents, and might save the town money. We will discuss how we can support Kevin's efforts and whether his work could serve as a model for community education about other issues relevant to a large group of our students.

Helen Cohen, a member of the Lexington School Committee, will discuss the role of the School Committee and the types of information the committee finds useful. Parents who have advocated for the needs of groups of students are encouraged to attend and share their experience with us.

Following the 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.

The meeting will be held at Lexington High School in Room 147

A Message from the Principal *continued...*

MCAS has brought important accountability, but also means that teachers spend less time teaching and more time testing. This new environment has brought changing expectations and placed new demands on schools, teachers, and students.

There have been times in the past when there was a scarcity of resources, but I have never seen it as bad as it is now. Schools are expected to do a better job with fewer resources. We are losing,

year after year, piece by piece, what has made our school system great. Needing overrides every year for our schools means something is fundamentally wrong with how schools are funded. Why would anyone want a school system where children would learn less? There has to be a better way, a different way. Dismantling an excellent school system is demoralizing for the community, students, teachers, and staff. Lexington residents are fortunate to have some of the best schools in the state. Children receive a top-notch education, the caliber of the teaching staff is high, and the overall atmosphere is positive for children to learn and thrive in.

Parental involvement is a hallmark of the Lexington Public Schools. Research shows that students do better with more parent involvement. Whether parents volunteer in a classroom, help with fund-raising, or get involved with the PTA, parents and teachers collaborating enhances children's education.

Our schools face many challenges.

- Safety of all children is paramount. Whether they are arriving at school, working in the classroom, playing on the playground, or taking the bus home, it is essential that children perceive school as a safe and fun place to be so they can relax and learn.

- Class size continues to be a challenge. Teaching becomes more dynamic and effective with smaller class size. I know what it is like to teach large classes. I once had 30 students in a fourth grade class, and the type of instruction I was able to deliver was markedly different.

- Professional development for classroom teachers and specialists is the lifeblood of an excellent school system.

My message to the community is this: We have a worldwide reputation for educating students and a wonderful public school system within a supportive community environment. Let's work together to figure out how we can keep it this way. The children are fabulous and make it all worthwhile. To quote a pop song from a few years ago, "I believe the children are our future. Teach them well and let them lead the way." I hope that Lexington continues to support the schools as it has done in the past.

(This article was first published in the Minuteman)

A Message from Co-PTA President continued ...

One of the most significant changes is Mr. Crump's retirement. It's taken a few months to get used to the fact that he will not be here in September. While we are all sad to see him go, we know that it is the right time for him to retire, and we all wish him well for the future. **Please save the date of Wednesday, June 13th, 5:30 – 8:30 pm for a farewell party and tribute to Mr. Crump, as well as a celebration of Harrington School's 50th anniversary.** PTA volunteers are also planning a retirement party for teachers and staff who are retiring from Harrington at the end of this school year. A flyer and listserve announcement will be sent.

As we welcome our new principal, Elaine Mead, we will also welcome many new families who are new to the Harrington School district as a result of the town-wide redistricting this year. The Harrington PTA has planned some welcoming activities for many of the families coming from the Bridge school in Lexington. On May 16th, there is a Harrington Welcomes Bridge Family night and on June 1st, Bridge students will travel to Harrington on a school bus for a "moving over" day. Special thanks to the PTA executive committee, Jacqy Fiore and Shelley Isaacson as well as current Bridge parents Katie Cutler, Jenney Richlin and Susanne Shavelson, for organizing these events.

Thanks also to all the room parents and PTA committee chairs who recently attended a wine and cheese party at Jacqy Fiore's home and provided ideas and leadership for many events and programs.

The room parents are busy organizing for **Teacher Appreciation Week, May 7th – 11th**, and Spring Baskets for the **Harrington Spring Fair on June 3rd**.

The PTA is holding its annual meeting and elections on Thursday, May 17th at 7:00 pm in the cafeteria. We encourage everyone to attend this meeting and find out about how you can get involved with our school. **We need co-chairs for the following committees:** A.C.T. (Arts Created Together), Baseball: Red Sox/Spinners, Bingo, Directory, Diversity, Gift Wrap, Harrington Night Out and Silent Auction, Harrington Reads, Hobby Night, Mentoring, Science Enrichment and Science Fair. Please contact any PTA board member to let us know of your interest. The Harrington PTA welcomes all to become members and play an active role at our school. Whether you want to chair a committee, design flyers, help

with Big Back Yard, Spring Fair or anything else, there is a place for you!

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the terrific, inspirational speech delivered by **PTA co-president Mary Ann Stewart at the Stand for Children rally for school funding at the State House** on April 26th. Mary Ann spoke on behalf of the Mass. PTA and effectively communicated the urgent need for the state to provide sufficient funding for Massachusetts public schools. On **Wednesday, May 9th from 7:30 – 9:00pm at Lexington High School**, the LHS PTSA and Harrington PTA are co-sponsoring an event featuring the executive director of the Mass Policy and Budget Center, Noah Berger. The event is entitled **"A Critical Piece of the Puzzle"** and addresses these questions: What is the impact of state policy and tax decisions on our local budget? How has funding changed over the last few years? Does anyone understand Chapter 70 funding, and if no one does, why are we still using the formula?

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!



REMINDER TO PARENTS

When a parent needs to dismiss their child(ren) early from school, please remember to send a note to the teacher (if you know ahead of time). Also, when arriving at school, check in at the Main Office and we will call the classroom for the child. Please do not go directly to your child's room. In the event of an emergency (i.e., such as the early release day we had recently), for the safety of all the children, it is extremely important that we know the whereabouts of each and every child.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Save the Date



**HARRINGTON'S 50TH BIRTHDAY
PARTY
& MR. CRUMP'S
RETIREMENT CELEBRATION**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13TH
5:30 - 8:30 IN THE CAFETORIUM**

**WE'LL HAVE FOOD,
ENTERTAINMENT, TOASTS, MUSIC,
CAKE
AND MORE!
COME SAY GOODBYE TO MR. CRUMP
AND CONGRATULATIONS TO
HARRINGTON**

To reserve your copy of the Harrington
Commemorative Book email Carmen Mincy at:
cmincy@rcn.com

See you there!

**Budget Discussion:
A Critical Piece of the Puzzle**

On Wednesday May 9th from 7:30 – 9:00 PM
Harrington PTA and Lexington High School PTSA will
welcome Noah Berger, executive director of the
Mass Policy and Budget Center to the High School.
Don't stop reading yet, this may be the most
interesting conversation we have all year!

In June, as usual in Lexington, voters will be
asked to make an informed decision on an override
question. Town information is easy to come by –
attend a meeting, request a budget, and ask your
Town Meeting Member, School Committee
Member, or Selectman for some information. But
what is the impact of state policy and tax decisions
on our local budget? How has funding changed
over the last few years? Does anyone understand
Chapter 70 funding, and if no one does, why are we
still using the formula? You don't have to go to the
polls on June 5 with any of your questions
unanswered.

Mr. Berger has a gift for laying out budgets
and policies in a way that is comprehensible to all.
His informative presentation comes complete with
clear graphs and charts for visual learners,
anecdotes for those who like their budgets
personalized, and a history of facts and figures for
the most scrupulous questioner. So bring your
neighbors, your friends and a few elected officials to
learn more about how our money is used on the
state and local levels.

*The mission of the Mass Policy and Budget
Center "is to provide timely, credible, and accessible
policy research on issues such as adequate funding
for important public services, options for generating
revenue in an equitable manner and policies to
increase incomes of low wage employees." Feel
free to browse their website at
<http://www.massbudget.org>*

Committee Chairs Needed



Please contact any PTA board
member to let us know of your
interest in the following
positions. The Harrington PTA
welcomes all to become
members and play an active role at our school.

Co-Chairs Needed for Next Year

Harrington PTA is a group of parents, teachers,
and administrators dedicated to the enrichment
of the educational experience of our children.
Fundraisers, events, and activities are scheduled
throughout the year. As we near the end of
another memorable and productive year, we
invite you to consider upcoming needs for
Committee Heads and Co-Chairs for next year:

A.C.T. (Arts Created Together): Decides
how to use funds raised for arts enrichment
programming. Previews programming, contacts
performers, and oversees artists' visits to
Harrington. Fun opportunity if you have a special
interest in the arts.

Baseball: Red Sox/Spinners: Coordinates
the annual trip to Fenway and LaLecheur Parks.

Bingo: Fun community event in late
winter/early spring

Directory: Produces annual Harrington
family directory. Solicits information, performs
data entry, prints and distributes directories by
end of October. Bulk of time commitment is
during the late summer and early fall.

Diversity: Promotes multi-cultural, anti-racist education in the curriculum and culture at Harrington using a variety of projects that include diversity book bags, videotapes, and more.

Gift Wrap: Plans and organizes gift wrap fundraiser. Checks and records orders. Distributes gift wrap to students. (Fifty percent of proceeds go to the PTA.)

Harrington Night Out & Silent Auction: Our biggest bi-annual social event & fundraiser for the entire Harrington community! At least two co-chairs are needed to organize and oversee the entire event for late winter/early spring, plus lots of people needed to coordinate the event.

Harrington Reads: Working with money from a new LEF grant, this group brings fourth graders, fifth graders, teachers, and parents together several times during the year to discuss outstanding children's books.

Hobby Night: Gives students a good opportunity to show off their hobbies, collections and interests.

Mentoring/Welcoming: The mentoring/welcoming committee is a new committee designed to pair new families with old ones in order to facilitate their assimilation into the Harrington community.

Science Enrichment: Science Enrichment brings science into the classroom.

Science Fair: Organizes, publicizes, and sets up the annual Science Fair.



The Wellness Corner at Harrington

Many of you have now heard about Wellness (from last month's Herald) or from attending Kate Cremens-Basbas' wonderful talk on the subject. Wellness is not a new concept! Wellness is our default mode, although life and stress sometimes get in the way of that free-flowing Wellness!

This Wellness Corner is created by Harrington Families, for Harrington Families as a forum to share with each other tips & tricks & suggestions for ways to boost free-flowing Wellness in our lives - both for kids and for parents, for families! What works for you? What would you like to hear more about? Who would you like to invite to Harrington to speak on Wellness?

Welcome to the Wellness Corner, where you can dip into the Well of Wellness anytime. Watch

this space for more information!

Please send questions, comments, concerns, your favorite quotes on Wellness to: Kathy Pike at kathypike@rcn.com

Harrington Spring Fair



Sunday June 3rd 12 - 4

Volunteer

sign up sheets have been or will be going home soon. Please sign up to help make the fair a success.

There are so many ways to participate before, during and after the fair. If you simply can't wait for the forms to arrive e-mail Ellyn Michelson at ellyn@michelsonshoes.com.

Special guests this year include:



- Allie-gator (mascot for the Lowell Spinners baseball team)
- Silly Willy the clown
- The Lexington Fire Dept.
- Pony rides from Pony Express

New this year:

- Cake decorating contest (great prizes!)
- Tennis can surprise game (everyone's a winner!)
- Double-lane giant slide
- Snip-its beading hair design station
- Candy Castle guessing game

Oldies but goodies:

- Red Sox tickets raffle
- Class baskets raffle
- Dunk tank
- Rancatore's ice cream featuring "Mr. Crump Crunch"
- Upper Crust pizza
- Thai Cuisine from Lemon Tree restaurant in Burlington
- Fun & games & prizes
- Exciting rides
- Fun with friends & family



Our Heartfelt Thanks to ...

... to **Rose Culkins, Ellen Grinder**, and all of Harrington Extended Day students, teachers, staff, and families for another FABulous show! We are always so inspired and entertained by your hard work and professionalism!

... to teachers, staff, and students (and their parents!) who participated in Harrington's rescheduled annual Talent Show last month, especially to co-chairs, **Irene Rosenzweig** and **Amy Zaslow** for organizing! ... to **Mr. Crump, Mrs. Donovan, Ms. Rhodes, Mrs. Stumpf, Ms. Omobono, Mr. Josiassen, Mrs. Class, Mr. Jette, Mr. Cuzzupe, Mr. Freitas, Mr. Miles, Suzanne Cherson, and Mary Ann Stewart**, ... to parent volunteers on the night of the show: **Ellen Cameron, Laura Campbell, Karen Skoff, Tracy Battite, Joanne Kaye, Lynnell Stern** (sorry if we left anyone out!!!)

... to Fifth Grade Ushers, Stage Hands, Sign Girls and Announcers: **Joslyn Battite, Emma Bergh, Alison Cameron, Paige Campbell, Aaron Canton, Lydia Davis, Jake Douvas, Rome Gandelsman, Fiona Gorry-Hines, Ayesha Harisinghani, Arielle Isaacson, Ethan Isaacson, Nate Jaffe, Talia Jaffe, Arjun Krishnan, Christopher Lee, Brittany Logan, Rhys Mincy, Sarah Nies Greeley, Kavitha Pazhanisamy, Lizzie Trombley, Natalie Tsvetkova, Bess Winters, Zach Lowry and Ludo Karelse and Peter Tao.**

...to **The Harrington Groovers: Ms. Omobono, Mrs. Turo, Mrs. Tempesta, Miss Kilday, Miss Little, Mrs. Waugh, Mrs. Nasson, Mrs. O'Neill, Mrs. Benyo, Mrs. Chamberlain, Mrs. Salamone, Mrs. Class, Mrs. Woodland, Ms. Yardly, Miss Martin, Mrs. Stumpf, and Ms. Rhodes**

...to **Victor Cuzzupe** who went beyond the call of duty to help the custodians set up and break down for both the Talent Show and the HED Show.

... to **Jacqy Fiore** for hosting a Wine & Cheese for Room Parents and Committee Heads so that we could plan for the many changes and transitions coming up next year.

... to everyone who worked on the Jubilee Float for the Patriot's Day Parade and **Jerry Michelson**, who managed the project.

Patriots Day Rained Out, Plenty of Hard Work Still Went On



Oh, what could have been. . .

Imagine for a moment, gleaming with pride as our school's hard work paid off as we sported a 1st place honor for the youth division of the Patriots' Day parade float judging. Our blue and gold float with the 15 ft. murals attached to each side depicting the parade's theme "Sowing the Seeds of Liberty". A grand rainbow proudly telling all of our 50th Anniversary. Students, teachers, parents and alumni waving to the crowd. If only Mother Nature had cooperated!

Even though we could not complete our project, there are many people who I would like to thank for their time and effort. First off, above and beyond, I would like to thank **Mrs. Wehmeyer** who created the murals. Roberta designed them and then with the help of the students painted the incredible product. She was able to give ownership to the students as part of this project, something we were truly trying to accomplish. The murals will be on display at the school stairway as well as in the CVS window in Lexington Center. Stop by and take a look.

Thank you to **Paul Barnes**, a former Harrington parent, who was there for us to structurally design and construct the float. **Chuck Marbardy**, who supplied the truck and trailer. **Ben Ryderband**, who I worked with to construct the props for the float. **Sean Maloney** of Arlex Oil, who let us build the float in their garage. **Peter Kelley**, who donated lumber and supplies. **Beth Gaudette** and **Karen Skoff**, Jubilee committee co-chairs who organized participants. And last but not least, the **Harrington students** who painted the beautiful murals with such pride and enjoyment. Great job!

- **Jerry Michelson**

Chair of Jubilee float construction team

the HARRINGTON HERALD

Designwork & Contact: Cristina Burwell –cristinaburwell@mac.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 cristinaburwell@mac.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: May 20, 2007