



the HARRINGTON HERALD

Harrington School • 328 Lowell Street • Lexington, MA 02420 • (781) 860-0012

Elaine Mead, Principal Suzanne Chersonson & Mary Ann Stewart, PTA Co-Presidents



A Message from the Principal

- Elaine Mead, emead@sch.ci.lexington.ma.us

Dear Parents,

As the calendar turns to May, we witness the powerful transformation in nature. Butterflies are spreading their wings, birds are singing, and flowers are blooming in the warm sunshine. Like the signs of spring, our students, demonstrate their growing confidence and developing skills. Smiles from ear to ear signal their pride in learning to read, writing a well-crafted paragraph, and solving a challenging problem. Students are taking increasing responsibility for their learning and are making meaningful contributions to their classroom experience. I love this time of the year as I see the new growth outside and inside our building. Please join me in celebrating our students' many accomplishments so far this year.

In addition, this is a good time to reconnect with our core values. Among these is our sensitivity to and respect for the diversity in our community. We want Harrington to continue to be a safe and welcoming place for all students and their families. It is tragic when a child is teased or excluded because of their differences. Parents can help. Please encourage your child to get to know a variety of classmates, including those who may be perceived as "different" in some way. Help your child choose friends for their personality - what's *inside*. Talk with your child about what is important in a friend - kindness, a sense of fun, shared interests. Let them know how you feel when you see children being excluded and how important it is to treat everyone as they would like to be treated. Through our Open Circle curriculum and our daily interactions with students, the staff and I will continue to emphasize

...Continued on page 2

A Message from PTA Co-President

- Mary Ann Stewart,
MaryAnn@RedOnionDesign.com



With about six weeks remaining to the school year, plans are in full swing for end of the year events, including: fifth grade camping trip, Spring Fair, Field Day, moving-on ceremony and festivities, class field trips, Retirement Bash, and the PTA Volunteer's Breakfast.

First up for May, we are planning for some new PTA elected officers. People who serve

...Continued on page 2

May CALENDAR



- 1 - Metco Family Friends Day
- 1 - 4th & 5th grade Concert for school, 9am-10am
- 1 - Concert for parents, 7:30pm-8:30pm
- 2 - Nat'l Sports & Fitness Assembly, 9am-9:30
- 6 - 5th graders to visit Clarke
- 7 - Buckman Tavern fieldtrip - Ms. Martin & Doyle
- 7 - 5th grade Parent Orientation @ Clarke
- 8 - Slim Goodbody - all school assembly
- 12 - Teacher Appreciation Week begins
- 14 - Science enrichment - tide pools 1st grade
- 14 - Grade 3 BBY Parent Training Col. Plants, 9am
- 15 - Wilson Farms field trip - Ms. Yardley's class
- 15 - PTA Teacher luncheon, 12:15-1:15
- 16 - Wilson Farms field trip - Ms. Lawrence's class
- 19 - Act-Museum of Science 3rd grade, 8:45-10:30
- 19 - Wilson Farms field trip - Ms. Little's class
- 20-22 5th grade camping trip
- 20 or 22 or 23 (parents choose) Grade 4 BBY Whipple Hill parent training , 9:30am
- 21 - Concord Museum - 3rd grade
- 21 - Diversity Curriculum Q&A for Parents, 9:00am
- 26 - Memorial Day - **No school**
- 28 National Heritage Museum - 3rd grade
- 28 1-3 Museum of Science program - 5th grade
- 28 Grade 4 BBY Whipple Hill classroom walk

A Message from the Principal continued...

these ideals. Parental support makes a significant difference as students translate these concepts into the way they live their lives.

Thank you for your continuing interest and support. I hope you enjoy the many signs of spring at Harrington School. As always, I welcome your suggestions and comments.

Calling all Leaders!

Harrington needs you! Help to shape the direction of the school, assist and support students, teachers and staff, and facilitate school enrichment programs by serving on the **PTA Executive Committee**. Your voice can make an important difference!

The **Nominating Committee** is looking for a few good leaders - **Co-presidents, Vice Presidents, and Co-Treasurer**. Is it time for **you** to step up? New blood is vital to a thriving school community! Anyone is welcomed to be a PTA member and any member is eligible for elected office on the Executive Committee. Little experience is required - just energy and a desire to make a difference!

Interested persons should contact a member of the **Nominating Committee by noon Monday, May 5th:**

- Ellen Cameron, chair** - eusol@aol.com
- Jacqy Fiore** - jacqyfiore@rcn.com
- Doreen Mitchell** - dopimitchell@gmail.com
- Naomi Kielar** - nbkiel@verizon.net
- Lisa Smith** - LisaSmith1@rcn.com

Thanks in advance for your consideration!



Remember the Rule, No Idling at School!

A Message from the PTA CoPres. continued...

in this capacity for Harrington make a huge contribution to the life of the school, make some great friendships, and, there's no better way to know what's happening! The challenges facing public education today are daunting, to say the least. By being involved at Harrington in this important way you will witness improvement to challenges we face. And, you'll be part of the solution, helping make positive changes.

Together, we are a powerful voice for children. With your help, we can continue to work toward PTA's goal of a quality education and nurturing environments for every child. Contact a member of the **Nominating Committee** for more information: **Jacqy Fiore, Doreen Mitchell, Naomi Kielar, Ellen Cameron, or Lisa Smith.**

This year, the **Harrington PTA annual meeting and elections will be Thursday, May 8th at 7:00 PM in the Art Room.** I encourage everyone to attend, not only to cast your vote, but to weigh in on brainstorming ideas for next year! Several Committee Heads are also needed for next year. Come and find out how you can get involved with our school and make a difference for our teachers, staff, and students.

Celebrate all that Harrington Teachers & Staff do for our children during **Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week, May 12th - 16th.** Room Parents will help you with ideas; they are also busy organizing and planning ideas for Spring Baskets for the annual **Harrington Spring Fair on June 1st.**

Please save the date: **Thursday, June 5th, 6:30 - 8:30 PM in the cafeteria for the farewell party for and tribute to Mr. & Mrs. J, Mrs. Waugh,** and any others who may be retiring or moving on to other opportunities! **Contact Jennifer Bergantino or Karen Forlenza** about how you can help out. June 5th is also the date for **Field Day** - I hope you will consider signing up to help Ms. Rhodes with this fun-filled event. Field Day is an awesome opportunity to build community with students, teachers, and other parents.

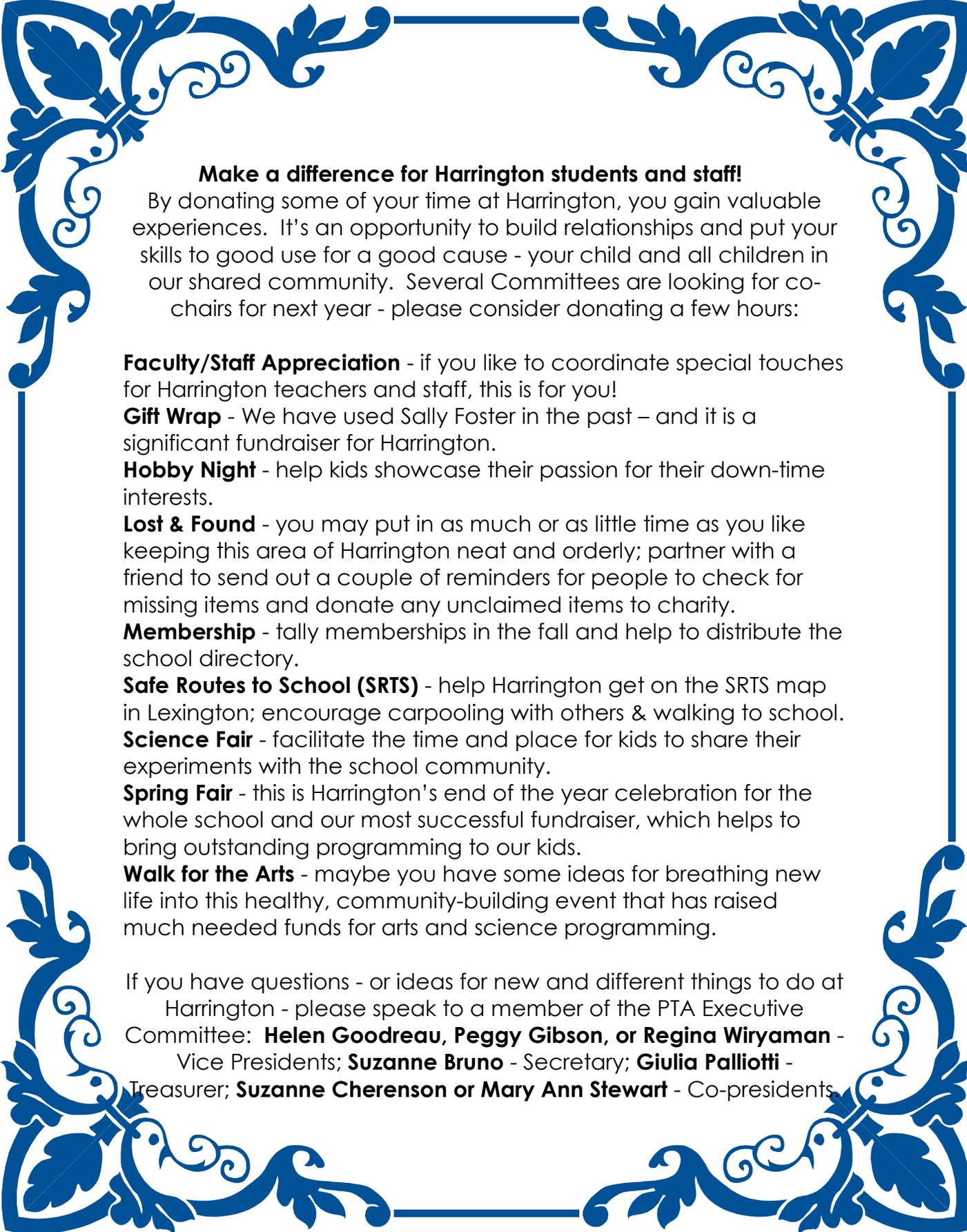
**THE J's AND MS. WAUGH RETIRING!
JOIN US FOR A FAREWELL BASH!**

. and Mrs. Josiassen and Mrs. Waugh are retiring. Yes, leaving Harrington at the end of this school year! And we will miss them. Students - current and past - parents, friends and colleagues come celebrate the careers of these wonderful people who have touched our lives and join us for a heartfelt "goodbye and good luck."

WHEN: Thursday, June 5th

TIME: 6:30 - 8:30

WHERE: Harrington School Cafeteria.



Make a difference for Harrington students and staff!

By donating some of your time at Harrington, you gain valuable experiences. It's an opportunity to build relationships and put your skills to good use for a good cause - your child and all children in our shared community. Several Committees are looking for co-chairs for next year - please consider donating a few hours:

Faculty/Staff Appreciation - if you like to coordinate special touches for Harrington teachers and staff, this is for you!

Gift Wrap - We have used Sally Foster in the past – and it is a significant fundraiser for Harrington.

Hobby Night - help kids showcase their passion for their down-time interests.

Lost & Found - you may put in as much or as little time as you like keeping this area of Harrington neat and orderly; partner with a friend to send out a couple of reminders for people to check for missing items and donate any unclaimed items to charity.

Membership - tally memberships in the fall and help to distribute the school directory.

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) - help Harrington get on the SRTS map in Lexington; encourage carpooling with others & walking to school.

Science Fair - facilitate the time and place for kids to share their experiments with the school community.

Spring Fair - this is Harrington's end of the year celebration for the whole school and our most successful fundraiser, which helps to bring outstanding programming to our kids.

Walk for the Arts - maybe you have some ideas for breathing new life into this healthy, community-building event that has raised much needed funds for arts and science programming.

If you have questions - or ideas for new and different things to do at Harrington - please speak to a member of the PTA Executive Committee: **Helen Goodreau, Peggy Gibson, or Regina Wiryaman** - Vice Presidents; **Suzanne Bruno** - Secretary; **Giulia Palliotti** - Treasurer; **Suzanne Chersonson or Mary Ann Stewart** - Co-presidents.



PTA General Meeting - *Suzanne Bruno, PTA Secretary* *brunojs@comcast.net*

April 8, 2008
Clarke Middle School

Dr. Brooks spoke on the subject of resiliency in children. He briefly described his extensive background in this field, including working as a psychologist at MacLean Hospital and in private practice in the Boston area.

Dr. Brooks discussed his interest in trying to understand what is truly important in raising children. He asked the audience to think about all the experiences we have had as parents and to think about what were the best few moments and what were the worst few moments. He then asked the audience to think about what are the most important words your child could use to describe you as a parent. It is important to think carefully and often about how our children view us, and how we want them to view us. Dr. Brooks talked about the importance of using empathy during parenting.

When parenting, Dr. Brooks noted that it is important to ask ourselves if we would want anyone to do or say to us what we are doing or saying to our children. And when disciplining children, it is important to ask whether we are disciplining in a way that our children can learn from. Perhaps the most difficult aspect of parenting is to be empathetic to our children even when we are upset and angry.

Dr. Brooks discussed the importance of focusing on the "emotional intelligence" of our children. He spoke of a study that showed that among high school graduates - grades that were between a C- and A predicted nothing in terms of success of the child. However, "emotional intelligence" is a much better predictor of success.

Dr. Brooks has studied extensively the issue of why some children can grow up under difficult circumstances and can end up happy and hopeful. As part of this study, adults who had overcome adversity were asked how they believed that they were able to overcome their difficult backgrounds. The most common answer, by far, was that they had at least one person who believed in them.

A colleague of Dr. Brooks, Julius Segal, used the term "charismatic adults" to describe those adults from whom a child can derive strength. And, many studies have shown that it is

the presence of at least one charismatic adult (not necessarily a parent) that can make the difference in a child's life.

Dr. Brooks then asked the audience to ask themselves three questions: 1) What 3 adults in my life are my "charismatic adults"; 2) What 3 people in my childhood were my "charismatic adults" - what did they do or say to help me 3) What 3 people in my life would list me as their "charismatic adult."

Charismatic adults never minimize problems but also never lose sight of the child's "islands of competence" - the beauty and strength that each and every child possesses.

Charismatic adults recognize that children must have responsibilities. Children have an inborn need to want to help others and this must be nurtured. Children will feel they are more resilient if they feel that they can make a positive difference. Children should be encouraged to participate in charitable events and activities

Dr. Brooks also discussed the issue of temperament in children. He described the three main temperaments of children: easy; slow to warm up/cautious/shy; difficult. These temperaments are present from birth - and it is important that parents be aware of their own child's temperament.

We have images of what our children will be and sometimes children cannot live up to these ideals. We need to accept our children for who they are - not who we want them to be.

One of the greatest obstacles to resiliency is the fear of making mistakes. Resilient children can learn from their mistakes. But, there is a whole group of children who don't feel that they can learn from their mistakes. We need to model for our children the idea that mistakes are not harmful and can be viewed as a problem-solving issue -- "what are we going to do differently next time"

Charismatic adults view discipline as a teaching process. They do not hit, spank or humiliate children. The main goals of discipline are to teach self-control and to have a self-disciplined child. Parents need to learn that kids may not always like us, but they need to be aware of the natural and logical consequences of their actions. Children need consistency. The most powerful form of discipline is positive feedback and encouragement.



A Reminder for 5th Grade Parents

Don't forget to fill out the following forms for Clarke Middle School:

Directory Form – Make sure to fill out completely and legibly. We need your permission to put your child's name in the directory.

Listserve Signup – Bottom portion of Directory Form. It will allow you to receive information via email.

Membership Form – Membership is \$20.00. You may specify additional donations. If you are not a member of the JCSA you will **not** receive a copy of the directory.

Parent Volunteer Form – Signup to help with upcoming events at the school.

The above forms may be obtained as follows:

1. Through the Clarke website (<http://clarke.lexingtonma.org/jcsa.html>).
2. Outside the Clarke Middle School office door. They are on the JCSA bulletin board.
3. In the Clarke April/May newsletter.

You may bring the completed forms to the 5th Grade Parent Orientation Night at Clarke on Wednesday, May 7, 2008 or mail to JCSA, Clarke Middle School, 17 Stedman Road, Lexington, MA 02421.

All forms must be at Clarke **no later than September 12, 2008**. Any questions? Please contact Shirley Go at j.go@rcn.com.



School Committee Update

~ Mary Ann Stewart, PTA Liaison

This update includes discussion that has taken place at School Committee meetings since the last issue of The Herald. The School Committee has been holding short, one-hour meetings on Mondays & Wednesdays preceding Town Meeting.

On Tuesday, March 18, Dr. Ash presented a status report on the curriculum review process and the new pilot of diversity units. The schools are ready to move forward with the recommendation of the Windows and Mirrors Committee, a committee comprised of teachers, parents, librarians, nurses, guidance counselors, and administrators. The K-5 curriculum is based on the Welcoming Schools Curriculum by the Human

Rights Campaign. There was also discussion of the purpose and use of the METCO grant, especially as it relates to the forthcoming implementation of full-day kindergarten across the system.

Monday, March 24, Town Meeting voted to support the School's FY09 budget. The impact of having the Budget approval earlier in Town Meeting is that Human Resources can begin hiring for anticipated vacancies for next year. The longer-term impact is that in an override year the Board of Selectmen could set an earlier date for voters (in late April or early May, rather than June).

Dr. Ash recently announced several award recipients. Holly Stumpf, Harrington Elementary School Music Specialist, is the 2008 recipient of the Sharyn Wong-Chan/Sara Harrington Diversity Award. Mrs. Stumpf was presented the award at a session of Town Meeting on March 26. Three members of the music department received awards from Massachusetts Music Educators Association (MMEA): Walter Pavasaris was presented with their Distinguished Service Award and Jeff Leonard received the Lowell Mason Award. Martha Rogers received the Society for General Music in Massachusetts Excellence in General Music Award. A vote to accept a \$2,500 grant from the Shade Foundation of America (<http://www.shadefoundation.org/structures.php>) as partial funding for a shade structure at Bowman School was also approved.

Public comment is a welcome part of School Committee meetings. Residents are invited to address the School Committee at the beginning of each meeting for no more than three minutes on a topic not listed on the evening's agenda.

Staying on top of School Committee discussions and actions helps us understand the impact of decisions affecting students, teachers, and families in the Harrington community. School Committee agenda, meeting time, and location are posted on the LPS website - remember to bookmark and check often for updates and announcements: <http://lps.lexingtonma.org> Harrington PTA members are encouraged to get to know School Committee members and contact them with comments, suggestions, questions, and/or concerns: school-com@silver.ci.lexington.ma.us



Harrington School Council Minutes

- Deborah Zuckerman, zuckermn@massmed.org

March 25, 2008

Members present: Denise Omobono, Sarah Widhu, Mary Ann Stewart, Deborah Zuckerman, Geri O'Neill, Elaine Mead

Members absent: Shelley Isaacson, Julie-Ann Shapiro, Karen Petersen

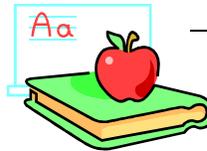
\$600 from the Enrichment Grant funds was approved via an email vote of the Council prior to this meeting for the Slim Goodbody assembly program.

Pat Goddard, Facilities Director for the Town of Lexington, gave a presentation to the Council which described **how facilities issues in the town are addressed**, how work requests are organized, what is an appropriate communications channel, and the "sequence of command" in the department, which as of this year has been totally reorganized. He explained that work requests are now organized by school. Principals and head custodians can prioritize requests and issues of concern. Municipal organizations in town such as the Health Department are now more involved with the Facilities Director for help and support. Lexington has reorganized its central offices this year and has made major changes in the role of the different departments. Rather than having the schools, DPW, and Permanent Building Committee operating separately and in parallel, the new management has the Town Manager and Superintendent of Schools working together at the helm, with the Permanent Building Committee and Facilities Director both directly responsible to them. The Assistant Facilities Director, Project Manager, Facilities Engineer, and Clerk of the Works are all working under the direction of the Facilities Director. This is a major change for the town and is meant to be more logical and cohesive, allowing everyone to communicate well and prioritize their needs.

Particular issues at Harrington were then discussed. New next year, when a snow emergency is declared all maintenance staff will be required to come in for required overtime to get the buildings and grounds ready. Geri O'Neill presented a list of building issues to Mr. Goddard she gathered from the staff. Water leaks around one of the windows in the library and persistent roof leaks were discussed. He explained that roof leaks are a major issue throughout the town. Since they are such a big issue the town will be

partnering with a "building envelope" engineering firm who will be responsible for keeping all of the buildings in the town watertight. In the short term he explained that his aim is to prevent water from damaging other surrounding structures until the leak can be repaired. We also discussed installing a more secure gate on the playground entrance to prevent unauthorized trucks and cars from entering as well as ceiling tiles, phones, playground maintenance, and birds in the art kiln.

Mr. Goddard also explained that the town would be changing to a web-based work order system, hopefully this spring, which will allow any staff member in a building to enter a work order. These orders now are handled through each head custodian. The new system will also be able to provide weekly updates for the principal, custodian, and staff.



TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

May 12th – May 16th

Teacher appreciation week will soon be here! Traditionally, at Harrington we try to make this a special week for all the teachers and specialists. Students may show their appreciation with a homemade card or other small token. Some classrooms organize a daily surprise for the teacher, a plant on Monday, cup of coffee and muffin on Tuesday, etc. or a group gift. Whatever the Head Room Parents, Room Parents, and classroom decide this is a great opportunity to show the Harrington Staff how much we appreciate them!! Any Questions, please contact **Kerry Heyda or Lisa Smith**



It is with mixed emotions that I announce I'll be transferring to Clarke Middle School in September 2008. I am excited about my new adventure teaching Physical Education and Health in the middle school but sad to leave the Harrington Family. I have wonderful memories of my 7 years here and want to thank everyone for their support. To the Harrington students and families, this is not goodbye but rather see you in sixth grade.

- Nicole Rhodes, Harrington School Physical Educator



Special Guests this year include:

Silly Willy the Clown
 Pony Rides from Pony Express
 Thai food from Spice and Rice – new!
 Petting Zoo – new!
 Wally the Green Monster

Welcome Back:

Cake Decorating Contest (great prizes!)
 Tennis Can Surprise Game (everyone's a winner)
 Double-Lane Giant Slide
 Snip-its Beading Hair Design Station

Oldies But Goodies:

Red Sox Tickets Raffle
 Class Baskets Raffle
 Dunk Tank
 Rancatore's Ice Cream
 Upper Crust Pizza
 Fun Games and Prizes
 Exciting Rides
 Fun with Friends and Family

Help Wanted:

MC's to make announcements
 Volunteers for everything imaginable
 (Contact Elyn Michelson at
 ellyn@michelsonshoes.com)

Box Top Tuesdays

- Ellen Cameron,
eusol@aol.com

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 are needed to see this picture.

We are continuing to introduce new prizes each week and many of you remember to bring in your Box Tops each Tuesday morning. Keep up the great job! Remember if you are placing an order online for many stores on line go through www.boxtops4education.com and up to 8 % will go to Harrington with no additional charge to you. See you Tuesdays!



A Closer Look at Creativity

- Mary Ann Stewart

Holly Stumpf, Harrington's Music Specialist, was recently presented the Sharon Wong-Chan/Sarah Harrington Diversity Award. Perhaps you saw the award in the school lobby or read the article in the Minuteman newspaper. Did you also know that she was awarded a Lexington Education Foundation grant to travel to West Africa next year?

The Lexington Education Foundation (LEF) grant provides Holly with an exciting opportunity to participate in the **Senegal-America Project**. The Project is a cross-cultural collaboration involving Senegalese and American musicians, students, and teachers, whose purpose is to bring the peoples and the many musical traditions of these two countries together through school programs, musical performances, hands-on participatory workshops, and town-meeting discussions of music, poetry, culture, and race. The grant from LEF enables Holly to travel to Senegal, West Africa next February (2009) to participate in a drumming workshop. Holly will work one-on-one with **Massamba Diop**, an internationally known drummer who also visited Harrington in November 2006 as part of an LEF Community Grant.

"The music from Africa is very complex. I've wanted to travel to Africa to work with local musicians for a long time. This is a great opportunity."

Through her love and understanding of diverse cultures and music, Holly has taught our children to honor individuality and diversity. Her dedication and commitment to the creative aspect is one of her most notable traits and is perhaps best exemplified in the annual **Peace Concert**.

Her first Peace Concert was presented at the start of the first Gulf War, when she was teaching at the Fiske Elementary School. The annual Peace Concert at Harrington each December is but one fine example of her creative

exuberance. Those of you who have been privileged member of the Peace Concert audience over the years can attest to what a moving and powerful experience it is - especially because it is the children themselves who make it so. Holly's approach is to collaborate with students initially on their ideas about peace through stories, poems, and songs.

"The inclusive, unifying theme of peace invites self-expression to children of all faiths and all cultures," she notes. "Students have a lot to say about peace: Why is peace important? What does it look like? How does it feel? What can we do?"

Fifth graders, who elect to participate in either the **Dance Ensemble** or the **Orff Ensemble**, create stories with percussion instruments, sound effects, and movement to tell their peace stories. These fifth-graders donate one lunch recess each week in order to participate; Holly donates part of her lunch break. Other students, who wish to express their thoughts in spoken word, begin work at home, and then show their various drafts to Holly for feedback well in advance of the concert. "Music, movement, and word all go together", she says. "There is value in chorus and teaching choral techniques, but the creative aspect is vital to elementary school children because they have so much to say - and many ways to say it."

The women for whom the diversity award is named volunteered a great deal of time promoting cultural diversity in our schools. Both were passionate about civil rights and diversity and believed that education is the best way to teach tolerance and diversity to our children.

"I was honored to receive the diversity award. It is a really nice feeling to know that others have a better sense of what I'm about."

Holly has provided numerous opportunities for students and colleagues to explore and celebrate cultural diversity. Her attitude toward and interactions with the school community affirms the power and strength these two women embodied in their vision of diversity.

Grade 3 parents!

This is this year's last chance to join the Big Backyard adventure by leading the spring Colonial Plant walk for your child's classroom. No experience necessary! *Can't make the date?*

Contact
Judy for more information.



Big Back Yard Needs You!!

Judy Crocker, rjcrocker@msn.com

Big Backyard is celebrating its 11th year in Lexington! But the Harrington program desperately needs your help! Volunteers are needed to run next year's program. PLEASE CONTACT Judy for more information!

Needed:

Parent Trainers Grade K-5 to Train parents according to the BBY guides for one or more grades. Parents who have participated in the Program can take that experience and teach others. Required time commitment is 3-5 hours/year.

Grade Coordinators Grades K-5 After a parent training session, the coordinators work w the parent's and the teacher's schedules to find workable walk dates for that grade's classrooms. Required time commitment is 2-4 hours per year.

Classroom Parents A minimum of 3-4 parents are needed from EACH Classroom. Sign-up is ongoing throughout the year...one may participate in one or all of the scheduled walks for that classroom.



The Green Team

- Ellen Cameron, eusol@aol.com

It is getting warmer (finally) and people are playing more sports, outside riding bikes, even drawing with chalk. Water is a great way to stay hydrated. If you use a water bottle, bring it home from where you are playing and recycle it. Or even better buy a re-usable water bottle and use it over and over. Also try to walk when ever possible to help save on gas and carbon omissions.

Any ideas, or anyone interested in writing this column next year please email me.

Tickets Still Available to Harrington Night Out at the Lowell Spinners!

- Lisa Smith, lisasmith1@rcn.com



Come join Harrington families at a Lowell Spinners Baseball game June 30th at 7:05. There are still over 60 tickets left. Tickets are only \$7 each.

Please contact Lisa Smith to reserve your tickets. What a great way to spend a summer night!



Silent Auction

Ellen Cameron Silent Auction Chair,
eusol@aol.com

The Silent Auction at the Harrington Hurrah was a huge success. The Harrington community, families, teachers and staff all pitched in to ensure this success and it was also a fun way to earn some money for the school. The Silent Auction team worked so well together that the many disparate elements came together smoothly on the night with many different items to bid on. Thanks for all of your time, creativity, support and help! We hope you all enjoyed the evening! We raised \$4600 for Harrington from the raffle items and silent auction bids.



ACT Activities

- Raana Khavandgar - r67r@yahoo.com
- Amy Zaslow -
azaslow@alumnet.simmons.edu

We have completed the ACT programming for this year, and what a year it has been! Our most recent programs, and please ask your children about them, are:

Darden Smith visited 4th Grade with important messages:

- You make your own happiness - your mother, father, teacher, friend isn't responsible
- Things about which others might make fun of you are the things that make you special - focus on those and be the best you can be at them
- Do what you love (to identify that he did a mini guided-meditation),
- Make sure you do the thing you love most every day, if even for only a minute

He ended by creating a song with the children and recording the song on CD. The songs are hysterical!

Beethoven visited as both a dramatic re-enactor and musician for the whole school.

David Coffin provided a program to 5th grade about Maritime history in Massachusetts including performing songs and showing artifacts. He gave a presentation/concert about recorders and their origins to the 3rd grade.

We are in the process of collecting comments about this year's programs. Please contact us with comments or suggestions.

Science Enrichment

PTA has been able to bring a curriculum-related science program, to every grade this year. The teachers selected some wonderful programs. Here's the list:

- Kindergarten– a chicken farmer visited to talk about eggs and chicks
- 1st grade – Tide Pools by N.E. Aquarium
- 2nd grade - Water Properties by N.E. Aquarium
- 3rd grade - Weather: Wind, Water and Temperature by Museum of Science
- 4th grade - Animal Adaptations by Museum of Science
- 5th grade – Electromagnetism by Museum of Science

To learn more about the museum and aquarium programs, look up "traveling programs/outreach" on their websites.



Please forward suggestions for next year to Amy Zaslow.

Lexington Special Education

Advisory Council

lexingtonspedpac@gmail.com

Dale Hernquist
Kevin Johnson

The Lexington Special Education Parent Advisory Council invites you to a discussion of middle school transition issues for students with disabilities on Thursday, May 1st at 7:30 PM in Room 147 at Lexington High School. Maura Johnson, Special Education Supervisor for Grades 6 - 8, and Jim Russo, Special Education Supervisor for Grades K - 5, will discuss what to expect when your child transitions from elementary school to middle school. Joanne Hennessy, Principal of Diamond Middle School, will discuss a program Diamond is piloting this year designed to build community and resilience for all children in the school. The pilot is based on the book by David Levine called "The School of Belonging". As always, there will be time for discussion and networking with other parents after the formal presentation.

If you have any questions or a need for accommodations, feel free to contact the PAC co-chairs, Dale Hernquist or Kevin Johnson. We hope to see you there.



Our Heartfelt Thanks to ...

...the entire **HED** staff and students for yet another fantastic HED show. **Melissa Sine's** original play and **Ellen Grinder's** great choreography were amazing! Under their direction our children acted and danced their hearts out. And once again the talented HED director **Rose Collins** entertained us as emcee.

... to **Holly Boker, Ellen Cameron, Mary Sears, Suzanne Kouri, Helen Goodreau, Genevieve Ng, Linda Resnick, Jiyoung Kim, Ben Ryterband, Lisa Smith, Michelle Marbardy, DeDe Duncan-Probe, Leslie Zales, Regina Wiryaman, Linda Walsh, Sean Caples and Sue Zimmerman** for staffing the Book Fair and to all of the volunteers who helped out at the Book Fair this year. We couldn't have done it without you! Thank you also to everyone who shopped at the Fair and to those of you who donated books to the library. The library earned over \$2,000, a portion of which **Mrs. Widhu** immediately spent on books from the fair - at a 40% savings! Thank you all - Keep on Reading!

...**Katie Cutler, Ellen Cameron, Jacqy Fiore, Lynnell Stern, Henrietta Mei** for organizing the Harrington Hurrah...special thanks to **Harrington Teachers and Staff, Peggy Gibson, Patty Steph, Kathleen Ellmore, Roberta Wilson, Henrietta Mei, Jessica Malafeew, Mary Ann Stewart, Susan Madaus, Karen Skoff, Kerry Hughes, Regina Wiryaman, Marjolein Karelse, and Giulia Palliotti** for their considerable help with the Silent Auction...and to all of the **families** and **businesses** who contributed donations for the Silent Auction and Raffles.

ACT and Science Thank Yous

Thank you to:

Summerfield Suites in Burlington for graciously providing lodging for our ACT performers.

Paul Cuzzupe, Mark Freitas, and Ron Miles for getting spaces ready and helping us with the ACT and Science programs - we couldn't bring these programs into Harrington so smoothly without you!

Mrs. Minsian for supporting us in the planning of these programs.

Mrs. Mead for helping us to learn about our school-wide goals for this and future years. Your support and focus has been very valuable to us. We would also like to thank **the incredible Harrington teachers** who have selected programs, helped coordinate visits, and integrated the programming into curriculum. You are an awesome bunch!

the HARRINGTON HERALD

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The Harrington Herald is the monthly newsletter of the Harrington PTA, published ten times a year. 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.

Newsletter material may be emailed to Cristina Burwell (see above). If you cannot email your submission, please call her to make other arrangements for delivery.

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

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Next Submissions Deadline: May 20, 2008

