

# the HARRINGTON HERALD

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

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



## A Message from the Principal

- Elaine Mead, [emead@sch.ci.lexington.ma.us](mailto:emead@sch.ci.lexington.ma.us)

On Tuesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> our school year is coming to a close. Before we say good-bye for the summer, there are some important traditions and events planned. The Spring Fair on June 1<sup>st</sup> and our Field Day on June 5<sup>th</sup> bring high-energy and lots of fun to Harrington. These annual events would not be possible without the tireless contributions of many parents and staff. A special thanks to Michelle Mabardy and Ellyn Rossi, co-chairs of the Spring Fair, and Ms. Rhodes, our physical education teacher, who organizes our Field Day. In addition, Kindergarten Orientation and Grade Five Graduation are rites of passage for our students and their families in June. I look forward to seeing many of you at one or more of these special events.

June is filled with hellos and good-byes. We welcome new students and we send our best wishes to fifth graders and others who are going to a new place. Students, families, faculty and staff, all members of our community share deep feelings as people we care about are moving on to new places and new adventures in their lives. Harrington has been fortunate to benefit from the contributions of outstanding professionals who have dedicated many years of service to our school. Fond memories of shared experiences fill our hearts and minds. On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30-8:30 in the evening, our community will come together to recognize staff members who are leaving. We especially want to acknowledge and celebrate the careers of Mr. Josiassen, Mrs. Josiassen and Mrs. Waugh who are retiring in June.

Please accept my sincere thanks for your welcome, your patience and your support in my first year as your principal. I continue to be impressed by the strong commitment of the parents in our community. I am excited by the possibilities for our future together and look forward to next year. As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions. Best wishes for a safe, fun and enriching summer!

## A Message from PTA Co-Presidents

- Suzanne Cherson & Mary Ann Stewart



We have enjoyed the opportunity to serve as Co-presidents of the Harrington PTA; it has been a wonderful three years for Mary Ann and two years for Suzanne, and we're looking forward to continuing our involvement next year. Mary Ann is stepping up as President-elect of the Massachusetts State PTA and, among other things, will be the liaison to the Lexington PTA President's Council. Suzanne will be Vice President for Communications on Harrington's PTA Executive Committee next year.

What a busy year it has been! We welcomed our new principal, Elaine Mead, with Coffees held at parent's homes over the summer. We also welcomed many new families to Harrington as a result of redistricting – these families have become fully involved with our school.

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## June CALENDAR



- 1 Spring Fair (12:00-4:00pm)
- 2 3rd Grade field trip Buckman Tavern (Mrs. Woodland & Ms. Salamone)
- 3 Cary Librarian to visit
- 3 Retirement Party 6:30-8:30PM
- 4 3rd Grade field trip to Fenway Park
- 5 Kindergarten Orientation 1:30-2:30PM
- 5 Field Day (rain date 6/6)
- 5 METCO Family Friends Day
- 9 1st Grade field trip to beach
- 13 5th Grade Graduation
- 10 Volunteer Tea/Coffee (8:45am)
- 17 **Last day of school** if no snow days (12:15pm dismissal)
- 19 5th Grade Pool Party

Message from the PTA Co-Presidents continued...

From our perspective on the PTA, we have learned so much working with our teacher representatives, **Ms. Denise Omobono, Ms. Kristen Kilday, and Ms. Mary Yardley**, and all the members of the Executive Committee (the "EC"), the PTA Committee chairs, and other parent volunteers. Special thanks to **Helen Goodreau, Regina Wiryaman, and Peggy Gibson** who will step off the EC to do other things: Helen will be working with our Big Back Yard program, Regina will work on fundraising for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade camping trip, and Peggy is moving up to Clarke Middle School!

Our new co-Presidents, **Ellen Cameron and Suzanne Kouri**, bring a wealth of experience to Harrington, both from their years here and in the non-profit community. Joining the EC are Vice Presidents **Anne Stevens, Michele Mabardy, Kathleen Elmore, and Katie Cutler**, as well as Financial Secretary Naomi Kielar. Returning members include **Suzanne Bruno**, Secretary, **Giulia Paliotti**, Treasurer, and **Suzanne Cherson**. All bring substantial talents, energy and enthusiasm.

As we approach the end of this school year, we reflect on what makes Harrington such a great school. The relationships between teachers, staff, parents, and children form a unique bond that holds the foundation of the institution together. We want Harrington to be a welcoming and inclusive place for all children and their families. We hope to foster and nurture that sense of community by involving as many as possible in the PTA. Already, many exciting plans are underway for next year. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy the summer vacation with your families and loved ones - and we look forward to seeing you in August.



Want to be involved?

Please read the **PTA General Meeting Notes** to find out where Harrington needs people like you!



**PTA General Meeting**  
- Suzanne Bruno, PTA Secretary  
[brunojs@comcast.net](mailto:brunojs@comcast.net)

May 6, 2008

Co-president Mary Ann Stewart opened the evening's meeting. The first order of business was the **election of members** to the 2008-2009 PTA Executive Committee. The chairwoman of the nominating committee, Ellen Cameron, presented her report. A slate of nominees was presented and unanimously elected to the board. The following are the names and titles of the 2008-2009 PTA Executive Committee: Suzanne Kouri & Ellen Cameron - Co-presidents, Michelle Mabardy - Vice President - Fundraising, Anne Stevens - Vice President - Volunteers/Outreach, Suzanne Cherson - Vice President - Communications, Kathleen Elmore - Vice President - Liasons, Katie Cutler - Vice President - Membership, Giulia Paliotti - Treasurer, Naomi Kielar - Financial Secretary, Suzanne Bruno - Secretary.

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### **Congratulations to the Harrington PTA - Executive Committee 2008-2009**

*Suzanne Kouri & Ellen Cameron,*  
Co-presidents  
*Anne Stevens,*

Vice President for Volunteers/Outreach  
*Michelle Mabardy,*

Vice President for Fundraising  
*Kathleen Elmore,*

Vice President for Liaisons  
*Katie Cutler,*

Vice President for Membership  
*Suzanne Cherson,*

Vice President for Communications  
*Suzanne Bruno,*

Secretary  
*Giulia Paliotti,*  
Treasurer

*Naomi Kielar,*  
Financial Secretary

Following the elections, Suzanne Chersonson presented an informal report detailing the **fund raising activities** of this year's PTA. The fund raising activities that took place this year included, Giff Wrap, Box Tops, Bingo Night, Glo Sticks Sale (Halloween), Harrington Hurrah/Silent Auction -- and the Spring Fair is coming up soon. Before the Spring Fair, the PTA has raised approximately \$25,600 -- the PTA anticipates raising a total of approximately \$36,000 with the Spring Fair. During the 2007-2008 school year, the PTA allocated funds to many different areas including: art/science enrichment programs (including visits from the N.E. Aquarium, the Kindergarten chick raising project, etc.); School Council grants; teacher wish lists & classroom supplies; buses for all school field trips; benches for the school grounds; Mrs. Donovan's retirement party; the mural project; and several coffees/events to welcome our new principal.

Mary Ann Stewart spoke about other programs that **the PTA supported** throughout the year which included Parent-to-Parent and Wellness forums; the Welcome Back Lunch for teachers and staff; recycling efforts (which have also been spearheaded by the teachers and staff); end of the year Teacher/Staff Appreciation luncheon.

Ms. Stewart noted that the PTA has received several **notable honors**. The National PTA magazine cited Harrington's Korean liaison position as an example of a PTA supporting and facilitating diversity and inclusion in our school; the Harrington Herald Newsletter received an award for outstanding newsletter production by the Massachusetts State PTA. Ms. Stewart also mentioned the Diversity Award that our wonderful music teacher, Holly Stumpf, received this year.

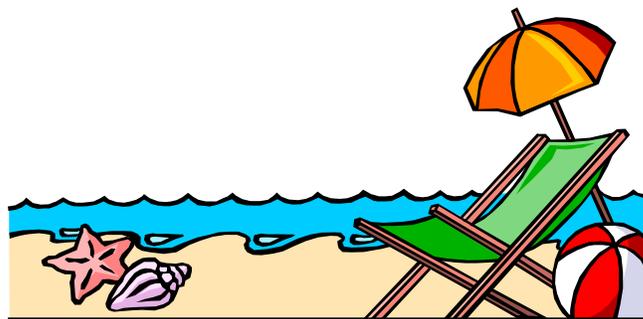
Another change this year has been the implementation of designated **teacher liaisons** to the PTA-EC. Mary Yardley, Denise Omobono, and Kristen Kilday have met regularly with the PTA co-presidents, as well as attending all evening PTA meetings throughout the year. This has given parents and teachers the opportunity to exchange ideas and collaborate on various issues. Denise Omobono spoke to some of the new programs that have been implemented at Harrington -- including the development of Professional Learning Communities for the teachers. These are grade level groups of teachers that meet and work together to ensure a more consistent experience across grade levels. For example - the 2nd grade teachers decided that they would contact the 3rd grade teachers

to ask what the 3rd grade teachers would like to see incoming 3rd graders have a more solid grasp of at the beginning of the year. The 3rd grade teachers indicated that they wanted incoming 3rd graders to have a more solid grasp of addition and subtraction facts. The 2nd grade teachers then set goals and implemented new math activities and they were able to measure the positive progress of the entire 2nd grade improvement in these areas.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to **brainstorming for next year**. There are several committee positions open next year. The **METCO Family Friends** program is looking for a parent coordinator. The **Safe Routes To School** program needs someone willing to coordinate a program that tries to get families to walk to school once a month. Faculty/Staff appreciation -- looking for someone to organize a once a month treat to be left in the teacher/staff room (the person will not be responsible for doing the actual bringing of food -- just recruit parents to do this once a month). The **Giff Wrap** program, which raised \$6,000 this year, is looking for a committee head. Also, **Hobby Night** and the **Lost & Found** program are looking for coordinators. Michelle Mabardy will continue to do the **Spring Fair** next year, but she is looking for someone (or several people) to serve on her committee next year with a view to eventually taking over this important Harrington event for the next year; and volunteers are needed for the Fair on Sunday, June 1. If anyone is interested in working in any of these areas, please contact any member of the PTA Executive Committee.

Other ideas raised included the idea of reinstating Harrington's Walk for the Arts. This fundraiser has traditionally taken place in the Fall at Harrington, and was quite successful prior to the construction of the new school. Many faculty members and parents remember this event fondly and everyone agreed that it would be a great event to bring back to Harrington.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



## A Tale of Two Teachers



by Mary Ann Stewart

It is amazing to know that **Sally and Joe Josiassen** have more than 75 years of teaching between them. It is incredible to know that all but two years and one month have been at Harrington School.

"I had four choices for a career," Mrs. J recalls, "teacher, nurse, flight attendant, or secretary. I chose teaching."

After growing up and going to college in Maine, Miss Springer (Mrs. J's pre-married name), taught her first year in a Glastonbury, Connecticut school then came to Lexington to teach 1<sup>st</sup> grade for one year and one month at the Parker School. The following year she was transferred to Harrington to teach 1<sup>st</sup> grade. At that time, Lexington's nine elementary schools were all 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade schools; Middle School, or "Junior High", was 7<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> grades, and the High School was 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Shortly after her move to Harrington, a Town-wide "Advanced Program" was implemented for children in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades; Miss Springer was selected to work with this group of students in Harrington.

Meanwhile, in sunny California, Mr. J was working as a counselor in a Jewish community center and as a swimming instructor in a number of programs. Before entering a program to train student teachers in an experimental curriculum, he had been pursuing a career in meteorology...but, this experimental program piqued his interest and he entered the program at

the California State University at Hayward. Upon completion of the program in summer of 1970, an acquaintance in Lowell, Massachusetts suggested that he interview for a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teaching position in Lexington. Mr. J drove his yellow Mustang 3,000 miles from California for the interview! Lexington's Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Committo, was impressed with all that Mr. J might bring to teaching Lexington students and called him a week later to offer him the job. From 1970 to 1975 Mr. J taught 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Harrington as a member of the Advanced Program team.

Both of The Js insist they had never dated each other. Miss Judith Wiggin, Miss Springer's teaching partner and roommate, Mr. J, and she liked to spend time together outside of school, including preparing dinners for each other. It was clear that Sally and Joe had something special together and they were married in 1975.

With a marked decline in school enrollment in the 1980s, seven elementary schools closed their doors. As a result, classrooms became more heterogeneous - and the Advanced Program also ended. Mrs. J recalls, "Even though all of those schools closed, the administration absorbed the teachers and students and found places for everyone. That was truly a remarkable feature of their commitment." The Junior Highs became Middle Schools and Mrs. J chose to remain at the elementary level teaching 4<sup>th</sup> grade once more.

The 1980s also saw the rise of computers in the classroom. MIT partnered with Harrington, the school chosen by the school administration to implement a new program. The team of teachers selected for this program was called "The Stream Team" and included 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers: Mr. & Mrs. Josiassen, Miss Wiggin, and Ms. Laurie Fales were charged with integrating computers for learning's sake. They had free reign and designed a brand new program that began with the creation of a computer lab and a keyboarding class. Two months into it, they broke up the lab and brought computers directly into two 4<sup>th</sup> grade and two 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms; there were 12 to 14 computers in each classroom which were incorporated for reading, language arts, and writing.

"Computers integrated in this way became as essential as a pencil. It was a very exciting time", remembers Mr. J.

Over the years, The Josiassens have experienced many changes in curriculum, programming, education and hiring policy, and in leadership at Harrington and in the Central Office.

Their years in Lexington stand out to both of them: the focus and commitment to children by the Lexington schools and Harrington parents made Harrington a very dynamic place. Many of the students from all of their classes have stayed in touch.

When asked what it is that their students give to them they say, "It's not the tangible things; it's the deep respect we have for each other," replies Mr. J. "One child looks at you and it's that intangible look of trust," Mrs. J continues. "That's when you know you've made a difference. Many times you don't realize who you were affecting who returns to say one last goodbye. It is a lifelong connection".

Neither of them likes to think they are "Retiring"; they choose to say they are "moving on". Immediate plans include a cruise to Alaska for their entire extended family over the Fourth of July and their nephew's graduation from Navy OCS. Mrs. J knows she'll be working somewhere exciting. Mr. J has some ideas for writing children's books - and will be riding in his **1929 Model A** car that he recently restored. Both hope to remain connected to supporting children through mentoring programs.

### Teaching Highlights:

#### Mr. J

- After teaching 5<sup>th</sup> grade for five years, Mr. J taught 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, then 4<sup>th</sup> grade, as well as 1<sup>st</sup> grade in Summer School through the 1970s and 80s.
- Mr. J was one of the computer "Stream Team" teachers in the 1980s - he taught 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, and has remained teaching that grade since.
- In the 1970s, Mr. J and Ms. Fales thought up the idea of a 5<sup>th</sup> grade camping trip.

#### Mrs. J

- Followed a grade from 1<sup>st</sup> grade to 6<sup>th</sup> grade, teaching most of the children for at least three years. This included 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade Advanced Program students ending with a class of thirty-eight 6<sup>th</sup> grade Advanced Program students; then, she taught 6<sup>th</sup> grade to Advanced Program students until it was disbanded.
- She continued to teach 6<sup>th</sup> grade until it was reassigned to Middle School. At that time, she returned to teach 4<sup>th</sup> grade, where she is today.
- Mrs. J taught 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grades and had been a Summer School teacher and Reading

Specialist from the late 60s through early 1990s.

- She was also one of the computer "Stream Team" teachers.
- With her teaching partner, Miss Judith Wiggan, Mrs. J staged full-scale operettas with the 6<sup>th</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grades each year.

## Join us for a Farewell Bash!

### Harrington School says good-bye to cherished teachers and administrators

Mr. and Mrs. Josiassen are retiring after more than 75 years of combined service to the Harrington School community. And Mrs. Waugh, our school nurse, and others will be leaving at the end of this school year.

Please join us for a heartfelt thank-you and farewell and to celebrate the careers of these wonderful people. Help to spread the word to alumni and their families!

**When: Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Note change from June 5<sup>th</sup>)

**Time: 6:30-8:30PM**

**Where: Harrington School Cafeteria**



For more information - or if you would like to help out in any way - please contact Jennifer Bergantino ([bergantinojenn@aol.com](mailto:bergantinojenn@aol.com)) or Karen Forlenza ([kaforlenza@yahoo.com](mailto:kaforlenza@yahoo.com))



### Harrington School Council Minutes

- Deborah Zuckerman, [zuckermn@massmed.org](mailto:zuckermn@massmed.org)

Harrington School Council, Minutes 4/15/08  
Members present: Shelley Isaacson, Denise Omobono, Sarah Widhu, Deborah Zuckerman, Elaine Mead. Members absent: Mary Ann Stewart, Julie-Ann Shapiro, Geri O'Neill, Karen Peterssen.

I. March minutes approved

- II. Update on **Honeywell Emergency Communication**. "Mary Ellen Dunn reports that the contract has not been executed. The PTA money will be returned. This service is in the budget system-wide for 08-09".
- III. **School Improvement Plan**, survey options. The Harrington staff is already involved in several surveys, including the Open Circle and TELL surveys. Parent input for the school improvement plan is needed. It is important to hear from the many different parent groups at the school. There are many different parent groups and they each have their own set of needs. They all need to be heard. We would like a survey that would reach the larger parent community. Our goal is for everyone to be heard from and involved. Should we use a pre-made survey, or should we create one? Very reputable pre-made surveys can be purchased. This would save time and allow the survey to be distributed much sooner to parents. Students also should be able to have input and need to be heard. What are their concerns? We first need to establish our goals and establish a baseline of data regarding the school climate and effectiveness of the goals presently in place. Safety, teasing, and bullying are issues we feel should be addressed. Communication is another issue. Is there a way to better communicate with parents so that everyone is aware of what is going on in the school? Parent involvement is another issue that can be addressed, in particular asking parents if they are presently involved with the school, if they can or cannot become involved, why yes, why no? What can be done to better accommodate the broad, diverse parent community at the school? These are some of the issues we discussed which could help us to set new school improvement goals after further data is collected, preferably through a school-wide survey.
- IV. Windows and Mirrors **Diversity Curriculum** was introduced. This is a project that was carefully developed by a group of Lexington educators and is meant to reflect the values of the Lexington Public Schools. It will be integrated into the literacy, social studies, and Open Circle curricula in the upcoming school year. The lessons and themes have been designed for each elementary grade level. The PTA presidents have written a letter of support, and teacher training will begin in May.
- V. **Next meeting** 5/20.



## Honor Teachers with STARS

As the school year starts winding down, please consider thanking your child's teacher while supporting LEF! The Staff Teacher Appreciation and Recognition (STAR) program is a unique and easy way to say "thank you" while benefiting the entire Lexington school community. A team/group STAR award is available for a minimum donation of \$50 in addition to the individual awards of \$20. Go to: <http://www.lexedfoundation.org/pledgeform.htm> to make your donation, and show your appreciation for Lexington educators.



## School Nurse's Notes

- Margaret Waugh, RNBSN  
[mwaugh@sch.ci.lexington.ma.us](mailto:mwaugh@sch.ci.lexington.ma.us)

Ticks are everywhere! You don't have to be walking in the woods or in tall grass to be exposed to **ticks**. On very windy days, they can be blown into open areas landing on clothing, skin and pets. If a tick is found on the skin, carefully remove the entire tick with tweezers. Do not use matches as this only drives the tick further into the body. After the tick is removed, wash the area well with soap and water. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health recommends that you notify your child's healthcare provider of the tick bite and observe your child for signs or symptoms of illness including any type of rash (particularly at the site of tick attachment), fever, or flu-like symptoms, for up to one month following the tick bite. For more information visit the MDPH Tickborne Disease Website at: [www.mass.gov/dph/cdc/epii/lymehp.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dph/cdc/epii/lymehp.htm).

This is my last Nurse's Note as Harrington's School Nurse. I have enjoyed working with you to keep your child healthy, happy, and safe at school. This Community of families and school personnel has worked well together over the years to provide an environment where children can learn, be respectful of each other, and have a lifelong memory of the experiences shared as a student at Harrington School. Best wishes as you continue your educational journey in Lexington.





## Important Reminders for FAMILIES OF GRADE 5 GRADS:

THE CLARKE MIDDLE SCHOOL

NURSE,  
Pamela Pierce, R.N.,

**Physical Examinations:** All incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders, as well as students new to Lexington, must submit a current record of physical exam (within the past 12 months) to their new school. This should include an updated immunization summary. Please send the report to the attention of the School Nurse, Clarke Middle School. Students who wish to participate in team sports will not be allowed to participate unless their physical exams are on file in the health room. In order to continue interscholastic sports throughout secondary school, the physical exam must be updated annually. A physical exam form is available on the LPS website, but any standardized pediatric report form is acceptable.

**Vaccinations:** A tetanus booster is required under state law before children enter grade 7, if it has been 5 years since the last dose. If your child will have a physical exam in the upcoming school year, s/he should receive this to be ready to enter Grade 7. In addition, many practices are simultaneously administering the optional hepatitis A, meningitis, and HPV vaccines. Please be sure to discuss these with your provider.

**Medications:** If your child will need medication during the school day, whether a daily medication, an inhaler or Epipen, or simply an over-the-counter pain relief medicine, a new medication order for the current school year is required. The order must be written by a prescriber and signed by a parent/guardian and delivered with a supply of the medication, in its original labeled container, to the health room at Clarke. Medications are administered there by the school nurse. Inhalers and Epipens may be carried and self-administered by students but the corresponding orders must be on file with the nurse. The Medication Permission form may be downloaded from the LPS website, or picked up in the health room.

**Health Issues:** If you have any concerns about your child's health and well-being in school, please call the Clarke School Nurse to discuss, before the close of the school year, so that we will

be prepared to provide optimum care during the school day.



## The Green Team

- Ellen Cameron, eusol@aol.com

Thanks to **Doreen Mitchell** who is stepping up to write this column next year, since I have become Co-president of Harrington PTA with Suzanne Kouri. Please - if you can remember one thing over the summer **RECYCLE!** Newspapers, water bottles (even use less of them and grab a cup), paper, paper towel tubes, rinsed out plastic food containers from take out, pizza boxes.....Every little bit will help our planet, and our future!!! I have enjoyed writing this each month, and look forward to the ideas and reminders Doreen will share with us.



## Recycle Report

- Elizabeth E. and Ashley W., 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

Way to go Recyclers!!! Harrington school is a school where we recycle. Do you know that everyday, our school saves 1.598 trees? That means that your class saves about 0.255 trees per day. In one year each classroom saves at least 4 trees. Each time you put a piece of paper in the recycle bin you have helped to save a tree. The fact that we save 266.8575 trees per year shows that our school, Harrington, cares about the environment! Thanks for recycling, and P.S. Please recycle this paper too!

## BoxTop Tuesdays

- Ellen Cameron, eusol@aol.com

What a wonderful year we have had! We won't have a total to share with everyone till the Fall, but looks like we will break our previous year's amount!! Remember to collect BoxTops over the summer - aim to bring in 50 BoxTops when school starts....We will have some special and fun prizes for 50 BoxTop collectors. Since many of you bring in 10 per week, 50 seem like an obtainable goal.

Also, In August there will be some special BoxTops at the local grocery stores - so watch your cereal boxes - and all the other BoxTop items. We look forward to BoxTop Tuesdays in the Fall, beginning the second week of school. From Ellen, Jacqy, and our counting family - the Resnicks!



## METCO Family Friends

Leslie Zales, METCO FF Coordinator  
LSZALES@rcn.com

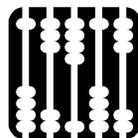
Wow...it's June already! As you look back upon the school year, please reflect on your participation in the METCO Family Friends program and relay any **feedback** you have for me. Continuous improvement is the goal in all we do at Harrington!

This is also a great time to think about **joining the Family Friends program** if you are not involved. Each year we say farewell to our graduating class and welcome new faces from Boston. Given we will have a full-day kindergarten program, we will hopefully have some Boston Kindergartners, in addition to older grades. Please let me know if you are interested in being a host family and I will add you to my list, on a first-come basis.

Lastly, I am looking for **my replacement** as the MFF Coordinator and would like to find someone before the end of this school year. As you know, the METCO program is very important to the Harrington Community and Lexington as a whole. It's a great way to make connections with our Boston and Lexington families, all the while supporting diversity in our schools.

The majority of the position is finding host families in the fall. Thereafter, the main effort is communicating school events and ensuring monthly visits are solidified. I truly hope you will consider this great role at Harrington! I would like to thank Mrs. Bush for her support and effort she puts into the METCO program at Harrington. I will miss working with her in this capacity!

So, please be in touch about your host family status and if you have interest in assuming the MFF Coordinator position. Thank you--have a wonderful summer vacation!



## Fourth Grade Math Mornings

Fourth Grade Math Mornings has finished for the year, and what a successful year we

had! Approximately 15 fourth graders met every Thursday morning before school to work on challenging word problems and to compete in the Continental Math League. The Harrington 4th grade team scored in the top 25% of participating schools nationwide. These 4th graders deserve our admiration and pride for their dedication and abilities.

Fourth Grade Math Mornings would not have been possible without the help of parent involvement. Special thanks go to **Renny Li** and **Ren Xu** for all of their help during the year.



## Lexington SPED PAC

Dale Hernquist  
Kevin Johnson

Thurs. **June 5th**-Discussion of plans for 2008-2009 The Lexington Special Education Parent Advisory Council invites all parents of children with special needs to join us for a discussion of the PAC plans for the next school year. Have you found any PAC meetings particularly informative this year? Are there topics you would like to see covered next year? Would you like to see more PAC subgroups around disability type or for a particular school? Would you find a PAC website with meeting announcements and minutes useful? If you answered any of these questions in the affirmative, please come share your ideas and insights with us. The meeting will include the election of new PAC officers and a vote to amend the PAC bylaws. The meeting will be held at 7:30pm on Thursday, June 5th in room 147 (Library Media Center) at Lexington High School. If you have any questions or a need for accommodations, feel free to contact the PAC co-chairs, We hope to see you there.



# 2008-2009 School Directory Update Form

New families (including Kindergarten) who wish to be included in the fall school directory, and those who wish to submit changes to current school directory contact information (entering children, typos, previous omissions, email, phone, etc.), are asked to please submit ALL information to be added or changed.

**Note:** If there are **NO CHANGES** to your current directory contact information, you do not need to fill this out. Teacher and grade information for children currently enrolled will automatically be upgraded in the fall, pending information (class lists) from the front office.

## **Family Contact Information**

Please **print** all information clearly

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in fall 2008 \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in fall 2008 \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in fall 2008 \_\_\_\_\_

## **Parent/s Guardian/s**

\_\_\_\_\_ last first

\_\_\_\_\_ last first  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Email \_\_\_\_\_

## **Include another Parent/Guardian not living at above address:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ last first

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please note:** One directory is given to each Harrington PTA member. As per Lexington School Department, directories may not be distributed to non-members.

# *Come to the Volunteer Breakfast*

*Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 AM in the Harrington Cafeteria*



Who *me*?!?

Yes - *you*!!!

*You have done so much for Harrington this year - please let us say thank you with a delicious breakfast! Whether you gave an hour here or an hour there, chaperoned a field trip, were scheduled in the library, at the Harrington Hurrah, at the Spring Fair, as a Room Parent, in the classroom or on Field Day, for the Big Backyard, or chaired or helped on a committee or in any other big or small way, we want to treat you on the 10<sup>th</sup>!*



## *Our Heartfelt Thanks to ...*

...Mrs. Holly Stumpf, Mr. James Lutz, Mr. David Samour, Ms. Terrie Cohen, Ms. Patricia Matthews, and Mr. Thomas Stumpf for another rousing spring concert. Our **fourth and fifth graders'** musical talent has been cultivated and enriched under their expert direction. This year's theme of "Food" left its audience hungry and begging for more great music! Thanks to our spirited students who sang, danced, played and inspired us all.

...**Christine Carter** for hosting a beautiful Teacher Appreciation Luncheon for Harrington teachers and staff and for making everyone feel so welcomed.

...**Cathy Kim** and many families from **our Korean Community** who sponsored a delicious buffet lunch for Harrington teachers and staff – the food was delicious and the decorations delightful!

As we go to print, none of the following events have happened yet, but we know **all** will be fantastic and are part of what makes Harrington such a special place! Advanced thanks to: **Michelle Mabardy & Ellyn Rossi** for another fabulous Spring Fair; **Karen Forlenza and Jennifer Bergantino** for organizing what promises to be a memorable Retirement Bash for teachers and staff; **Ms. Rhodes** for another awesome Field day; **Beth Mace & Peggy Gibson** for their effective leading of the Graduation Committee; and **Lisa Smith** for our night out with the Lowell Spinners.

In each issue of the Herald, we try to be timely with our thanks to everyone after the events they have chaired. We have to admit that it has been difficult to keep up with all of the fantastic volunteers for the Library and Big Backyard programs this year, but we name them here and also name all of the other Committee Heads/Co-chairs who work tirelessly all year long to make things run smoothly at Harrington. Thanks to: **Karen Skoff** for coordinating the Book Fair and scheduling our Library volunteers: **Rachna Sharma, Christinan Deligiannidore, Amy Zaslow, Andrea Caplan, Sheri Foreman, Marcia Gens, Carol Riselli, Jen Goldfinger, Linda Resnick, Kerry Heyda, Kathy Pike, Regina Wiryaman, Suzanne Cherson, Shermin Jaleel, Helen Goodreau, Giulia Paliotti, Kumok Choi, Dede Duncan-Probe, Keumnang Park, Genevieve Ng, Maureen Lavangie, Julie Vincent, Lucy Wei, Claire Sheth, Tracy Mackley, Kim Goldfinger, Suzanne Fernandes, Rita Ross, Anne Stevens, Jeanne Wardwell, Leslie Zales, Claudia Lavin, Jaekyung Seong, Holly Boker, Maureen Lavangie, Larissa Lezine, Lisa Smith, and Kim Zanin**; Harrington's Big Backyard program is organized and coordinated by **Judy Crocker, Ben Ryterband, & Giulia Paliotti**, with assistance from numerous volunteers who helped out throughout the year, including: **Luis Marentes, Suzanne Fernandes, Christina Deligiannidou, Venkat & Deepa Deenadayalan, Kim Troland, Helen Goodreau, Susanne Shavelson, Larissa Lasina, Giulia Paliotti, Ben Ryterband, Angelique Swingle, Cristina Burwell, Antia Erler, Stephen Mattingly, Alan Shute, Debbie & Mark Manuelian, Suzanne Cherson, Kumok Choi, Rita Ross, Kim Goldfinger, Suzanne Fernandes, Claudia Lavin, Jim Kenny, Larissa Lezine, Meenakshi Chhabra**; parents and teachers comprise the Harrington School Council, which has met once a month all year long – thanks to **Deborah Zuckerman, Julie Shapiro, Shelley Isaacson, Mary Ann Stewart, Ms. Denise Omobono, Mrs. Geri O'Neill, Ms. Sarah Widhu, & Mrs. Karen Peterssen** for their time and commitment; to **Andrea Caplan & Doreen Mitchell** for organizing an engaging Community Read Aloud Program; **Sarah Novogrodsky & Flavia Vidal** for keeping kids and adults connected through book discussions with Harrington Reads; our website and listserv guy, **Jerry Michelson**, for his patience with last minute urgent messages to the listserv and his care with keeping our website up to date; **Amy Zaslow & Raana Khavandgar** for the wonderful cultural enrichment programs for our kids all year long; **Kerry Heyda & Lisa Smith** for coordinating all of the Room Parents and to **Kerry** who is stepping down as PTA Membership chair; **Ms. Denise Omobono, Ms. Kristen Kilday, & Ms. Mary Yardley** for serving as Teacher Representatives to the PTA Executive Committee and attending PTA meetings and offering invaluable feedback to parents; **Peggy Gibson** for keeping us connected to our Harrington Extended Day program; **Laura Cecere** for taking on our Sally Foster fundraiser; **Kathy Pike** for keeping up with the Wish List and Wellness; **Helen Goodreau & Diane Coste** who took on the Science Fair and Hobby Night; **Amy Zaslow & Suzanne Kouri** for another wildly successful Talent Show; **Leslie Zales'** unmatched commitment has kept Harrington's METCO Family Friends Program strong and energized; **Jeanne Clifford, Claudio Chamon, & Vlad Bulovic** for their commitment to the Morning Math program;

Fourth Grade Math Mornings would not have been possible without parent involvement - special thanks go to **Renny Li** and **Ren Xu** for all of their help during the year; **Peggy Gibson & Miriam Fein-Cole** for Family Math nights; **Joanne Kaye** for BINGO; **Cindy Lin**, Lost & Found chair; **Jessica Malafeew, Mrs. Susie Woodland, Mrs. Joanie Tempesta and Mrs. Maureen Smith-Wocjik** for bringing valuable recycling initiatives to Harrington this year; **Ellen Cameron** coordinated ALL of our volunteers, dispatching names to committee heads as soon as they had signed up; **Cristina Burwell** kept us on schedule with articles to the Herald each month and designed the lay-out for our award-winning Herald newsletter each month; to **Duncan Stewart** for proofreading the Herald and also for coordinating the School Directory; to **Carol Riselli** for organizing our memorable School and Family Picture Days; **Michelle Bernier** ably managed notices to the Minuteman and other media sources; to **Catherine Paladino** for keeping the entry and grounds so welcoming with pretty plants and flowers; **Ase Grydeland & Henrietta Mei** for Harrington's fabulous International Food Fest; **Ellen Cameron & Jacqy Fiore** for BoxTops Tuesdays; **Doreen Mitchell & Angelique Swingle** for their awesome project management and coordination for work on the Mural; **Julie Shapiro** and her team for making our teachers and staff feel appreciated all year long; **Cathy Kim**, for seeing that our Korean families are especially welcomed - thank you for creating a community within a community; **Katie Cutler, Jacqy Fiore, & Ellen Cameron** for taking on the Harrington Hurrah and Silent Auction; **Katie Cutler**, for being New Families Liaison and welcoming new families to Harrington and encouraging their involvement; **Mrs. Jen Minasian** for keeping us informed and organized and for relaying messages and timely emails; **Mrs. Debra Bush & Mrs. Barbara Nobles** for keeping us connected to Boston families; **Mrs. Mead & Mrs. Turo** for their leadership, care, understanding, and support; **Mr. Cuzzupe, Mr. Freitas, & Ron Miles** for their big hearts, for being another valued set of eyes and ears, and for their care of Harrington; to **all of the classroom teachers & specialists** who thoughtfully prepared and brought so much of themselves to each learning day so our kids can be the most successful learners they can be; and to all of our amazing **parents & caregivers** for their support all year long, giving an hour here or an hour there, who were room parents, who helped in the classroom, worked in the library, volunteered at the Spring Fair, Retirement Party, Field Day, offered feedback, articles, and photographs, and in countless other ways supported our students, teachers, and staff - schools cannot do this work alone - **Thank you all - you all make Harrington the awesome place it is!!**

And a special farewell, best of luck, and **thank you** to **Marjolein Karelse**, who will be returning to the Netherlands this summer with her family - thank you for all of your care and dedication at Harrington and for your numerous hours as Room Parent, engaged volunteer, and for our memorable Jubilee Book - you will be missed!!

Finally, thanks to this year's **PTA Executive Committee: Suzanne Cherson, Peggy Gibson, Regina Wiryaman, Helen Goodreau, Suzanne Bruno, & Giulia Paliotti**. I know I can't thank you enough for all of your care, advocacy, consideration, humor, time, and thoughtfulness during deliberations and budget discussions (whether during meetings or on the fly!), for sharing the responsibilities, and for choosing to have fun while helping our kids, families, teachers, and staff. You're the **best!**

~ **Mary Ann Stewart, your grateful co-president.**

# *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.

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**Next Submissions Deadline: August 20, 2008**

