



the HARRINGTON HERALD

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

Elaine Mead, Principal • Ellen Cameron & Suzanne Kouri, PTA Co-Presidents



A Message from the Principal

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

Welcome Back to School! I am pleased to officially welcome you back to Harrington School for 2008-2009. I hope you and your family had an enjoyable summer. I have had a busy summer filled with ups and downs. Literally. Tom, my husband of 29 years, and I hiked to the top of Mount Washington during a two-day adventure in the White Mountains just before the tornado hit New Hampshire. Although scary at times, it was a fantastic experience. In addition I attended a "shower" for my son and his fiancée. The wedding is now less than one month away and I think I have finally found something to wear. We also visited my daughter in Michigan who started medical school in August. It was a joy to be able to celebrate this new journey in her life. And a down... a truck ran into our yard while we were away one weekend, knocked over a tree and crashed into our fence, narrowly missing our house before it crossed the street and totaled two cars! I would put summer of 2008 in the category of "never a dull moment!"

We have a great team this year at Harrington, combining the talents and experiences of returning staff with those of our newly hired colleagues. Close to one-fourth of the staff is new this year and fifty percent of us are new within the last three years. I am grateful to all the Harrington teachers who served on interview committees and helped find the wonderful people who are joining us this year. Thanks to the PTA for welcoming our new teachers at the Back to School Staff Luncheon and at the first PTA meeting on September 4th. We are planning a photo directory for our lobby so that we can get to know each other more easily.

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A Message from PTA Co-President

- Ellen Cameron, eusol@aol.com,

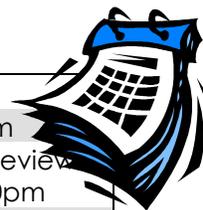


I would like to take a few moments to welcome everyone to the 2008-2009 school year. I hope you are rejuvenated and are looking forward to a wonderful year at Harrington. I have a new position this year as PTA Co-president with my colleague Suzanne Kouri. We have been busy this summer preparing for the year ahead and hope you will enjoy what we have in store for the coming year.

The Back to School packet was mailed out in August, earlier than prior years. This was a first for the PTA and we would love to hear your feedback on this decision. The first few weeks of school can be overwhelming. There is a mountain of paperwork, morning schedules have to be organized, checking your clock so you aren't late, packing lunches and snacks, and of course adjusting to a new teacher and classroom. The early mailing of the Back to School packet should have

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September CALENDAR



- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | No School - Labor Day |
| 2 | School Resumes - GrK-5 dismissal 3:15pm |
| 4 | PTA Meeting – Back to School Packet Review and Meet New Staff Members 7:00-9:00pm |
| 9 | Room Parents Meeting 9:00-11:00am |
| 10 | Sally Foster Gift Wrap sales begin |
| 11 | Professional Day – Dismissal Grades K-5 - 12:15pm |
| 13 | Family Photo Day – rain date 9/14 |
| 18 | Curriculum Night - Time to be determined |
| 23 | SPED PAC mtg. – 7:30pm, Lexington HS, rm .147 |
| 24 | School Picture Day |
| 26 | PTA Meeting Morning Coffee – Dialogue with the Principal Mrs. Mead 9:15-10:30am |
| 30 | No School – Rosh Hashanah Holiday |

A Message from the Principal continued...

Teachers have been working hard to increase their knowledge and to prepare for a very exciting year. The summer included course work, curriculum development, Full Day Kindergarten program planning, attending mathematics workshops, Open Circle training, and much more. In addition, new teachers have spent time in orientation programs here in Lexington. Five of us from Harrington, along with seventy teachers and administrators from Lexington, attended the Professional Learning Community Conference in Boston.

Many thanks to Jen Minasian, who has helped welcome many new families this summer to our community. I would also like to extend my gratitude to our custodians for keeping our school clean and beautiful. I begin the year with complete confidence knowing that the combination of our dedicated staff, supportive parents, and enthusiastic students will make this a great year.

I am truly looking forward to working with all of you and your children this year at Harrington School. Happy New Year!

New Asst. Principal

-Grant Smith gsmith@sch.ci.lexington.ma.us

Greetings! As the new Assistant Principal, I thought it would be helpful to introduce myself and provide a bit of my background information. While this is my first position with the Lexington Public Schools, I am not new to the town of Lexington. I attended Lexington Christian Academy and served as a camp counselor at Meadow Breeze Day Camp for several summers while I was home from college. This allowed me the opportunity to develop an appreciation for the town and its commitment to education. More recently, my professional career has included serving as a fourth grade teacher in the inner-city of Chicago and most recently, as an Assistant Principal and third grade teacher in the town of Wakefield. Throughout these varied experiences, I have gained a rich understanding of the many facets that make up the position of a school administrator and teacher. While it will take a while to get to know everyone personally, I would encourage parents to introduce themselves, either by dropping by the office, or by simply saying hello while I am outside during drop off and pick up times.

I look forward to being part of the Harrington School community.

PTA Message continued . . .

allowed you to take the time to read all the information and fill in the forms at your leisure and maybe help to decrease some of the stress associated with the start of a new school year.

One of the goals for the PTA this year is to build Harrington's community. I have been an active volunteer and parent since 2001 and have been active in many events and projects during the last seven years. I have met wonderful families and made many friends along the way. In some ways, Harrington feels like a second home to me. I enjoy seeing the children in their various activities and watching their progress over the years. I have a daughter at Clarke (7th grade) and was amazed at the difference between the two schools, namely in the amount of parental involvement.

I love walking in the halls of the school knowing the teachers and staff and the children. In the middle school, I am just another face. The reason I bring this up is to try to encourage you to use the 6 years at this wonderful school as a chance to become more involved in the Harrington community. It can be once a year, once a month, weekly, from home, at school or hands-on. There are many activities, fundraisers, and day-to-day avenues at Harrington in which you can take part.

So, you may ask, how do I fit in? Simply, become a member, become part of this wonderful Harrington community, Harrington Family, Harrington Friends. The elementary years are the time you can get most involved and make a difference. You count, you can make things happen, grow and even change when needed.

As a television commercial has stated: Membership has its rewards:

- R**- relationships you will make
- E**- everyone can get involved
- W**- what can you do?
- A**-always have fun while helping our Harrington community
- R**-ready to participate
- D**- dedication to our children and school
- S**- small or big, you can choose to get involved as much as you want

A great resource for what is going on at school is our website. You can learn all about what is happening with the Harrington Hawks, check the school lunch menu, and see current events and many links.

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I am very fortunate to be working with 9 other people on the Executive Committee this year. We have 5 energetic and creative Vice Presidents, a trustworthy treasurer, a money savvy financial secretary, and a secretary whose notations keep us organized. Of course my co-president is very productive and a true leader.

I hope to see you at school, at the first PTA meeting or at International Food night on Oct. 1st.



New Faculty at Harrington

We enthusiastically welcome the following new faculty members to the Harrington team!



Grant Smith, Grade Four/Assistant Principal

Mr. Smith's professional experience has included serving as a fourth grade teacher in Chicago and a third grade teacher/assistant principal in Wakefield. Read his previous submission in this issue of the Herald for a more comprehensive overview of his background.



Leslie Peterson, Grade Three

Ms. Peterson is originally from Connecticut. She attended Colby College and recently completed her Masters Degree from Lesley University in Elementary Education. As part of her graduate work she taught second grade at Brookwood School on the North Shore.



Cori Towle, Grade Four

Four years ago Ms. Towle began her teaching career as a grade four teacher in Fairfield, Connecticut. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Union College in 2002 and completed her Master of Arts in Teaching at Sacred heart University in 2005. She is thrilled to join the Harrington School community.



Jeff Clemons, Grade Five

Mr. Clemons is very excited to work at the Harrington School. He is especially thrilled to have an opportunity to work with the fifth grade team. This will be his fourth year teaching fifth grade. Mr. Clemons spent the last two years teaching in Melrose, MA.



Katie Cook, Physical Education

Ms. Cook joins us from Ashburnham, MA. This is her sixth year teaching elementary physical education. She attended Springfield College and recently completed her Masters Degree at Salem State.



Kathy Sherburne, School Nurse

Ms. Sherburne joins the Harrington Elementary staff as the school nurse having been in the Lexington School Health Services for 7 years. This past year she was on an educational leave and has just completed a Master of Science in Nursing with a Pediatric Primary and Acute Care Nurse Practitioner specialization. She looks forward to meeting the Harrington families and to providing a nurturing environment that focuses on the individual health care needs of our children.



Sue Weeks, Librarian

Ms. Weeks is a former classroom teacher and a certified librarian. For the last three years she has been coordinating facilities, programs and collections of all the elementary libraries in Groton, MA. She developed and implemented a research process for students in grades 3 and 4. Ms. Weeks looks forward to working in one school where she can get to know the students by name.



Sue Croy, Special Education, Reading

Ms. Croy has been a passionate teacher of reading throughout her entire career, both as a reading specialist and as learning disabilities specialist. She comes to us from the Arlington Public Schools. She will be splitting her time between Harrington and Bridge School.



Terri Borio, Special Education, Resource Room, K-2

Ms. Borio is a certified and experienced special educator. She earned her undergraduate degree from Auburn University and her Masters from University of Tennessee. She has taught in Chelsea, Jamaica Plain, and Cambridge.



Stephanie Schaffert, Special Education, DLP 3-5

Ms. Schaffert is a certified and experienced special educator. She taught most recently in Watertown and completed her Masters Degree in Special Education this past year. She has worked with young students as well as adults in a variety of therapeutic and educational settings.



John Harney, Special Education, Evaluation Team Leader

Mr. Harney comes to Harrington with more than 15 years experience in special education. He worked for the Hudson Public Schools as an ETL, and prior to that he was a Department Chair for the Irvine Unified School District in Irvine, California. He is looking forward to a great year with the Harrington school community.

SCHOOL PICTURE DAY

Save the dates!



SCHOOL PICTURES will be taken on **Wednesday, September 24** - rain or shine. You will receive forms approximately one week prior to that date. Remember to bring your smiles!

FAMILY PICTURE DAY will be **Saturday, September 13** with a rain date of Sunday, September 14, to be held in Tower Park. This is a wonderful fundraiser for our school and a great way to get that family picture we never seem to have time for! A notice will go home soon with all the information.

Box Top Tuesdays

JacqyFiore, jacqyfiore@rcn.com &
Ellen Cameron, eusol@aol.com

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Box Tops Tuesdays will resume the second week in September

(9th). Remember to clip and save 5 Box Tops for a prize. If you clip and send in a whole sheet of 25 you could win a special prize and if you have two sheets an extra special prize. Look out for the flyer coming soon in your back packs. Every Box Top is worth \$.10 for Harrington. For more information check out the Box Top web site at www.boxtops4education.com. Sign up is free and you can print different coupons every month to help save some \$\$.

Harrington's School House Walk



Commit to making health and wellness a priority for your family this school year - celebrate healthy lifestyles with the Harrington community this fall!

More details are forthcoming via backpack flyers and the Harrington Listserv (be sure you are signed up:
<http://harrington.lexingtonma.org/listserv2.html>)

For now, be sure to save the date and info:

WHEN: Sunday, October 19, 2008

WHERE: Harrington School

WHO: Harrington students, alums, parents, staff, and teachers

TIME: 1:00 – 4:00 PM

PTA Fundraising Committee

- Michelle Mabardy, MMMabardy@aol.com



Do you have any NEW and FUN Fundraising activities or ideas?? Harrington PTA would love to hear them and if possible implement them within our school.

Simply email Michelle Mabardy, (email above) , with your suggestions or if you would simply like to be a part of this new committee!!

Spring Fair 2008 & World Series Trophy Portrait Update!!



Michelle Mabardy ,
MMMabardy@aol.com

Many thanks to all of our Harrington families & friends who attended and volunteered at the Annual Spring Fair this past June, 2008. The Fair raised over \$10,000.00 to support the many activities sponsored by the PTA each year.

Additionally, due to your purchase of Red Sox World Series Student Trophy Portraits, the Harrington School PTA donated \$150.00 to the Jimmy Fund to extend our thanks to the Boston Red Sox, for the Trophy Visit.

Please note that we are **looking for 1 or 2 parents** to apprentice with the Spring Fair this year, as the current committee chairs have served for the last 4 consecutive years!! Thank you for your anticipated support,

Become a Room Parent

Lisa Smith, lisasmith1@rcn.com
Ellyn Michelson,
ellyn@michelsonshoes.com



It is time to sign up to become a Head Room Parent or Room Parent for the school year. Becoming a room parent gives you the opportunity to get to know your child's teacher as well as the families in the classroom.

Our Room Parent meeting will be held on **September 9th at 9:00am** in the cafeteria. If you haven't signed up already, it is not too late. Please stop by for an overview of what being a Head Room Parent or Room Parent entails. Hope to see you there!



The Wellness Corner

- Kathy Pike, kpik1@alumni.tufts.edu

Welcome back, Harrington families! I'm Kathy Pike, mom to Max and Emily Kaye (2nd and 4th graders) and I'm happy to be returning as the Wellness Coordinator for our school and for our community. Since I'm also working at the high school library, I hear about interesting projects and plans for Wellness at the high school level as well. My hope is that we will address and support Wellness issues at Harrington, and on up through middle school, so that, hopefully, some of the Wellness challenges will not be an issue by the time our kids are teens!

One of my interests is around kids and stress. What is creating the stress? What are some creative solutions to stress? Kids and Yoga/Pilates, for one! (think indoor recess!) Another is work/family balance ... who has it? How to get it? How can our community support each other to find balance?

What are the Wellness ideas you'd like to hear more about? Healthy snacks? Allergy issues? Interpersonal issues? What else? Let me know.

schools when we are challenged by these situations.

If you have any questions or a need for accommodations, feel free to contact the PAC co-chairs, Elisabeth Sackton or Kevin Johnson (listed above).



METCO Family Friends

- Linda Resnick,

Indresnick@hotmail.com

- Rita Ross, ridelisle@aol.com

Please join us in welcoming to Harrington our newest METCO students: kindergarteners **Naya Cardoso-Monteiro, Omari Franklin, and Javoni Smith.**

We would like to thank the Lexington host families for bridging the distance for these children who make an incredible commitment to come to our school. We still have an opportunity for a family to **host a 5th grade boy.** Simply host a play date that takes place one Thursday a month until 3:00. Two families might consider co-hosting. Being a Family Friend for METCO is a unique and rewarding opportunity.



Lexington SPED PAC

Elisabeth Sackton, 781-860-7337

Kevin Johnson, 781-863-1186

Lexington SPED PAC: Protecting Children with Disabilities from Harassment and Bullying

The first meeting, will be held on Thursday, **September 4th at 7:30 PM.** at Lexington High School in room 147 (Library Media Center),

The Lexington Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SPED PAC) is pleased to have Richard W. Cole, Esq. presenting "Protecting Children with Disabilities from Harassment and Bullying In Schools: What Parents Need to Know to Advocate for their Children".

Please join us in our effort to promote a culture of safety in our schools and our community. Mr. Cole has worked extensively in the area of civil rights and safe schools. In this workshop, he will focus on helping us build a common language, distinguish between bullying and harassment, understand the warning signs in our children, and what we should expect from our

Participating parents and students:
PLEASE JOIN US ON THE FIRST VISITING DAY (Oct. 2)
FOR A PIZZA LUNCH AT THE SCHOOL. Details will be mailed shortly.

We are thrilled to begin our year as METCO Family Friends Coordinators. Please contact us if you have any questions about this great cultural program. We look forward to hearing from you!

COFFEE WITH MRS. MEAD



Join Mrs. Mead and members of the PTA-EC (Executive Committee) for coffee on **Friday, September 26 at 9:15 AM.**

This is an informal discussion that takes shape based on what's on your mind. Bring comments and feedback about your child's learning and Harrington culture, ask questions, and meet other Harrington members. Whether you are a family new to Harrington, have a child at Harrington for kindergarten, or you are a returning family, this is a great opportunity - not to be missed!

Our Heartfelt Thanks to ...



...all **classroom teachers and specialists!** We thank you for taking time this summer to meet students **and** for all **of your** hard work and time preparing each classroom for this school year.

Many thanks to **Mrs. Jen Minasian** - her **time and** endless support helped us get the Back-to-School packet ready for August.

...**Mr. Grant Smith and Mrs. Elaine Mead** for their tireless effort in the front office all summer, **ensuring a smooth** transition to the new school **year**.

And **a special** thank you to our intrepid custodial crew **Mr. Paul Cuzzupe, Mr. Mark Fietas, and Mr. Ron Miles** for their many hours **spent** getting the building and grounds ready for the school year - **all of your work** is truly appreciated!

Thank you to **Jacqy Fiore** for taking pictures of **all Harrington staff** - **look for them soon in the front lobby!**

And to all **Harrington families and individuals** who worked so hard to get the 2008/09 school year off to a great start!

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>.

Webmaster: Jerry Michelson: jerry@michelsonshoes.com



Next Submissions Deadline: September 20, 2008