



the HARRINGTON HERALD

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

Elaine Mead, Principal • Suzanne Kouri, PTA Co-President

A Message from the Principal

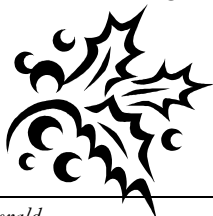
Elaine Mead,
emead@sch.ci.lexington.ma.us



This fall we had a very special visitor at Harrington School who left a lasting impression on all of us in the audience. Ruby Bridges told her story about when she was a first grader and the only African American student in an all white school. Her presentation had a profound impact on the children and staff. Conversations about empathy, courage and justice continue and have deeper meaning as a result. To add to the dramatic effect, only one week after Ms. Bridges spoke to us a historic election in our country resulted in the election of an African American president. Several students shared their views about how this event signaled a significant change. In their words, "...back then black kids couldn't go to white schools. Now there will be black kids living in the White House!" They were noticeably excited by the reality.

As I listened to Ruby Bridges tell her story I was thinking about her parents and the courageous decisions that they made. Ruby's parents sent her into a hostile and potentially dangerous environment. I am struck by their conviction and faith. I cannot imagine being in their shoes. As an educator and a parent in a different time, I have never been faced with anything that compares. At a School Committee meeting, I was intrigued by a question that was raised: "Should our goal be to protect our students from the world or should we prepare them for the world?" In 2008, I suspect that most people would say we should protect and prepare. I have to believe that in Ruby Bridges' days as a child, her parents were not thinking in these terms. Rather than protecting from the world or preparing her for the world, they helped their daughter to change our world.

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A Message from PTA Co-President

Suzanne Kouri, kouri34@comcast.net



It's hard to believe that December is here and that the school year is almost half over! I feel like we are moving at the speed of light - maybe because my own plate has more on it these days. Much of my time is now spent in town-wide and school meetings learning as much as I can, as quickly as I can, about the initiatives and issues our children, parents, and schools are facing in the classroom, at Harrington, in Lexington, and on the state level. In spite of economic challenges ahead, and bracing myself for any impact this may have on our community, I have learned about and experienced several things that I can be excited about and thankful for.

I am writing this the weekend before Thanksgiving I would like to express my gratitude to all of our volunteers that tirelessly contribute to Harrington. I would particularly like to express my gratitude to Jerry and Elyn Michelson. They did a fantastic job on our school directory this year! It was a pleasure to work with them. They invested many hours in that project and were committed to a high quality product. For many of us the school directory is our "life line". Congratulations on a great job and THANK YOU!

I am deeply grateful that my children were able to participate in the Ruby Bridges experience, especially just prior to our historic Presidential Election.

... Continued on page 2

December CALENDAR



1	School Resumes
10	5th Grade Chorus, Band, Strings & 4th Grade Strings Concert for School – 9:00am
11	5th Grade Chorus, Band, Strings & 4th Grade Strings Concert for Parents – 9:00am
12	Report cards go home
24	No School , Winter Vacation - 1/4/09

Ruby Bridges was noticeably impressed with the diversity of our student population when she looked into the children's faces as she spoke. She commented about how wonderful it was to see. We are so fortunate here at Harrington to learn first hand from and with classmates and families who have diverse backgrounds. I am committed to making our school a welcoming and safe place for all children and all families. Hearing Ruby Bridges was an inspiring experience for me as a principal. Understanding such a turbulent time through the experience and the struggle of a young child was powerful. Harrington School and all of the Lexington Public Schools value diversity and is committed to excellence and equity for all. I am honored to be here and challenged to make a contribution to this mission. I welcome your feedback and suggestions.



HARRINGTON HAWKETTES DAZZLE AT LEF TRIVIA BEE!

The Harrington Hawkettes team of Ellen Cameron, Jeanne Clifford and Flavia Vidal, demonstrated an impressive arsenal of trivia knowledge at the Lexington Education Foundation's Trivia Bee on Thursday, November 6th. Our team endured a whopping 14 rounds of questions – the most of the evening -- to send them into the championship round at the Bee. The Bee was won for the second time by the Lexington School Committee team, the Twelve O'Clock Scholars. The LEF Trivia Bee brings in about \$16,000 annually to support grant programs for the Lexington Public Schools.

Even our erudite team members were scratching their heads on these questions from the Trivia Bee. Test your own trivial knowledge below (see answers below).

1. Who was Yogi Bear's girlfriend?
 2. How many sheets of paper are in a quire?
 3. Who was the shortest U.S. President?
 4. How many pounds does a gallon of milk weigh, within one pound?
 5. How many different time zones does China have?
- ... and the Championship Winning Trivia Question: (won by the School Committee's "Twelve O'Clock Scholars"). . .
6. Which rock group is named after the inventor of the seed drill?

If you have an opportunity, read Ruby's book **Through My Eyes** with your children and talk to them about their experience. I would like to thank Amy Zaslow and Raana Khavandgar for their insight and efforts to make this possible and to all of the teachers for preparing our children for this. Our children will remember this for many years to come.

The **PTA Coffee** on November 21, "Parenting to Build Kids Who Make Healthy Choices" was well attended. I was very happy to see a father in the crowd! Please look for the minutes from that meeting in the next issue of the Herald. In addition to learning about the preventative programs our school system has in place, I left that meeting feeling grateful for a community of involved parents who are invested in refining and evolving their parenting skills to raise children who will become good citizens. We have all heard the scary stories from parents in the higher grades. I have seen good kids with good parents make bad choices. I believe that dialogue and support among parents, educational and community leaders can help to minimize these scenarios and prevent them from becoming pathological and pervasive. It was wonderful to have Julie Fenn, Elaine Mead and Amy Chamberlain at our disposal to talk about how we can build a healthy foundation together for our children.

I attended the School Committee meeting in Boston on November 18th. There is a lot of excitement about the headway that has been made in learning how to close the achievement gap in Lexington. Many of you may already be aware of a delegation of 17 representatives from Lexington that traveled to Montgomery County in Maryland to study their system for 2 days. All schools and grades were represented as well as all levels of administration and a parent representative. Montgomery County is the gold standard for successfully managing the achievement gap and preparing ALL students to achieve impressive academic goals. I encourage you to go to the Lexington Public School website, <http://lps.lexingtonma.org>, to learn about the 2008-2009 goals for LPS administration and School Committee.

I am looking forward to the second half of the school year with many more opportunities for us to gather as a community. I wish all of you a safe and joyful holiday season and good healthy and prosperity in 2009.

Notes from the Principal



Gifts to the school and staff



Staff members at Harrington are very professional and care greatly about their students. Parents often ask how to show their gratitude for all their work. Simple words of thanks and appreciation are always welcome. Notes of appreciation are cherished by staff at all times of the year. In addition, your support of PTA and LEF fundraising benefits teachers and students alike.

Staff members are public employees, and as such are subject to the State's Conflict of Interest Law (General Law Chapter 268A) and State Ethics Committee rules. These state that we may not accept any gift that is of "**substantial value**", that is, **no more than \$50**. This includes meals, tickets to events, services, or holiday gifts, among other things. This \$50 limit applies to groups of people with a common interest (for example, members of the same class). Therefore, families in the same class **may not combine their resources** to purchase an individual teacher gift valued at \$50 or more. This law is in place to ensure that everyone served is treated equally and that no one has or *might be perceived* to have special advantages or influence.

Please note that this applies even if the purpose of the gift is merely a "token of gratitude for a well-done job or is given out of desire to maintain the public employee's good will." Parents may donate items to the school or classroom. If you have questions, please contact Room Parent Coordinators, Ellyn Michelson and Lisa Smith or Elaine Mead, Principal.



Outdoor Recess

If the temperature is above 20 degrees (including wind chill) and the play area is safe, recess will be held outdoors. If students have boots and snow pants they can go in the snow. *We expect students to be dressed for the weather.* Students with bare arms and/or legs will not be allowed to go outside. We expect students to play safely at all times and be extra mindful when the possibility of icy conditions exist.

Trivia Bee Answers:

1.) Cindy Bear; 2.) 24 – 25; 3.) James Madison, 5'6"; 4.) 8 lbs.; 5.) One; 6.) Jethro Tull



Building Safety and Security

All doors are locked during school hours. All parents, volunteers, and visitors are required to buzz into the building. The buzzer and intercom are located to the left of the main entrance. Everyone is asked to identify themselves and the purpose for the visit. Once inside the building all parents, volunteers, and visitors will come to the office to sign in and put on a name badge. All parent volunteers need to have an up-to-date CORI, if you are unsure of your status, please stop by to see Jen Minasian in the main office.



PTA General Meeting

Suzanne Bruno, PTA Secretary
brunojs@comcast.net

October 22, 2008

PTA president Suzanne Kouri opened the meeting with a brief financial update. The **Sally Foster gift wrap sale** grossed approximately \$3000 this year. The **Schoolhouse Walk** was a great success, attracting many students, parents, alumni and Harrington staff. It grossed approximately \$3,100. Suzanne then introduced our principal, Elaine Mead.

Mrs. Mead noted that there will be a PTA sponsored dialogue/coffee on November 21st at Harrington. Mrs. Mead, Amy Chamberlain, our guidance counselor, and Julie Fenn, Lexington's Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist will lead a discussion about what we can do at the elementary school level to encourage our children to make good choices as they get older.

Mrs. Mead also informed us that she, Grant Smith, Harrington's vice-principal, and Paul Cuzzupe, Harrington's head custodian, had a meeting with Lexington's director of Facilities regarding the implementation of **Harrington's security system**. Harrington has a state-of-the-art security system and the plan is for that system to be fully implemented in the near future. The Town of Lexington has received grants to implement security systems in schools that do not have them. However, the Town feels that it is an immediate priority to have Fiske and Harrington implement the security systems that are already in place. More information will be forthcoming about this system. But, all parents and visitors to Harrington should be prepared that, at some point soon, the

security system will be activated and all doors will be locked during school hours. Any visitors to the school will be buzzed in by Jen Minasian, our school administrative assistant. Mrs. Mead noted that this is not an attempt to discourage parents from visiting Harrington, but it is a town-wide attempt to ensure the safety of all of our children during school hours.

Suzanne Kouri then introduced the evening's speaker, Wendy Bugglio. Ms. Bugglio is a professional organizer who runs a business called "Functional Spaces" which helps families and businesses organize. Professional organizers help individuals and businesses take control of their surroundings, their time, their paper, and their systems for life.

Ms. Bugglio then spoke on the subject of **encouraging time management for students**, including strategies to help our children to develop good habits. Tardiness, dawdling, and procrastination can affect your child, your family, and the people around you. Stress levels around getting out of the house and completing homework carry through to other parts of the day. Parents should be aware of the different types of procrastination, and what they can mean. For example, dawdling that occurs at the same time of day may signal fatigue, hunger, energy/levels or rhythms that can be addressed by a change in schedule. Procrastination may also occur around a particular issue (i.e. struggles over math if that is a more difficult subject for the child). However, dawdling over responsibilities and homework can be a red flag if it is happening all day long or around variable situations. Ms. Bugglio then discussed some of the many causes of poor time management, as well as some suggestions for improving time management in children.

I. REASONS FOR DIFFICULTY MANAGING TIME

Technical Errors

- lack of routines
- miscalculating how long a task will take
- disorganized space
- unrealistic expectations
- setting aside the wrong amount of time.

External realities

- the constant interruptions of everyday life (phones, e-mail, etc.)
- changes in family dynamics, schedule, or structure
- ADD, sleep deprivation, health issues, and energy levels

- Differing organizational styles are also an example of external realities that must be considered

Psychological obstacles

- Perfectionism: perfectionists need approval, and can fear criticism or humiliation; the perfectionist hates to ask for help and can spend too much time on tasks. The perfectionist can be easily frustrated and gets upset when mistakes are made on homework.
- Feeling overwhelmed: over-programmed kids can use dawdling as down-time. If children have chores and responsibilities that are too advanced this can also lead to stressed kids and the children may avoid tasks by dawdling. Ways to help with this are to break projects down into manageable parts, build in breaktime/downtime, monitor chores and work together, provide structure, feedback, and praise.
- Fear of failure (or success): this child would rather be seen as lacking effort than lacking abilities. Some children (mostly 4th grade and up) don't want to be seen by peers as too smart. Solutions to this can be open communication and sending messages like "no one is perfect" and "what's the worst that could happen".
- Anger: An angry child could use procrastination as a way to get back at you for something or to annoy or gain attention. Suggestions for dealing with this include trying to focus first on the issue at hand (why the child is upset), then tackle the dawdling. Trying a little indifference can also be effective, so the child realizes he won't get attention for negative behaviors.
- Control: Sometimes a child procrastinates in an attempt to establish independence and control of what he has to do and when. As appropriate, it may be helpful to offer some level of freedom and choice. It is also important to establish consequences and follow through with them - it is essential that children feel the consequences of their failure to manage their time.

II. GENERAL STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS.

Open Communication

- It is important to emphasize the impact of a

child's procrastination on others (i.e. impact on classmates if child is late for school, impact on other family members).

- It is also important for parents to understand what the child's assignments and tasks are so that you can keep track of them yourself so that you can monitor them.

Consequences and follow through.

Some suggestions for consequences are:

- Time - trade (i.e. if you cause the family to be 15 minutes late, you will do a 15 minute chore)
- reward systems
- reinforce positive behavior
- let your child have some control and set some rewards

Reminders

- gentle verbal reminders can be helpful
- setting a timer
- visual reminders and checklists

Structured schedules and homework times

- understand how your child works best (i.e. do they need complete quiet, do they benefit from a break before starting homework after school)
- look over assignments in advance, set times to spend on each
- plan & organize the location
- offer breaks as needed
- set specific goals -include your child in setting goals
- make sure they get enough sleep!

Minimizing morning mayhem

- pick out clothing, lunches, and backpacks the night before
- follow a morning to-do list
- visual reminders (door hangers, etc.) can be helpful

Coordinating Schedules

- Create a family calendar
- Kid-friendly versions are available that highlight special activities at school so they can be prepared
- Regular family meetings can be very helpful to coordinate schedules and work out problems

Organize your physical space

- A cluttered environment can lead to a cluttered mind
- Create a landing zone/launch pad area in your house for children's belongings

- Find a system that works for you and your child's learning style & personality type
- Enlist you child in setting up and maintaining their own spaces; there are organizational systems & processes for all ages

III. FINAL THOUGHTS

- Have patience: developing effective time management strategies takes time
- Let your child own the problem and experience the consequences. Don't "rescue" as it only prolongs procrastination
- Teach by Example

IV. SUGGESTED RESOURCES

Time Management From the Inside Out (and related books) by Julie Morgenstern

The Container Store - for kid-friendly organizing products & systems - www.napo.net

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Save the Date!!!

Harrington School Talent Show

Friday, February 27

6:45-9:00 PM



In the Cafeteria

5th Grade Food Pantry

Nikki Okubo nrk1bstnd@yahoo.co.jp

Michele Bernier michele3boys@verizon.com



The fifth grade students are going to participate in the food pantry as their community service project. Please send the following items to support local families - as well as the project led by 5th graders!

- Peanut butter
- Oatmeal
- Cereal
- Canned fruits
- Canned tuna fish
- Canned stew
- Canned chili
- Canned ravioli

No glass jars and no jumbo/family size, please.

Collection Week is **December 8th - 12th**

A collection box will be placed in the lobby.



The Wellness Corner

Kathy Pike, kpik1@alumni.tufts.edu

December! Vacation month! What if I can't afford to go far away? What if I don't want to battle the long lines and crowded vacation spots? Is there hope for me? Here are a couple alternative vacation ideas for the winter break:

CITYPASS BOSTON: 6 enjoyable attractions for \$44.00. Take your kids on an urban adventure filled with patriotism, daring feats, astonishing discoveries, wonders of the natural world, and plenty of discoveries. CityPass includes a special invitation for superb treatment and famous food at **Union Oyster House**, America's oldest restaurant. Boston CityPass is valid year 'round to see six attractions without watching the clock. What's included?

New England Aquarium

Harvard Museum of Natural History

JFK Library and Museum

Museum of Fine Arts

Museum of Science

Skywalk Observatory

<http://www.citypass.com/city/boston.html?id=dh65Dp6b>

Stay at the **Eastover Resort** in Lenox, MA (2 hours from Lexington), "Decidedly casual, decidedly different!"

- Safari Rides- where you can meet Eastover's Buffalo up close!
- Kids Camp - Organized games and activities!
- Relay Races & Obstacle Course
- Nature Hikes
- Toboggan Slide
- Nightly Movies
- Hay Rides
- Dance Parties- Limbo Contests!

<http://www.eastover.com/families.html>

Happy holidays and a safe, warm winter break to all!



Lexington SPED PAC

Elisabeth Sackton, 781-860-7337

Kevin Johnson, 781-863-1186

Lexington SPED PAC Mtg: **Thurs. Dec 4th**- LHS Principal, Natalie Cohen and Special Ed Initiatives

Please join us for an evening with Lexington High School's Natalie Cohen (Principal), Les Eggleston (Head of Guidance), and Sherry Coughlin (Director of Special Education). The discussion for this meeting will center around Special Education initiatives being taken at Lexington High School. In addition, we will touch upon the dilemmas/challenges facing high school students with special needs, and the issues revolving around the delivery of services to students in the context of Lexington High School's overall culture.

The meeting will be held at 7:30pm on Thursday, December 4th 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 listed above.



METCO Family Friends

Linda Resnick Indresnick@hotmail.com

Rita Ross, ridelisle@aol.com

We have had 2 great Family Friend visiting days this year. Friends have played games of soccer, basketball, and Wii, built great looking Lego structures, taken walks in the woods to a secret tree swing, or just hung out together. **Our next visiting day will be January 8, 2009.**

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

Box Top Tuesdays

JacqyFiore, jacqyfiore@rcn.com

Ellen Cameron, eusol@aol.com

We have gotten off to a great start collecting many Box Tops and saving money for Harrington School. Keep on collecting and bringing them in. We have just ordered some new prizes for the winter season. We look forward to seeing you in the Harrington Foyer on Tuesday mornings!



The Green Team

Doreen Mitchell, dopimitchell@gmail.com

Take the Zero Waste Challenge!

Where does it all go? If you've ever asked yourself this question, then you'll be delighted to get some Green ideas and come clean on everyday behaviors. There are basically two methods to approach zero waste – consume less and recycle/reuse more. How close is your home to zero waste? Is there room for improvement or is it overwhelming to think of? In either case, start small if you need to because every bit matters. It's hard to be 100% compliant – so start with 50% and work your way up!

Mitchell Household **Green Efforts** to date (and if we can do it, anyone can!)

- Use reusable grocery bags.** This should be a “no excuse” one (99% compliance)
- Use reusable containers for lunch items** (90% compliance)
- Eliminate juice boxes** (100% compliance -- might offer when there is a party)
- Eliminate disposable water bottles** (95% compliance)
- Eliminate paper napkins** (95%) – this was a very difficult one, especially for husband!
- Eliminate paper coffee filters** (100% compliance)
- Decrease paper towels** (50% compliance)
- Replace light bulbs with energy efficient ones** (60%)
- Turn down household thermostat by 2 degrees** (100%)

Two other quick “Green” hits:

- Eliminate unwanted catalogues**– go to Catalogchoice.org and register your catalogues at this website to come off of mailing lists.
- Recycle running/rubber soled shoes** – bring your old running shoes and rubber soled shoes to the Boston Running Company store right here in Lexington. They work with Nike to recycle the rubber which is used on tracks, basketball courts and playgrounds in needy neighborhoods.

Here's the challenge: Pick one new “Green Effort” per month in your household. The Mitchell's are in on the challenge! Tune in next month to see what we've added to our list! Please write in with how you've made your household more Green. All ideas are welcome!



ACT Activities

Arts Created Together (ACT), a committee funded by the PTA

Raana Khavandgar - r67r@yahoo.com

Amy Zaslou - azaslou@alumnet.simmons.edu

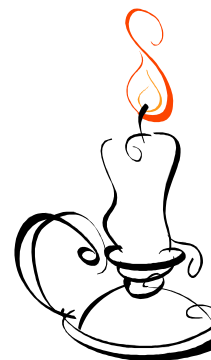
As ACT co-chairs, we provide both in class/grade enrichment programs and school-wide programs. The programs are closely tied to the curriculum as well as the school-wide goals (described in the School Improvement Plan -

<http://harrington.lexingtonma.org/sip0809final.pdf>

One of the strategies for Goal 3 is: “Develop a school culture that fosters respect and acceptance of differences among students”.

One of the ways we have addressed that strategy is by bringing Ruby Bridges to our school, which you will read about in elsewhere in this edition of the *Herald*. That program addressed differences in color. We are extremely excited to be bringing a program celebrating differences in ability called “Dancing Wheels”. This is a dance troupe incorporating professional stand-up and sit-down (wheelchair) dancers. We will be welcoming three dancers from this troupe to Harrington in February. The group does both modern and classical dance. Visit www.dancingwheels.org to learn more about the program. You can also view part of one of their Elementary School performances at www.gggreg.com/DW/pages/outreach. Thank you to Mrs. Mead for recommending this program, which she saw at her previous school.

We are always looking for programming ideas, so feel free to contact us with any ideas. Also, if you have any interest, talent, or profession that you'd be willing to share, we'd love to hear from you.





The Ruby Bridges Experience

Amy Zaslow, co-chair of ACT, a committee of the PTA

Ruby Bridges was six years old in 1960 when she was the first African American to attend the William Frantz Elementary School. As you may remember, she was escorted that year by four federal marshals in order to get into the school and classroom safely due to the beginnings of desegregation in the south. We were privileged to have her speak to grades 2-5 in October, and I wanted to give you some impressions from her program. She felt that grades K and 1 were too young to be introduced to the history and commentary. Also, she was very clear that notices were not to go out in advance of her presentation and that parents not be permitted to attend.

Ruby Bridges is all about the children. She wants to make a difference in the world and believes the way to educate people about diversity issues and the African American history in the United States, is through America's children. Adults have their own conception of these issues, and she hopes that children will talk with their parents about what they learn and start an ongoing dialog about race in their community and the U.S. as a whole. Also, she didn't want the children to be distracted by having parents in the room – but wanted them to be natural and uninhibited while working through the issues being discussed.

Prior to Ms. Bridges arrival, children were introduced to her story. For more information go to rubybridges.com or look at **Through My Eyes**, which she authored, or **Ruby Bridges**, by Robert Cole. In their classrooms in the days approaching her visit, children read the story, some saw a video, had discussions and prepared, as was requested by Ms. Bridges. She wanted the children to know who she was when she walked in.

Ms. Bridges had the kids in the palm of her hand for 2 hours and 10 minutes – only 3 times needing to re-focus them. Amazing.

Since the children were prepared, Ms. Bridges spent her time having an interactive discussion with the children. She asked things like “if you and I lived across the street from each other, but we couldn't go to the same school, how would you feel”. She asked “who was the President of the U.S. when I was 6 years old?” The children had many answers including George

Washington and George W. Bush. She asked, “what could you do if you wanted all children to go to the same schools, and not exclude African American students from some schools”. They delved into ideas like “protest”, “call a lawyer”, “call the president”, “call the supreme court”. Then she told them what happened – that President Kennedy said that he thought all children should be given the same education and that he would send Federal Marshalls to ensure that this was implemented in Ms. Bridges' state of Louisiana.

For each discussion item, she engaged the children by asking them questions, letting many children answer, and then educating them about the answer.

One thing that made quite an impact was a short video showing television news clips of Ms. Bridges first day of school – being accompanied by Federal Marshalls. It gave the group a sense of the sounds she heard as she was walking up the steps to school each day.

I encourage you to read **Through My Eyes** and have discussions with your children about the rights that were being fought for at that time.

This program was fund by our Harrington PTA through the ACT committee.



Science Enrichment

Amy Zaslow - azaslow@alumnet.simmons.edu

Here's our lineup of science enrichment programs for the year:

- **Kindergarten** – the chicken egg farmer will visit
- **First Grade** – Tidepool Adaptations from the N.E. Aquarium
- **Second Grade** – Water Properties from the N.E. Aquarium
- **Third Grade** – Physical Changes in Matter from the Discovery Museum
- **Fourth Grade** – Animal Adaptations from the Museum of Science
- **Fifth Grade** – Electromagnetism from the Museum of Science

In addition, we are working with MIT's Lincoln Labs to bring additional science programs to Harrington. We'll keep you posted!! Science Enrichment is a committee funded by the PTA.



Thinking outside the box

Each holiday season, millions of families are assaulted by ramped-up commercialism from corporate marketers. Commercial-free traditions that honor your family's spiritual and cultural values are often the most meaningful. Encourage family members to create one-of-a-kind "gift of time" coupons to give as gifts: good for an afternoon for kids to have one-on-one time with Dad or Mom; a holiday week or weekend free of TV; to give your child a night off from picking up his things, or good for children to present for a dessert without finishing their dinner or eating their vegetables.

Create photo books OF your children doing some of their favorite things last summer FOR your children – with captions of why the pictures are special to you.

Engage your family in any number of opportunities for local and international charitable giving throughout the year, including filling a bag of groceries for hungry neighbors for the Lexington

food pantry. Here are a few other suggestions you may wish to consider:

Boston-based **BirthDay Wishes** brings birthday parties to homeless children in central and eastern Massachusetts - www.birthdaywishes.org

The Second Step, based in Newton, provides transitional housing and a host of supportive services for survivors of domestic violence and their children; a wish list of needed items is posted on their website - www.thesecondstep.org

Mercy Corps is an international charitable organization focusing on emergency relief services, economic development, and civil societies. "Be the change" for international humanitarian aid and development; every dollar donated helps to secure \$20.89 in donated food and other critical supplies - www.mercycorps.org

Whatever is meaningful to you and your family, may we all know peace and freedom around the world in the New Year.

**SAVE
THE DATE**

Harrington Elementary School

Barnes & Noble BOOKFAIR

Wednesday, December 10th

For A Very Special Night of Storytimes!

- From 6:15 pm – 6:30 pm, please join your kindergarten teacher, Ms. Mary Yardley for A Very Special Storytime.
- From 6:45 pm – 7:00 pm, please join your 2nd grade teacher, Ms. Denise Omobono for another Very Special Storytime.
- From 7:10 pm – 7:30 pm, please join retired 4th & 5th grade teachers, Mrs. Sally Josiassen and Mr. Joseph Josiassen!

Please remember that any (holiday) shopping from 9:00 am thru 11:00 pm on December 10, 2008 will benefit The Harrington Elementary School children!!

**Barnes & Noble
BOOKFAIR**
Supporting

**The Harrington
Elementary School**

December 10th, 2008 (9:am- 11:pm)

Barnes & Noble

98 Middlesex Turnpike

Please present this voucher prior to making your purchase.

A percentage of the net sale will be donated to your school/organization.*

Bookfair I.D. 415497

*The purchase of gift cards, Barnes & Noble memberships, textbooks and magazine subscriptions are not included in bookfair totals. Our discount purchasing program may not be applied to bookfair purchases.

Our Heartfelt Thanks to ...



...**Catherine Murphy, Julie Vincent and Tina Weber** for being on the Wilson Farm "Got Pie" Fundraising Team. We would also like to thank the many **Harrington Families** and **Staff Members** who bought over 150 pies to support our PTA!

...**Ellen Cameron, Flavia Vidal and Jeanne Clifford** for gallantly representing Harrington School at the Lexington Education Foundation Trivia Bee. Our team came in 2nd place – Go Harrington!

...Family Math Co-Chairs **Miriam Fein-Cole and Aviram Cohen** and their wonderful parent volunteers who made November Family Math Nights happen:

3rd grade: **Tim Clackson, Travis McCready, Steve Vincent, Linda Zeger, Aviram Cohen**

4th grade: **Vlad Bulovic, Miriam Fein-Cole and Chris Bergh**

5th grade: **Miriam Fein-Cole, Aviram Cohen**

...our own **Principal Elaine Mead** and **School Counselor Amy Chamberlain**, as well as **Julie Fenn, LPS Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist**, for leading a panel discussion at the November PTA morning coffee.

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: December 20, 2008