



# *the* HARRINGTON HERALD

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

Elaine Mead, Principal • Suzanne Kouri, PTA President



## A Message from the Principal

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

Happy New Year! I hope that 2009 will be a healthy and productive year at Harrington School. One wish I have for the coming year is for all students to be in school on time and ready to learn every day. School attendance is very important and research tells us that it is directly linked to achievement. When looking at students who have difficulty in high school nearly all had a history of poor attendance beginning in the early grades.

Schools are required to track attendance of every child in every classroom every day. Please contact the school if your child is going to be late or absent. Your communication regarding attendance issues or special circumstances helps so much. We have voice mail and you can leave a message at any time. The staff is here to help.


Please have your child here between 8:15 and 8:30. If you drive your child to school, you will benefit from less car traffic and your child benefits from extra time in the classroom. Students go to the classroom and get organized for the day starting at 8:30 so that when the 8:45 bell rings classes are ready to begin. In addition, this "before school" time is valuable for teachers to make connections with individual students and offer extra help when needed. When your child arrives at 8:45 or after this opportunity is lost.

We realize that there are family emergencies or illnesses that can interrupt school attendance. If your child is out unexpectedly, due to illness or other reasons, please contact the school office and your child's teacher. Your communication allows us to be supportive during the absence and when your child is able to return to school.

... Continued on page 2

## A Message from PTA Co-President

Suzanne Kouri, kouri34@comcast.net




Happy New Year and welcome back from winter break. I hope your time off was relaxing and fun filled. I've always enjoyed the start of a new year and the opportunity to review, regroup and start anew. The second half of the school year is jam packed with activities and we are refining how we do some things.

The PTA funds many things at Harrington from the new mail sorters outside each classroom to the enrichment programs through ACT, buses for field trips and more. At the same time, we are also very conscious of the impact that our economy is having on our families. We are trying modifying how we raise funds to accommodate for this. Michelle Mabardy, VP of Fundraising, is doing a great job thinking out of the box. For example, she organized the very successful shopping night at Barnes and Noble just before the holidays. It was well attended and it raised \$565.00.

... Continued on page 2

## January CALENDAR

- 
- 8 METCO Family Friends
  - 8 Dr. Cox lecture, 7:30pm
  - 14 IDEA & MA Spec. Ed. Law lecture, 7:30
  - 15 Hobby Night, 7:00pm - 8:30pm
  - 18 CommUNITY Commemoration Day, 2 - 4pm
  - 19 **No School**, Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
  - 20 School Resumes
  - 20 School Comm. Mtg., 7:30 pm
  - 21 PTA Mtg. Morning Coffee, 9:15am -10:30am



## **A Message from the Principal** continued...

One of the most important things you can do as a parent is to get your child to school on time every day. The start of a new school year is a time to help your child make this a habit. We appreciate it when you schedule appointments and family vacations when school is not in session. This helps make the educational process run smoothly and it shows your child that school attendance is important. You will be helping them succeed, both now and in the future. I welcome your feedback and suggestions.

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

*This year's thanksgiving fundraiser made possible by volunteers Catherine Murphy, Michelle Mabardy, Tina Weber, Julie Vincent*

## **Science on Saturday**

ScienceOnSaturday.html

Science on Saturday events are fun, free science demonstrations at Lincoln Laboratory and are given several times each school year by Lincoln scientists and engineers. All local community K-12 students, their parents, and their teachers are welcome to attend these events. Some previous Science on Saturday events have focused on cryogenics, electricity and magnetism, acoustics, chemistry, optics, ions, hands-on engineering, and mathematics. Next presentation: Lightning, Tornadoes, and Storms

Presented by Robert Hallowell  
February 7, 2009  
9:00 – 10:30 AM, 10:45 AM – 12:15 PM  
Lincoln Laboratory Auditorium  
Two identical shows will be presented.

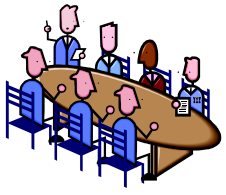
## **PTA Message** continued . . .

This year at Bingo Night we will offer families the opportunity to arrive a bit early and purchase pizza before Bingo starts. This will be organized by our 5<sup>th</sup> graders and the proceeds will help to fund their camping trip. On February 5<sup>th</sup> Wilson's Farm will give back a portion of the proceeds from purchase made by Harrington families and there is a possibility a Harrington Night with a local pizza parlor where again a portion of the proceeds from that night will come back to the PTA. We have new fashionable Lexington Spirit Wear on sale and we are also organizing the Harrington Harrah, A Parent's Night Out on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Lexington Depot.

The PTA is also invested in creating a Green Team. Doreen Mitchell is helping to lead the way and with the help of Katie Cutler they are collaborating with other schools in town to learn more about what we can do at Harrington. Other Lexington elementary schools are assessing their waste at lunch, developing and implementing strategies that include working with the DPW and Chartwells to decrease waste and increase recycling. Harrington's Green Team is looking for volunteers. Please read Doreen's Green column. There are many opportunities for people to contribute. Please contact her if you would like to help with this in any capacity that is aligned with your area of interest and availability.

**The end of the school year will bring two openings on the PTA Executive Committee.** Giulia Palioti and Naomi Keilar, Treasurer and Secretary to the Treasurer respectively, will be rotating off. Katie Cutler is the Chair of the Nomination Committee and is actively looking for people who are interested. Naomi and Giulia are finalizing the job descriptions for those with any interest to review. A background in accounting will make this easier, but it is not required. Please get in touch with Katie if you have an interest in either two-year position.

Finally, the entire PTA Executive Committee is always open to your feedback, questions and/or concerns. I would like to remind everyone that you can call or e-mail anyone of us. We respect if someone would like to make an anonymous comment and we provide PTA surveys at PTA Central in the lobby across from the office. We are all looking forward to the second half of the school year and hope to hear from you. Best wishes to you all for good health, peace and prosperity in 2009!



## School Committee Update

Mary Ann Stewart,  
MaryAnn@redoniondesign.com

Superintendent Paul Ash presented the FY10 Recommended Level-Service Budget to the School Committee at the meeting in Cary Hall Wednesday, December 10 (<http://lps.lexingtonma.org/>). He thanked the Lexington community and the Town for supporting our schools, stating our 6,000 students are receiving a stronger education than just a few years ago. A budget allocates resources to accomplish a vision and goals for students; a level-service budget considers what is valuable and cherished. The FY10 budget was developed using the guidelines voted by the School Committee in September and is based on the following assumptions:

- No new programs are recommended
- Current class size averages are maintained
- Special education legal requirements are funded
- Contractual requirements are funded (e.g., utilities, union contracts, transportation contracts)
- Instructional expense budgets are only adjusted for inflation, unless legally required.
- School and department budgets are equalized based on per pupil spending for K-5 and 6-8 schools

Dr. Ash drew attention to the investment to in-district special education programs and services for English Language Learners as examples of efficiencies in the system. The in-district programming that was expanded in 2006 is not only higher quality but cost effective. The ELL program served 196 students in 2006 and has expanded to 301 in 2008. Another example is curriculum mapping in the middle schools which is helping administration and staff determine teaching outcomes relative to lesson planning.

This year's (FY09) budget is \$64,413,739. Major changes to the FY10 school budget result in a total request of \$3,601,547 for an FY10 budget of \$68,015,286.

Dr. Ash also presented an enrollment report (<http://lps.lexingtonma.org>) that included ten-year and four-year enrollment projections. Four-year projections are based on the number of births and children to age four. High school and

middle school enrollments are expected to remain at current levels; elementary school enrollment appears to have peaked and will decline a little each year for the next few years.

With respect to federal and state aid to Lexington, finances are extremely uncertain. The Board of Selectmen requested the Town Manager and Superintendent to present options to reduce the FY09 budget by \$500,000 - \$750,000. Although neither the municipal or school departments have a projected short-fall in their respective budgets at this time, the Selectmen asked both departments to identify possible ways to set aside funds should there be a need later in the fiscal year. Since the school department makes up 72% of town-wide expenditures, not including shared expenses, their goal is \$360,000 to \$540,000.

### The next regular School Committee

**Meetings** will be in 2009 on January 6, 20, February 3, 10, and 24 all in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Be sure to save the dates for **two public hearings to discuss the FY10 budget**: Saturday, January 31, 9:00 – 11:00 AM and February 3 at 7:30 PM; locations will be announced at a later date. For the most up-to-date information, please refer to the LPS website: <http://lps.lexingtonma.org>

### School Committee Meetings, including Public Hearings on FY10 Budget:

**Tuesday, January 6, 2009, 7:30 PM**, Selectmen's Meeting Room

**Tuesday, January 20, 7:30 PM**, Selectmen's Meeting Room

**Saturday, January 31, 9:00-11:00 AM**, Public Hearing, location TBA

**Tuesday, February 3, 7:30 PM**, Public Hearing, location TBA

**Tuesday, February 10, 7:30 PM**, Selectmen's Meeting Room

**Tuesday, February 24, 7:30 PM**, Selectmen's Meeting Room

For the most up-to-date information, please refer to the LPS website: <http://lps.lexingtonma.org>

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Food Pantry

Okubo, nrk1bstnd@yahoo.co.jp  
Michele Bernie, r michele3boys@verizon.com

Thank you to all who made donations to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade food pantry. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade team checked the expiry date on each can and sorted by the categories, then delivered to the Lexington Food Pantry. They did great work! It was a great experience for them regarding community service. We are happy to inform you that they were able to collect 318 food items in just one week!! *Thank you* for helping with the great success of our 5<sup>th</sup> grade food drive.

## Barnes & Noble Night Fundraiser

On behalf of the Harrington School PTA, please accept our heartfelt thanks to the entire Harrington Community for their support of the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Harrington School Barnes & Noble Night. Harrington School raised \$565.00 that evening.

We owe a personal thank you to the following Harrington School Teachers (current and retired) who came out to B& N, to read for Harrington Storytime.....

**Ms. Mary Yardley** (K)

**Ms. Denise Omobono** (2<sup>nd</sup>)

**Mrs. Sally Josiassen** (retired 4<sup>th</sup> gr)

**Mr. Joseph Josiassen** (retired 5<sup>th</sup> gr)

The children had a fabulous time listening to their stories.

Many thanks to **Ellyn Rossi** for making the awesome posters that were hung around the school. Ellyn is always willing to share her creativity when called upon. Additionally, our thanks to **Kate Bromley** for taking the time to have our event listed in the Lexington Minuteman!

We look forward to another B&N event in the near future!



## Building the Eight Pillars of Capable Young Minds

Dr. Adam Cox

*Thurs. Jan. 8th*

7:30 pm

Minuteman Regional High School,  
758 Marrett Road, Lexington, MA

What common thread affects children across many learning, attentional, social and behavioral disabilities? Executive function skills are critical for academic and social development of young minds.

Lexington SPED PAC and Minuteman Regional High School SEPAC are honored to present nationally known psychologist, Dr. Adam Cox.

Dr. Cox will focus on the critically important executive control skills (**Initiating Action, Flexible Thinking, Sustaining Attention, Organization, Planning, Working Memory, Self-Awareness, and Managing Emotions**) which children need to function well as students and citizens in the 21st century. He will discuss specific strategies to support the development of these skills in the classroom and at home.

Dr. Cox is the author of two books, *No Mind Left Behind* and *Boys of Few Words: Raising our Sons to Communicate and Connect*. For more information about Dr. Cox, see his website [dradamcox.com](http://dradamcox.com)

For more information about this program, contact Lexington SPED PAC co-chairs Elisabeth Sackton or Kevin Johnson.



## The Wellness Corner

Kathy Pike, [kpik1@alumni.tufts.edu](mailto:kpik1@alumni.tufts.edu)

It's the start of a new year - a new beginning, a chance to look at things a new way. Here's an idea ... what if you could listen to, and watch all the Good News that happens around our towns and our world, supplementing all the Bad News we hear daily? What if we could find hope in the simple stories of everyday heroes? Or find a good laugh from true stories of people like characters we know in our lives? What if we could read daily headlines like these:

- Nike Donates \$100,000 to Help Rebuild Football Field in New Orleans...
- Secret Donor Delivers Groceries for a Year (New Zealand)...
- Iran's Generosity in Hosting Afghan Refugees Praised ...
- Toledo Forgives Speeding Tickets in Exchange for Toy Donation ...

It turns out we can.

Take a look at [www.GoodNewsNetwork.org](http://www.GoodNewsNetwork.org) and try it. Subscribe FREE for 30 days. Look at it daily. Do you feel inspired to try something new? Able to look at solutions you hadn't considered before? Feel incredibly grateful for what we have? For the possibilities? Good News is contagious.

[www.GoodNewsNetwork.org](http://www.GoodNewsNetwork.org)

Now think about this: What if paying attention to all that Good News actually brings more good news? Not only to you, but to your family, to your school, your town, state, world ... What if? ...



## Lexington SPED PAC

Elisabeth Sackton, 781-860-7337,  
esackton@gmail.com  
Kevin Johnson, 781-863-1186

The Lexington Special Education Parent Advisor Council invites you to a thorough introduction to your rights and responsibilities under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Massachusetts Special Education Law. A facilitator from the Federation for Children with Special Needs will discuss how to be an effective partner with your school, understand the special education eligibility process, and monitor the educational progress of your child.

This meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 14th at 7:30 PM at the Lowell Elementary School Library, 175 Orchard Street, Watertown, MA (NOT at Lexington High School). If you have any questions or a need for accommodations, feel free to contact the PAC co-chairs, Elisabeth Sackton or Kevin Johnson.



## New Harrington Spiritwear for Sale

Michelle Mabardy,  
MMMabardy@aol.com

Please join our Harrington Community and support the PTA Fundraising Committee thru the purchase of our NEW line of Harrington School or Town of Lexington Spirit Wear! (Blue Plaid Flannel, Royal Blue Plaid Flannel and Cotton Sweats/Hats). Order forms are available online at the school website:  
<http://harrington.lexingtonma.org>

Order forms may be sent into school to your child's teacher or placed in the PTA Central Slot marked Spirit Wear Order Forms ( 4-6 week delivery expected to child's homeroom).

These sweatpants, flannel pants, flannel shorts and Harrington School baseball hats will make great Birthday and Graduation gifts for your family and friends around Town!

Contact Michelle Mabardy with any questions you may have. Thank you.



## METCO Family Friends

Linda Resnick Indresnick@hotmail.com  
Rita Ross, ridelisle@aol.com

"The good neighbor looks beyond the external accidents and discerns those inner qualities that make all men human and, therefore, brothers."

**-Martin Luther King Jr., 'Strength to Love,'**  
1963

Let's show our children how we can be "good neighbors." We encourage all Harrington families, including our METCO Family Friends from Boston and Lexington to join with our Lexington Neighbors for Lexington's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual **Martin Luther King, Jr. CommUNITY Commemoration Day** on Sunday, January 18, 2009. See details in box below.

Transportation will be provided for our Boston families and friends upon request. Please call 781-861-2320 ext 1450 to request transportation.

### *Save the Date*

Lexington's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**Martin Luther King, Jr.**  
**CommUNITY Commemoration Day**  
Sunday, January 18, 2009, from 2:00 – 4:00.

The commemoration begins at 2:00 with the traditional Unity Walk from the Lexington Battle Green to Cary Hall, 1605 Massachusetts Avenue. The program will take place after the Unity Walk, in Cary Hall, starting at 2:30pm. Participants are invited to join the walk and/or attend the program at Cary Hall. Programming is being planned for both adults and children, with interactive discussions, projects and musical performances. Admission is free and all are welcome.

Light refreshments will be served after the program. All are encouraged to join with our classmates, friends, and neighbors as we celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life and work.

This program is sponsored by The Lexington MLK Jr. CommUNITY Commemoration Committee and the Lexington Coalition for Racial Equality.

For more information, please contact  
Jill Smilow at 781-862-4152.

## *Our Heartfelt Thanks to ...*



Please thank our wonderful music teacher, **Holly Stumpf** and former teachers and volunteers **Mrs. Sally Josiassen** and **Mr. Joesph Josiassen** for all their work and support in preparing the students for the 4th and 5th grade concerts.

Thanks to **Michelle Mabardy** for selling the new Harrington and Lexington "spirit wear" to raise money to benefit our school.

# *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](mailto:jerry@michelsonshoes.com)

**Next Submissions Deadline: January 20, 2009**

