



# The Harrington Herald

Harrington School • 328 Lowell Street • Lexington, MA 02420 • (781) 860-0012  
Elaine Mead, Principal • Suzanne Kouri & Suzanne Bruno, PTA Presidents

## Message from the Principal

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



Happy 2010! To extend our work with Open Circle, we are launching a school-wide focus on building responsibility and promoting a positive community through assemblies, poster displays, and books in the classroom. As a result of funding we received through LEF, a School Council Grant (funded through PTA), and a donation, we have booked two performances, on January 8<sup>th</sup> and February 8<sup>th</sup>, and have purchased posters with key messages for display.

All of the posters support one major theme: *With every right comes a responsibility. By taking responsibility we make our school a better place.* Each of the posters has great photographs of children that visually represent one right and the responsibility that goes with it. Listed below are the rights and responsibilities on the posters that we will be talking about here at school. Different grade levels will take opportunities over the next few months to discuss and build understanding of these ideals. I am providing this list to you so that when opportunities arise, the conversation can continue. We want all of our students to become familiar with the following:

- *I have a right to a safe playground and a responsibility to use the equipment properly.*
- *I have a right to be respected and a responsibility to treat others with respect.*
- *I have a right to be heard and a responsibility to listen to others.*
- *I have a right to my own personal space and a responsibility to respect others' privacy.*
- *I have the right to know the rules and a responsibility to follow them.*
- *I have a right to learn and a responsibility to come to class prepared.*
- *I have a right to a safe school and a responsibility to help keep it safe.*

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## Message from Harrington PTA

Suzanne Shavelson  
Katie Cutler- VP Membership,  
Katiepcutler@rcn.com



Harrington's "Green Fridays" and other environmental initiatives have really taken off this year. But if we look at what's being achieved in Nantucket, an island community where landfill space is severely limited, there's much more we can do.

According to a recent article in The New York Times, Nantucket, which pays a high cost to ship trash to the mainland, has long been accustomed to a strict trash policy that mandates recycling of many items. That means Nantucket sends only 8% of its trash to the landfill—as compared to 66% for Massachusetts as a whole! That is a lot of trash, especially when you consider that garbage in a landfill is so compressed and sealed off from outside air that it does not return nutrients to the soil. It does, however, produce methane, which contributes to global warming. In schools, about 80% of trash comes from the cafeteria, and three quarters of that is organic (biodegradable). That's why programs like "Green Fridays" are so important. In schools from Massa-

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## January

- 8 Positive Spin Assembly, 9:00 & 10:00
- 12 School Council Meeting 7:30am – 8:30am
- 14 Hobby Night – 7:00pm - 8:30pm
- 18 **No School** – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 19 Grade 1 Family Math Night, 6:45pm - 8:00pm
- 21 METCO FF Day
- 22 PTA Mtg. Morning Coffee – 9:15 - 10:30  
(topic -- coffee with Elaine Mead)
- 26 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Gr. Concert for School - 9:00 am
- 26 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Gr. Concert for Parents - 7:00 pm

## February

- 4 METCO Family Friends Day
- 5 Bingo Night -- 7:00pm



**Principal's Message, continued...**

With the older students the ideas on the posters go further and the rights and responsibilities become a bit more sophisticated. These include:

- *I have a right to learn and a responsibility to do my best.*
- *I have a right to get help and a responsibility to ask for it.*
- *I have a right to use school property and a responsibility to respect it.*
- *I have a right to be myself and a responsibility to accept others' differences.*
- *I have a right to excel and a responsibility to be a good sport.*
- *I have a right to be heard and a responsibility to listen to others.*
- *I have a right to be safe and a responsibility to look out for others.*

We hope that through adult role models, consistent language, and a variety of experiences that these ideals will become part of the fabric of our school culture. In the February issue of the Herald, I will share information about the anti-bullying efforts here at Harrington. I welcome your feedback and suggestions.



## Bingo Night

Beth Gaudette, [bethgaudette@msn.com](mailto:bethgaudette@msn.com)

Bingo Night has been changed to Friday February 5, 2010 @ 6:15pm, (Games will start @ 6:30) so to save the date and look in the backpacks for the Bingo forms.



## Harrington Reads

Sarah Novogrodsky,  
[SNovogrodsky@cpsd.us](mailto:SNovogrodsky@cpsd.us)

Flavia Vidal, [fvidal@andover.edu](mailto:fvidal@andover.edu)

Harrington Reads is for 4th and 5th graders and their parents. Read the book with your child, and then come share your thoughts on the book. Discussion takes place in the library from 7-8pm on Tuesday, **March 2<sup>nd</sup>**.

The Harrington Reads book for March 2010 is **Half Magic** by Edward Eager. "It all begins with a strange coin on a sun-warmed sidewalk..."

## PTA Message, continued...

chusetts to Minneapolis and beyond, students are composting their food scraps, paper trash and other biodegradable waste instead of throwing it into the trash. That saves on disposal costs for the school, as well as being good for the environment.

At some schools, disposal companies issue separate bins for compost which they collect once a week. In others, the finished compost is returned to the soil in school gardens. Several successful programs use student monitors to supervise trash disposal, making sure waste is properly separated. Schools with established programs report saving thousands of dollars in disposal fees, keeping tons of waste out of the landfill, and teaching students important lessons about both environmental responsibility and science.

"Green Fridays" are a great start, but there's much more we can be doing. On Friday January 29th the Green Friday members are meeting to discuss how we can incorporate more green programs within Harrington. Here are some of our ideas: composting on Fridays at lunch, starting a garden to grow vegetables and fruits, offering a Green Cooking class that already has been successful at other Lexington schools. In addition the Green Team would like to continue their commitment to having a Green presence at every PTA function. Want to learn more or have any ideas, please contact Katie Cutler at [katiep-cutler@rcn.com](mailto:katiep-cutler@rcn.com) or attend our Friday, January 29th meeting at 9:00am at Harrington. .

## Hobby Night



Lynnell Stern,  
[lynnellstern@aol.com](mailto:lynnellstern@aol.com)  
Helen Goodreau,  
[ehhgoodreau@aol.com](mailto:ehhgoodreau@aol.com)

Thursday, **January 14<sup>th</sup>**  
7-8:30 pm

Come and share your hobby (drawing, knitting, origami, poetry, calligraphy, etc) or collection (coins, stamps, shells, dolls, stuffed animals, magnets, hair clips, etc)! Be a part of the fun!

If you want to participate, please send an email to Lynnell Stern ([lynnellstern@aol.com](mailto:lynnellstern@aol.com)) with the following info; Your name, your teacher's name, your grade, your hobby/collection. Most students will only need a half table. But if you need a full table, include that info. Also, if you need an electrical outlet, please include that info

too.

## MCAS Discussion

Suzanne Bruno,  
brunojs@comcast.net



PTA Coffee, **Friday, January 22, 2009**  
9-10:30 - Harrington Cafeteria

Please come and join us for coffee and an informal dialogue about MCAS testing at Harrington. Mrs. Mead and Mr. Smith will be available to answer any questions you have! We encourage anyone, including those of you who cannot attend the discussion, to e-mail us in advance with any questions or comments. We will publish all answers in next month's Herald!

## ACT - Arts Created Together

Raana Khavandgar, r67r@yahoo.com  
Tanya Gisolfi, gisolfit@rcn.com



On Friday, December 11, 4<sup>th</sup> Graders were treated to a performance by and conversation with renowned author and storyteller Norah Dooley. Ms. Dooley focused on exploring how guided visualization, conversation, storytelling, brainstorming, mapping, webbing ideas, and drawing are all part of the writing process. If you would like to read more about her work, her website is <http://www.norahdooley.com/iWeb/Norah%20Dooley/Welcome.html>. This program was brought to Harrington through ACT sponsored by the PTA.

In November, the 5<sup>th</sup> Graders had a hands-on, interactive experience with Native American culture through the Native American Perspectives program. They learned about the land, animals, mythology and diverse peoples that make up Native American culture, and together built a traditional tipi, inside which they role-played the experience of Plains living in the 1800s. This program was brought to Harrington through ACT sponsored by the PTA.

## Talent Show

Grace Clackson,  
timandgrace@comcast.net  
781.528.5199



Come and applaud each other! Harrington talent show is open to all student performers. Sign-up to showcase your own special skill, or sign up with friends. Sign-up deadline is February 23<sup>rd</sup>. There is a 1.5 minute maximum per child, and only

SIGN-UP DEADLINE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 12th.  
one act per child. Parent volunteers are most welcome. Contact Grace Clackson.



## Spring Fair

Kim Goldinger, kimgoldinger@alum.mit.edu  
Claudia Lavin, [clavinrdz@gmail.com](mailto:clavinrdz@gmail.com)

Harrington Spring Fair 2010  
Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>  
12pm - 4pm

Save the Date!

Ride Slides  
Dunk 5<sup>th</sup> Graders  
Eat, Eat, Eat  
Play Games  
Win Prizes  
Cake Walk  
Volunteer

Have Lots of Fun!



## METCO Family Friends

Linda Resnick,  
lndresnick@hotmail.com  
Rita Ross, rjdelisle@gmail.com

This month's Family Friends play date is Thursday, **January 21<sup>st</sup>**. Also this month is the celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. The town will be honoring Dr. King's memory and accomplishments during Lexington's 17<sup>th</sup> annual Martin Luther King, Jr. COMMUNITY Commemoration Day, which will take place on Sunday, January 17, from 2:00 - 4:00.

We encourage everyone 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.

Harrington School Talent Show  
Date: Friday, February 26, 2010  
Time: 6:45 - 9:00 (performers to arrive by 6:15)  
Place: Harrington School Cafeteria

Harrington School's talent show is a long-standing tradition and open to ALL student performers. This is a supportive opportunity for our students to sing, dance, act, play an instrument, do magic and more!

In order to keep the show to a reasonable length, we strictly adhere to our 1½ minute MAXIMUM act time and ONE ACT per child.

We need parent volunteers to help. We ask for a minimal time commitment. Contact Grace Clackson (contact information below) to let her know how you can be a part of this community event.

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HARRINGTON SCHOOL TALENT SHOW SIGN UP FORM

ONE FORM PER ACT

Performer(s):

Name \_\_\_\_\_ teacher/grade \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ teacher/grade \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ teacher/grade \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ teacher/grade \_\_\_\_\_

List additional performers on back of form.

Description of Performance: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Equipment required: Microphone Table Stand Chair Mat Piano: \_\_\_\_\_

Instruments or props that you will bring yourself: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Volunteer night of the show (circle one): Yes No

\*\* Parent signature indicates review of content and timing!

Questions? Contact Grace Clackson: [timandgrace@comcast.net](mailto:timandgrace@comcast.net)

# A Heartfelt Thanks . . .

On behalf of the Harrington School PTA, please accept our heartfelt thanks to the Harrington School Community for their support of the Harrington School Barnes & Noble Bookfair. Harrington School raised \$400.00 that evening.

We owe a personal thank you to the following Harrington School Teachers who came out to B& N to read for Harrington Storytime.....

Mrs. Liz Sherriff (1<sup>st</sup> grade)

Ms. Kathy Martin (3<sup>rd</sup> grade)

We appreciate your enthusiasm in going the extra mile, not only select a book, but to take the time to participate in this wonderful event!

The children thoroughly enjoyed listening to your stories.

Additionally, we would like to thank the Harrington Families who purchased books, selected by our Librarian, Ms. Weeks, to be donated to the Harrington School Library. The books included Magic Tree House (various titles) and Watch Me Throw the Ball.

Happy New Year to you all!

Michelle Mabardy

Fundraising Coordinator



## *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 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.

Visit the Harrington School website for online editions and archive at <http://harrington.lexingtonma.org>.

## Next Submissions Deadline: 20 January, 2009