

# THE HARRINGTON HERALD

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

Elaine Mead, Principal • Suzanne Kouri & Suzanne Bruno, PTA Presidents



## A Message from the Principal

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

Last month, I shared with you our school-wide focus on building responsibility and promoting a positive community. In January we began highlighting posters about student rights and responsibilities, and sent home a behavior expectation packet that emphasized the four crucial C's: Connect: I believe I belong, Capable: I believe I can do it, Count: I believe I matter, Courage: I believe I can handle what comes.

We had an all school assembly called Positive Spin in which we learned how to develop a positive response to our daily experiences. The performer conveyed important messages as he demonstrated his yo-yo skills. Students had fun while taking in big ideas about resiliency. Although in many situations we can see the positive, there are situations where a positive spin does not work. Using the language of Open Circle we call these "double d's," dangerous or destructive situations and students need to report these to an adult.

This month we continue this work by extending our "double d" discussions in order to "bully-proof" our school. We have an assembly on February 8<sup>th</sup> call *The Power of One* in which an acting troupe will perform a series of skits to raise awareness and develop skills in response to bullying behavior. In this assembly, students will learn about the various roles in bullying: bully, target, and bystander. Parents are welcome to attend. There will be two performances: Grades 3-5 at 8:55 and K-2 at 9:55. At the conclusion of the assembly we will take *The Power of One* anti-bullying oath: I will not bully others. I will not stand by while others are bullied. I will report bullying whenever I see it because I have *The Power of One*. The following web site will provide more information about this assembly.

[http://www.sorenbennick.com/power\\_of\\_one.html](http://www.sorenbennick.com/power_of_one.html)

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## A Message from the PTA

*Suzanne Bruno*

As February approaches, it is obvious that all of the snow and cold weather we have been receiving has not slowed down the pace at Harrington! One of our goals as a PTA is to encourage all Harrington children and their families to participate and feel involved with our Community. To that end, we have several events during the next few months that encourage children to share their hobbies, interests and talents - or just come and have fun with their friends and families!

January's hobby night was an exciting evening for everyone involved - the children were so excited to display their hobbies and collections. And although I was at home with a sick toddler, the rest of my family attended and were amazed at the variety of interesting and creative displays! As always, the diversity and energy of Harrington's children is incredible!

During the month of February, the PTA will be sponsoring two other social outings, Bingo Night, on Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, and Harrington School night out with the Lowell Devils on Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. Bingo Night is an enjoyable, family-friendly event. Bring your entire family for an exciting night of fun and prizes. The children are

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## February

- 3 Shop Wilson Farms
- 4 METCO Family Friends Day
- 5 Bingo Night -- 7:00pm
- 6 Harrington Nite Out: Lowell Devils
- 8 Power of Once Assemblies: 8:55 & 9:55
- 11 Lexington Community Vol. Read-Aloud
- 15 **No School**- February Vacation (2/15- 2/19)
- 23 School Council Meeting 7:30am - 8:30am
- 26 Talent Show - 6:45pm - 9:00pm



## March

- 2 Harrington Reads 7-8pm (4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> optional)
- 16 Science Fair

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

To reinforce the message that we all have a responsibility to prevent bullying in our school, we will use anti-bullying posters that were purchased through an LEF community grant. We will highlight these messages on Friday announcements and in Open Circle discussions. I am including these messages here in the hopes that we can use common language at school and at home. The following are some of the messages on the posters that will be added to our hallways in the coming months:

#### **Bullying isn't tolerated in our school**

##### We have a right to....

- \* Feel safe in the classroom
- \* Be forgiven for our mistakes
- \* Not experience peer pressure
- \* Be respected for who we are
- \* Not be teased or abused
- \* Be accepted just as we are

#### **Bullying is everybody's problem**

##### Bullying hurts all of us

- \* Being bullied can lead to depression
- \* Bullies don't always outgrow bullying
- \* Bullied students often avoid school
- \* Feeling unsafe makes learning difficult

#### **It's not just physical**

##### What is Bullying?

- \* Lying to get you in trouble
- \* Spreading gossip
- \* Threats and name-calling
- \* Stealing your belongings

#### **Remember: Treat others the way you'd like to be treated**

##### Are you a bully?

- \* Do you like to tease or hurt people?
- \* Do you use force to get your way?
- \* Do you always have to be the winner?
- \* Do you get jealous when others succeed?

#### **If you're being picked on...**

##### How to deal with a bully

- \* Be assertive, not aggressive
- \* Quickly get away from the situation
- \* Firmly tell the bully to stop
- \* Immediately tell a trusted adult

#### **If you don't speak up, you're helping the bully**

##### If you see bullying...

- \* Don't laugh or join in

- \* Tell a teacher what's happening
- \* Speak up for the other kid
- \* Stand by your friends

#### **When bullying happens to you...**

##### Don't go through it alone

- \* Tell your teacher and family
- \* Turn to friends for support
- \* Talk until someone listens
- \* Don't blame yourself

#### **It's okay to talk about it**

##### Tell adults about bullying

- \* Be clear about what happened
- \* Say who saw it happen
- \* Say who was involved
- \* Say what you've done about it

I want to thank you in advance for your help in supporting these messages and helping your child contribute to the positive and productive climate at Harrington School. I welcome your feedback and suggestions.

### Harrington's Family Bingo Night

Friday, February 5th

\*PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE



Check-in @ 6:15

6:30pm Games Begin

8:00pm Games End

Fun for Whole Family! Lots of great prizes!!

Come and Play!

### Box Tops



*Ellen Cameron, eusol@aol.com*

*Jacqy Fiore, jacqyfiore@rcn.com*

Big news from Box Tops. Since October we have collected just over 4,543 labels, and that means \$450 to Harrington. Way to go!!! We have some new prizes in the 50 Box Top range again for those of you who have been saving up. Let's see if we can match the 4000 in the next three months!

A big thank you to **Alex Resnick** and his **Mom** who counted our Box Tops. Thank you for your time and organization.

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

always thrilled to see Harrington teachers and staff members taking turns as announcers. This year, like the last, the 5th grade class will be sponsoring pizza, drinks, and other snacks to help raise money for their graduation. On February 6th, join many other Harrington families to cheer on the Lowell Devils hockey team at the Tsongas Arena in Lowell, Mass.

On Friday, February 26th, Harrington's Talent Show will take place. We are very grateful this year to Grace Clackson for taking on the coordination of this beloved event! Even if your child is not participating, we encourage everyone to attend - the supportive and receptive audience makes each child feel appreciated! You will be amazed at the variety of acts and shows - and very impressed with the bravery and talent of the children involved. We will be sending out information soon asking for 5th graders who would like to help out at the show - and once again we will be selling snacks and drinks to support 5th grade graduation.

On Tuesday, March 16th, the Science Fair will be held. This is a chance for children to create and display their own science experiments and activities. And, looking forward to the spring, our annual Spring Fair will take place on Sunday, May 23rd. The Spring Fair is our biggest and most anticipated Harrington event. It is always impressive to see so many Harrington teachers, staff, children, parents and siblings (as well as extended family and friends) turn out to enjoy all of the fun activities. This will be my 6th year attending the Spring Fair (and with a 2 year old I have many more to go!) and it is an event everyone in my family looks forward to each year!

As always, the PTA encourages feedback from all of our members - we are always on the lookout for ways to improve our events and create new ways of bringing our community together!



### **Hobby Night**

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

Oh What a Night! Hobby Night that is! We had a terrific array of hobbies and collections including Dancing, Star Wars, American Girl Dolls, Army Items, Guitars, Rocks, Crystals, Gemstones, Mazes, Legos, Sports, Origami, Traveling, Plastic

Bugs/Animals, Yo Yos & Tricks, State Quarters, Cats, Stamps, Postcards, Webkinz, Pencil Sharpeners, Littlest Pet Shop, Cars, Pencils/Pens/Erasers, Sea Glass, Toy Soldiers and Drawing. The variety made it so much fun!

We also had lots of spectators in addition to participants. The children were happy to show their hobbies to everyone and especially to Ms. Mead and Mr. Smith! Each participant received a Certificate of Participation too! And the 5<sup>th</sup> graders sold snacks and drinks to raise money for the 5<sup>th</sup> grader's upcoming events. If you missed this fun evening, hope can join us next year! Thanks also to my co-chair, Helen Goodreau!

## Harrington Reads

*Sarah Novogrodsky, snovogrodsky@gmail.com*

*Flavia Vidal, fvidal@andover.edu*

Now in its eighth year, Harrington Reads is a popular parent-child book group for fourth and fifth grade families that meets twice a year – in October and March. The program provides an opportunity for parents and children to come together for the purpose of shared reading and discussion.



## A Heartfelt Thanks . . .

... to **Kirsty** and **Mya Collis** for helping to raise money for the 5th Grade by wrapping books at Barnes and Nobles Night.

... to **Lynnell Stern** and **Helen Goodreau** for organizing this year's Hobby Night.

... to **all the families** who braved the snow to participate in First Grade Family Math Night. First graders played games, solved puzzles, and measured their results in Metric Olympic events ranging from the Sponge Squeeze and Shoe Weigh to the Paper Plate Discus Throw. Special thanks to **Steve Vincent** for introducing the metric system to the children. Thanks also to **Jennifer Roney**, **Vladimir Bulovic**, **Cristina Burwell**, and **Kristen Reed** for helping out, and to the older siblings who helped keep the Olympic events running smoothly: **Ian Bulovic**, **Katya Bulovic**, **Ian Burwell**, **Kaija Gisolfi-McCready**, and **Maddie Vincent**.

This year our spring selection will be Half Magic by Edward Eager. Join us to discuss this novel on Tuesday, **March 2<sup>nd</sup>** from **7:00-8:00pm** in the Harrington School library. Signing up is easy! Let us know you want to participate by filling out the form coming in your child's Home Folder. Then you and your child read the book (or listen to it on an audio CD or tape) and meet with other parents and children for a lively evening of book talk!

## Harrington's Talent Show

*Grace Clarkson, timandgrace@comcast.net, 781.528.5299*

Come and applaud each other at the annual Talent Show. The talent show is open to all student performers – you can sing, dance, do magic, tell a joke – be creative! There is a 1.5 minute maximum per act, and only one act per child.

**Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>**

**6:45 – 9:00pm**

**SIGN-UP DEADLINE for performers:**

**Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Parent Volunteers are welcome!! Please contact Grace Clarkson (details above)

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

## 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>.

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*Deadline: 20 February*



*Next Submissions*