



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

As I write this, the floodwaters are beginning to recede and the promise of spring is in the air. Sunny days make everything seem better! I want to extend my appreciation to the Harrington School community for sending me well wishes and generous support during my recovery from hand surgery. What I had originally thought would be a relatively simple procedure with a long weekend of recovery turned out to be more complicated. Healing takes energy and time. I am motivated to do what my doctor orders and need to do the "homework" prescribed. My goal is to be ready for the summer hiking season and the birth of my first grandchild in June! So for now I am going to work hard!

April is an important month at Harrington. While we are clearly focused on the current school year, we are also thinking of the future. We are registering new kindergarten students and reviewing enrollment numbers for next year. Our initial planning for the placement process is beginning. The teachers and I work together closely to develop balanced classes, creating heterogeneous groups of children with a range of talents, abilities, and personalities. Parents of students in grades K-4 received a letter from me in March that provided an optional form for input. If you choose to submit the optional form, please take note of the April 9th deadline.

Thanks to the nearly 50 parents who attended the March PTA meeting and participated in a dialogue regarding our anti-bullying initiative at Harrington. The conversation generated thoughtful questions and helpful suggestions. Making Harrington a positive and productive place for learning is an on-going priority in our school improvement efforts. A special thanks to Grant Smith, assistant principal and Amy Chamberlain, school guidance counselor, who have contributed significantly to our work and who participated in the dialogue with parents. Please know that we are here to help. I welcome your feedback and suggestions.



The PTA in 2010-2011

Suzanne Bruno, brunojs@comcast.net

As springtime approaches, the PTA Executive Committee is beginning the process of looking for volunteers for next year. As you know, the PTA is entirely funded by your contributions and run by parent volunteers. We are always looking for parents to volunteer their time. We know that everyone is busy with family, work, and other commitments, and we truly appreciate everyone who contributes their time and energy to help run the events and programs that enrich our school and community. We understand that running an event or committee may seem daunting to many people, particularly parents who are new to our school, but there are many ways to get involved in the PTA.

Next year, we plan to form several committees so that parents can work together on various issues and events. Some of the proposed committees are: social events, budget & fundraising, and enrichment. We would also like to find one or two parents who would be interested in developing community service projects for our children to participate in next year. If you would like to be a part of our volunteer community, please contact any member of the Executive Committee. We would be happy to listen to your ideas, answer any questions, or help you find an opportunity that fits your schedule and interests. Big and small - your time is an incredibly valuable contribution to our school!

Harrington's PTA "Book Club" will be discussing the book ***Raising Resilient Children*** by Robert Brooks, on **Thursday, April 29th**, 7:45pm at Claire Sheth's house, **22 Vine Brook Rd**. People who are planning to attend should email Claire at clairebsheth@yahoo.com



Calendar on pg. 2 . . .



April

2	No School – Good Friday Holiday
5	Book Fair runs 5 th – 7 th
8	HED Show for parents – 7pm
8	METCO Family Friends Day
9	HED Show for school – 1:30pm
13	School Council Mtg. 7:30 – 8:30am
19	No School - April Vacation (19-23)
26	School Resumes
29	5 th Grade Chorus, Band, Strings, 4 th Grade Strings Concert for School – 9:00am
29	5 th Grade Chorus, Band, Strings, 4 th Grade Strings Concert for Parents, 7:00pm
29	PTA Parent Book Club 7:45pm



May (partial)

4	5 th Gr. Orientation, Clarke Mid. School
5	5 th Grade Camping Trip (Wed 5/5 – Fri 5/7)
11	5 th Grade MCAS, Math Session 1
12	5 th Grade MCAS, Math Session 2
13	4 th Grade MCAS, Math Session 1
14	4 th Grade MCAS, Math Session 2
17	Make-up Day
18	3 rd Grade MCAS, Math Session 1
18	3 rd Grade MCAS, Math Session 2
20	5 th Grade MCAS, Science Session 1
21	5 th Grade MCAS, Science Session 2
23	Spring Fair 12nn-4pm
24	Make-up Day



Science Fair

*Lynnell Stern, lynnellstern@aol.com
Helen Goodreau, ehgoodreau@aol.com*

The annual Harrington School Science Fair was held last month. Presenters & observers were amazed by chemistry, circuits, electromagnetism, animal and plant life. Acids and Oobleck were created, tested and discussed. Volcanoes erupted with great enthusiasm. Science experiments included bubbles, tornados, fizzing stuff, hand washing, taste senses, prisms, optical illusions, crystals, buoyancy, electricity, food chains and chemical reactions. Imagine all of this without a major disaster! Everyone had a great time and the Harrington students should be congratulated and applauded for their time and effort in inventing and presenting these science projects. Science rocks!! (See last page for photos...)

School Council Openings for Parent Representatives 2010-2012

School Council, an advisory group comprised of Harrington teachers, administration, parents, and a community representative, discusses school improvement initiatives and looks at issues from multiple perspectives. **Two parents are needed for the 2010-2012 school years.** Four parents serve on the council, each serving a 2-year term. The terms are staggered so that each year two new parent terms begin and two parents return from the previous year. We meet one Tuesday per month from 7:30-8:30am. Our current School Improvement Plan is posted on the Harrington web site. Parent members need to have children attending Harrington for both years of their term. The deadline for submitting a letter of interest to serve as a parent representative is **June 1, 2010**. The term begins in September. If more than two parents express interest, an election will be held in September at Curriculum Night. If you are interested in finding out more, contact Elaine Mead, Principal, or other members of the council. The members of the 09-10 School Council are: Judy Crocker, Community Member; Jacqy Fiore, Parent; Tanya Gisolfi, Parent; Susie Lee-Snell, Parent; Lisa Manzelli, Teacher – Speech and Language Pathologist; Elaine Mead, Principal; Genevieve Ng, Parent; Susan Rosie, Teacher – Literacy Specialist; Liz Sherriff, Teacher – First Grade; Grant Smith, Assistant Principal/Teacher- Fourth Grade.



Annual Library Book Fair

Holly Baker, Holly.baker@yahoo.com

Get ready for Harrington's Annual Library Book Fair, coming your way **April 5-7**. Three days only-- Monday through Wednesday. This year's fair is being put on by Banbury Cross Children's Bookshop, Credit cards can not be accepted - cash and checks only. Look for flyers with more information in students' backpacks.

A few volunteers are needed to help set up on Monday morning, April 5th. Volunteers during class book fair times are also welcome. Please contact Holly Baker (above) if you can help.

METCO Family Friends

Linda Resnick, lndresnick@hotmail.com

Rita Ross, rjdelisle@gmail.com

We especially enjoy this time in our Family Friends year. All of the rush of the fall and the holidays are over, and the students and parents alike can relax and enjoy the time we have together. The friendships have grown and reached a wonderful level of comfort. This time of year also affords us many more opportunities to get the friends together for extended playdates and shared experiences at concerts, Bingo Night, and other school functions. It's so much fun seeing the kids dressed up and excited to share these moments together, and it's great for the parents to get the chance to sit together at these events and share our pride and excitement for our children.

Many of the Lexington families host their Boston friends for extra afternoons and evenings when there's a school event at night, so the Boston student doesn't have to ride the bus home to Boston, only to drive back to Lexington in the evening. The students are so excited by this "bonus" time, and it really shows what strong bonds our families have built. There is no end to the offers we get to host students. It is a pleasure working with all the families in this program. Thank you!



ACT – Arts Created Together

Raana Khavandgar, r67r@yahoo.com

Tanya Gisolfi, gisolfit@rcn.com

All our second graders were introduced to **Indian Culture** by Tara Ahmed on Feb., 26th. Tara is a classical Indian dancer and works in the techniques of Kuchipudi and Bharat Natyam. She introduced our second graders to geography, place of art in Indian culture, Indian costume, posters of Indian temples and a few Indian phrases such as "mudras" and "namascar". For more information about Tara Ahmed please visit www.Taraahmed.com. This program was organized thru ACT and sponsored by PTA.

On March 11th, the Arts Created Together program brought another wonderful presentation, **Chinese Ribbon Dancing**, to Harrington's Kindergartners. Chiao-Bin Huang immediately captured the attention of the children with a discussion, and subsequent student reenactment, of the origin and history of the Chinese Ribbon Dance. Donning the traditional costume, she then performed a beautifully intricate and mesmerizing Chinese Ribbon Dance. The kids were given the opportunity to experiment with the long, flowing silk ribbons and encouraged to give expression to their feelings -- happy, angry, sad, excited -- as they danced around the gym. No one wanted to stop. The program ended on a fun note as the class, split into two groups, took turns presenting their own ribbon dances up on the stage. The Chinese Ribbon Dance presentation allowed the children a glimpse into the Chinese culture and to experience, first hand, the pleasure of this traditional and historical dance.



**Mark your calendars:
Sunday, May 23rd 12-4**

HARRINGTON SPRING FAIR



Exciting and New:

Inflatable Obstacle Course
Speed Pitching Game

Old Favorites:

Moon Walk/Bounce House
Tennis Can Game (*Everyone's a winner!*)
Cake Decorating Contest (*Great prizes!*)
Class Baskets Raffle (*Please contribute!*)
Dunk Tank
Fun Games and Prizes
Rancatore's Ice Cream
Barbeque
Pizza
Thai Food
Musical Entertainment – DJ
Silly Willy the Clown
Sponge Bob
Pony Rides



A Heartfelt Thanks . . .

... to all the **4th and 5th graders** and their **moms** who attended the spring book discussion of Harrington Reads and made the event interesting and fun. Also, a huge thanks to Harrington librarian **Susan Weeks** for her ongoing support of the program.

... to **Grace Clarkson** for a GREAT job in chairing the Talent Show! It was a fantastic evening and went very smoothly due to Grace's wonderful planning and organizational skills.

... to the many parents who helped out at the talent show - **Suzanne Bruno, Lindy Cassidy, Katie Cutler, Wenjie Hu, Joanne Kaye, Raana Khavandgar, Suzanne Kouri, Michelle Mabardy, Genevieve Ng, Helane Silverman, Lisa Smith, Lynnell Stern, Lucy Wei, Hilde Westvik, Silvana Yunis, and Amy Zaslow.**

... to all **science fair participants** and the **parents** that cheerfully helped to fold tables at this year's science fair (**a special thanks** to all the parents that stepped forward to volunteer at the last minute!)

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 April

