



# 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*

On April 13<sup>th</sup>, I was privileged to hear Christopher Dede, the Timothy E. Wirth Professor in Learning Technologies at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, speak in Lexington. His presentation, "Reinventing Teaching and Learning Using 21<sup>st</sup> Century Technologies" was inspiring and thought provoking. Dr. Dede challenged our PreK-12 education community to think about what being literate means for today's students and future citizens. How do we prepare students for jobs that do not exist yet? The world is changing and the change is moving faster and faster. Technology plays a larger role in our lives and as a result, learners are changing. Today's technology promotes creativity, collaboration and sharing. The challenge for all of us is using the tools effectively.

The presentation included video clips that gave us a glimpse into the future. One vignette that impressed me showed two students interacting with each other in spite of their communication barriers. The two children were in two parts of the world and spoke different languages, however, the touch screen allowed them to see each other and communicate through translated words, drawing and actions in real time. The potential for universal access to information and learning opportunities for all students through technology was impressive. Use of wireless mobile devices, virtual environments and creating learning experiences that are based on modeling and visualization were highlighted.

Although technology is more powerful and more portable than ever, there are still jobs that only humans can do. Two of these "21<sup>st</sup> century skills" Dr. Dede cited were "expert decision making" and "complex communication." Our children will be solving problems that we have not yet identified. As a result, critical thinking, collaboration, and multimedia communication, according to Dede, needs to be woven into all content learning. The US Department of Education,

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## A Message from the PTA

*Suzanne Bruno, brunoj@scomcast.net*

As May approaches, it seems hard to believe that we are nearing the final stretch of this school year! For me, it seems particularly hard to believe that my oldest child will be finishing her final year at Harrington and heading to Clarke Middle School in the Fall! Fortunately, with a 3 year old at home, I have many more Harrington years ahead of me! :-)

In June we will have our final PTA General Meeting. This meeting will be devoted primarily to discussing and approving our PTA budget for next year. We hope you will join us to hear the details of our financial situation this year and our plans for next year. We plan to bring back many of our favorite programs and create some new traditions as well. The Executive Committee works hard to come up with a comprehensive and realistic budget to present - but we hope to have many of you in attendance to share your ideas, insights and perspectives on what you feel our priorities should be for next year.

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## May

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 4  | 5 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Orientation at Clarke M. School                        |
| 5  | 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Camping Trip (Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> ) |
| 11 | MCAS 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Math Session 1                                  |
| 12 | PTA General Meeting --7:00-8:30pm  |
| 12 | MCAS 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Math Session 2                                  |
| 13 | MCAS 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Math Session 1                                  |
| 14 | MCAS 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Math Session 2                                  |
| 17 | MCAS Make-up day   |
| 18 | MCAS 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Math Session 1                                  |
| 18 | School Council Meeting 7:30am - 8:30am                                     |
| 19 | MCAS 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Math Session 2                                  |
| 20 | MCAS 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Science Session 1                               |
| 20 | METCO Family Friends Day   |
| 21 | MCAS 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Science Session 2                               |
| 23 | Harrington Spring Fair - 12:00-4:00pm                                      |
| 24 | MCAS Make-up day   |
| 27 | Field Day - 9-12 a - *rain date June 10 <sup>th</sup>                      |
| 31 | <b>No School</b> - Memorial Day Holiday                                    |

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

through the Office of Educational Technology has drafted the National Educational Technology Plan 2010. Dr. Dede is a member of the technical working group that developed the report, "Transforming American Education: Learning Powered by Technology. I am grateful to our K-12 Director of Educational Technologies and Assessment, Tom Plati, for inspiring us to think beyond our current reality by bring Dr. Dede's message to our district.

At Harrington, we continue to grow in our use of technology in the classroom. We have a school-based technology team with teacher representatives from each grade level who are leaders in trying new technologies. They also help set our agenda moving forward by writing grants and setting priorities. This year we have benefited from the addition new equipment. We have laptops in grades four and five. The laptops allow greater flexibility in where, when and how the computers are used. Student response clickers purchased through an LEF grant are used in several classrooms across the grades. The response devices allow teachers to gather assessment data through engaging and highly interactive student experiences. Teachers have worked with the district's instructional technology specialist to implement new web-based software for mathematics, research, and writing. We continue to learn with and through technology. As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions.

### **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.

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

We are also looking for ideas for General Meeting topics for next year. We are planning to have fewer general meetings during the year, so we hope that the ones we do have are on topics that interest and educate you. If you have any ideas, please talk to any member the Executive Committee.

As always, we are looking for volunteers for next year. As of right now, we have several open positions including -- List Serve Manager, Metco Family Friends Coordinator, Community Service Chairperson, 3rd grade Math mornings chairperson, and PTA Secretary. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss any of these positions with you!



### **School Committee Update**

*Lisa Smith, [lisa.lavinia.smith@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.lavinia.smith@gmail.com)*

At the Wednesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> School Committee (SC) Meeting, Dr. Paul Ash opened with the Superintendent's Announcements. Dr. Ash commented on the tragic suicide in South Adley, MA and that people have become very aware of the high levels of **bullying** presently going on in schools. Dr. Ash said that we (the Lexington Public School system) are not waiting for legislature to pass law to keep our students safe. There are interventions currently taking place in our schools to create caring and respectful environments for students. First, at the K-5 level, there is the Open Circle Program which is a social/emotional program for children to learn conflict resolution and they are also taught specific behaviors of what to do in certain situations such as outside on the playground. Second, the Lexington Public Schools are developing a social skills curriculum to teach self-

regulation for children, to encourage lunch bunch groups and to have staff trained from the CPI (Crisis Prevention Institute). Third, a system-wide behavior committee consisting of counselors, principals and psychologists has been meeting for 2 years discussing ways to deal with bullying.

Fourth, an array of speakers has been in all of the Lexington Public Schools promoting awareness and teaching children respect, courage and resiliency. Dr. Ash encouraged the SC and the public that we are taking the right steps and look forward to doing more to stop the threat of bullying.

Jessie Steigerwald followed Dr. Ash's announcement with a comment that some towns have a bullying hot-line and she also had a follow-up question as to what do the SC members and the school staff think of such a hot-line here in Lexington. Ms. Steigerwald also wanted to know how we track incidences of bullying.

The Discussion item of the night was Town Meeting Articles 4, 12(g), 15 and 16(c). Article 4 is "**Appropriate FY2011 Operating Budget**". This article requests funds for the fiscal year of 2011 operating budget. "The operating budget includes the school and municipal budgets. FY2011 is a level service budget from FY2010. The SC budget was based on no new programs, current class size guidelines are maintained, SPED legal requirements are funded, contractual obligations are met, instructional expenses are only adjusted for inflation unless legally required and school and department budgets are equalized based on per-pupil spending". The SC had already voted on the Budget; this was the time for discussion of any part of Article 4. As there was no discussion, the motion to approve was made and all were in favor.

Article 12(g) is "Appropriate for Municipal Capital Projects and Equipment (**Sidewalk Improvements and Easements \$200,000**)". "This request is for continued funding to rebuild and/or repave existing sidewalks throughout town that are in poor condition and to construct new sidewalks with granite or asphalt curbing. Improvements to existing sidewalks will support and enhance pedestrian safety and the Safe Routes to School Program, and also improve the Department of Public Works' ability to clear snow from sidewalks". There was a motion made to approve Article 12(g) and the vote was unanimous to support it.

Article 15 is "Appropriate for School Capital Projects and Equipment". This article requests **funds for four school projects:** school technology

(\$696,000), food service equipment and software (\$99,500), time clock/time reporting system (\$97,000) and classroom furniture (\$58,571). A motion was made to approve this article it was unanimous to support it.

Article 16(c) is "Appropriate for **Public Facilities Capital Projects**". Some of the improvements include: \$750,000 for Bridge and Bowman renovation design, development and engineering; school building roofing program; Clarke Middle School Auditorium Safety and Technology Upgrade; and school grounds improvement at Hastings and Estabrook. There was a motion made to approve this article and it was unanimous to support it.

The **Action Items** were to accept the SC Meeting minutes from January 5<sup>th</sup>, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, February 9<sup>th</sup>, February 22<sup>nd</sup> and March 23<sup>rd</sup>. A motion was made to accept the minutes and all were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15.



## **METCO Family Friends**

*Linda Resnick, lndresnick@hotmail.com, 781-274-0194*

*Rita Ross, rjdelisle@gmail.com*

*METCO Family Friends Coordinators*

We hope you all had a fun April Vacation and that you're enjoying the long-awaited sun and warmth!

As we wind down the school year, please reflect on your participation in the METCO Family Friends program and relay any feedback you have to us.

This is also a great time to think about joining the Family Friends program for next year, if you are not already involved. We will hopefully have some new Boston 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders next year, in addition to our returning students. Please let us know if you might be interested in being a host family or if you'd like to learn more about the program. Thank you very much.



**"When April steps aside for May, □  
Like diamonds all the rain-drops  
glisten; □  
Fresh violets open every day: □  
To some new bird each hour we listen." □**

- *Lucy Larcom*



## Dear Harrington Families,

In June 2010, I will be retiring after many wonderful years of teaching at the "old" and "new" Harrington Schools. I have had the privilege of meeting and teaching hundreds of eager, interesting, bright and thoughtful first and second grade students since 1982.

I enjoyed observing the progress they made in reading, writing, math and other subjects during these two important years of school. It was amazing to watch their self-confidence and creativity blossom. I have many terrific memories of my students and the tasks we did together.

Prior to being a classroom teacher at Harrington, I was an Elementary Reading Specialist in six different schools in Lexington for ten years. During all of my years in Lexington, I have met supportive, caring parents, teachers and administrators who have helped me to do my job and many have become close friends. Their friendship and support helped to make the 38 years of my teaching career in Lexington happy and memorable. I know that I will miss my position as an educator in Lexington, but I also know that the educators and students in Lexington will continue to maintain a very successful school system through the coming years. I wish every child a happy and productive life and good memories of their years in school. I also want to thank all of the children I taught and others that I got to know, for making my years in Lexington so rewarding. I will miss you all, but I will enjoy remembering the time I spent with you.

Most Sincerely,  
Patty Whitehouse-Nevins



**Don't forget to sign up for your child's class's Big Back Yard walk. Spring walks are happening soon! See your class parent for more information.**



## Wellness Corner: Surviving the Loss of a Pet

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

Anyone who has had to face the loss of a pet from illness knows how sad the process can be. Our family recently lost our beloved cat of 16 years. I wanted to share what helped us most:

1. I talked to family and friends and my vet about choices and decisions. I weighed them all and gave myself time to absorb the information. (Thank you Harrington friends who helped so much!)
2. I talked to my kids about changes I was seeing in my cat, and allowed them to share their thoughts, too.
3. I checked out helpful books from the Harrington Library (check Cary, too) to hear how other families are coping with an eventual loss. We found the book, "Jasper's Day" very helpful ... gentle story about a family dog who is given a special day on his last day (picnic, visit to the ice cream shop) before going to the clinic.
4. We created a special day for our cat, allowing each family member to say goodbye in their own way and choosing how they would like to spend the rest of the day (go back to school vs. stay at home).

We all seem to be coping differently, which is to be expected, around wanting a new pet right away vs. waiting some time to mourn the loss. Our family is talking openly about this issue, too, and I'm sure we'll have plenty of love for a new pet when we're all ready.



## Box Tops

*Ellen Cameron, [eusol@aol.com](mailto:eusol@aol.com)*

*Jacqy Fiore, [jacqyfiore@rcn.com](mailto:jacqyfiore@rcn.com)*

Box Tops Tuesday are exciting in the spring. with new prizes for all levels. So keep clipping, collecting and bringing them in. We have raised over \$700 this year and are looking to reach our goal of \$1000 by June. Also, anytime you order/shop online, go through the [Boxtops4education.com](http://Boxtops4education.com) website and a percentage of your shopping goes directly to Harrington, without any additional cost to you!!



**Coming Soon!**  
**Sunday, May 23rd 12-4**  
**HARRINGTON SPRING FAIR**



**Exciting and New:**

Inflatable Obstacle Course  
 Speed Pitching Game  
 Antique Car Ride

**Old Favourites:**

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  
 Introducing *Wehmeyer's Wonderful Wizard Whip Ice Cream*  
 Barbeque  
 Pizza  
 Thai Food  
 Musical Entertainment – DJ  
 Silly Willy the Clown  
 Sponge Bob  
 Pony Rides

**Any questions, or if you would like to volunteer,**  
 please contact:

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



**The Green Team**  
**It is Time for Spring Cleaning!**  
*Katie Cutler, [katiepcutler@gmail.com](mailto:katiepcutler@gmail.com)*

You can raise money for the Harrington PTA, clean out your house, and protect the environment with one simple task. Collect all of your electronics sitting around your home that you no longer use. This includes:

- cell phones
- inkjet cartridges
- MP3 players
- GPS devices
- digital cameras
- digital video cameras
- radar detectors
- handheld game consoles

The Recycling Fundraiser will pay something for EVERY item, working or not! Your used items may be tax deductible and **will be recycled in accordance with EPA regulations.**

Bring the items you would like to recycle to the Spring Fair at Harrington on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and drop them off at the Green Team Table. 100% of the proceeds will benefit the Harrington PTA. Please email Mary Heveran at [mmheveran@gmail.com](mailto:mmheveran@gmail.com) with any questions. We greatly appreciate your support!

**Extended Day Performance**

- *Lynnell Stern*

Last month Harrington Extended Day (HED) presented its 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Performance. The title this year was "HED Boldly Goes where No Child Has Gone Before...Space: The final frontier?"

It was, and is always a huge, wonderful production including comedy, dance, drama and sign language. This entire production is really a highlight of the year for all the children in HED. It is perhaps the only opportunity most of these children have to be in a live dance/theatre production.

The show started off with the children signing, 'I Don't Want to Live on the Moon', which was taught by HED teacher Ms Sine. Following the sign language was the drama portion of the show, titled this year "Space League: Voyage to the Mystery Planet." Each year Ms Sine, the drama teacher, writes an entire original drama script, which, in addition to being very entertaining, also carries a wonderful message. The message this year was to be yourself and enjoy your individuality! In addition, she designs and creates the costumes and the stage designs.

Following the drama portion of the show is the dance portion, titled this year "Shooting Star". Ms Grinder, who is the Assistant Director of HED and who is also a professional dance instructor, teaches the children wonderful dance moves to wonderful music. She choreographs dances for all HED children who want to be in the show, and picks out the beautiful costumes!

The very talented and clever Ms Culkins, Director of HED, wrote and then performed with three students, the wonderfully entertaining, very comical mini-interludes while the stage or the children are changing. This year it was HEDparady, a very funny take-off of Jeopardy! The entire show was terrific!



# A Heartfelt Thanks...



... to the **Zales Family** for the generous contribution of a new PTA sign. When entering the school building, you will notice a new sign over the PTA area that is now called the Harrington Hawks Hub. As you know, this area is designated for all PTA activity, forms, information and materials.

... to the wonderful **Harrington Extended Day (HED) Staff and HED Students** for the great performance.

... A huge thank you to all the volunteers from Green Fridays that helped create Green Lunches: **Harrington Students** (especially the extra help of tallying from the **5th Graders**) and **Mr. Smith**; The **Chartwell Staff** and **Mr. Robert Beaudoin**, Superintendent of Environmental Services; Harrington custodians: **Paul Cuzzupe** and **Mark Freitas**; The Harrington support staff: **Ms. Barbara Brewer, Mrs. Cathy McCaffery, Ms. Nancy Bonica, Ms. Mary Bowes, Ms. Capraro, Ms. Guleserian** and **Ms. Maria Barrett**; Community Advisors: **Sandra Mayo** and **Marcia Gems**; and all the parents who helped on Fridays: **Catherine Monaghan, Meenakshi Chhabra, Mary Heveran, Gen Ng, Raana Khavandgar, Judith Mulvihill, Johanneke Deverie, Francesca Pfrommer, Janet McKenney, Maria Sagan, Meg Muckenhoupt, Julie Read, Raana Khavandgar, Meg Muckenhoupt, Yanling Zhang, Mariam Fein Cole, Raana Khavandgar, Linda Zeger, Yanling Zhang, Wanda Ho,**

**Cristina Burwell, Suzanne Shavelson, and Leslie Zales.**

Any parent interesting in joining this group, can always contact Katie Cutler at [katiepcutler@gmail.com](mailto:katiepcutler@gmail.com)

## The Harrington Herald

**Layout & Submissions:** Cristina Burwell - (781) 862.2018, [cristinaburwell@mac.com](mailto:cristinaburwell@mac.com)

**Proofreader:** Leslie Zales - [lszales@rcn.com](mailto:lszales@rcn.com)

*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 May*

