



Harrington The Herald

Harrington School
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Jan/Feb 2012

Volume 14, Issue 3

January

- 12 Hobby Night, 6:30 pm
- 15 Gr. 5 Chorus
- 16 **No School** – MLK
- 17 Gr. 1 Math Night
- 19 Gr. 1 & 2 Concert
9:00 am – School
7:00 pm – Parents
- 19 METCO FF Day
- 24 School Council Mtg.
- 27 PTA Gen. Mtg. 8:45 am

February

- 2 METCO FF Day
- 3 Bingo / Pizza Night,
6:30 pm
- 20-24 **No School**
- 27 Science Fair, 6:30 pm
- 28 School Council Mtg.

March

- 2 Talent Show, 6:45 pm
- 6 Book Club, Gr. 4 & 5

Details available online

Volunteer Opportunities

Big Backyard (BBY) – parents of grades **K, 1, 2 & 4** (p. 4)

Looking for adults to lead groups of a few children, or to simply help keep the class groups focused while outside.

Bingo Night (p. 3)

Looking for adults to help with miscellaneous tasks during the event.



From the Principal

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

Happy New Year! As we begin 2012 together, I am thinking about ways that we build a strong school community. Having a safe and orderly school environment is important in successful schools and serves as an essential foundation for academic achievement. School safety includes routines that promote good behavior and a physical environment that is comfortable and secure. According to John Merrow, a national education reporter, there are three kinds of safety needed in schools: physical safety, emotional safety, and intellectual safety. At Harrington School, we actively promote all three types of safety for students.

First, we are very fortunate to have a building that is so well maintained. We can depend on the physical space to be clean and safe at all times. We have many dedicated staff who keep a watchful eye on our building and grounds. This basic, yet incredibly important, level of physical safety is provided for us here.

The second type of safety, emotional safety, is important inside and outside the classroom. Our school-wide emphasis on HAWKS behavior helps students know what to expect and what is expected in our school interactions. **H**onesty, **A**ccountability, **W**ork, **K**indness and **S**elf-Control are key ideas in our approach to teaching self-discipline and responsibility. Using "Open Circle" curriculum and "Responsive Classroom" strategies, teachers provide direct instruction and integrate the HAWKS ideals into the classroom everyday. We actively promote HAWKS as a whole

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From the PTA: Community

*Ann Ostrowski, VP Community Building
annostrowski@verizon.net*

International Food Night, Talent Show, Bingo Night, Hobby Night, Science Fair—what do these events have in common? They're a lot of fun; they're a chance to hang out with your kids, catch up with friends and make new connections; and they help build and sustain the feeling of community at Harrington.

Wintertime at Harrington hosts a rich line-up of activities for you and your children. If you haven't been to these events or you are new to Harrington, mark your calendars!

Hobby Night (this coming week!) is an opportunity for the kids to share what they're passionate about: from dolls and stickers to coins and baseball cards, and to connect with other children having similar interests. **Bingo night**, coming next month, is an evening of excitement. Kids and adults compete to win prizes like spiritwear or the chance to be

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Hobby Night 2011

Principal's Message, continued...

school community as well. Most recently, our fourth graders led an assembly highlighting "**K**indness." We monitor how safe our students feel through direct observation and interaction with students and parents. We want all children to feel emotionally safe and we take any concern very seriously. Please feel confident that we will always follow up.

The third kind of safety, intellectual safety, is critical to optimize student learning. Ted Sizer, a nationally recognized educational leader, describes this type of safety: *"There can't be a climate where the kids laugh at the wrong answer. When that happens, a kid will immediately shut down and refuse to participate. And that's when learning stops. For me, the ultimate test of a school is the willingness of any student to display his or her ignorance, because the riskiest thing you can do in a school, whatever your age, is to say, 'I don't know' or 'I don't understand.'"*

Our goal is for all students to feel "intellectually safe" here. Together, we want to help students build confidence as learners and help them feel comfortable to take the risks necessary to grow and learn. It is important for everyone in the student's life to know that partial understanding and confusion are natural parts of the journey to understanding new concepts and mastery of new skills. We want our school climate to value asking questions, openly sharing ideas, and making mistakes as we learn.

School safety is important and necessary for learning. We appreciate your support at home to help us monitor and maintain all three types. I welcome your suggestions and comments.



Science Enrichment

K – 2: **Kristen Reed**, kreed@edc.org

Did you know you could use a banana as a hammer? Shatter a rubber ball? Using dry ice and liquid nitrogen, the **second grade** classes will be exploring physical changes in matter on Friday, January 27th with the *Traveling Science* program from the Discovery Museum in Acton, MA. This program is sponsored by the Harrington PTA through the A.C.T (Arts Created Together) program.

PTA Message, continued...

assistant principal for the day. The **Science Fair**, also happening next month, is a chance for kids to research something they're interested in or to make a volcano explode somewhere easier to clean than Mom's carpet! The **Talent Show** is sure to brighten up the month of March with an entertaining evening, where you can see everything from violin and piano recitals, to comedy and gymnastic routines, to martial arts demonstrations. It is a place for children to shine outside the classroom.

This is just a sample of the community-building events at Harrington. Join us and be a part of the fun!



Harrington School Council

Suzanne Cherenson, School Council Co-Chair
scherenson@gmail.com

The Harrington School Committee met on December 13th. During this time they worked on an upcoming parent survey to evaluate the communication between the Harrington school and parents. This survey is due out to parents later this year. School Council minutes can be found on the Harrington website under the About Our School tab (<http://lps.lexingtonma.org/harringtones>) along with a listing of Council members.



Hobby Night

Seiza Viana, seiza.viana@hotmail.com

Have your child come see or share what interests he/she has outside of school – whether it is a **hobby** (drawing, knitting, origami, poetry, calligraphy, etc) or a **collection** (coins, stamps, shells, dolls, stuffed animals, magnets, hair clips, etc)!
Thursday, January 12th, 6:30-8:00pm

Sign-up deadline is Tuesday, January 10th.

If you want to participate, please send an email to Seiza Viana 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.



Arts Created Together (ACT)

Kathy Taudvin, ktaudvin@gmail.com

Here are two recent programs sponsored by ACT and funded by Harrington's PTA.

On December 7th and 9th, Patricia Bade, also named Owl Woman and Keeper of the Spirit, returned to the **second grade** for a presentation on Native Americans, a core component of the curriculum. Ms. Bade, of Native American ancestry (Penobscot), captured the attention of the children from the moment they stepped into the classroom with her rich, interactive, hands-on program. It included storytelling, drumming and singing in native tongues, and presenting beautiful artifacts, crafts and articles from nature. She ended her presentation with a surprise - a beautiful, expressive (he winked back at the students!) screech-owl.



Owl Woman and Keeper of the Spirit

Refer to the Nov/Dec edition of the Herald for a full listing of ACT programs scheduled for the year.

On December 13th, Jim Parks of WingMasters joined the **first graders** to discuss and provide a live demonstration of North American Birds of Prey, also known as raptors. Mr. Parks, a licensed raptor rehabilitator, brought five birds with him - an American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, Red-tailed Hawk, Great Horned owl and a Screech Owl. He introduced and gave an overview of each category of bird as he held and displayed each bird for the students to see. The program discussed birds of prey and explained predation, the birds' place at the top of the food web, their different hunting adaptations, shelters and their status in our rapidly changing world. The students were captivated by the highly interactive presentation and the experience of having a unique, bird's-eye-view of the raptors.



WingMasters - North American Birds of Prey

Harrington's Family Bingo Night

Beth Gaudette, bethgaudette@msn.com

If you are new to Bingo, go online to find out more information about how to play - it's easy and fun for the whole family. Make plans to join the rest of the Harrington community for this game night on Friday, February 3rd. Games begin at 6:30 pm and end at 8:00 pm. Be sure to be there for **check-in at 6:15 pm**. Lots of great prizes too. Parents and caregivers able to help out should contact Beth Gaudette.



Big Backyard in Winter (BBY)

Pamela Cohen, cohentraub@rcn.com

BBY takes on a different flavor in wintertime. While much is in hibernation, Mother Nature often provides a good water show for the children to learn from. The three commonly found phases of water are: Solid (ice), Liquid (liquid water) and Gas (water vapor). Both snow and ice are made of water but snow is composed of crystals with regular shapes (hexagons), while ice forms as sheets or solid chunks. The difference between snow and ice is determined by how the water freezes into its solid form.

Snow crystals form when water vapor condenses directly into ice, which happens in the clouds. These crystals form in a variety of shapes, largely determined by the temperature and air moisture levels found inside the cloud. These crystals then fall to the ground as snow. Some of the basic types of crystals are: Thin Plate (formed at 27 to 32 °F), Stellar Crystal (formed at 3 to 14 °F), Column (formed at 18 to 23 °F), and Needle (formed at 23 to 27 °F). Spatial Dendrite, Capped Column, Irregular and Graupel are variations of basic crystals or combinations of several crystal types which have formed together. For instance, Graupel form when plates and stellar crystals become coated with frozen droplets as they fall through moist clouds; they look like fuzzy balls.

Did you know Eskimos have many different names for snow? Here are a few words and their translations used by the Kobuk Valley Inuit (Pruitt, W.O. 1978) for different types of snow: Anniu (an-nee-you) means "falling snow"; Api (aye-pee) means "snow sitting on the ground"; Qali (kall-ee) means "snow on the branches of trees"; Kimoaqruk (kee-moe-ak-rook) means "snow drift" and Kaioglaq (kay-oh-glak) means "wind eroded snow surface".

Would you like to know more about snow and winter? Come join us on a Big Backyard walk this winter, and you and your child can explore and discover together the many wonders of Harrington's backyard. To volunteer or for more information please contact one of the BBY coordinators: Pamela Cohen or Giulia Paliotti. For more details on snowflakes see <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~atomic/snowcrystals/primer/primer.htm>.



Wellness Corner

Anne Rollins MS RD LDN, akortbus@gmail.com

There are always many trends in nutrition, but the one currently gaining momentum is a return to softer claims by food companies and manufacturers, and a revisited focus on inherent nutrition. Our modern world produces food lacking in minerals, vitamins, fiber, enzymes, and antioxidants. Fortunately, our culture is starting to evaluate our food supply, including:

- additives that we can't read;
- pesticides that may be harmful;
- antibiotics wreaking havoc through the food chain, added hormones that may be linked to altered hormones and development in humans;
- carcinogenic food stuffs (and yes, food stuffs is the name given to something that may be eaten, but does not retain enough of its' original wholesomeness to be referred to as food);
- fruits and vegetables with decreased nutrients because of unrotated crops or overplanting on depleted soils, or with many travel miles that may allow for increased oxidation, or worse, a chemical agent to delay ripening.

And the above only name a few issues in our food supply. Clearly, the brakes need to be applied to the trend of food manufacturers, perhaps with a little incentive to indeed produce a higher quality, higher nutrient dense product with words we can pronounce under the ingredients list. The incentive for food manufacturers comes from money – which equals products bought by consumers. Consumers can drive the trend: back to the green, back to the wholesome days, but forward enough to use the science knowledge we do have to produce and consume the right foods without dangerous or questionable side effects. What can we do today?

- Choose fruits and vegetables as snacks;
- Evaluate the number of packages and boxes in your home;
- Read labels on packages you do buy to increase your ingredient awareness;
- Engage the whole family to prepare a recipe together to promote home cooked meals as often as the schedule allows.

Peace Concert

By **Richard Tang**, Fifth Grader

Dec. 14th, 2011 was the day of the Fifth Grade Peace Concert. After my mom dropped me off to school, I carried my French horn and went to where the band players were practicing. I saw Mr. Lex, Mr. Simore, our band teachers and everybody else. The boys dressed up with long black pants and white shirt with ties and the girls wore dresses. The concert started at 9:00 AM, and we formed a line and started moving towards the cafeteria door. After the string players had finished their performance, the band went into the cafeteria. All the students and teachers were sitting there and looking at us. I was nervous and hoped I could be in the back row during the performance, but I was in the first row. Soon after the crowd was settled, Mr. Simore conducted us and we were actually doing well. When we finished, we joined all the other students to watch a video about peace. After that, all the fifth graders went back on the stage as the chorus began. We sang beautiful songs about peace under the lead of Mrs. Stump. When we finished all the songs, the audience clapped and cheered. It was a great and successful concert.

Electromagnetism Presentation

by **Jane Jung**, Fifth Grader

The electromagnetism program from The Museum of Science was a hair-raising experience—literally. George Pechman, the guy teaching us started off briefly introducing electromagnetism. He then showed us all sorts of cool examples of electromagnetism including machines like the Van de Graaff generator which allows a person's hair to stand on end because of the charges from the machine repelling the charges from the person's hair. George also showed an example of an open circuit, which doesn't do anything until a conductor completes the circuit. For the finale, he launched a metal ring up, all the way to the gymnasium's ceiling! It was awesome! On our way back to our classroom, we all got a chance to get shocked by the Van de Graaff generator—quite shocking! If you're a fourth grader, next year, look forward to this presentation on electromagnetism. It was fun and informational.



Science Fair

Sangeeta Bhatia, sbhatia@mit.edu

Jagesh Shah, shah.jagesh@gmail.com

Asking questions is something that kids do naturally. Science can provide a way to help answer some of them. Make an observation, pose a hypothesis or guess and test it out! What did your child find? Come tell us. The fair is a great opportunity for children to explore their inner scientist and teach each other (and parents). Look for a sign-up flyer for presenters to be coming home in backpacks.

Presenters and Observers Invited to

THE 2012 HARRINGTON SCIENCE FAIR

MONDAY FEBRUARY 27TH

6:30 - 8:00 PM

Luminary Night Results!

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's town-wide Luminary Night. The evening was a great success, with over 400 homes/open spaces illuminated. Much of the success of the evening was due to the generosity of Harrington families who helped raise \$700 for the PTA. Final results for the event as a whole are pending, but Harrington should take great pride in the fact that we were the second top-seller of kits sold through elementary schools and the top seller of kits as a percentage of total number of families. Thanks to everyone who contributed to kit promotion and sales and here's to a bright New Year!



Electromagnetism Presentation

Heartfelt Thanks...

- ... to **all the classroom parents** for coordinating holiday gifts to teachers/classrooms.
- ... to **Christina Flynn** for organizing the Barnes & Noble fundraiser.
- ... to **Kim Goldinger & Jennifer Camp** for running the Wilson Farm pie fundraiser.
- ... to **Mr. Lutz, Mr. Lex, Mr. Simore & Ms. Stumpf** for leading our 4th & 5th graders in a fabulous concert.
- ... to all the **Harrington School Council** for meeting at 7:30 *in the morning* to get tasks done.
- ... to everyone who sold and bought luminary kits & to **Claire Sheth** for spearheading the program for Harrington.

The Harrington Herald

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The Harrington Herald is the monthly newsletter of the Harrington PTA, published six 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 archives at <http://harrington.lexingtonma.org>.

Next Submission Deadline: 13 February
Parent input & photos welcome!

