

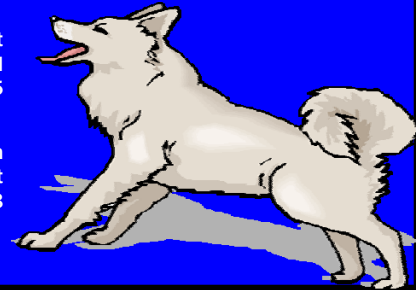
Hildreth Elementary School

Husky News

October 28, 2011

Linda Dwight
Principal
978-456-4145

Koralia Franklin
PTO President
978-772-9928



Principal's Corner

Dear Parents,

We are excited to have a new anti-bullying program at Hildreth Elementary School named Steps to Respect; Second Step. The leadership team with teacher input selected this particular program after researching all of the programs approved by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. A strength of the program includes that the Steps to Respect curriculum links closely with the Habits of

Mind language that has been successfully used with students for the past three years. The new program also repeats pro-active strategies from K – 5 with age appropriate lessons using DVDs, posters, role play, and other activities. Another strength of the program is the home-link. Parents will know what has been taught each week as they receive a newsletter with a suggested activity for home review.

The teachers, tutors, and learning assistants participated in on-line training during the Professional Development Day on October 11th. They became

familiar with the materials which were purchased with the help of a district grant and a grant from the Harvard Schools' Trust. The lessons will be taught by classroom teachers and others in the building including the associate principal, counselor, specialists, and me. We hope that the full school approach will increase the impact and benefits. The goals of this program implementation include a reduction of bullying behaviors and an increase in self advocacy.

ldwight@psharvard.org

Linda Dwight

News from the Nurse

Greetings,

I can't believe it's already the end of October! I hope you and your family have had a chance to enjoy the spectacular fall weather we have been having.

It is time to start thinking about getting your seasonal flu shot. If you haven't had a flu shot already, and you have no plans to go to your own physician, Bromfield is hosting a flu clinic. The clinic is sponsored by the Nashoba Board of Health, and it is being held on November 9th, from 2:30-6:00. The clinic is open to all. We are especially

encouraging children to be vaccinated in an effort to reduce potential illness and absenteeism during the school year.

All fourth grade students are required by law to send in a new physical exam with an updated immunization record. So far only half of the classes have turned these in. If your child has a physical scheduled during the school year, please call me and let me know. Otherwise, please send them in! Halloween is here! Kids love Halloween, but it is our job as adults to keep them healthy and safe. Make sure they are

wearing reflective clothing and carrying a flashlight.

Remind them never to share masks or wigs, and make sure they brush their teeth!

Mrs. Veno, School Nurse

sveno@psharvard.org

[978-456-3287](tel:978-456-3287)



A NOTE FROM GUIDANCE:

The fifth grade **Peer Leadership Team** has been selected. Congratulations to: Katie Adams, Vito Montesa, Felicia DePietro, Samantha Merrow, Kiersten Niland, Alexandra O'Neil, Safiya Ali, Georgie Hynes.

On October 18, 2011, we joined 2296 other schools throughout the country to celebrate **"Mix It Up Day."** It gave students the opportunity to interact with peers, other than their friends, to promote tolerance and community. We changed the cafeteria around and assigned students an animal mascot. When they reached the cafeteria they had to find their matching table. Once everyone was settled, we played some quiet games to promote positive interactions among one another.

Another exciting event in the month of October was the start of our **"Second Step and Steps to Respect"** program. It is an in-class character education and bullying prevention program. There will be an informational table and a parent manual available during conferences.

Upcoming events include:

- **Project Adventure** activities for the months of November and December will continue to focus on developing trust within the groups. Some of our debriefing questions that will be asked after each lesson is "What does it remind you of?" "What would you do differently?" and "What did you already know that helped you with this challenge?" These are to support our Habits of Mind work on "Applying Past Knowledge".
- **The Peer Leadership Team** helped organize **"Mix It Up Day."** They are now working on our **"Veteran's Day Celebration."**
- **Thursday, November 10 will be our Veteran's Day Celebration.** Families are welcome to join us in the gymnasium at 9:00.
- **Friday, November 4 at 6:00 p.m.** there will be a fundraising event at the Unitarian Fellowship Hall in town. The proceeds from this event will be donated to the James family, whose six year old daughter is battling leukemia. Adults are welcome to attend. There will be live entertainment.; hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served.

Have a wonderful month!

Christine Reale, Guidance Counselor
creale@psharvard.org



Harvard Public Library presents:

3

Book Gobblers – Grades 1 through 5: Wednesday, November 2 at 1:30 PM

Book Gobblers is the library's story program for older kids only – younger children not allowed! Come listen to selections from excellent chapter books, poetry by favorite poets, and explore longer picture books for older readers. Drop-in ~ come for the whole hour, or stay for just one or two stories.

Lego Club – Ages 5 and up: Saturday, November 19 from 1:30 to 3:00 PM

Come have fun building Lego creations with other Harvard Lego fans! Parents are encouraged to join in the fun & assist with supervision. Please call the Children's Room at (978) 456 - 2381 for more information and to pre-register.

Game Hour! – Grades 3 to 6: Thursdays from 4:00 to 5:00

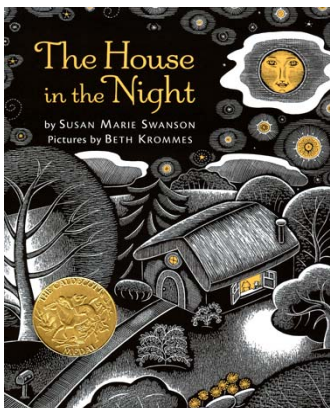
This drop-in, after school game hour for children in grades 3 to 6 is facilitated by teen volunteers. Play an assortment of great games, including Set, Scrabble, Mille Bornes, Apples to Apples, Slamwich, Quiddler, and Hoopla.



For Art's Sake

October 28, 2011

Caldecott Medal winner Beth Krommes will be visiting the third grade classes next month to share her newest book *Swirl by Swirl: Spirals in Nature* just released this fall. Beth will discuss her work as a children's book illustrator, focusing on the making of *The House in the Night* which won her the Caldecott Award in 2009. After a demonstration of her scratchboard medium, she will give everyone a chance to try their hand at it. New and past titles of her book will be available for purchase and autographing. Keep a look-out for order forms which will be sent home in your child's backpack soon! For all others, on the same day Monday, November 14th from 3:30-4:30, Beth will offer her presentation in Volunteers Hall at the Harvard Public Library. She will be available to sign books as well as her beautiful new advent calendar. Sign-up is requested for this free event by calling Abby at 456-2381 or stopping by the children's library. Beth has also donated copies of her books to both the school and public libraries' collections. For more information about the artist, visit her website at www.bethkrommes.com. These events are sponsored by For Art's Sake with the support of its members.



melissayahia@gmail.com, and pccochrane@gmail.com

For Art's Sake

A community association celebrating art in Harvard

Roche Brothers Market Math Night

4th and 5th Graders

***Roche Bros Market Math Returns!
For the 9th Annual Year!***

When is Market Math?

This year's Market Math is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 2nd from 4:30 – 7:30**. All activities can be completed in about one hour, so arrive at whatever time is convenient for you, walk from "station" to "station," nibble on fresh hot treats from Roche Bros., and have FUN! The store will be open to the public during these hours, so we ask you to be responsible about supervising your child.

What is Market Math?

Thanks to a grant from the Harvard Schools Trust and to the generosity of Roche Bros., Market Math has become an annual math event in which our 4th and 5th graders, and their accompanying parent/adult, are invited to Roche Bros. in Acton, to participate in activities which connect grocery items to math problems around the store. Feedback shows that the children (and adults) enjoy walking from "station" to "station," solving fun math problems, receiving fresh snacks along the way, and ultimately receiving a fun prize upon checkout!

Who is Invited?

This event is targeted for 4th and 5th graders from Hildreth Elementary School. It is not mandatory, but it is highly recommended as a fun way for the children to sharpen their math skills and to apply an appropriate level of math to "real life." Those who attend are excused from Math and Science homework that night!! Younger children will not be able to participate in the activities as this is organized for 4th and 5th graders.

How Do I Get Involved?

Parent volunteers will be at each "station" (activity) to assist the students. You can sign up for 1 hour, 2 hours, or the whole event!! Please email a committee member if interested in volunteering as parent volunteers make the evening more efficient and fun.

Lisa DaRosa at brwnsugar18@hotmail.com/ 978-772-9744 or
Fadiya Ali at rfali99@yahoo.ca/ 978-772-2601

Fanfare

"Fanfare, an organization that supports the music programs at HES and Bromfield, is sending out our annual brochure and membership form. Please help us keep our music programs alive and well by joining Fanfare! More information about Fanfare, including who we are, what we do, events and fundraisers, and a downloadable membership form is available on our new website at www.fanfareformusic.org.



Math Corner by Gretchen Henry, HES Interim Associate Principal

The Importance of Number Facts

As many of you know, the instant retrieval of basic math facts is crucial to success in all levels of mathematics. Time and effort spent calculating each simple fact not only slows higher level problem solving, but also impedes students' ability to concentrate on the more complex processes required for the solution. Their working memory is so busy trying to figure out the basic number fact that it is not able to move forward to focus on the problem solving and higher level thinking necessary to be successful in finding the correct solution(s).

It is our goal at Hildreth Elementary School that all students achieve automatic recall of facts appropriate for their grade level. This critical skill known as automaticity is also addressed in our current *MA Math Standards as well as the National Common Core Standards which have recently been adopted:*

Grade 1 Addition and subtraction facts to 20

Grade 2 Addition and subtraction facts to 20

Grade 3 Multiplication facts to 100

Grade 4 Multiplication facts to 12 x 12 and the related division facts.

Grade 5 Maintain multiplication and related division fact to 12 x 12 (critical to long division, decimals and fractions)

All teachers will be assessing in class their students' progress in the facts appropriate to their grade level. Practice at home is critical to your student's success. Several grade levels have already been assigning home practice through a free website, XtraMath. It is an engaging, interactive site which allows for a daily practice for 10 minutes. It begins with the addition facts and moves up through the other operations as the student masters them. There is immediate feedback and a reminder email to parents if their child has not been working on their facts. If the students are registered by the classroom teacher, the teacher first sends home a parent letter. Once the students are working independently on line, the teacher receives a daily report of their activity and progress. Teachers in grades 2, 3, 4 & 5 are gradually assigning this website for practice as homework. Grade 1 plans to do so mid-year. We are pleased that many students have been hard at work already on the Xtramath website (www.xtramath.org); the feedback has been positive and enthusiastic.

Of course, there are many ways you at home can assist in helping your child improve their automaticity with facts through practice in the car or with flash cards, playing dice and card games, as well as other websites. Children respond to the message from parents that mastering their facts is an important skill and vital tool in math. All of the faculty at HES appreciates your support in allowing our students to be successful math learners.

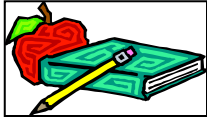
Attention Parents!!!

The Harvard PTO's Newsflash, an e-newsletter issued biweekly (on Wednesday and Sunday) and on an as-needed basis, is emailed to every family in the Harvard Public Schools as well as to interested community members. The focus of the Newsflash is to provide information about events and fundraisers sponsored by the PTO; to advertise school performances, activities, and special events, especially those that are more immediate than can be advertised in the HES Husky News; to provide information and reminders about important school-related meetings, such as those of the School Committee; and to communicate late-breaking news and announcements at the request of school administration.

If you are new to the district, you may not be on the Harvard PTO Newsflash e-mail list. If you would like to receive the Newsflash, please send your e-mail address to Harvardpto@aol.com.

Another e-newsletter sent out to parents every Friday is the HES Bulletin. This newsletter has the weekly schedule of school events and posts the lunch menu. It is also sent through Edline. If you haven't signed up for an account on Edline and would like to, please contact Lorelei Galeski or Claudia McKenna at 1-978-456-4144 x 122, or e-mail lgaleski@psharvard.org, or cmckenna@psharvard.org.

Also, the Husky News is an e-newsletter issued monthly to provide information about current and upcoming school events. It is e-mailed to every family via Edline. It is also posted on the Harvard Public Schools website @ <http://www.psharvard.org/HES/element/huskynews/main.html>. If you have any questions about the Husky News please contact Cindy Harris-charris@psharvard.org.



ANNUAL PTO SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

6

Monday, November 14 to
Tuesday, November 22, 2011

THE BOOK FAIR will be arriving soon in the HES library! **Open daily, Monday through Friday, November 14 - 18 from 9AM to 3PM and again on Monday and Tuesday, November 21 - 22 from 9AM - 3PM. There is also a Family Night on Thursday, November 17 from 5PM - 8PM.** The public, parents and friends are invited to attend and shop anytime during these hours, including during parent/teacher conference days. **Check out our new Book Fair web page for hours, book and wish lists, and volunteer information** through the Harvard Public Schools website at www.psharvard.org in the PTO section.

We are looking for volunteers to help us out! If you love books and kids, it's a great way to volunteer. The Book Fair helps out the Harvard Public Schools in many ways. We earn about \$4,500 for the PTO -- 100% of which goes directly toward programs and items for the Harvard Public Schools. In addition, we earn around \$1,500 in books and supplies for the library, and typically a few hundred new books are donated to individual classrooms. We also run a "One-For-Books" \$1 campaign, which benefits our library as well as a school in need with a Scholastic matching donation. And, we have a Holiday wish list for Loaves and Fishes. So, all in all, it is a great fundraiser for our community! If you would be able to donate some time to help us out, please contact Diane Bishop or Deb Barton. It's just like working in a bookstore for a couple hours.



Thanks so much,
Diane Bishop and Deb Barton
Co-Chairs, Harvard PTO Book Fair
maizeandblue1@verizon.net or deb.barton@mac.com

Dear Harvard Community,

Harvard residents, Kari and Dave James' daughter Margaret Anne has relapsed leukemia and needs immediate support from our community. They have been selected for the *Not Your Average Cause* program sponsored by *Not Your Average Joes* Restaurant in Acton, Massachusetts.

[This has afforded our community with the tremendous opportunity to directly help Margaret Anne's family.](#)

On **Tuesdays**, throughout the month of **November**, during restaurant business hours, *Not Your Average Joes* in Acton will set aside an amount equal to 15% of all purchases (excluding Alcohol, Taxes, and Gratuity) made by Margaret Anne James supporters.

Present the **certificate**, located on the next page (7), to your *Not Your Average Joe* server at the time of your visit.
*Applies to take out orders as well!

You **must** have your certificate at the time of your visit to help the James' family.

You may duplicate the certificate and post it electronically for others to be able to support the family.

That means your big days to make a difference will be Tuesday November 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th.
See you there!

If you have questions or need help, please don't hesitate to contact Ted and Amy Mara at 978.456.4166 or email us at norwich3230@yahoo.com.



We serve creative cuisine. And worthy causes.

Present this certificate to your server and your cause will receive 15% of your total purchase* every Tuesday during November.

Name of Organization:

Margaret Anne James Leukemia Account

Valid: November 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd 29th

*Excludes Alcohol, Tax and Gratuity



305 Main Street • Acton • 978-635-0101