Harold Martin School

Parent Flash

October 15, 2010

Parent-Teacher Conference Day
November 2

No School for Students

Check the Lost and Found when you come for your conference.

I remember reading a project about a proposed **playground** update from the late 1990's not long after I arrived at Harold Martin more than 10 years ago. It was written by an administrative intern who worked with former Principal Cathy Hamblett and it outlined the possibility of a new playground. Years later, former P.E. teacher Beth Henderson, myself, and a committee of dedicated colleagues and community members continued the dream, but alas, the money needed to meet the goal was beyond our reach.

However, thanks largely to an extremely generous and anonymous donation, the dream is slowly becoming a reality as our new playground is about to be installed. While the exact timeline will be released soon, we are receiving delivery on the equipment before the end of the month and installation will occur not long after that. We will need **volunteers** to help both dismantle the old equipment and help with the installation. The playground is being installed by professionals but we have 400 cubic yards of engineered wood fibers through the main structure and the preschool playground that need to be spread. By late next week, I will be able to release an installation timeline so that we can call for volunteers.

Stay tuned to the usual channels for information, including our spot on the school website at: http://www.hopkintonschools.org/haroldmartinschool/playground/

Have a great weekend.

Best,

Bill

Publishing Center needs just two more volunteers!
PC is a great way to get involved with your child's classroom.
We need …
- An Interviewer for Ms. Yonemura's class

and
- 1 typist (3G)

The typist role can be done from home if you are not available to volunteer during school hours. If you are interested in helping or would like more information, please contact Jenifer Dexter dexterdesign@comcast.net or 493-3545.

Girl Scouts

Get your daughter in on something great – the power of girls together!

If your daughter is interested in joining Girl Scouts, please contact Cindy White at 225-5935 or bcdjc@comcast.net.

October is Popcorn Month and 3G's business has started. 50 cents a bag on Friday.

Notes From the Music Room

Parents, please mark your calendars for the December concerts which **will be held here at H.M.S. The 2nd and 3rd** grade concert will be performed on Monday, **December 13th** at 1:30 P.M. and the **Kindergarten and 1st** grade concert will be performed on Tuesday, **December 14th** at 1:45. More details will follow.

Kindergarten - The kindergarteners began the year with songs and poems about **safety and cooperation**. They loved practicing their "good space" while singing and moving. They are getting familiar with tonal direction while singing and playing on the xylophone. Apples provided a theme for curriculum ties with math and letter recognition as they sang and did activities along with the songs, "Harvest," "On the Farmer's Apple Tree," and "A. P. P. L. E."

1st Grade – The children were assigned seating in the four family groups of the orchestra. They will be learning more about the **instruments** during the course of the year. The 1st graders **do a lot of movement related to keeping the beat** and getting a sense of phrasing. They have played a number of song games. "Here Comes Mrs. Macaroni" was a good community builder. That was followed by, "Let Us Chase the Squirrel" (yes, I reminded the students that it was only a game and they are to stay away from the furry friends outside,) and "Mouse, Mousie." Both of those song games included having the students learn the melodic patterns and each taking a turn playing them on the xylophone. I am amazed at how well they are grasping the concepts of steps and skips within a scale.

2nd Grade – The 2nd graders have been doing **movement activities** that require spatial awareness and moving together as a group. They have also been working on songs that give them an opportunity to sing a short solo or be a student leader in responsive singing. We tied in some silly books from the library to add to the merriment. The song, "I

Love to Laugh" from the musical, "Mary Poppins" provided a fun inaugural opportunity for **vocal exploration**. We tied in some silly books from the library to add to the merriment. Then we moved to "The Other Day I Met a Bear" and a similar song with different lyrics, "The Other Day I Read A Book."I am seeking to encourage literacy within the context of our activities, so we read, "Drawing Lessons From A Bear." The children also did a little study of the brass section of the orchestra and have just begun a study of the strings. They enjoy rocking out to the song, "October, Rocktober." They also had a good time with the book/song, "I Know a Shy Fellow Who Swallowed A Cello."

3rd Grade –The 3rd graders began the year with the song, "We're Back" which led to a discussion about how we will tie a lot of different subjects of study to music during the course of the year. The children began a study of **musical symbols** with the quarter note, quarter rest and repeat signs. They fashioned some quarter notes and rests out of pipe cleaners and then used them to form various rhythm patterns. They enjoyed aiming for those symbols on our velcro dart board. For Constitution Day, the 3rd graders recited a preamble rap and sang and discussed the song, "We the People." The **students sang a ballad about John Chapman** in connection with their field trip to Gould Hill Apple Orchard and Johnny's birthday. They also commemorated the birthday of American composer, **George Gershwin** by playing "air instruments" along with his famous piece, "Rhapsody in Blue" as well as engaging in a little puzzle activity about his career. The students have expanded their rhythmic familiarity to now include half notes, whole notes, eighth notes and dotted half notes. The eighth notes were introduced along with the book, "Peanut Butter and Jelly," which afforded them the opportunity of rhythmically accompanying the a refrain on various Orff instruments. They also have a good time "monster marching" along to the song, "B A Marching Monster."

NEXT WEEK AT
'TWEEN SCHOOL 'N HOME
at Harold Martin School

Week of October 18-22

Mon: Back by Popular Demand!!
Monday Movement
Madness with Mr. Girzone
Tues: Mummies
Wed: Special Guest – 4 p.m.:
Dr. Kelly Heitz – *How to Care forYour Pets*
Thurs: Nat'l Caramel Apple Day
Fri: Lillipop Ghosts; Music Lessons

TSNH has an immediate opening for a group leader. Call Linda Ottery at 529-2186 for more information or to apply.

TSNH has openings in a Taekwondo class to be offered on Thursdays from 3:20 to 4:10. Call Linda Ottery at 529-2186 for more information and details on cost.

TSNH is looking to expand its Board of Directors. If you would like to learn more, please call Christine Ojendyk at 731-1377.

TSNH has openings for children in grades K-6 from both Harold Martin School and Maple Street School. You also may download a registration form at our website: www.tweenschoolnhome.com.