

PARENT FLASH

September 15, 2011

Thank you for a wonderful **Open House** last night. One of the best parts of the night is seeing as many as three generations represented as well as older siblings, some I can barely recognize. I marvel at the huge attendance we receive for anything we put on at HMS. It continues to be a blessing for me to work here.



COLLABORATION DAY

Tomorrow our staff engages in a yearly tradition in what is one of the most important professional development days we have. We call it **Collaboration Day** and through an elaborate schedule, nearly every member of our staff is able to talk to each other about the children we know best.

Every child is so different and has such varying strengths that to reduce each one to a number from a test would be inappropriate. Educators who have spent a full year with your son or daughter have a treasure trove of knowledge about what works instructionally. It is time well spent.

PTA NEWS ...

PTA has changed their meeting times to the first Wednesday of the month (from Thursday), so our next meeting will be **October 5** in the Preschool Room at HMS. We are also planning on starting up *Coffee with Carozza* next month. Sponsored by PTA, this is a time when you can enjoy a cup o' joe and chat with me, PTA officers, and parents in an informal and relaxed atmosphere. In the past, we had trouble getting enough people interested, but we'll try again. Congrats to our **new slate of officers**:

President: Jean Tewksbury
Vice President: Lisa Thorne

Secretary: Nichole Thomas
Treasurer: Yoly Rinden.

I met with our fine **Volunteer** Coordinators this week, Arlene McGrath and Amy Licata and we planned out much of the year. The first big event is our annual Volunteer Orientation, a time for interested new volunteers to learn about the school, opportunities to volunteer, and be trained on some of the procedures. This year we have decided to hold it during school time, so mark your calendar for September 27, 2 PM. More information is forthcoming.

Parking lot

Very often parents ask how they can help us here at HMS. Here are a couple of ways:



"HMS can be a meeting place for families."

Many of you have seen me or another faculty member by the **parking lot** monitoring students as they are dropped off. I think the changes we have made the last few years have increased the safety in that area tremendously. I'm finding that more drivers are following the correct procedure and that cars aren't backed as much as before. I want to encourage you as much as possible to not park and walk your child down to our school entrance but to simply use the drop off procedure. To be clear, that is not a mandate, but when you feel you and your child are ready for that shift, we would all appreciate it as there is very little parking left for staff members in the morning and frankly, it's safer than walking

through the parking lot. Also, and this is important: Please do not park in the **No Parking Zones**...those are the areas that have painted yellow lines. We need that space open for emergency vehicles as well as the buses as they need extra space. I'm sorry to be a nag, but I am expecting a visit this Fall from the State Fire Marshall and I am positive that the school would get "written up" for illegal parking. Thank you so much for adhering to this. On a very positive note, I am so thankful for our "new" walkway which allows families to safely park on Main Street and walk into the school yard as many did last night. Thanks once again to the Tessiers for their generous donation of land and the entire Safe Routes To Schools Committee for securing the grant to pay for the walkway a number of years ago.

The end of the day.....



We talked about the beginning of the day and now here's a reminder for the end of the day. As you probably know, we have eight Hopkinton buses that travel throughout our large town (geographically) and three schools. As such, all eight cannot start at HMS at 2:35 and pick up the kids first; three buses pick students up after 3 PM. We pay a staff member to stay and monitor the students until the buses come. I know that a number of families like to give their children extra time on the playground right after school and it's also a nice time for families to

be together with each other. The problem is that it's difficult for our staff member to monitor the students who are on the **late buses** (93, 94, and 95) as well as the extra children. This is a dilemma for me as I truly appreciate any time when HMS can be a meeting place for families, especially around our wonderful playground. Like I mentioned above, I don't want to make this a mandate, but if it's possible to wait until 3:15 when all of the buses have come and gone, I would appreciate it. Thank you have a great weekend.

Bill Carozza, Principal

WALKING SCHOOL BUS

I would like to start up this year's 'Walking School Bus' next week September 20th.

For those of you who are new to HMS or who have heard about the program but are not sure of the details, it's a weekly walk to school from the Cracker Barrel Deli.

Weather permitting, we meet every Tuesday morning at 7:30 and start walking by 7:40. It only takes about five minutes so your son or daughter will have plenty of time on the playground before they head into school. It is completely voluntary, you can come every week or just

when you have the extra time. If you would like to drop your child off, I will make sure he or she makes it to school safely and on time. For those interested in counting steps, I have pedometers for the children to use. If they demonstrate the three B's (Be safe, Be respectful, Be responsible), they will receive one to take home. Thank you and I hope to see you there!

*Ed Girzone
P.E. Teacher*



**EVERY TUESDAY
MORNING AT
7:30 AM AT THE
CRACKER BARREL
DELI.**

'Tween School 'n Home

September Theme: MAKE NEW FRIENDS

Week of Sept. 19-23

Registration

Monday: Let the CLUBS begin
Tuesday: Club Council
Wednesday: Stick Weaving
Thursday: ME Collages
Friday: Bead-dazzling Fun

If you are seeking State Licensed After School Care for your Harold Martin or Maple Street student, please contact 'Tween School 'n Home, which operates out of Harold Martin School during the school year. Please contact us at tsnh@twenschoolnhome.com or call JoEllen McCaffrey at 746-3622 for further information. Thanks!

HYSA

The next HYSA Board meeting will be this Sunday, September 18th at 7 p.m. in the High School cafeteria.



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We're on the Web!

Parent Info

Check out our **online calendar** at: <http://www.hopkintonschools.org/haroldmartinschool/featured/online-calendar/>. You can also find it by heading to our website at <http://www.hopkintonschools.org/haroldmartinschool> and typing in "calendar" in the search field. It will have all of the major events of the year at HMS and you can also check out the other schools' calendars as well. We have some updating to do this weekend, but by Sunday it should be set.

Have a wonderful weekend...I believe Fall is on the way.

Bill