

PARENT FLASH

September 9, 2011



PARENTS:
Please remember to refresh your NutriKids accounts so that your children can continue to use the food service program. Thank you.

News from Joplin, Missouri



I really can't explain it, but tornados have been following me around for a long time. It began with my father in the middle of the famous Worcester Tornado. He happened to be driving in the city on June 9, 1953, when a driver passed him illegally. Minutes later, Vic Carozza ended up pulling this driver out of his car that had been hit by the tornado. In 1966, I had just moved to St. Louis and a tornado hit our neighborhood demolishing homes around us but sparing our home. And then on July 24, 2008, I was having lunch in the HMS lunch room when the now famous New Hampshire tornado tore through a number of towns, flying a mile from my house.

It is with this background that I felt connected to my friend Denise Legore, Principal of one of the elementary schools in Joplin, Missouri. Her school was spared in the May 22, 2011 tornado, the deadliest in the US since 1947 and likely the most expensive. The cost to rebuild Joplin might reach \$3 billion.

Right after the tornado, she wrote me: *"Thanks Bill. This is surreal. The district is accepting monetary donations. We are committed to having summer school & then restart in 84 days."*

I wrote about this in the *Parent Flash* a week after the Joplin tragedy and you responded. Hopkinton residents sent a number of packages to Joplin via Ms. Legore and she and her students were delighted.

As Denise told me in a recent email about the boxes of stuffed animals, books, and cards: *I can tell you that all the goodies went to the kids from one of my summer schools who lost everything - nothing warms your heart like kids scrambling to get books and stuffed animals! I know the kids provided good homes for their newest treasures!*

Denise also gave me a very positive view of Joplin's progress: *We are doing well. The start of the school year has been very smooth and I really feel that it is like we never left - kids and staff. The town is really starting to see growth and repair. It is still very surreal to drive within the rubble but I'm moved constantly by the spirit and support we have received.*

Joplin, cont'd.

"...grow a more positive perspective and develop an energy to move beyond ourselves."

It is a very busy year at Harold Martin School. Our school population is larger than ever and our space is as tight as I have seen it. Nonetheless, we work hard to maintain a thankful spirit for the great children we have been entrusted with and a community that has consistently supported education. We do not share the unimaginable stresses that Joplin has been through.

When we continue to support those less fortunate, through our

local food pantry, our civic or church organizations, or in special circumstances such as natural disasters, we do more than help others. We grow a more positive perspective and develop an energy to move beyond ourselves.

Have a family-filled weekend.

Best,

Bill

Clothing Drive

Donate infant through children's size 14 clothing to Hopkinton Countryside Community Church this month. CHILDREN'S USED CLOTHING SALE: Sale Saturday, Oct. 1st, 8 a.m. - noon. \$1 per item or \$5 per bag. Proceeds to benefit Reach4Hope outreach to the homeless in Concord. Also accepting shoes, boots,

maternity clothing, and crib sheets and blankets. Call the church at 746-3414 with questions.



For the "Arts Room"

Now that music and art are sharing the same classroom we would like to create a bit more rug space for music. If you are "fall cleaning", we would love a donation of a

clean area rug. One that is currently in the room is 9' 3/4" long, 6'9" wide. Something similar would be great. Thanks!

Programs at the Library

Story Time

Tuesdays at 1 PM
Wednesdays at 10:30 AM
Songs, stories, and an art experience await your 3-5 year old.

Sign up for 10 minutes of reading to Ben, the friendly and gentle Shetland Sheepdog.

Lap Time

You and your child will meet new friends and spend time together singing, moving, and listening to a story. For children 2 and under with a caregiver.

Moose Tracks Story Walk
Karma Wilson's story of a silly moose will be set along the path by the playground. Have fun reading the story and enjoying the trail!

Read With Ben

September 15, October 20,
November 17, December 15
4:30-5:30 PM

A Visit with Marie Curie
Wednesday, October 19 7-8 PM
Storysmith Susan Marie Frontczak will speak as Marie Curie in this Living History program presented with the support of the NH Humanities Council. Ages 9 and up.

All the programs are free and open to the public.

Community News

Sunday, September 25th Redhawks Football take on the Littleton Crusaders at 1pm! Please come and support your team! The Redhawks are currently 2-0 in there season and are working for a 3-0 record after this Sunday's game. We have a great snack shack with an array of wonderful home cooked meals to feed our hungry fans! We don't charge admission but do ask for a suggested donation of \$3 per adult and \$1 per student to help defray the cost of officials. Thanks and hope to see you all there.



Harold Martin School

271 Main Street,
Hopkinton, NH
03229

Phone:
746-3473

Fax:
746-6803

E-Mail:

bcarozza@hopkintonschools.org

We're on the Web!

Important Dates

- 9/27 Volunteer Orientation 2PM
- 9/29 1F & 1N Field Trip
- 9/30 1S & 1P Field Trip
- 10/7 No School Prof. Development Day
- 10/10 No School - Columbus Day

