

# PARENT FLASH

September 9, 2011

## What Do We Say About 9/11?



HAROLD  
MARTIN  
SCHOOL

Open  
House  
Wednesday  
September  
14

6:30-7:30  
PM

The 10th Anniversary of 9/11 has forced all of us to think about where we were on that fateful day. I was right here with most of our current staff at Harold Martin School. The TV stayed on in the staff room so that we could take an occasional glimpse of the ongoing tragedy revealing itself over the course of the day. A number of our staff members had direct connections to the event which added a very personal twist.

For two years we held a commemoration on September 11 as these students had a context. Now, not a single HMS student was alive in 2001 and the events on 9/11 are often simply a scary thought without much information in the minds of our youngsters.

The question still remains: *What do we say about 9/11?*

We struggled with this question all week and I was prepared to read a short piece I wrote followed by a moment of silence. But as I spoke with teachers, they expressed concern that without direct experience of the event, a booming intercom message may bring up more fear and questions than peace and resolution. We also have a few students whose

relatives died on 9/11 and others who parents will be flying planes this Sunday. There is now an added fear of a potential terrorist plot timed for the anniversary in one of our major cities. In addition, some third graders have been asking "what if" questions regarding another attack. Given all of this, I made the decision this morning to not address the students directly, but let teachers discuss 9/11 in a developmentally appropriate way.

I thought I would share with you what I had originally written for students but didn't read this morning. I modified it a bit for this publication. Perhaps parts of it might help you speak to your children if they have questions. The issues surrounding the 9/11 attack is probably best handled by parents for primary aged children anyway, but it's still difficult to know how to approach it. I would "take your child's temperature" and see what questions and concerns they may have and ensure them that you will always keep them as safe as possible. Further in the "Flash", I have listed some web resources that might help as well.

Have a great weekend.  
Bill

## September 11



*This Sunday, September 11, we will commemorate the events that happened 10 years ago on September 11, 2001. None of our Harold Martin School students were even born 10 years ago but many of your older brothers and sisters as well as your parents remember that day quite well. It was a scary and sad day for all of us as many people died in New York City, Virginia, and Pennsylvania that morning due to terrible choices made by a number of people who strongly disagreed with our country's leaders and what the United States stands for.*

---

*I hope you will keep these thoughts in your mind as you hear more about 9/11 this weekend. If you ever have questions please feel free to ask your parents, your teachers, or myself. We all feel very blessed to have you as our students.*

*But instead of focusing on this tragic event, we should consider the lessons we learned from 9/11:*

*Immediately after these events 10 years ago, good people around the world showed their kindness and love for each other by reaching out and helping save lives and support families who were hurt by this event. Fire fighters and police officers in particular showed great courage in risking their own lives to save others. Americans put aside their differences by coming together and showing the power of Patriotism by reaching deep into their souls and finding the strength to love and help their neighbor no matter the color of their skin, their religious background, or how much money they had. It didn't matter. All that mattered was that we were all Americans and we would stick together. Soldiers sacrificed their time and lives to fight against those who might harm us and a whole country started taking our own safety more seriously.*

*So, what are the lessons we can learn from 9/11? We must show each other kindness and love. We must have the courage to do the right thing and protect and defend each other. We have to put aside differences and care for each other equally which sometimes means sacrifice.*

## 'Tween School 'n Home Child Care

Week of September 12-16

**Monday:** Finger Print Friends  
**Tuesday:** Paper Flowers  
**Wednesday:** Let's Talk Germs  
**Thursday:** Friendship Bracelets  
**Friday:** NO SCHOOL

Registration: If you are seeking State Licensed after School Care for your student, please contact 'Tween School 'n Home, at [tsnh@twenschoolnhome.com](mailto:tsnh@twenschoolnhome.com) or call JoEllen McCaffrey at 746-3622 for further information. Thanks!



---

*Child Care for  
Harold Martin or  
Maple Street School  
Students at Harold  
Martin School*

## Community News

Cub Scout Pack 77 welcomes back all returning scouts at a campfire Friday, September 9th at 6:30 PM. We'll meet at the Scout Cabin on Kimball Lake (behind Blazer's) for smores and games. Bring a rock to help us reinforce our fire ring and a water bottle.

Pack 77 would also like to invite any boys in grades 1 - 5 who are interested in joining Cub Scouts to bring their parent and come on by to enjoy the fun.

Questions? Contact us at [nhpack77cubmaster@gmail.com](mailto:nhpack77cubmaster@gmail.com)

## Town Library News

Fall 2011 Programs

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

Read With Ben  
September 15, October 20, November 17, December 15  
4:30-5:30 PM  
Sign up for 10 minutes of reading to Ben, the friendly and gentle Shetland Sheepdog.

271 Main Street,  
Hopkinton, NH  
03229

Phone:  
746-3473

Fax:  
746-6803

E-Mail:  
bcarozza@  
hopkintonschools.org

## Hot Lunch

Salads for students starts again next week. The cost is \$2.50 and we serve them Tuesday and Thursday-chicken caesar or chef salad. Order the day before. Thanks.



## 9/11 Resources for Parents:

[http://www.nasponline.org/resources/crisis\\_safety/9-](http://www.nasponline.org/resources/crisis_safety/9-)

[11/10\\_Years\\_Later\\_Parents.pdf](http://www.nasponline.org/resources/crisis_safety/9-11/10_Years_Later_Parents.pdf)

<http://www.brainpop.com/socialstudies/ushistory/september11th/>

[http://www.911memorial.org/sites/all/files/TalkingToChildren\\_FINAL4.pdf](http://www.911memorial.org/sites/all/files/TalkingToChildren_FINAL4.pdf)

## We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://www.hopkintonschools.org/haroldmartinschool/>

No School Friday ,  
September 16<sup>th</sup> for  
Teacher Collaboration Day