
Harold Martin School

October 19, 2007

Parent Flash

TECHNOLOGY



As I have often talked about in these pages, technology has changed the tools of teaching and learning. The basic values of education and the skills that students need to gain haven't changed much. The tools we use have changed. In the next few weeks, I'll be introducing parents to resources you can use at home with your children and perhaps for your own adult learning.

The first resource I'd like to introduce is Atomic Learning. This web site provides a rich library of easy to understand tutorials for hundreds of software programs. The site is PC and Mac friendly and utilizes online videos to deliver the instruction. This is one clever site. To access:

1. Go to <http://www.atomiclearning.com>
2. Enter the following user name and password:
User Name: hopkintonhs
Password: hawks

(Note: Passwords are case sensitive).

3. Type your question in the search box and click on Go!

4. An answer will be provided in the form of a one to three-minute tutorial movie. The movie will walk you through all the steps needed to complete the task

Please keep the user name and password private and do not post it publicly.

Have a great weekend.

Bill Carozza, Principal

CALENDAR DATES

10/27 Halloween
Parade 1 PM HMS

11/3 Daylight Savings
Starts

11/5 Parent
Conference Day
no school for students

11/6 No School
Teacher Workshops

11/12 No School
Veterans' Day



The latest PTA minutes are on our web site. Head to:

<http://hopkintonhs.org/hms/principal/>

and click on the link near the front of the page.



Ladybug Award

If you hear children talking about a Duck and Goose wandering the halls of Harold Martin, you will know the "library ladies" (or is that "fowl librarians?") have been visiting classrooms to introduce this year's nominees for the Ladybug Award. Mrs. Scammon and Mrs. Alibrandi acted out the story Duck and Goose (with a little help from each classroom teacher, as the "bluebird," and the OT ball as the "egg").

The nine other picture books that are on this year's list are:

- The Secret Science Project That Ate the School
- Red Fox at McCloskey's Farm
- I Saw an Ant on the Railroad Track
- The Remarkable Friendship of Mr. Cat and Mr. Rat
- The Trouble with Cauliflower
- Library Lion
- Not Afraid of Dogs
- Pip & Squeak
- Moose Tracks!

Students will be listening to these stories in the next several weeks. During Children's Book Week (November 11th -17th), Harold Martin students along with other New Hampshire children in preschool through grade three, will vote for the

book that they think should receive the award. The winner will be announced by the New Hampshire State Library's Center for the Book in December. We can't wait to find out which book Harold Martin students think is best!



Notes From Music Room

The H.M.S. students dove right into a new year of music education up in our new location on the 2nd floor.

The Kindergarteners began with a series of poems, songs and movement activities that encouraged good listening skills and moving about the space in the room safely. They also became acquainted with the names and playing techniques of various rhythm instruments. The children are also exploring high and low sounds by playing on bells, singing their names in tonal patterns, and singing and moving with "The Elevator Song."

The 1st Graders have become acquainted with instrument family groups. They also have learned about the names of notes in repeating ascending and descending patterns and how that relates to keyboard and xylophones/ bells. They were introduced to the concept of steps and leaps in scale patterns and actually played an ascending pattern. The Spanish language has entered into some of our greeting dance songs like, "Hola, Amigos" and "Buenos Dias." Together, we discussed and celebrated Constitution Day with a song and Columbus Day with an echo-song/ game. The children also wrote "Habitat Songs" connecting their science studies with their musical study of low, middle and high notes.

The 2nd Graders have been observing, moving and singing about all kinds of musical concepts. These include tempo, (speed,) dynamics, (loudness,) rhythm patterns (including quarter notes, eighth notes, quarter rests and half rests,) and note identification on the treble staff. They put words and pictures together with rhythm patterns and also had a lot of fun playing rhythm sticks and hand drums. They are beginning to read actual music and play it on xylophones and other pitched percussion. They are very excited

and have even surprised themselves. It's like learning a new language. They also enjoy coming up with some cool moves to demonstrate the steady beat with songs and they love to sing along with songs like the ever-popular, "October, Rocktober." Speaking of cool moves, the classes are also having a few additional weeks of team instruction with Mrs. Henderson and myself on our scaled down version of "The Virginia 'Real Fun.'"

The 3rd Graders have been expanding their understanding of musical concepts and terminology. For example, they considered the concept of "timbre" (the unique sound of each instrument) by impersonating the musicians playing the various instruments featured in George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue." They enjoyed celebrating this American composer's birthday in September, and also the birthday of John "Appleseed" Chapman by singing a "ballad" about some of the events of his life—that got them all set for their class trip to the apple orchard. The students have also been studying the staff, initially focusing on the five notes, "G" up to "D."



Be Safe, Be Seen this Halloween!

Hey Kids! Check out these Halloween safety tips with your parents and have a fun and safe Halloween!

Drivers can see my costume in the dark. Be original with a glow-in-the-dark costume or carry a reflective trick-or-treat bag. Use a flashlight or glow stick when walking at night.

I'm trick-or-treating in a group. Don't go it alone while trick-or-treating. Kids, if you're under age 12, make sure you go with an adult. Older kids should always go with buddies.



I cross streets at crosswalks and intersections. Stop at street corners. Look left, right and left again before crossing and don't cross between parked cars! Remember; never step into the street without looking to see if a vehicle is coming.

TREATS:

I make sure my parents check my treats before I eat them. Pick only wrapped candy when you trick-or-treat. Ask your parents to check all treats to make sure they are safe.

COSTUMES:

My costume is short and snug. Baggy sleeves or billowy capes and skirts can trip you up and catch fire if they brush against jack-o-lanterns or candle flames

My shoes fit. Big, floppy shoes (clown shoes, adult shoes) – that are hard to walk in may make you fall.



My costume props are flexible. Costume props can hurt you badly if you fall. Make sure swords, knives, etc. are made of flexible plastic or rubber.

The eyeholes in my mask are wide enough. Make sure your mask fits properly and the eyeholes allow you to see fully. Don't wear a mask that is too loose; it can slip and block your vision. Even better, paint your face instead of wearing a mask.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Events listed under Community News do not necessarily indicate endorsement from Harold Martin School or the Hopkinton School District but are provided as a community service.



**NEXT WEEK AT
'TWEEN SCHOOL 'N HOME
CHILD CARE PROGRAM**
Week of October 22-26, 2007

HALLOWEEN'S A-COMING!

- Monday: Hand Print Spiders
- Tuesday: Trick or Treat Bags
- Wednesday: Mask Making,
Dance Lessons
- Thursday: Trick or Treat Bags
- Friday: Halloween Cooking,
Music Lessons

HELP WANTED: TSNH is seeking a creative, energetic, and reliable associate teacher, 2:15 – 5:30 p.m., 3 – 5 days per week. Must be 18+ with a high school diploma and 300 hours experience working with children. A great part-time position for the right person. If that's you, then let's talk. Contact Linda Ottery at 529-2186 or tsnh@comcast.net.



Cross-Country Skiing at the Fairgrounds

Sign up for a winter of fun-filled Fridays, skiing on the groomed trails at the Hopkinton fairgrounds. Students in grades 1-6 are invited to participate in the Bill Koch cross-country ski program.

The program will be Friday afternoons, starting at 3:30 pm. It will begin as soon as there is enough snow to ski on and will run until Friday, February 15th.

Sign-ups will be Tuesday, October 30th and Tuesday, November 6th at the Maple Street School from 6-7:30pm. The program cost is \$40 per skier. A limited number of free hats will be given on a first come, first served basis.

The Bill Koch ski program is sponsored by Blackwater Nordic Ski Club, a local nonprofit organization. Check our website, <http://eteamz.active.com/BlackwaterNordic/>, for activities and events.

Dear Parents,

It's time again to sign up for the **Hopkinton Pats Peak Ski and Snowboarding Program.**

Sign Up Dates:

- Thursday, October 25
- Monday, October 29

Place: Maple Street School

Time: 6:00-7:30 pm

***ALL** students must **SIGN** the application, so please bring your child with you. For further information call Kim Sink 746-3872 or Shannon Donahue 746-3171.

The Annual
**Octoberfest/Ski and
Snowboard sale**

is a great way to get used equipment and will be on November 4th and runs from 11am-6pm.

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Costume Parade

Dress up in your favorite (not scary or gory) costume and join us at Beech Hill Farm on October 31 from 5-7pm for the 3rd Annual Fall Festival, a Halloween Alternative. Games, music, costume parade, hot dogs, popcorn, drinks, and, of course, a bag of candy, add to the fun! A \$2 donation goes to the Hopkinton Food Pantry. Sponsored by Countryside Community Church in Contoocook.

