
Harold Martin School

November 9, 2007

Parent Flash



No School on Monday, November 12 for the Veteran's Day observance.

This **Wed., November 14** we will have another Spirit Day, this time celebrating the *Lady Bug Book voting*, so students are encouraged to wear **black and red** that day. We're well aware that there have been many of these celebrations lately. Two of them have been last minute with the Red Sox in the World Series and the decision to wear red, white, and blue for today's Veteran's Day celebration. Not to worry-the next one won't be until just before the December Holiday Recess. Thanks!

Curriculum Discussions

This past Tuesday featured a day unusual in most school districts. We spent the day working in curriculum groups from math, science, language arts, and social studies, to the unified, fine and performing arts, world languages and guidance. Teachers from kindergarten through twelfth grade gathered *together* to examine our curriculum to eliminate gaps and redundancies and move forward on articulating what we teach. There are few single districts that reach K-12 and are small enough for the entire staff to meet and talk in as much depth as we're able to do. The more we know about the curriculum beyond our grade level, the better we're able to understand where students are so that we can challenge their thinking.

The Russian Psychologist Lev Vygotsky developed a theory of the "proximal zone of development" which teachers use to determine a student's next academic stage; the point at which a student is just ready to grow. We don't teach students at the middle as was the case many

years ago. At Harold Martin, we are dedicated to differentiating content so that every student remains challenged. We may not always hit that mark, but our philosophy clearly strives to meet that aim.

Do you want to chat more about this and any other topic that comes to mind? Join me for the November *Coffee with Carozza* next Tuesday, November 13 in the HMS Library. I hope to see you there.

Have a wonderful long weekend and remember on Monday to honor a Veteran.

Sincerely,

Bill Carozza
Principal



✓ Mark your calendars for **Friday, November 30**, as that evening at Main Street Book Ends in Warner will be the location for a special **PTA** event for students in grades P-6. More info coming.



THE PACE OF PE

Kindergarten

The Kindergarten students continued to work on the motor skills of crawling, hopping, galloping, jumping, and skipping. Weight bearing crawling activities help to increase upper body muscular strength while the vertical movements increase coordination and cardio-respiratory endurance. The children are now jogging four times around the MPR with a goal of performing seven jogs without stopping—equivalent to about ¼ mile. Kindergarten PE is “Awesome!”

Grade One

First graders have begun a Manipulatives Unit—learning to control an object in many different ways. Using a hula hoop, the students practiced swinging the hoop on various body parts including their waist, arms, and neck. Students also demonstrated balancing skills as they touched only one, two, or three body parts on the floor in relationship to the hoop. Finally, the students used various motor skills to move through a series of hoops placed on the floor in

patterns. One pattern was shaped like hopscotch and the children needed to hop and jump their way through the hoops. The students were fabulous!

Grade Two

Grade two students worked on the fitness components of strength, flexibility, and endurance. During each PE class, the students were instructed on the proper body mechanics for performing “The Exercise of the Day.” These exercises included jumping jacks, push ups, curl ups, treadmills, squat thrusts, trunk lifts, and the sit and reach. Ask your child to demonstrate these exercises for you! I can definitely see an improvement in their fitness performance—keep up the “Awesome Work” second graders!

Third Grade

Third graders have been immersed in a Soccer Unit. The students have been developing the ball control skills of dribbling, trapping, passing, draw back turns, shielding, and goalie clears. They are learning new terminology associated specifically with the sport of soccer. The children have worked on strategies for playing Offense and Defense. They are beginning to understand player positions and how to use them in soccer. The students have applied this knowledge of soccer rules and skills in the small sided

team games. They are becoming independent and “Awesome” soccer players!



This month’s **PE Super Star** Awards go to: Mrs. Blanchard’s afternoon kindergarten, Mrs. Forgiel’s first grade, Mrs. Walsh’s second grade, and Mrs. Jones’ third grade! Awesome work!

NEXT WEEK AT 'TWEEN SCHOOL 'N HOME CHILD CARE PROGRAM

Week of November 12-16, 2007

AMERICAN INDIAN WEEK

Monday: No School –
Veterans’ Day

Tuesday: 3:45 to 4:45
SPECIAL PROGRAM:
AMERICAN INDIAN
LEGENDS AND LORES
with **Ruth Smith**, Program
Director at the Mt. Kearsarge
Indian Museum. *Hopkinton
children, accompanied by a
parent or other adult, are
invited to attend this program.*

Wednesday: Catch a Hoop,
Dance Lessons

Thursday: Raffia Baskets

Friday: Totem Poles, Music
Lessons
