
Harold Martin School

Summer 2009

Parent Flash

SUMMER PARENT FLASH 2009

I know that receiving this newsletter is a sign that summer is ending but I hope that it also brings some excitement in your household for the possibilities the new school year will bring.



OPEN HOUSE

Please join us for HMS Open House on September 16 from 6:30-7:30. This is an informal time when students can lead their parents throughout the school and classroom. It is truly much fun.

The first day of school is Tuesday, September 1.

We'll have school two days that week, the 1st and 2nd, and staff will be engaged in workshops on Thursday, as we collaborate together to learn more about all of our children. There's no school on Friday.

School starts at 8:00 AM and students are dismissed at 2:35 PM. If you bring your child to school, please have them wait on the playground for the bell. Teachers will come out to the playground to meet their students.

NEW AND RETURNING PARENTS

PTA will host a "Boo Hoo Breakfast/Coffee with Carozza" this year for the first day of school. Please join us outside by the main entrance for some treats and conversation with fellow parents after the kids reach their classrooms. We will also hold

the event at 11:20 for the afternoon kindergarten parents. Because we split the kindergarten class up the first two days of school, we will hold the breakfast on the second day of school as well at 8 AM and 11:20 for day two kindergarten parents. We look forward to seeing you!

NEW STAFF



We are excited to welcome Instructional Assistant Erin McMyne to our school who comes to us with a wonderful background in education. We also welcome Becky Perkins who has transferred back to Harold Martin from Maple Street School. She will be teaching second grade. Tracey Hughes is also joining our team once again as an Instructional Assistant and she will be sharing time with HMS and MSS. We're happy to have Jackie Kleiner back as our School Counselor after a one year maternity leave. And finally, we also welcome our new Superintendent, Steve Chamberlin. Of course, Steve is not new, as he is now starting his 11th year in our district and we are excited for his vision and passion for the education of our Hopkinton children.



WEBSITE

The Hopkinton School District is launching a brand new web site which will contain the same pertinent information in a much easier to navigate format. Look for the changes coming soon at hopkintonschools.org. As the site is in development at press time, I cannot be more specific to links mentioned in the newsletter. Rest assured, it will be easy to find whatever information you need.

WHAT ARE SOME WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED?

1. Sign up for our **HMS Listserv**. Details below.
2. Look for our **Parent Flash** coming home every Friday afternoon. This is our school-wide newsletter to parents.
3. Attend our monthly **Coffee with Carozza**. In addition to the first one mentioned above, we will meet every month, generally in the HMS library. Details will be in the *Parent Flash*.
4. Attend our monthly **PTA** meeting, which generally meets the first Thursday of the month in the preschool room at HMS.
5. Attend our bi-monthly **Parent Advisory Council (PAC)**

meeting. Again, details on dates will be in the *Parent Flash*.

6. Check out our monthly **Podcasts**, which include HMS news in an audio format. In fact, look for a special Podcast designed specifically for new parents to Harold Martin School.

7. I also have a **blog** entitled *Principal Reflections*. You can check that out at billcarozza.com.

8. Finally, HMS has a **Twitter** site that has just been established.

You can access it at: <http://twitter.com/HMartinSchool> I will post regular, brief updates to the site for both those who are regular “Twitter-ers” and become “followers” and those who just want to visit the site. If you want more information on Twitter, send me an email.

FACILITY CHANGES

The new walkway extending from Main Street into our school paid for through Safe Routes to Schools grant funding will hopefully be constructed before the school year begins. Look for a grand opening of the walkway this fall. In addition, our expert custodians have been working all summer to get the building ready for opening. We also welcome our new Facilities Director Dick Fortier to the district.



BUSES

Bus routes will be posted soon on our district web site, hopkintonschools.org.

To make the first day of school go smoothly, fill out the enclosed school bus form and attach it securely to your child’s lunchbox, backpack, or jacket. Please use the route number for the bus number. They are the same. This “bus” is a great aid in helping students remember their bus number and find the right bus home.

When students arrive at school, they should go directly to the playground. Students should look for a tall bus sign with the appropriate color:

- Kindergarten: Pink
- First grade: Yellow
- Second grade: Blue
- Third grade: Green

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

In order to make arrival in the morning safer for those who are driving in, please note our procedure:

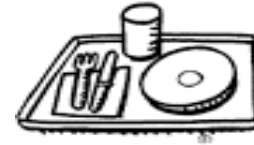
- As you enter into the school lot head counter-clockwise and go into the lane which will be clearly marked with sawhorses every morning. This will prevent cars from driving around other cars dropping off children.
- Go all the way to the front of that lane that will be marked clearly, essentially at the end of the fire lane. This way there will be more room for the cars behind you.
- Carefully dismiss your child from the sidewalk side of your vehicle and they can then walk down to the playground.
- If you would rather walk your child down yourself, you will need to park and carefully walk through the parking lot to the sidewalk.
- The last three spaces in the parking lot's first row are reserved for preschool parking until 8:20 every morning.

For safety measures, please do not cut across the parking lot.

Only school buses are allowed to drive around the circular roadway by the flagpole from 7:00-8:15 AM and 2:30-3:30 PM.

When dropping your child off, please do so promptly so that other cars behind you do not have to wait long. Please do not drop your child off past 8 AM if possible. It is really is crucial that students begin the day on time. Thank you.

If you are picking up your child at the close of the school day, please park your car in the parking lot and sign your child out in the preschool room (formally the music room) where you may wait for him or her. Please do not go to the classroom to meet your child. In general, if you are changing your child's end of the day destination, please send a note in to your child's teacher. If you know at least a day ahead, you may also email this information to Administrative Assistant, Betsy Wilder, at bwilder@hopkintonschools.org. With the nature of email, there are no guarantees that we will receive an email the same day you send it out. In general, please do not pick your child up later than 2:35. If for some reason you are running late, your child will be waiting in the office where you may sign him or her out.



Milk and Hot Lunch Money

Enclosed with this letter you will find a money envelope for the first week of school (two days). Hot lunch will be served every day. The menu for Tuesday is: Pizza, Veggie Stix, Popcorn, pudding or fruit. On Wednesday the lunch will be: Hotdog on a roll, Baked Beans French Fries and fruit or cookie.

These envelopes will be sent home every Friday. Please return them to school the following Tuesday (after Labor Day) for that week. Be sure to put your child's name on the envelope, check off your child's choice for the day and indicate the amount of money enclosed. Checks should be made out to *Hopkinton Hot Lunch Program*.

Breakfast is served every morning at school, including the first day of school, and all children may participate.

Prices are as follows:
Lunch: \$2.25
Milk, Juice: 40 cents
Breakfast: \$1.00

NOTE: Whole Milk will not be served this year.



Visitors

All visitors to the Harold Martin School are required to use the front door by the main office and sign in on the sheet for visitors. This includes all times of the day, even first thing in the morning. All other doors are kept locked for security purposes.

Harold Martin School News Listserv

Email has become an important communications tool. The over 300 members of the *HMS News Listserv* enjoy the following benefits:

- The Friday *Parent Flash* in electronic form
- Early morning announcements of school district delay or cancellations
- Emergency updates during the day (e.g. early dismissals, etc.)
- Timely reminders of meetings
- The HMS Lunch Menu sent monthly

If you would like to join the Listserv, there will be a handy link on the new web site. The instructions are simple. If you are already a member from last year, you do not need to do anything.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

We are fortunate to have a vibrant Volunteer Program at HMS averaging nearly 2500 hours of volunteer service yearly. This year our Volunteer Coordinators are Arlene McGrath and Amy Licata. For more information on our Volunteer Program, you can check out our web site and look for more information on the program to be coming home the first week of school. We will have a Volunteer Orientation in September.

PTA

Our new PTA officers for the 2009-10 school year are:

- President: Christie Menard (746-5646)
- Vice-President: Stephanie Lesko
- Secretary: Catherine Marshall
- Treasurer: Kelly Lewis

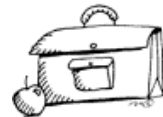
PTA meets the first Thursday of every month at 6:30 PM in the Harold Martin School music room. We are fortunate to have a dedicated group of parents who add so much to our schools through the organization of family events and fund raising which provides many activities for our children. As always, you can find more information on our web site.

IN CLOSING...

Let me know if there is anything I can do to make the transition from summer to school smoother for you. Call the school at 746-3473 or email me at bcarozza@hopkintonschools.org. See you soon!

Sincerely,

Bill Carozza
Principal



CALENDAR DATES

- 9/1 & 9/2 First Days of School
- 9/3-9/7 No School
- 9/8 School Resumes
- 9/16 Harold Martin School Open House 6:30-7:30
- 10/9 No School For Students Staff Professional Development
- 10/12 No School Columbus Day