



**HOPKINTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
HAROLD MARTIN SCHOOL**

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William V. Carozza
Principal

To: Mr. Chamberin and the Hopkinton School Board
From: Bill Carozza
Date: January 28, 2011
Re: Principal's Report

When we talk about educating our children, we have to include areas that are not traditionally assessed but are equally important. In fact, as part of the discussion around reauthorization of ESEA (or a new version of No Child Left Behind) there is movement both in our federal government and within educational professional organizations to broaden the scope of what we consider important and what is funded. One area that has gained important in schools is service to others.

At Harold Martin School, service begins with our school-wide rules of the 3 B's, *Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible*. Over the last few years we have used the 3B's as a launching pad to teach students the need to serve others. Here are some ways we accomplish this:

Food Pantry

Currently, we are engaged in a food drive to benefit the Hopkinton Food Pantry. We launched this effort just before Martin Luther King Day by holding an assembly we called "Caring for Others". We linked the positive message of MLK and equality for all with the need to serve others in need. I presented a PowerPoint with pictures from the local food pantry and we ended by singing the 3B's song. Later that day, information went home to families with details about the food drive.

Working with Senior Citizens

For the last few years, our third grade has been involved in the RSVP Program, which links senior citizens in Hopkinton with third graders. Over the course of the year, they write letters to each other and in the spring, they finally meet each other here at the school in a wonderful celebration of completion. Everyone wins. Our students hone their writing skills and learn the importance of learning from elders and the seniors have a chance for companionship and a great feeling knowing that they helped out a youngster.

Honoring Our Veterans

Every year our school holds assemblies around Veteran's Day, Memorial Day, and Flag Day. For one of the celebrations we ask our students to write to those serving in our military and we mail these letters overseas. There are also many individual stories of communication to soldiers related to our students, such as Sgt. Fleegle, stationed in the Middle East, who has a daughter in first grade. Mrs. Nichols' class has been communicating with him and the highlight was when Mrs. Fleegle skyped him in during the winter concert. He received an ovation from the entire crowd in Hopkinton. Every year we invite veterans to one of our Patriotic celebrations and they are honored from our staff and students.

Big Buddy/Little Buddy

There are scores of mentoring examples throughout the school. Mrs. Jones, Mrs. LeBaron, and Mrs. Nichols' classes have been engaged in monthly "mini-mentor" activities for years as students in grades 1, 2, and 3 all work together on activities that help older students learn how to teach and mentor younger students. We often use service as a method to motivate students who need to build their self-esteem. Just this week I watched a third grade boy walk into a kindergarten class and hold the hand of a little girl who needed support walking down to physical education class. Once down there, this boy spends part of every week mentoring this girl in various motor activities which are difficult for her. The image was priceless.

Environmental Service

For years, we've had students collect the recycling throughout the building. Now, we also have students collect compost for our compost bins located outside. In April, we celebrate Earth Day across the school and our goal is to educate the community about the need to reuse, reduce, recycle. We also organized a Turn Off TV Week in conjunction with Earth Day.

The Playground

While this effort was primarily the work of adults, the many volunteers who gathered to help complete the playground project was a great example to our children. During our brief opening assembly for the playground, our wonderful volunteers were lauded.

Educating the *whole child* means that we want students to reach their potential academically while displaying strong citizenship skills. Schools have to emphasize service as an important piece of that.

See you Tuesday night.