

# Hastings Middle School Parent Newsletter

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## From the Desk of the Principal

Henry Ford once said that his success was merely a function of solving one simple, manageable problem at a time and that anyone could accomplish this. The challenge was to stay focused on the task at hand in pursuit of achieving a grand vision. Not such a simple task for many people. Perhaps even more difficult for young people who are so easily distracted by the lure of all that an “instant gratification” society has to offer.

Earlier this week, a colleague commented on a Boston Globe article that described a research study that had been done by Angela Duckworth, University of Pennsylvania researcher and assistant professor of psychology. The subject of the study was GRIT, expressed as backbone, chutzpah, fortitude, guts, stick-to-it-iveness: the kinds of things that separate brilliant slackers from the simply talented who excel through a passionate yet steady approach. It’s the resolve and ability to establish and keep long-term goals.

Prompted by her observations of people who have become leaders in their fields, Duckworth developed a grit survey to explore the characteristics beyond IQ that differentiated high achieving people

from the rest. Across six studies, Duckworth found that grit significantly contributed to successful outcomes. For example, more determined undergrads earned higher grade point averages than their peers. She also found that grit was not tied to IQ and concluded “determination and long-term goal setting may be more contributory to success than intelligence. It is essential to achievement.” Researchers agree grit isn’t simply about the willingness to work hard. It’s about setting a specific long-term goal and doing whatever it takes until the goal has been reached. People with grit don’t take the easy way out; they just don’t give up.

As a professional learning community we take the business of looking at research and evidence to inform our practice very seriously. Unfortunately our evidence indicates the grit characteristic is lacking in many of our youth. While there are those who do possess this critical quality, too many don’t demonstrate the willingness or desire to try, try, try again. The new-found importance of grit research begs the question: “Can grit be learned?” And if it can, how do we go about teaching it?

Psychologist Carol Dweck, provides some optimism and ideas about how parents and educators can take action to help their kids get grit. In her book *Mindset*, Ms. Dweck states that a key component to helping kids become gritty is to teach them that talent requires continued

practice over much time. Studies overwhelmingly indicate that children who are initially praised for work ethic and taught the value of exerting great effort to accomplish a goal will do what it takes to achieve. Those praised for being intelligent or falsely praised about their otherwise poor performance are less likely to persist in the face of adversity, a crucial element of grit. Dweck refers to this as a “growth mindset”; the belief that work ethic, perseverance, and focus on goals will help you get smart and develop talent. It contradicts the notion of fixed mindset, the belief that achievements result from the abilities you are born with.

Woody Allen once said, “eighty percent of success is showing up.” Research proves it’s not enough to just show up; you have to show up again and again and again. It isn’t always easy to show up, persist, and maintain focus. Success, however, requires nothing less. It requires GRIT. So the next time your child doesn’t perform as well as planned, instead of saying “you really should have won that contest” or “you were robbed by the umpire”, try teaching grit by saying, “practice and work at it

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some more and you might do better next time. Persist in these lessons and you will help your child discover the true essence of hard work and perseverance, the attributes that will help them succeed.

## Honor Roll



The “A” Honor Roll requires that you have “A’s” in all your subjects. The “B” Honor Roll requires that you have “A’s & B’s” or all “B’s” in all your subjects.



## Progress Reports/Report Cards

It is always important for you to know when to expect progress reports and report cards. Our schedule for this school year is listed below.

	<b>Progress Reports</b>	<b>Report Cards</b>
Term 1	Oct. 2, 2009	Nov. 6, 2009
Term 2	Dec. 11, 2009	Jan. 29, 2010
Term 3	March 5, 2010	April 9, 2010
Term 4	May 21, 2010	Will Be Mailed

## Promotion / Retention Guidelines



All *Hastings Middle School* students must meet the following guidelines to be promoted to the next grade:

- All students will pass three of four core academic subjects.
- Enrichments classes are considered in promotion as follows:
  1. Students who fail two enrichment courses in addition to one academic course, will not be considered for promotion.

- Students who fail the same core academic subject for two consecutive years will not be considered for promotion.
- In certain circumstances, a Promotion Review Committee may recommend approval of alternative learning experiences when deemed in the best interest of the student. The committee will submit its recommendations to the Principal who may at his/her discretion, approve or disapprove.

## Early Release Schedule



Students will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. No lunches will be served on the dates listed below: **November 25, December 18, January 21, March 18, and Last Day of School**

## Student of the Month



Each month teachers nominate students for *Student of the Month* recognition. The students are placed on a ballot and teachers vote for one student from each team. Students are nominated for demonstrating the core values of our school. Those core values are *Politeness, Responsibility, Involvement, Discipline, and Excellence.*

Congratulations to the winners for October They are: *Cassidy Correia, Heather Welty, Madison Oliveira, Miller Veitch, Josie Cuoco, Kenneth Borges, Madeline McLaughlin, Samantha Correia, Sarah Dupont, Sara daCosta, Allison Roderiques, Erik Hancock*

## Pride Cards

Pride cards are issued to a student who has done some type of school service for a student or a staff member. At the end of each month, one pride card is chosen from each grade from the boxes in the Guidance Office. These lucky students receive a prize.

<b>Grade 6</b>	Brandon Teixeira
<b>Grade 7</b>	Brittany Remick
<b>Grade 8</b>	Chaney Santos



## School Nurse Notes

Nurse—Barbara Webster Tel: 508 979-4064  
Email Address: bwebster@fairhavenps.org

The H1N1 vaccination clinics have been cancelled for the schools. We encourage parents to obtain the vaccination at primary care providers and area clinics when the vaccination is made available. Watch the Fairhaven Public School website for possible future clinics. If your child is sick please keep them home for the protection of others. Send them back to school when symptoms resolve and they have been fever free for 24 hours without Tylenol or Motrin. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

## National Junior Honor Society

Congratulations to the Newly Elected Officers of the National Junior Honor Society

**Secretary:** *Marissa Garcia*  
**Treasurer:** *Allison Roderiques*  
**Vice President:** *Janelle Mercer*  
**President:** *DeAnna Dang*



Thanks to all who ran for office and we look forward to a productive and rewarding year.

## Spirit Wear By Dr. Gifford

During our October 22 PTO meeting, the Spirit Wear committee presented information on our school uniform initiative. Community members were provided with research about the positive effects of school uniforms as well as anecdotal statements from schools that are requiring uniforms. Research indicates that the implementation of a school uniform policy as a component of a school wide initiative for excellence results in improved student achievement. We are undertaking this initiative as part of our efforts to take our school and students from “Good to Great”.

During the presentation, parents asked questions, discussed pros and cons, and viewed uniform samples modeled by our students. The committee will be meeting soon to develop a survey that will be sent home with students. This questionnaire will ask for parent input relative to implementation of the spirit wear dress code. Stay tuned and be on the lookout for your survey!



## Comments from the Assistant Principal



I would like to use my space here to go over some information from the handbook. As always your child’s safety and success here at school is the driving force in any decisions we make. Please feel free to call me with any questions and/or concerns at 508-979-4066.

1. Remember to call in your child’s absence to the number given in the first paragraph **before 9 AM**. We will document the absence as truancy if we do not hear from you by then.
2. Please notify my office or guidance at 508-979-4147 of any changes in phone numbers and/or addresses. It is imperative that we are able to contact parents in case of emergencies including sickness of the student or

disciplinary matters. Many times teachers try to contact a parent and are unable to reach them because the correct number is not available. Also at various times throughout the year we do mailings. Very often items are returned to us by the post office because the address is no longer valid. For example some sixth graders did not receive their invitations to orientation and some seventh and eighth graders did not receive their final report cards because the school had not been made aware of address changes. I know it is difficult to think of everyone you have to notify when these changes occur, but please remember to let us know.

3. Please remember that students have two days to return any papers that go home and require a

- signature.
4. Please be patient in the parking lot at drop off and dismissal. Overall things are going well, and Officer Riggs and I appreciate that most parents are staying in a single line and dropping their student off at the top of the parking lot. I think it has made for a much safer situation.
  5. **Seventh and eighth grade parents** – Keep in mind that attendance is very important in the application process to Voke. It would be advantageous for your child if you would remember to bring in notes from the doctor for any appointments your child may have that require him/her to miss school. If your child sees a doctor due to illness, ask for a note so that it may be properly documented.

## Breakfast Program By Mr. Stevens



Every school day breakfast is available starting at 7:25 a.m. If you pay full price for lunch, breakfast will cost **\$1.50**; Reduced is **.30**; and if you receive free lunch, you are entitled to a **free** breakfast

*Some offerings are:*  
**Breakfast sandwiches**  
**Cereal and milk**  
**Bagels, muffins**  
**Fresh fruit**  
**Pancakes, French toast**

Since Monday, September 14 every student that comes in for breakfast, is entered in a weekly drawing for a \$5.00 gift card from the Hastings Middle School snack shack.



## Millicent Library Event



### TEEN ADVISORY GROUP (TAG)

Post Halloween party! **Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup> from 3-5 p.m.** in the Library Auditorium (downstairs) Students in grade 6 and up are welcome to join the group. Come dressed as your favorite book character. We'll play games, discuss books, and get started with our writing group.

**NATIONAL NOVEL WRITING MONTH** . See Ms. Jane for details and resources. Website: [www.nanowrimo.org](http://www.nanowrimo.org) Tuesday, November 10 and Thursday, November 19th. Meet in the Library Auditorium downstairs from 3-5 p.m. Students in grade 6 and up are welcome to bring their writing ideas, works in progress, and thinking caps. We'll play writing games and enjoy a literary snack! The group will continue beyond this month.

**FRIDAY THE THIR-TEENTH Party.** Students in grade 6 and up are welcome to celebrate the upcoming Twilight series movie release of New Moon. We'll watch Teen Wolf, play Twilight games, and more! Meet in Library Auditorium, downstairs, Friday November 13 from 3-5.

**TWEEN AND TEEN GAME DAY! Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup> .** Come play your favorite board games, Wii, Guitar Hero, and more! 3-5 p.m. Grades 4 and up. Meet in the Library Auditorium downstairs.

**Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> EARLY RELEASE DAY POKEMON PARTY.** Bring your Pokemon cards and games. Come dressed as our favorite character. All ages. Library Auditorium downstairs 1-2:30 p.m.



## Yearbook By Mrs. Duarte

### Orders are being accepted for the 2010 yearbook!

To ensure that you receive a book in June, fill out the order form below and return it with payment in an envelope to your homeroom teacher.  
 Payment may be made in cash or by check, made payable to: *Hastings Middle School*.



### 2010 Hastings Middle School Yearbook Order Form

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Homeroom: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

2010 Yearbook (Indicate quantity) \_\_\_\_\_ @ **\$ 25.00** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## Guidance News Mrs. Tracey

**Attention All Parents:** Do you ever wish you had other parents to talk to about the challenges of parenting middle school aged kids? Guidance has been asked by some parents to help organize such a group the details of which are still being worked out. The general format of the group is parents helping parents. It is not a structured group lead by a counselor. We need to know if there is more interest before we plan the day, time etc. Please call the guidance office if you're interested and if there is enough interest, we will notify you of the details.

Is your family going through changes due to separation or divorce? Would you like to talk with other kids going through similar situations? If you are interested in meeting with others, please stop in and see Mrs. Tracey in Guidance about participating in a group that will meet after school. The group will begin after Thanksgiving and run for eight weeks.

## Shop & Shop A+ Program By Mrs. Fernandes

Starting October 9, 2009 through March 25, 2010, **Hastings Middle School** will have the opportunity to earn cash through *Stop & Shop A+ Bonus Bucks Program*.



**All you have to do is:**

Log on to [www.stopandshop.com/aplus](http://www.stopandshop.com/aplus) to register online

**OR**

Dial 1-877-275-2758 to register your card over the phone

After you register your card, each shopping trip at Stop & Shop using your Stop & Shop Card earns CASH for our school! Each month, the amount of CASH awarded will be updated on the Stop & Shop website. You can track the amount of points you earn for our school by checking your grocery receipt and online when you create an account at stopandshop.com. Our school will receive a check at the end of the program. The money can be used for any of our school's educational needs.

Please be sure to register your card to benefit **Hastings Middle School** using ID #06737.

**Encourage your friends and relatives to do the same. It could mean the world to our children.**

## Thanksgiving Food Drive By Ms. Richard

Thanksgiving is approaching and the Hastings Middle School Student Council is once again sponsoring a Thanksgiving Food Drive to benefit HMS families, Fairhaven families, and needy families in the area. We will be collecting non-perishable food items.



Each homeroom will be collecting non-perishable food items to compile complete Thanksgiving meals. Please feel free to donate as many items as you wish. These items should be sent directly to the homeroom at any time through November 18<sup>th</sup>. Some examples of wanted items include: cranberry sauce, canned veggies, boxed stuffing, rice, pasta, dessert mix, canned gravy and soup.

If you have any questions, please call Ms. Richard, Student Council Advisor at (508) 979-4063.

**Thank you for your support!**

## Physical Education Student of the Month

Mr. Galvam and Mrs. Nunes would like to recognize the following students for their sportsmanship, skill, and effort in Physical Education for the month of October.

<b>Grade 6:</b> Devin Amaral	Elizabeth Cadieux
<b>Grade 7:</b> Gerald Daigle	Nicole Arruda
<b>Grade 8:</b> Lance Stevens	Alexandra Bernston

## Drama Club News Mr. Brejcha

The Drama Club is preparing for its December performance of *High School Musical, Junior*. The club currently has over 80 students involved in the production.



In Disney's High School Musical, a group of teenagers struggle to discover their true identities while building relationships, exploring new interests, and dealing with others' expectations of them. The musical combines a timeless story with today's music, updated technology, and contemporary themes and situations.

Under the direction of Mr. Brejcha, assistant director Mrs. Duarte, and choreographer Hanna Christ, the show will be staged on **Thursday December 10<sup>th</sup>** and **Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00. We look forward to seeing you there!

# PTO News

We have had a very successful start to the school year! The Fall Fundraiser was a big success and brought in \$7,290 for our school. Thanks to everyone who participated and helped!

**Upcoming events:** **Cookie Dough Fundraiser** begins *November 2<sup>nd</sup>* and runs *through November 16<sup>th</sup>*. Just in time for the holidays! We are also working on enrolling HMS in a few new school incentive programs through Target, Shaw's, and Labels for Education. Watch for more information!



**Vote:** During the meeting held **October 22**, there was a vote of "yes" to purchase paint and microphones for the drama club musical.

**Volunteers Needed:** The Scholastic Book Fair will be held December 7-11 during school hours and during the evening on December 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. If anyone is interested in helping out during the day or evening, please contact any of the PTO officers.

**School clothing fundraiser:** Watch for HMS school clothing! Just in time for the holidays! All proceeds to go to the Drama club.

As always, everyone is invited to attend our PTO meetings. Our next meeting will be held *November 19 at 6:30 pm* in the cafeteria. **IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO GET INVOLVED.**



## Going Green By Dr. Gifford

Part of going green means cutting down on paper consumption. To help in this area, we are planning on implementing a Green Progress Report program. Parents will be able to view and document that they have seen the progress report in the parent portal. Stay tuned for more information.



## National Spanish Examinations Mrs. Duarte

The competitors for the 2010 National Spanish Competition have been selected and they are listed below. Please join Mrs. Duarte and Mr. Beaulieu in congratulating these candidates, and in wishing them good luck in the contest. In the months leading up to the March 2010 competition, our students will be hard at work, studying and preparing to take home the ORO (gold) for Hastings Middle School.

**8th grade:** Monique Desnoyers, Deanna Dang, Allison Roderiques, Marissa Garcia, Jared Machado, Emma Robideaux, Sara daCosta, Brianne Bindas, Samantha Stoddard, Victor Miller, Sarah Dupont, Autumn Cyr and Olivia Lopes.

**7th grade:** Madeline McLaughlin, Jacob Costa, Morgan Smith, Alison Kuechler, Rebecca Cabral, Dylan Cromwell, Cole McGarty, Evan Grodzki,

## Student Voices

Wait By: Heather J. Welty

They say that good things come  
To those who wait.  
So I will sit here,  
And wait,  
With my cat,  
Because you said,  
Good things,  
Shall come of me.  
Good things,  
Because I wait.  
I will see,  
When the wind changes its blow,  
And I will care,  
About that wind.  
I will hear that wind as it blows through the trees,  
The leaves,  
The grass,  
My soul.  
I will hear it as it invites itself into  
My house  
Through the screen door,  
As it scatters,  
My papers, which I have not yet filled,  
With meaningful words.  
But I shall not feel anger,  
Towards that wind.  
Because good things will come of it,  
If I look,  
Listen,  
And wait.