

Hastings Middle School Parent Newsletter

Guidance Office
Mrs. Sarah Decas
Mrs. Joan Tracey
Mrs. Lori Suher

Principal—Bonny L. Gifford, Ed.D.
Tel: 508 979-4063 / 508 979-4065
bgifford@fairhavenps.org

Assist. Principal—Mrs. Karen Dorgan
Tel: 508 979-4066
kdorgan@fairhavenps.org

Tel: 508 979-4147
sdecas@fairhavenps.org
jtracey@fairhavenps.org
lsuher@fairhavenps.org

From the Desk of the Principal

“America is the one country in the world that doesn’t seem to recognize that it is in competition for the great minds and the capital of the world.” So begins the documentary 2 Million Minutes, produced, directed and written by businessman, Bob Compton and two former Teach for America educators. The film highlights sharp contrasts in the educational experiences, perspectives, and expectations of high school students in the United States, China, and India. The title is derived from the mathematical computation that determines that after eighth grade graduation, students have approximately two million minutes from the time they enter high school until graduation. Through the film, the authors attempt to answer the question: “What do students in different countries do with their 2 million minutes in high school?” Mr. Compton’s image, combined with commentary from former Secretary of Labor, Robert Reich, Congressman Bart Gordon, chair of the House Committee on Science, Harvard economist Richard Freeman, chief CEO’s, and leading scientists in America, responds through a depiction of the position of the United States - and its potential future - in the global economy. Sadly, the picture

that is painted isn’t pretty, suggesting that changes in our culture/society have resulted in a less intensive focus on education.

After viewing the documentary, I met with teams of teachers to discuss various educational issues. Discussions pertaining to beliefs about homework segued into conversations about a much bigger picture of education in America and the realization that our success as a community is dependent upon so many things: community involvement, parental support, student motivation, resources... the list goes on. Several groups talked about the message the documentary was sending; the same message being conveyed by Thomas Friedman’s international bestseller, *The World is Flat*. The bottom line is our world is changing at an exponential rate. Our rapidly evolving 21st Century demands we prepare our children to be imaginative, creative, and innovative and possess skills such as global literacy, problem solving, communication, collaboration, and decision making so they can become successful participants in our interconnected world.

Consider some of the following facts: By 2023, a \$1000 computer will exceed the capabilities of the human brain, a week’s worth of the New York Times contains more information than a person was likely to come across in a lifetime in the

eighteenth century, in 2002, Nintendo invested more than \$140 million in research and development while the U.S. Government spent half as much in research and innovation, the number of text messages sent and received every day exceeds the planet’s population, and the top 10 “in-demand” jobs in 2010 didn’t exist in 2004. What does all this mean?

In the words of U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings, “*We live in a world where technological innovation and global competition are increasing at a pace never before seen. Now is the time to invest in our children to make sure they are prepared to succeed in the 21st century.*” Now more than ever before it will take a village to accomplish the task at hand. We need every parent and community member to help us move our students forward. You can help by ensuring your child completes homework, is organized, studies, reads, and spends free time involved in healthy activities. Despite



Inside this issue:

Progress Reports/ Report cards	2
Student of the Month	2
Honor Roll	2
National Junior Honor Society	2
Rock-n-Steady in Rock Band Club	2
Early Release Schedule Pride Card	2
Promotion / Retention Guidelines	3
Immunization / School Nurse Notes	3
Comments from the Assistance Principal	3
Grade 6 English	4
Rave Reviews Parent Volunteers	4
Printer Cartridge & Cell Phone Recycling	4
Physical Education— Student of the Month	5
PTO News	5
Technology / Engineer- ing	5
Renaissance Club	5
Calendar	6

the more difficult educational environment that middle school presents, parents remain one of the most important learning resources children have. Our children will greatly benefit from family support. Help us guide and prepare them for a 21st century future.



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. Additionally, students must maintain a **passing grade of Satisfactory or better** in all *Unified Arts* subjects.

Rock-n-Steady in Rock Band Club

by Mrs. Roveda



Rock Band Club Members are continuing to plug in and plug away at new songs. Each week members of the club are showing improvement and learning to work together as group. Other members of the club have been writing lyrics and with some musical help from the instructors, they have crafted an original song! We hope to feature the talent and original music of our club members at the Band Fundraiser Coffee House – open mic night- May 29th at 7PM. We hope to see you there.

Until Then...ROCK ON!

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 February. They are: **Marissa Souza, Andrew Eusebio, Seth deOliveira, Tessa Hart-Ward, Richard Souza, Justin St. Jean, Quinn Stoekle, Julia Tapper, Ian Thatcher, Zoe Gelinas, and Ethan Kirkwood.**

Congratulations to the winners for March. They are: **Lance Stevens, Bay Gammons, Zachary Viera, Madison Maniatis, Jonathan Gonsalves, Christopher Moniz, Adam Lima, Miranda Branco, William Lessa, Tori Paiva, Brandyn Arruda, and Alexis Cambra.**



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.

	Progress Reports	Report Cards
Term 1	Oct. 5, 2007	Nov. 9, 2007
Term 2	Dec. 14, 2007	Jan. 25, 2008
Term 3	February 29, 2008	April 3, 2008
Term 4	May 16, 2008	Will Be Mailed

National Junior Honor Society

By Mrs. Drouin & Mrs. Charette



The National Junior Honor Society will be inducting new members in 7th and 8th grade in an evening ceremony on May 22nd. Possible inductees will be notified of their status after April vacation by mail. All inductees and current members must complete 8 hours of community service and 4 hours of school service before April vacation. Current members should type all of their hours and have a parent or teacher sign. New inductees received an information form that should be filled out completely. All forms and signatures are due to Mrs. Drouin or Mrs. Charette on or before April 18th.

Early Release Schedule



Students will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. **No lunches** will be served on the dates listed below:

May 16, & Last day of school

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.

	February	March
Grade 6	Madison Maniatis	Bay Gammons
Grade 7	Nathan Rock	Lauren Almeida
Grade 8	Nicholas Baptiste	Alex McCannon

Promotion / Retention Guidelines



All *Hastings Middle School* students will be retained in grade if any of the following are applicable.

- A. Student fails **Mathematics & English** for the school year.
- B. Student fails **2 consecutive years of either Math or English**.
- C. Student fails **3 academic subjects during a school year** (*Science, Social Studies, Reading, Foreign Language, Mathematics, English*).



Immunization / School Nurse Notes

Nurse—Kerri Masapollo

Tel: 508 979-4064

Email Address:

kmasapollo@fairhavenps.org



At this time, all grade 6 & 7 students should have obtained the full series of Hepatitis B. If your child is missing a dose, you will be notified by the nurse & be required to obtain the immunization either by your doctor or at the clinic.

All Grade 7 students need evidence of having had Td Booster.

Students also need to show proof of having had **Chicken Pox** disease or having received the vaccine.

The above requirements are mandated by the Department of Pub-

lic Health.

— — — — —
Please call the school nurse with questions at **(508) 979-4064**.

The Department of Public Health (*105 CMR Section 200.200*) requires that public schools have on file a report of physical examination of each child upon entrance into the school system and every 3-4 years thereafter (*Grades 4, 7, & 10*) If you are the parent of a **grade 7** child, your child is scheduled to have an updated physical. Please send the physical exam form from the physician to the nurse.

Comments from the Assistant Principal



As we near the end of the year, it is a good time to remind you of a few important handbook guidelines.

Dress Code: Please review the items that are specifically mentioned in the handbook. Straps on sleeveless shirts need to be more than two inches wide, shorts and skirts must not be shorter than your fingertips when standing at attention, slippers and pajamas are not allowed at all. There are other items in the dress code, but I thought I would mention these as they are the ones that are most often ignored.

Cell Phones: Cell phones are not allowed in school. We know students have them, and as long as they are not seen or heard, we do not make an issue of them. They should be locked in the student's locker during the day. We are noticing an increase in students texting during classes. If they

are seen texting by a staff member, they will have the phone taken away. A parent will have to come to claim the phone and disciplinary action maybe taken.

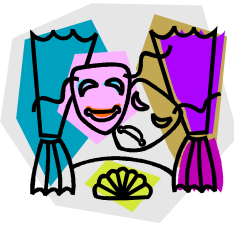
Buses: Buses are provided for students who live on an approved bus route **only!** If there is an emergency or a special reason that requires your child to ride a bus, a parent or guardian needs to write a note, stating the reason, and send it in to my office twenty-four hours before it is needed. I will either grant permission for the student to ride the bus **for that one-day only** or deny the request. If the request is denied, I will call to let you know the reason the request was denied.

On another note, the other day, a professor came to our school to observe one of our teachers. When he met me in the hall, he commented that he visited many schools, and he found the students here to be extremely polite.

He said many times students approached him and asked if he needed help. Yesterday Mr. Donnelly, who does our fundraising, said he was impressed with the number of students who thanked him on the way out of the cafeteria. He said he does not get that in many schools he visits. I know that in my job, I spend a lot of time dealing with the negative, and it is very easy to lose sight of the fact that we have wonderful students here at Hastings. It was great to hear from outsiders that our students stand out. It is a credit to you, the parents, and to the staff here at Hastings that our students stand above the rest! Thank you for your continued support.

Rave Reviews By Dr. Gifford

If you missed the drama club's presentation of Give My Regards to Broadway, you missed a wonderful performance that inspired foot tapping and raucous laughter from a very appreciative audience. The choral group performed old time favorites including Grand Old Flag, Yankee Doodle Boy, and When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again. Not to be outdone, vocalists such as Meghan Dorian and Hanna Christ delighted the audience with voices pure and powerful. Alex Kuechler gave a commanding performance as Mugsy, a gangster chasing after Legs who was creatively portrayed by Tom Powers. Sylvia Alves was truly in character as arrogant Mona Monroe. Finally, by the sound of the laughter it appeared that Dylan Cardoso (Donald Harper) stole the show with his antics entertaining the audience with his not so scary or sturdy equipment. Thanks to Ms. Leigh Burroughs and her crew for a lively, well produced show and many thanks to the PTO for sponsoring this awesome endeavor.



Grade 6 English



As part of the 6 grade English curriculum, students will be required to write a research paper on a character or monster from Greek Mythology. The paper will count as **1 test, 1 quiz, 1 class work, and several homework assignments** as we will be spending a considerable amount of time on this project. A visit to the local area libraries (*Fairhaven, New Bedford, Acushnet, and Dartmouth*) and / or local book stores for reference materials is a **MUST!!** Please monitor

your child's agenda book closely as different parts of the writing process will have specific due dates. Final projects will be due in May.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Your Grade 6 English Team:

Mrs. Kimberly Leblanc—6 Blue
Mrs. Laurie Hebert—6 White
Mrs. Edith Ronn—6 Blue / White

Printer Cartridge & Cell Phone Recycling By Mrs. Reuther



So far we have raised \$377 in Funding Factory's Recycling Program and if we send in 50 qualifying items by April 27th we will get a \$50 Pizza Hut gift card! Our goal is to buy a color printer for the lab so we still have to keep collecting. Students have been working very hard on many different projects in computer class that would look awesome printed out in color.

Please help the computer lab earn funding by donating your used inkjet and laser printer cartridges and old cell phones! That's right - we're still collecting products you probably throw away. Please save your cartridges from the landfill and help us buy needed technology equipment and supplies. Last year alone, more than 500 million cartridges were thrown away, while 30 million cell phones were tossed or replaced. We're alleviating the volume of waste that goes into landfills, while earning the funding we need to keep us running smoothly. Your help is vital to our fundraising success! Drop off your used printer cartridges and cell phones at the school.

We are also asking local businesses for their support. If you work at a business that would like to become our partner, please contact me at the school or email at jreuther@fairhavenps.org.



Parent Volunteers By Dr. Gifford

I would like to extend my thanks to the parents who helped Mrs. Freeman and Mr. Baldo with the Earth's surface project. I wandered through the rooms to check out the activity and was quite impressed. The energy in the classrooms was intense; students, parents, and teachers were busy molding, cleaning, and talking about their contour maps. Parent volunteers certainly help make these hands-on projects possible. If you would like to join the fun and become part of something exciting please contact your child's teachers by phone or email. We welcome your help and look forward to seeing you!

PTO News

- The Drama Club Presentation of "Give My Regards to Broadway" was a huge success! The Drama Club brought in \$1200 and the PTO had a 50/50 Raffle with a \$125 winner! Hats off to all the performers of the night!
- HOT OFF THE PRESS: Our new "Hastings Eagles" T-shirts are available to purchase. The cost is \$10. See enclosed form to order.
- The PTO "Spring Fling" dance is Friday, April 11th from 7:00-9:30. The ticket cost is \$3.00 before hand or \$4.00 at the door. We will be selling pizza, candy and water.
- Fun Fair Day is scheduled for Friday, June 6th. Any 6th or 7th grade parent who would like to help out and has not yet signed up to do so may contact Pam Corcoran at 508-997-6183.
- Our HMS Staff Appreciation Day Luncheon is scheduled for Friday, May 16th. Any parent who would like to help out that day with setting up/cleaning up or would like to donate something for the staff raffle, please contact Marianne Tichon at 508-990-7868.



Renaissance Club by Mrs. Suher



The Renaissance Club and HMS would like to congratulate Darren Green for winning the HMS Mascot Drawing Contest. Darren drew a wonderful eagle and it is currently on HMS apparel and will be on next year's agenda. Congratulations Darren.

The Renaissance Club recently wrapped up our Pennies for Patients collection. We will be counting the coins and announcing the winning homeroom before April vacation. Congratulations to all of the homerooms. Participation was wonderful.

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 months of February and March.

February:

Grade 6: Zachary Viera	Taylor Allen
Grade 7: Timothy Magalhaes	Molly Sylvia
Grade 8: William Lessa	Kara Charette

March:

Grade 6: Lance Stevens	Kayla Abrantes
Grade 7: Alex Dompierre	Danielle Fournier
Grade 8: Kyle Soares	Kayli Moniz

Technology/Engineering By Mrs. Vastano



Prospective engineers have been working hard on a bridge design problem. The town of Vastanohaven needs to replace an old bridge with a new one to solve a growing traffic and load conditions. Our 6th, 7th, and 8th graders have been solving problems associated with budget, span, and load as they determine which type of bridge would satisfy the town's needs. Vastanohaven decided a truss bridge would suit their needs best.

Presently, students are in different stages of their bridge building project. Working in pairs, some teams are still working on their orthographic projections while others are beginning to cut and glue their structure. Ask your child what an orthographic projection is and if she/he cannot tell you that it is a multi-view drawing showing three views of an object, he/she should be able to before this project is over. Nevertheless, they will be building their bridges out of 1/8" wide sticks of balsa wood and glue. Sure to be a shattering experience, all completed bridges will be tested for strength.

The next scheduled topics for study include Wind Power and other forms of renewable energy resources. Students investigate how we power our homes and how important it is for us to learn how to become less dependent on fossil fuels. In time for spring, students learn about the mystery behind the disappearance and death of this country's bee population and how we are dependent of bees and other natural pollinators. As scientists students will experiment on what types of materials might make an artificial bee pollinator and as designers they will attempt to design one.

As much as possible, lessons contain hands-on activities. Cooperative learning is still a predominate theme throughout this course. Students enjoy the social aspect of cooperative learning but often do not realize how much they learn from each other. Having a conversation with your child about how much we can teach and learn from each other will help drive that message home.