

Hastings Middle School Parent Newsletter

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From the Desk of the Principal



On Friday, my family will witness a magnificent event. We will be in Cape May, New Jersey sharing a very special moment as our son graduates from the U.S. Coast Guard training center. Having survived eight weeks of hardship and physical and mental exhaustion, as well as exhilarating moments of success, our son will become a proud member of the United States Coast Guard. He will leave boot camp behind, having learned about the importance of “WE” and the value of serving others. He will leave boot camp, having developed relationships and bonds that will prove to be unbreakable. He will leave book camp, ready to embark on a new adventure as a member of another team, focused on a common mission: safeguarding our homeland.

Anyone who has gone through this experience knows that families of recruits undergo the challenges along with their service member, although from a distance. With phone and Internet correspondence banned, our entire family

came together as a team to find ways to make sure our recruit never felt alone, but rather became strengthened by our undying support. Through letters and online blogs we struggled to find words that would effectively describe our pride, inspire and encourage, and provide the support our recruit needed to persevere through each challenge and frustration. While we will never know the magnitude of what really went on during those short eight weeks we are certain that the experience has changed lives for ever. Not only our son’s, but all of us who shared his letters, took turns writing, and collectively sent our positive thoughts and energy. We leave this experience behind us, understanding as well as the recruits do, what it means to be part of something bigger than oneself and what being a part of a team requires.

The concept of team (squad, crew, and lineup) transcends every aspect of our lives. Webster’s Dictionary defines team as a number of persons associated together in work or activity as a group on one side. There are sports teams, business teams, committees, bands and orchestras, community and charitable organizations, fire and police, and of course school communities; they all function most effectively when they live and breathe as a team. Teams differ from other types of groups in that members are focused on

a joint goal or product.

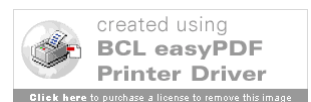
For teams to produce the greatest results, leaders and team members must step up and coach one another. This is one of the most basic tenets of a professional learning community (PLC). Each member of a strong PLC is committed to working collaboratively in an ongoing process of collective inquiry and action research all in the name of improved student learning. The team develops a shared vision and holds each member accountable for implementing the steps necessary to accomplish that vision. The team establishes a trusting relationship that fosters communication, collaboration, and cohesiveness. In the book *The Power of Teamwork*, authors Scott Beare and Michael McMillan state that members of a team place the team’s needs and interests first, above their own. “Sacrificing individual gain for the team’s greater good is the price of admission members must pay and keep paying to be on the team.” The staff and faculty at Hastings Middle School take the responsibility of being part of a team seriously. We understand our mission, are committed to our vision of high academic achieve-

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ment for all students, and have pledged to diligently work for the success of each and every student.

Semper Paratus



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.

	Progress Reports	Report Cards
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:

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 December They are: *Tyler Rego, Nathan Lopes, Hunter Lees, Kennedy Ryan, Alison Kuechler, Ethan Kellaway, Matthew Sylvia, Mackenzie Martin, Nathan Jones, Emma Robidoux, Marisa Tsonis, Brittney Rainville*

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.

Grade 6	Nolan Roderiques
Grade 7	Brandon Chan
Grade 8	Zachary Mendonca



School Nurse Notes

Nurse—Barbara Webster Tel: 508 979-4064

Email Address: bwebster@fairhavenps.org

The winter months are upon us this and cold symptoms prevail. We would like to supply each class with facial tissues to help stop the spread of germs. At this time I am asking parents for donations of facial tissues to help support a healthy environment. Please drop off your donations to the main office and tissues will be distributed throughout the building. Thank you.

A reminder to all parents that the school should receive a copy of your child's yearly physical exam as well as any updated immunizations. Students in seventh grade require an updated Tetanus vaccination and a physical exam within the last 3-4 years documented in their health record to be in compliance with the Massachusetts Department of Education's guidelines. If your child's health record is not in compliance you will be notified by the nurse.

Spirit Wear Initiative

By Dr. Gifford



Some time ago a number of us attended a presentation by Dr. Lorraine Monroe, founder and executive director of the School Leadership Academy at the Center for Educational Innovation in New York City and the Frederick Douglass Academy in Harlem. We came away from the workshop inspired by Dr. Monroe's words: "Nothing's Impossible." Dr. Monroe managed to turn around a failing school in her belief that a disciplined environment and a refusal to accept mediocrity could transform students' lives and lead a school to greatness. A component of her school's reform initiative was the inclusion of school uniforms. As we face the formidable task of transforming our school from *good to great*, we have agreed that school uniforms are a critical element in our reform efforts.

Our students are not competing with other students sitting next to them. They are competing with people around the globe. It is our duty to demand excellence and not accept mediocrity so they will be successful. Have you ever asked yourself what makes a private school's reputation so great and why parents pay to send their children to them? Once again it's about the environment, programs, and structures that say: "You will be honors, you will be excellent, and we will get you there. As noted educational expert, Doug Reeves, asked at a recent workshop: "If it's good for the best, why isn't it good for the rest?" At Hastings, we don't want to be "the rest"; we challenge you to help us become "the best."

We invite you to attend our next PTO meeting on March 25th beginning at 6:30. Our spirit wear team will present information on uniforms and answer your questions.



Comments from the Assistant Principal

As I'm sure you have all come to realize, winter weather adds to the amount of time it takes you to get your child to school. More parents drop their child off by car when the weather is inclement. Please remember this as you plan your departure time. If you get to school before 7:30 AM, you should have no wait at all. After that time, the traffic increases dramatically. Again say your good byes and give all the last minute directions so that your child can quickly exit the car, and the line can move. We make every attempt to be reasonable in regards to tardiness. If traffic/road conditions call for it, we delay attendance so that students are given more time before they are considered tardy.

Students may enter the building at 7:25 AM if they are buying breakfast. The library and the computer lab open at 7:30 AM for students who need to complete homework or work on projects. Keep in mind that each can only hold so many students and, as you can imagine,

they fill up quickly in the cold weather. Rest assured that if it is raining or if the temperature is very low, we do let the students in early. The earliest that we have staff available for supervision is 7:25 AM, so if you drop your child off before that, he or she will be outside. Please make sure that your child is dressed properly for the weather. I am always amazed as I stand outside freezing at the number of students who come to school with no coat, no hat, no gloves, and no warm shoes. Again the earliest students will be allowed to enter the building is 7:25 AM.

It's hard to believe that we are more than halfway done with school! Hopefully, the flu season will soon be behind us, and students will begin to feel better as MCAS approaches. Please remember to call your child in sick by 9 AM **every day** he/she will be absent. Please call 508-979-4066, **not the main office number**, as my office handles atten-

dance. Also don't forget to send in any medical documentation you may have for the absences. It is understandable that you do not take your child to the doctor every time he/she is sick; however, if you do go, simply ask the doctor for a note. Doctors realize that school districts are being held accountable for attendance, and they are more than happy to provide you with documentation when appropriate. Parents should also be aware that attendance is a huge factor in determining whether or not a student is accepted into Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational High School or any other local high school. Medical documentation is important as those notes are placed in the student's medical record and very often help convince those schools that the absences were justified. Attendance is also important at any high school as it has a direct effect on credits and whether or not a student is promoted to the next grade. Certainly developing a good work ethic is an important life skill!

Art Club is Going Green!

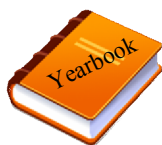
By Mrs. Roveda



Now that we have finished our projects for the HMS production of High School Musical, it's time to start Art Club again. I thought it would be fun to make a collective New Year's resolution to be more environmentally conscious in 2010.

So... Art Club is Going GREEN! Projects will have a strong emphasis on using environmentally friendly materials and methods. We will be using found objects, scrap wood, newspapers, paper from the recycling bin, etc. Our first project is going to be a printmaking project in which we will be using just about anything that makes a cool print; bottle caps, soda bottle (bottoms), old sponges, tin foil, glass jars, paper, old window screens, textured wall paper scraps, washers, screws, springs, etc... We can also use found objects from nature, sea shells, rocks, leaves, twigs, potato stamps, etc... The goal of this project is to become more innovative and explore re-using and recycling while making outstanding Artwork. Other projects will include painting on wood scraps, paper mache beaded necklaces, found object sculpture, and many more to come! I look forward to sharing the results on our HMS Art web page at: hastingsart.edublogs.org. You can also check out the student artwork from each grade, cool links to museums, and online art activities!

If you have any materials you think might be useful for our Going-Green Art Club please email me at broveda@fairhavenps.org.



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 = \$ _____

Millicent Library Event

Thursday, 3-5 p.m. TAG Meeting.
Grade 6 and up. Downstairs Auditorium.
Thursdays from 3-5 p.m.
January 7, February 4, March 4.



Contact Jane Murphy at 508-992-5342 or jmurphy@sailsinc.org.

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 January.

Grade 6:	Madisyn Silva	David Hollinrake
Grade 7:	Kristy Walton	Evan Edwards
Grade 8:	William Oliver	Sarah Dupont



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.

Hands on History! **By Mrs. Haines**

Over the past weeks the 6th grade has been studying the fascinating and mysterious civilization of ancient Egypt. One of the most interesting topics explored was the Egyptian religion and the culture that was shaped out of it. Students were introduced to some of the most famous of the ancient Gods, they studied beliefs about the after life and the tremendous effort the Egyptians put into getting there. They explored tombs like the pyramids and the mummification of the dead. Students on 6 white even made their own pharaoh mummies out of apples! They each named their mummy and buried it in salt- just like the ancient Egyptians! Staying true to the process, the mummies will not be ready to be uncovered until February 16th. With patience & anticipation we wait!



Students on the 6 white team are in the process of choosing and creating projects based on their study of ancient Egypt. Each student will be responsible for 3 projects, each due on 3 separate days spaced out over 4 weeks. The assignments range from making 3D models, power point presentations, or a travel brochure, to writing and illustrating biographies, picture books/ story books, or a how-to book. Instruction sheets have already been sent home. Parents, please work with your child to ensure all requirements are met and assignments are completed on-time. The library and the computer lab are available before and after school, as am I.

Assignment due dates are as follows:

Assignment 1 due January 27th

Assignment 2 due February 3rd

Assignment 3 due February 10th

I look forward to all the creative and informative projects I know our 6th graders are capable of. Please feel free to contact me at the school or via e-mail: jhaines@fairhavenps.org.

Grade 8 Baby Photos **By Mrs. Duarte**

Attention eighth grade students and parents!

Each eighth grade student may submit a favorite baby picture for the Baby Photo section of the yearbook. These items will be placed in the yearbook at no cost to you. Keep in mind that wallet size photos work best. **NO photos larger than 4" x 6"** will be accepted!!! Make sure to write the student's first and last name on the back of the photo.

All photos should be submitted to Mrs. Duarte by Friday, February 5. NO photos will be accepted after this date.



Support Our Troops **By Mrs. Haines**

Once again, Hastings Middle School has adopted a platoon serving in Afghanistan. These soldiers are in need of some kind words, pictures, and supplies. Each month a different team is responsible for putting together a care package that will be shipped to our platoon. Show your gratitude to our deserving heroes! Please do your part by writing letters/cards, drawing pictures, buying supplies and entertainment items, or donating funds for our platoon. Monetary donations are needed to cover the costs of shipping and handling. Please look for notices coming home during your child's assigned month that will provide you with more information.



Months are assigned as follows:

December: 6W

January: 6B

February: 7W

March: 7B

April: 8W

May: 8B

Thank-you for your anticipated support!

For more information please contact Mrs. Haines at jhaines@fairhavenps.org and go online to www.adoptaplatoon.org

Essay Contest **By Mrs. Day**



\$50.00

Andrew Glover, 8 Blue Team, entered an essay contest this fall sponsored by the Fort Phoenix VFW Ladies Auxiliary # 2892.

Andrew won the local contest; his prize was

PTO News

Hastings Middle School is now enrolled in the Label for Education program! This is an easy way to earn educational resources for our school. Simply save UPCs from participating products and return them to the school to be redeemed. For a list of products that qualify, visit labelsforeducation.com.



Coming soon.... H.M.S. Got Talent. We will be looking for students with a special talent to show us just how talented they are! Watch for more details.

As always, everyone is invited to attend our PTO meetings. Our next meeting will be held *March 25 at 6:30 pm* in the cafeteria. **IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO GET INVOLVED.**



Supplies Needed! Mrs. Haines

Hastings Middle School will soon be starting a new, school wide, behavior rewards program for the students. In order for this to be successful, we need your help! To begin, we are looking to collect about 25 plastic pretzel/cheese puff jars with covers and 1 large plastic bin with a cover. Please give any donations to the main office and stay tuned for more information to come about this exciting program!



Green Team News By Ms. Richards

The Hastings Middle School Green Team is having a year long online fundraiser. Just use this link <http://www.greenraising.com/?AFID=1719> The Green Team receives 25% of all the sales.



Book Discussion Group By Ms. Richard

There will be an after school book discussion group for the Best Seller, **Three Cups of Tea** by Greg Mortenson. Young Readers Edition. The books may be picked up on Monday, January 25th in the library. We will all read the book throughout the month and meet again on Monday, March 1st to discuss, have snacks and tea and enjoy each others company. This is open to all students, teachers, staff and parents. It is a wonderful free event so please join us. Any questions, contact Ann Richard.



Miss Chretien's Math Class

Congratulations to the following students who have not missed any homework assignments all year. They have turned in more than 70 homework assignments since the beginning of the school year. These students truly know the meaning of being model students. Keep up the great work!

*Hannah Abrantes
Kathryn Braley
Kacie Carvalho
Jacob Costa
Dylan Cromwell
Josie Cuoco
Nicholas Girard
Ethan Horsley
Kyle Koczera
Alison Kuechler
Emily Lewis
Brianna Marques
Colin Thomas
Kristy Walton*

The following students have not missed any homework assignments for the second quarter. There were a total of 40 homework assignments for the quarter.

*Justin Borges
Julia Corey
Benjamin Elliott
Brittany Remick*

