

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

Another marking period is complete and as Sonny and Cher often sang, “And the beat goes on”. Our school community has been involved in a multitude of activities and learning experiences. For example, the PTO has already sponsored a 6th grade mixer, a school wide dance, a limo lunch, and fall fundraiser. Many students stay after school to participate in a variety of clubs such as homework club, intramurals, chess club, rock band club, drama practice, jazz band, and fangs, wings, and magical things among others. My favorite is the magical things group. Last week they surprised me with a tasty candy apple, living the “apple for the teacher” philosophy.

Once again our teachers have been involved in professional development. During October’s professional day, they attended a workshop on differentiated instruction. The lessons learned during this presentation will be reinforced throughout the year through classroom observations and feedback, modeling of strategies, team meeting discussions and a literature study of Rick Wormelli’s *Differentiation, From Planning to Practice*. While many current understandings about learning provide strong support for classrooms that recognize, honor, and cultivate individuality, the underlying principles of differentiated instruc-

tion are key to addressing three critical principles of effective teaching: Intelligence is variable, the brain seeks meaningful patterns, and people learn best when provided with moderate challenge. Mindful of these concepts, our teachers are refining their practice by exploring new methods of instruction and assessment.

Feedback from students can be eye opening when you listen to their comments. Wormelli quotes a 7th grader describing a particularly engaging and rigorous classroom in which the teacher implemented diverse strategies: “I like this class because there’s something different going on all the time. My other classes, it’s like peanut butter for lunch every single day. This class, it’s like my teacher really knows how to cook. It’s like she runs a really good restaurant with a big menu and all”. Here’s to those educators who see their work as a calling rather than a job, who dig deeper into personal and professional reservoirs to look for one more way to explain a concept, draw a student into a discussion, provide support for success, and do whatever it takes to maximize students’ potential. Here’s to the teachers who feed students from a menu that contains more than just peanut butter.

I read a moving article in the September, 2008 Readers’ Digest entitled Diamonds are for Sharing. The piece provided a powerful message about what 13 women learned about life, love, and happiness, inspiring me to share the story with our families. The women, from all walks of life, agreed to pool their resources

to purchase and share a \$37,000 diamond necklace. Tom, the jewelry store-owner, put aside his wife’s judgment and agreed to sell the necklace for \$15,000. He said he felt compelled to sell the necklace to this group and wanted to see his wife smile, something he hadn’t witnessed since her sister had died six months earlier. He made the deal, telling the women his wife had to be included in the group. Throughout the year, each woman was given the opportunity to wear the necklace for four weeks, during her birthday month, and the group met when it was time to pass the necklace on. The story describes the joy, kindness, and friendship the women discovered; most importantly it told of how each life changed for the better, how each found happiness in working with charities, giving up material things, and living life to the fullest. As each woman wore the necklace, it gained in luster, the diamonds becoming more brilliant than ever. Was it the women who gave the diamonds their sparkle?

What a powerful message to spread to our children. As adults who spend a good amount of time with youngsters, we must take seriously the impression we make on young minds and hearts. Let’s prioritize our efforts to let them know we believe in them; we believe

Inside this issue:	
Progress Reports / Report cards	2
Promotion / Retention Guidelines	2
Honor Roll	2
Student of the Month	2
Early Release Schedule	2
Pride Card	2
Immunization / School Nurse Notes	3
Comments from the Assistance Principal	3
From the Stacks	4
Rock Band Club	4
Support our Troops	4
Millicent Library Events	4
Physical Education—Student of the Month	4
Yearbook	5
PTO News	5
Guidance News	5
Video Game Club	5
Spanish Space Race	6
Chess Club	6
Air Force Visits Grade 6	6
Clubs / Activities at HMS	6

they are the ingredients that combine to give life its luster. As Thanksgiving approaches, tell your children you are thankful for them and thankful for the community that supports them in their quest to become productive citizens who know joy, kindness, and friendship, and recognize the true essence of life!



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 with at least a Satisfactory** in all *Enrichment* 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. 10, 2008	Nov. 7, 2008
Term 2	Dec. 12, 2008	Jan. 23, 2009
Term 3	February 27, 2009	April 3, 2009
Term 4	May 8, 2009	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.

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: **Jacob Costa, Hana Coffey, Matthew Sylvia, Andrew Pereira, Michael Eckenreiter, Seth deOliveira, Marisa Tsonis, Ryan Baldwin, Reece Arnold, Ashley Pereira, and Kayla Serpa .**

Early Release Schedule



Students will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. **No lunches** will be served on the dates listed below: **November 26, December 18, January 15, March 19, & 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.

	October
Grade 6	Brittany Remick
Grade 7	Justin Relvinha
Grade 8	Kayli Berche

Immunization / School Nurse Notes

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



Flu Clinics are up and running.

Pay just **\$5.00**, or free for people with medicare Part B.

Thursday, November 15 from 5 - 7 p.m. at the Recreation Center or

Thursday, November 20 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Recreation Center.

Recreation Center is located near

Stop and Shop plaza.

Other news from the nurse:

Postural Screening on all grades will be conducted during December and January. More information to come.

Vision and hearing screenings, along with calculation of Body Mass Index, are under way. Referrals will be sent forward to

parents whose children do not pass the screenings.

Also, reminder letters are in the mail for parents who need to send in a most recent copy of Physical Examinations and immunizations.

Thank you to all parents for your prompt response to these issues. Any questions, please feel free to call the nurse at 508 979-4064.

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.**
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. More and more we are finding this to be a problem with cell phone numbers. When this occurs we have no way of contacting the parent. 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 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. Over-

all 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. **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.



From the Stacks By Ms. Richard



Special thanks to the following students who have made recent donations to the Hastings Middle School Library for birthday books.

Chainy Santos, Jonathan Furtado, Sarah Dupont, Ethan Horsley, Mason Evich, Nora Saunders, Tyler Hemingway.

Also thanks to **Mrs. Sarah Decas and Southern Mass Credit Union** who recently donated some titles to the collection. If you like to make a monetary or book donation to the library please email Ms. Richard at arichard@fairhavenps.org.

Millicent Library Events



Harry Potter Movie Series — Saturday, November 1 and 15, 1—4 p.m. Movies # 4 and # 5 on the Big Screen held in the library auditorium downstairs.

Writing Club (NaNoWriMo) — Thursdays in November, from 3—4 p.m. We will each try to write a short novel in November. See <http://ywp.nanowrimo.org> for more information. Held in the Library auditorium.

Books2Movies Club — Book discussion on Tuesday, November 18 at 4 p.m. Movie will be shown on **Friday, November 21 at 4 p.m.** Book this month is *Arthur and the Minimoys*. For grade 3—6.

Pokemon Party — Wednesday, November 26, 1—2 p.m. Bring your pokemon cards! We will make a craft, play some Pokemon games, and battle/trade cards. Sign up.

For more information contact Laura Gardner at lgardner@sailsinc.org.

Support our Troops! By Mrs. Haines



Hastings Middle School has adopted a platoon of 44 soldiers serving in Iraq. These soldiers are originally from Connecticut and are in need of some kind words, local news, and supplies. Each month a different team will be 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, drawing pictures, and buying supplies and entertainment items for our platoon. Please look for notices coming home during your child's assigned month that will provide you with more information.

Months are assigned as follows:

October—November: 6 White

November—December: 6 Blue

December—January: 7 White

January—February: 7 Blue

February—March: 8 White

March—April: 8 Blue

Thank you for your anticipated support!

For more information

Please contact Mrs.

Haines at

jhaines@fairhavenps.org

and go online to

www.adoptaplatoon.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 October.

Grade 6: Kyle Koczera
Melanie Bettencourt

Grade 7: Ryan Dixon
Danielle Charette

Grade 8: Jason Heller
Katie Langlois

Rock Band Club By Mrs. Roveda

Rock Band Club is back in action this fall! We have almost doubled our membership this year which has allowed us to form two bands – names of bands to come! This year we are able to use the auditorium which has a full drum kit for our drummers, Darren Green and Giuliano Conte, to use. We also have Bria Rodrigues and Christopher deOliveira on bass. Tyler Paquette, Isaac Allen, Morgan Izdebski, and Jacob Beaudoin are playing electric guitars. Finally we have Maggie Mendes playing acoustic guitar and singing, and our other vocalists are Kelly Figueiredo and Victoria Perry. In addition to musicians we have Matthew Tapper and Alexandra Saulenas as our band managers. Members have shown improvement and growth as individuals and working in groups. We are also happy to see all of our members from last year return and are thrilled with all of our new members. Mr. Marshall and Mrs. Roveda are very excited about the prospect of both



Rock Band Clubs performing for the school this year. We are off to a great start so stay tuned for more on Rock Band Club to come!

PTO News

For our QSP fundraiser, we sold \$25,199! We will be calling parents to come in and help distribute the orders. If you are interested in helping, and have not told us, please contact Marianne Tichon at 508-990-7868.

The LOGO orders have been turned in and we are looking for an early December delivery date. Thanks to all who have purchased the clothing!

The Beary Thoughtful Gift Bear orders will be surfacing on November 20th and we are looking for them to be turned in on December 2nd. We will have them in time for Holiday gift giving!!



The Limo lunch was a HUGE success! A special thank you to Mr. Mitcheson and Mr. Barr for joining us! We would like to congratulate the following students who won the bonus money in the PTO Cash Pull Box: Farah Gillette, Justin Jacobsen, Rebecca Littell, and Avery Correia. Dylan Cromwell won the \$50 gas card for his parents!!

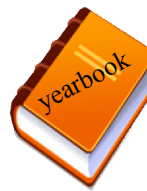
A special thank you to everyone who baked for our Election Day bake sale!

We are still selling Wii raffle tickets. They may be purchased from Mrs. LaFountain at the Assistant Principal's office. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The drawing will be December 15th.

The Halloween Dance was simply spooktacular! We had a great turn out! Approximately 200 ghouls turned up to shake, rattle & roll. The door prize winner was Nathan Fincher who won a \$25 AMC movie gift card. The costume contest winners were: Quinn Cardoso-1st place (\$25 Best Buy gift card) and Jessica Joseph-2nd place (\$25 itunes gift card).

We will be having Mexican night at our next PTO meeting courtesy of Qdoba Mexican Grille. We will be discussing the possibility of future fundraisers with them. There will be a complimentary Mexican buffet. YUM!

Our next PTO meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 18 at 6:30** in the cafeteria. *Dr. Baldwin and 2 members of the school committee* will be here to have an open forum for all parents. Come on in and join the fun!



Yearbook By Mrs. Hebert

Attention Parents and Students

It's that time of year again to place your order for the 2008-2009 H.M.S. Yearbook! Order forms have been distributed along with the 1st term report cards. The price of the yearbook is \$25.00 cash or check made payable to Hastings Middle School. Please see Mrs. Duarte or Mrs. Hebert if you have any questions or would like to order a yearbook.

Don't miss out on your chance to have a keepsake of your middle school memories!

Guidance News By Mrs. Tracey

Current 8th grade students and parents. It's that time of year, when you and your child start thinking about choosing a high school. To help with this, we encourage you and to visit the schools and see what they have to offer.



Open House for *Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School* is on **Sunday, November 23 from 12:00 to 4:00.**

Open House for *Bishop Stang High School* is on **Thursday November 6 from 7:00 to 9:00. Placement exams are December 6 and 13.** Please call Stang for details on Placement exams.

Fairhaven High School open house: date to be determined. Look for information in our next newsletter and mailings.

As always, please call guidance if you have any questions regarding the application process.

Video Game Club By Mr. Murphy



The club is off to a great start again this year with 28 students signed up and about 12 to 18 attending on any given week.

The club meets most Wednesdays until 3:15 throughout the year. So far we have played on the Wii system, the X-Box 360 system and various small handhelds.

Chess Club By Ms. Phelan



The Chess Club meets each Tuesday after school until 3:10, in room 15. Thus far, students and faculty alike have been matched up for games. Tournaments will begin during the month of November.

The members of the Chess Club are: *Adam Lima, Sheri Lubertowicz, Jonathan Gonsalves, Tony Wang, Kenneth Bowers, and Tyler Howe.* All members of the Hastings community are welcome to come on Tuesday afternoons and play a game of chess. Ms. Phelan is the faculty sponsor of the club.

Spanish Space Race Contest! By Mrs. Duarte and Mr. Beaulieu



On Thursday, October 30th, Señora Duarte and Señor Beaulieu sponsored a Spanish contest in the library from 2:30 - 3:00. More than 20 students competed by typing in English definitions for Spanish terms as they fly across the computer screen, speeding up as students advanced to level two, three, four, etcetera. Students earned points for every correct definition typed. All 103 Spanish terms are household words.

The top three scorers were *Jacob Carvalho (8th grade), Evan Grodzki (6th grade), and Nikolas Coelho (8th grade).* Between Evan Grodzki and Nikolas Coelho, they raised and donated a total \$45.00 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association--the charity of their choosing. All the students deserve recognition for their efforts and for their charitable endeavors. All students were invited to help themselves to free pizza after the contest. Many thanks to Ms. Richard for her help and for her great cheerleading! Many thanks also to Mr. Mitcheson for sending in the pizzas to feed such hungry competitors. **MUCHAS GRACIAS!**

Air Force Visits Grade 6 By Tove Bendiksen



Fairhaven native, Sergeant Christian Fernandes, spent the day visiting Miss Bendiksen's and Mrs. Haines' social studies classes to discuss his experiences in the U.S. Air Force. The classes asked many questions about military life, participated in marching drills and tried on several pieces of protective gear. This was an informative visit that generated spirited discussions about current events and increased student understanding and appreciation for our servicemen and women.

Sergeant Fernandes is currently stationed at Kirtland AFB in New Mexico.

Clubs / Activities at HMS


Intramurals: 2:30—3:30
Grade 8—Mondays
Grade 7—Tuesdays
Grade 6—Wednesdays



Renaissance Club: 2:30—3:30
Tuesday or Wednesday

Homework Club grade 6: 2:30—3:15
Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Math Club: 2:30—3:15
Tuesday

 **Video Game Club: 2:30—3:15**
Wednesday


Comic Book Club: 2:30—3:15
Wednesday

Drama Club: 2:30—3:30
Wednesday

Jazz Band: 3:00—4:30
Tuesday

Student Council: 2:30—3:15
Tuesday

Rock Band Club: 2:30—3:15
Monday

 **Chess Club: 2:30—3:15**
Tuesday

Fangs, Wings, & Magical Things: 2:30—3:15
Wednesday

Science Club: 2:30—3:15
Meet 2-3 times a month

Junior Finance Club-Grade 6: 2:30—3:15
Wednesday