



Hanlon School Newsletters

March 2017

From the Desk of Mrs. Cronin:

March 28, 2017

Dear Hanlon Families,

Each year, students in K-5 participate in the *Same and Different Like Me, Understanding our Differences* program that introduces students to visual, auditory, and physical disabilities. The vision of the program is:

- to build disability awareness into the school curricula through active learning experiences
- to increase knowledge and decrease misconceptions about people living with disabilities
- to foster acceptance, respect, and positive attitudes towards people living with disabilities.

In Fourth Grade, students learn about the various parts of the brain, their functions, how the brain impacts learning and how everyone learns differently. Last week, former Sheehan student Maddie Walter presented to our fourth graders. Maddie suffered a traumatic brain injury two years ago and has had to relearn how to walk, talk, and navigate her new reality.

Just like our fourth grade students, Maddie has friends, likes to go to school, plays sports, and has fun going to concerts with friends. She is also different because of her brain injury. Walking, talking, learning, and holding conversations are all challenges for her. But despite these challenges, Maddie has unbelievable determination to overcome obstacles.

Throughout her talk, Maddie embodied to our school-wide Perseverance theme. Like many of our students, she has dreams of attending college, being able to run again, and holding a job. Maddie talked about the importance of accepting others, treating everyone respectfully, finding out what you have in common with one another, and

inviting and including everyone. At the end of her presentation, she told a silent audience, "If you get a curveball thrown at you in life, KEEP GOING! Don't let anyone limit you. Keep hope, acknowledge challenges, and just push through!" Her message was powerful and one that I hope our students will remember.

Maddie's visit was a perfect segue from our schoolwide Persevere theme to the theme we launched last week: Include. In my next Principal Post, I will highlight some of the ways Hanlon staff and students are embodying the theme of Inclusion.

Curious About MCAS?

Join Ms. Cronin and Deerfield Principal Baumer for a Parent Information Night on **Monday, April 3rd at 7PM** in the Hanlon cafeteria. Learn more about MCAS, see sample test questions, log in and try a few questions on your own. Hope to see you there!

Congratulations to the Cast of The Frog Prince!

After eight weeks of practice, the cast of the school play put on two great performances of The Frog Prince. Congratulations to student actors for learning their lines, songs and dances, gathering their courage, and persevering through any stage-fright jitters. They did a phenomenal job! Thank you to the volunteers who helped with supervision, makeup, set-up, breakdown, costume laundering, and the cast parties. Finally, many thanks to KelliAnn Kenneally, who served as parent coordinator. Ms. Kenneally did the lion's share of communication, coordination, and organization. Thank you!

Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on the afternoon of March 29th and the afternoon and evening of April 12th. Spring conferences are a great way to connect with your child's teacher to discuss your child's growth so far this year. If you have any specific questions or concerns you would like your child's teacher to address, it is often helpful to share them with the teacher ahead of time so he/she can be adequately prepared to address these items during conference.

Recycled Materials Collection

Ms. Goodwin is looking for these recycled materials to use in a sculpture project: Empty yogurt, cottage cheese, and deli containers of any size. Please make sure they are rinsed and dry before donation. Donate to the box by the office by Friday, March 31st.

Science Fair

The 3rd annual Hanlon Science Fair will be held on Thursday, April 6th from 6:30-7:30pm. The Fair is for students grades K-5, and is supported by the Hanlon PTO. The aim is to get Hanlon students engaged in science and the scientific process, and have a fun time doing so! To participate, students/parents should identify a project that allows the students to generate a hypothesis, conduct an experiment, and share their results. Students are encouraged to work in small groups (2-3 students), but can participate individually as well. Please use this link to register your student and volunteer to help us make the event a success: [2017 Hanlon Science Fair](#). Take a look at the Announcements Box on this webpage to read more about Fair requirements. The deadline for registration has been extended to Friday, March 31st.

Kindergarten Registration is Open!

If you or someone you know has a child who is eligible to join our 2017-2018 Kindergarten class this Fall, this is the time to register. Planning for next year is already underway! [Here is the link](#) to the online registration portal.

Bus Registration

Bus Registration for the 2017 - 2018 is now open and runs through June 30th. All information is available here: [Bus Registration 2017 - 2018](#)

Art Show- Date Change

The date of the Annual Hanlon Art Show has been changed to May 10th. Mark your calendars!

News from our Technology Department

Are you the parent of a student in Grades 2-5? Have you heard about Google Classroom, or seen your child working in it at home? Do you wish you knew more about how you can navigate Google to help your child, or even just to help yourself?

Then you should TECH Us Out!

Members of the Westwood Public School Technology Department invite elementary parents/guardians to come *TECH Us Out*. Enjoy an engaging workshop where you will experience how technology is used to support learning in the elementary classroom. Attendees will participate in interactive lessons by navigating the Google Platform in a way that mirrors your child's classroom experience. The goals of this evening are to understand the vision of technology in the Westwood Public Schools and learn how you can best support your children at home.

Thursday, March 30, 2017 from 7 - 8 PM at Martha Jones School

Questions: please contact souellette@westwood.k12.ma.us

Click [here](#) to RSVP

School Committee

Did you know that Tony Mullin is Hanlon's School Committee Representative? If you have questions about the Superintendent Search, the Proposed Budget, or anything else regarding Westwood Public Schools, contact Tony at tonymmullin@gmail.com.

March 10, 2017

Dear Hanlon Families,

Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour this weekend. Have a great weekend!

Student Council Spirit Day - Sports Day

On Thursday, March 16th, students are invited to wear clothing that celebrates a favorite sport or sports team. This can be a team or sport you play, or one you are just a fan of! Please do not bring sports equipment or hats.

PTO Spring Social

Next Friday Night, March 17th, is the Hanlon St. Patrick's Day Social at the American Legion Post. Don't forget to purchase your tickets (\$45 per person in advance or \$50 at the door)! There will be a DJ, dancing, and dinner. You'll also have a chance to bid on raffle and Silent Auction items: including classroom baskets, gift cards to local restaurants, karate classes, art and music lessons, Hale Day Camp and Membership Beach, and much more! You can also bid on a wide range of teacher experiences - everything from Principal of the Day, Book Shopping with Mrs. Silverstein, to Starring

in Your Own Video with Mr. Goguen and Ms. Pickering. Minimum bids for most items will start around 50% of the actual value, so bring your checkbooks and be ready to score some deals while supporting your Hanlon PTO! Proceeds from this event will go towards field trips, enrichment programs, classroom materials, and more. Email mkferreira14@yahoo.com with questions. [Click here to see the flyer!](#)

Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on the afternoon of March 29th and the afternoon and evening of April 12th. Your child's teacher will be reaching out to you within the next few weeks to sign up for a conference time. Spring conferences are a great way to connect with your child's teacher to discuss your child's growth so far this year. If you have any specific questions or concerns you would like your child's teacher to address, it is often helpful to share them with the teacher ahead of time so he/she can be adequately prepared to address these items during conference.

News from Student Council

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Jump Rope For Heart Fundraiser Update from Ms. Jennings

Hanlon Students reached a new record for the Jump for Heart Fundraiser by raising a whopping \$7785 for the American Heart Association! I am super proud of our students and families of Hanlon. Many children and families participated in the Fundraiser this year, encouraging their family members, friends and local businesses to match donations and/or contribute to the American Heart Association.

I am humbled by the efforts our students took in the E-Card Challenge by cutting out sugary drinks from their diets, drinking more water, eating more fruits and vegetables and participating in physical activity daily. Many families also posted fitness and diet goals on the PE webpage to stick to during the month of February. Hanlon children educated their families on how to maintain a healthy heart and motivated themselves and others to live a healthy lifestyle. I am beyond proud of the students' accomplishments. ~ Ms. Jennings

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Hanlon Elementary School, 790 Gay Street, Westwood, MA 02090 781-325-7500 x.8424
Sarah Cronin, Principal

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