



Hanlon School Newsletters

September 2019

From the Desk of Mrs. Cronin:

September 5, 2019

Dear Hanlon Families,

We are enjoying a fantastic first week at school! It's wonderful to see the excitement and enthusiasm from your children as they've played 'get-to-know-you' games and team building projects in their classrooms. Thank you for the care you take each morning to send your children to school ready to learn!

I wanted to share a quote that is hanging in our hallways once again this year. It captures a powerful message for both students and adults, and we will use it during our All School Meetings as a common theme.



Each new school year offers an opportunity for children to form their identities as learners, as leaders, and as friends. Keeping that in mind, we want Hanlon students to know that they belong here, and that they each have something unique to offer. We want them to be proud of their own differences, and to appreciate the differences of their peers. What they bring to school each day should be empowering, generous in spirit, and totally... them. So as you and your child(ren) reflect on this first week of school, ask your child to think about what kind of kid they want to be this year. Above all things, we want them to be themselves, and feel safe enough to do so. Welcome back!

Five Questions to Ask Your Child Instead of ‘How Was School Today?’

As a parent of a 7th grade girl and a 5th grade boy, I know how different two kids in the same family can be. The minute I get home from Hanlon, my daughter can't wait to give me a play-by-play of everything that happened in school that day. My son, on the other hand, responds to the "How was school today?" question with one-word responses: "Good," "Fine," "Okay." He's a boy of few words. His 4th grade teacher sent home a list of questions that were pretty good at getting him to open up, so I thought I'd share a few throughout this school year in my Principal Posts. I hope they work for you!

- What games did you play at recess?
- What was the funniest thing that happened today?
- Did anyone do anything super-nice for you?
- What was the nicest thing you did for someone else?
- Who brought the best food in their lunch today? What was it?

Update Aspen

Please update your family's information in Aspen by 3PM on Thursday, September 10th. It's essential that school has the most current contact information in the case of an injury or emergency. In addition, our PTO Directory information is pulled from the Aspen database, so the sooner you update, the more accurate our Directory will be. The Directory is a great resource to connect with other Hanlon families for setting up playdates and birthday parties. All families will receive a copy of the Directory as a gift from PTO.

Kindergarten

If you are the parent of a Kindergartner, your child will be dismissed at 11:50 this first week of school. Please pack a large snack, as they will not have lunch until full-day K begins on Monday, September 10th. Kindergartners who are enrolled in Extended Day should bring a lunch to eat at Extended Day.

Building Security Protocols

All visitors to the Hanlon School will be asked to press the grey doorbell to the right of the main entrance. You will be asked to state your name, who you are visiting, and the purpose of your visit, prior to being buzzed into the building. This procedure is a simple, but important, security measure that will be implemented in all schools across the district, even when the office staff recognizes the visitor through the camera. We want Hanlon to be a welcoming place. However we think this small inconvenience is outweighed by the safety concern it addresses. We appreciate your assistance with this new procedure.

All Extended Day families are asked to enter and exit the building solely through the Extended Day door in the modular classroom at the back of the school. The purpose of this procedure is to maintain building security by improving our ability to track who is in the building before and after school.

Communication

If your child has a change in dismissal or is going to be absent, please remember to email the classroom teacher and Ms. Goldstein (agoldstein@westwood.k12.ma.us). If your child attends Extended Day, you should include Mr. Fagone (mfagone@westwood.k12.ma.us) as well. The purpose for putting the plan in writing and including multiple staff members ensures that the message gets to the right place, even if one person isn't able to check email before the end of the day. Calling the Main Office at 781-326-7500 x8424 is another easy option for reporting attendance or dismissal changes. Thank you for your help with this!

Recess and Lunch

Once again, the Hanlon School is using a Recess-Before-Lunch schedule. There is a large body of research to support this schedule change. Benefits include:

- children build up their appetite playing outside, so they come in hungrier and thirstier
- they eat more fruits and vegetables and waste less food
- they make fewer trips to the nurse because children are not playing on a full stomach

- we see more positive social interactions in the lunchroom
- lunchrooms are quieter and have a more relaxed atmosphere

Teachers have spent time planning logistics such as building in time for handwashing between recess and lunch, and how to manage cold-weather gear. Students should eat a big breakfast and bring a healthy snack, since they'll be eating lunch after recess.

Save the Date

PTO Family Picnic- Stay Tuned: more information will be coming soon!

Picture Day- Sept. 20

Curriculum Night- Oct. 3

- 6:00-6:40 Grades K-2 Classrooms
- 6:45-7:15 General Meeting in Cafeteria
- 7:15-8:00 Grades 3-5 classrooms

Halloween Party- Oct. 25

Conferences- Nov. 6 & 13

Book Fair- Nov. 21

Seeking Donations

Many children enjoy playing short games in the lunchroom when they finish eating. We are seeking donations of gently used games and activities that can be enjoyed in under ten minutes in the cafeteria. Examples include: LEGOs, Rubiks Cubes, Spot It, Mad Libs, playing cards, handheld games like pinball, Connect 4, ball mazes, coloring books, small figures (no weapons please), magnetic chess/checkers, Trouble, and the SmartGames IQ series. We are intentionally seeking used items to do our part by recycling and reusing. Donations will be accepted throughout the year in the main office, so if you're looking to clean out your child's room or you need a place to send those birthday goody bag leftovers, send them to us!

Hanlon School Site Council

One of the many ways to be involved this year is to join our School Site Council. Our Site Council is designed as an advisory group consisting of parents, school staff, and community members. Mandated by the Education Reform Act of 1993, the Council assists in developing goals for school improvement and other school initiatives. In the past few years, this group has initiated many Hanlon events such as the Science Fair, International Night, and Inclusive Schools Week activities. We have an opening for one new member from the parent community this year. The Hanlon School Site Council meets several times throughout the school year, from 3:15-4:15 PM. The actual meeting dates will be determined by the group. Our first meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 16th at 3:15 in Ms. Cronin's office. If you are interested or curious about joining Site Council, please email Mrs. Cronin at scronin@westwood.k12.ma.us.

SEPAC

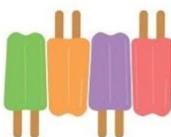
Hanlon families are invited to join Westwood's Special Education Parent Advisory Council. The Westwood Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) is a state-mandated, parent-run group working to promote a network of parents, guardians, and caregivers of children with special needs. In addition, SEPAC partners with the Director of Student Services and the School Committee on policies. They receive input from parents, teachers, providers, and others to encourage understanding, acceptance, and inclusion of all special education students. This year's SEPAC events will include a Popsicle Social, a District Overview, an ADHD presentation, a Basic Rights presentation, a Winter Family Social, a Language Based Learning presentation, an Autism Parent Training and an end of year Popsicle social. The first event is the SEPAC Back to School Popsicle Social on Sunday September 15th, 2019, 2:00 PM -4:00 PM at Downey Elementary School Playground.



Back to School Popsicle Social

Sunday September 15th, 2019
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Downey Elementary School Playground

Connect with other local families who have children receiving special education support services.



The kids can play while we socialize.
All ages welcome!

RSVP: westwoodsepac@gmail.com or on the Facebook Event

September 18, 2019

Dear Hanlon Families,

You may have noticed that the format of our website has changed. My Principal Post will be shorter, and I'll include separate posts in the Announcements Box to the right. I hope you'll click the bold-faced title of the following announcements in the Announcements box to find more details:

- **Picture Day**- this Friday, September 20th (schedule can be found in the Announcements Box)
- **Westwood Day Fun Run**- this Saturday
- **Coffee with District Administrators**, here at Hanlon on October 4th

Fall Mini Course Session

Fall Mini Courses are set to begin on October 7. [The course catalog will be sent home in backpacks and can be viewed by clicking here.](#) Families have a few days to read through the catalog to select courses and compare schedules. A link with the electronic pre-registration form will be sent to emails listed in Aspen on **Monday, Sept. 23 at 7PM.**

Principal's Coffee

Parents and guardians are invited to join Ms. Cronin in the Hanlon cafeteria on **Friday, September 27th at 9:00AM**. We will be joined by Erin Kuehn, our District Coordinator for Social Emotional Learning. We are interested in hearing from families about your perspective on children's social and emotional learning at Hanlon, your ideas for what is working well, and your hopes for what could be improved.

Composting is Coming to the Hanlon Lunchroom

Did you know that Hanlon students will spend the next few weeks learning to be environmental ambassadors? Beginning on Monday, Ms. Lazzzero, Hanlon's Science Specialist, will be teaching students to sort their waste at the end of lunch. We will separate items destined for the compost, the recycle bin, and the landfill. Our hope is that students will increase their environmental awareness, while reducing trash, reusing containers and silverware from home, and recycling. We are looking for parent volunteers to help continue this important program during our lunch blocks (11:55-1:35). [Click here to sign up to volunteer in the lunchroom.](#)

Hanlon Wins the Westwood Library Summer Reading Trophy

Thank you to the families who enrolled their children in the Library's Summer Reading Program. Hanlon had the largest number of children participate. That's a big accomplishment for the second smallest school in town! The trophy resides in our library and will be presented at the next All School Meeting.

Have a great week!

Sarah Cronin

Hanlon School on Twitter

Follow @HanlonSchool_ps to see photos of our #HappyatHanlon kids!

School Committee

Did you know that Carol Lewis is Hanlon's School Committee Representative? If you have questions, contact Ms. Lewis at clewis-sc@westwood.k12.ma.us

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

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