



Hanlon School Newsletters

October 2015

From the Desk of Mrs. Cronin:

October 9, 2015

Hello Hanlon Families,

Tuesday's PTO Family Fun Night was a great success! The weather was beautiful and students and families seemed to have a great time gathering on the playground for picnics and playtime. Thank you to Amanda Drainville and Julie Benbow for organizing the event. Kathy Beggan and Anne Donahue kept the popsicle lines moving quickly, and made sure every student and sibling got their sweet treat. Vlad Ortega rallied the children for an epic Tug'o'War. Thank you to all who came out to spend the evening with us!

We are proud of our newly elected Student Council representatives. Under the guidance of Ms. Velluti and Ms. Feuer-Beck, the Student Council will be great role models, communicators, and representatives for their peers. Congratulations to:

Cole, Ava, Ian, and Bridget W. from 5FB

Ethan, Lily, Charlotte, and Max from 5V

Chris C. and Abby O. from 4W

Thea R. and Gavin V. from 4R

Our Student Council's first task was to plan a Spirit Day. Students are invited to show their Westwood spirit by wearing green and white clothing on Wednesday, Oct. 21.

Please do not send children with hats or sports equipment (like helmets).

Also, the weather has been variable thus far. Please make sure to dress your child appropriately for the weather, as we try to go outside every day. Our Lost and Found

is steadily growing in the lobby. I check tags for name labels every time I hang an article of clothing in order to return the to owner, so please label everything!

I'd like to share a few reminders to help dismissal run smoothly:

-Dismissal occurs between 3:10 and 3:15. Teachers on duty wait until every child is matched with their adult, and it can be difficult for children to spot parents in the "sea of people." Once you have connected with your child, we ask that you move away from the doorway/pathway areas so that students who haven't yet been collected can scan for parents and be closely monitored by our staff. We encourage you and your children to use the playground and chat with other families away from the dismissal area.

-If you are going to change dismissal plans (especially for bus students), please call, send in a note, or email both Ms Goldstein and the classroom teacher. We carefully track bus dismissals and last minute or in-the-moment changes can slow our process.

-Walkers will be dismissed from the playground/bike rack doorway. If your child typically takes the bus but is being dismissed as a walker, please pick him/her up by the playground, not the front of the building.

-If you park in the Gay St. parking lot, please do not block other cars in.

Thank you for sharing these reminders with all caregivers who pick up your child(ren) so that we can ensure that everyone gets home safely!

I look forward to seeing many of you at our PTO meeting on Wednesday night in the Hanlon cafeteria. Dr. Antonucci will join us to provide an update on the district's Space and Capital Needs Study. More information on the Study is [available here](#).

On Tuesday, Hanlon students and staff will gather for our second All School Meeting. We are continuing with our theme of Planting Seeds of Kindness throughout our school and our community. We will also be treated to a performance of "The Rock Song" by our fourth graders. It is sure to be a great day!

Have a great weekend!

Sarah

October 23, 2015

Hello Hanlon Families,

It was great to see such a big turnout for our Halloween Party this Friday. Under the guidance of Jackie Keaveny, the Hanlon PTO and parents devoted many hours into making it a special night for kids. Our side wing was miraculously transformed into the Haunted Hallway. The cafeteria had cookies to decorate, pizza to eat, and quiet table activities. In the main hallway, children had fortunes told, temporary tattoos applied, and group photos taken in the Photo Booth. There were games to play and mystery foods to identify. In the gym, there was dancing and the infamous Mummy-Wrap. It was a great night for kids!

When the event was over, the Clean-Up Crew set to work getting the building ready for school on Monday. It takes many hands to put on such a big event, and the Hanlon community is thankful to many, many people for their efforts. Here are just a few of the folks who helped out: Susan Clare, Mark Johnson, Sheryl Bierden, Maryann Casavant, Sue Foscaldo, Rob Moran, Dave Collins, Greg Power, Effie DiGiandomenico, Melissa Dunn, Bob and Bobby Dunn, Garrett Cerulli, Jane O'Donnell, Amanda Drainville, Susan Garrett, Joanna Hamilton, Maureen O'Keefe, MaryKate Ferreira, Michelle Peck, Pam Quinn, Julie Benbow, Emily Foscaldo, Melanie Homsy, Tiffany Law, Brendan Hamilton, Rajaa Ahou, Samar Mukdissi, Christy Cocchi, Mike McCusker, Ann Donahue, Leann Sullivan, Yi Lou, Jennifer Sanders, Marge McNutt, Shannon Fay, Jennifer Brown, Susanna Cerulli, Meredith DiBattista, Diana Lambert, Marguerite Grant, Matt Quatroche, Kathy Beggan, and Joe Sullivan. Many thanks for your help in putting on one of our best nights!

Are you wondering what to do with all the candy coming home this weekend? Hanlon has been invited to join Wellesley Dental Group's 8th Annual Community Candy Drive to benefit the U.S. troops serving overseas. From November 1st through November 5th, we will be collecting candy, handwritten notes, and cards for our soldiers. WDG's goal is to teach our kids lessons in giving by encouraging them to share their extra

Halloween candy with our troops overseas. Sweet treats and handwritten cards are a reminder of home for the soldiers, and a reflection of our gratitude. The packages will be sent via CarePacks, a non-profit organization, along with oral hygiene supplies. Just to make this event more fun, the Wellesley Dental Group will award a grand prize of \$1000 to the school PTO that donates the most candy! Donation bins will be set up in front of Hanlon's main office. We are looking for a parent volunteer to deliver the candy to Wellesley on or before Nov. 5. Please email Ms. Goldstein at agoldstein@westwood.k12.ma.us if you are able to help.

While it is not a rule, we ask that you do not send candy with students for snack. Healthy snacks are best for learning. Also, when packing lunches, please refrain from sending lunches that require microwave heating.

Please remember that students may not be dropped off before 8:30AM. There is no morning supervision before that time. Also, non-school aged siblings are asked to wait until after students go inside at 8:45 to use the playground equipment. Please share these requests with all caregivers.

We are looking forward to seeing many parents next week on Wednesday, November 4th for our first day of Parent-Teacher Conferences. This is an opportunity for you to learn about your child's progress in school and for teachers to gain insights into their students' home and community lives. An important focus of the November conference is to develop strategies to support student learning at school and at home, so you can work with the teacher to support goals set for your child. As you prepare for the conference, I encourage you to consider your child's strengths and weaknesses, and to come to the conference with questions. For more tips on productive Parent Teacher Conferences, please visit the [Harvard Family Research Project's Tip Sheet for Parent-Teacher Conferences](#).

Ms. Davie, our school nurse, has posted October News from the Health Room. You can read it in the Announcements section, just to the left of this Principal Column.

Ms. Pickering, our music teacher, has invited Hanlon families to view her website. There are lots of great videos and resources. It can be found [here](#).

Remember to set your clocks back this weekend!

Have a great week!

Sarah

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Sarah Cronin, Principal

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