



Hanlon School Newsletters

November 2016

From the Desk of Mrs. Cronin:

November 19, 2016

Dear Hanlon Families,

On Tuesday, Student Council Members Vic G., Meaghan M., and Elizabeth W., led a fantastic **All School Meeting**. They introduced our new school-wide theme: Be Generous by telling us about the Peace Project. **The Peace Project** is a collaborative community service project sponsored by Art, Music, and Student Council. Here is the description that was shared at ASM:

This year at the **Winter Concert**, the fifth grade musicians will be performing the song “Dona Nobis Pacem.” These three Latin words mean Grant Us Peace. This song has inspired a Hanlon School community service project that we are calling the Peace Project. A dove holding an olive branch is one of the signs of peace.
Peace is ... CALM, SAFE, COOPERATING, GETTING ALONG

Peace is not... FIGHTING, ARGUING, BOTHERING, WORRYING

Here at Hanlon, we will help bring peace to our community by collecting health and beauty products and other household items to donate to the **Westwood Food Pantry**. Helping others gives those people and their family peace. People who donate items also feel peaceful. Donation bins will be kept outside the office and we will collect items until Friday, December 9th. Suggested items include: shampoo or conditioner, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and individually wrapped paper towels. [Click here](#) for a list of additional items to donate.

In Art class, Ms. Goodwin will work with all Hanlon students to create a **Peace Mural** that will be displayed at the Winter Concert on December 16th. Doves will be used to represent each item donated to the Westwood Food Pantry. We hope lots of Hanlon students join us in bringing peace to others by donating items!

We closed ASM with our **new school song**. Click [Here](#) to listen to 4R students singing along!

Parent Teacher Conferences

We had a great turnout for Parent Teacher Conferences this month. With close to 100% participation, it is evident that our **home-school connection** is strong. The research around parent involvement in schools is strong. Southwest Educational Development Laboratory (SEDL, 2002) found that students with involved parents, no matter their income or background, are more likely to:

- Earn higher grades and test scores, and enroll in higher-level programs
- Be promoted, pass their classes and earn credits
- Attend school regularly
- Have better social skills, show improved behavior and adapt well to school
- Graduate and go on to post-secondary education

Thank you, Hanlon families, for taking the time to meet with teachers to discuss your child(ren)'s progress and to set goals for this school year!

PTO Teacher Appreciation Lunch

Our teachers and staff felt very appreciated on Thursday. Many thanks to all of you for donating pizza money, salads, baked goods, and other delicious treats for the PTO Teacher Luncheon. Joanna Hamilton and Meredith DiBattista did a beautiful job of decorating the Teachers' Room and making sure we were all well-fed. Thank you!

News from Ms. Davie in the Hanlon Health Office

A few cases of head lice have been found at the Hanlon School. This is a common occurrence in all schools but I thought it was a good time to remind all parents to be vigilant and monitor your children for signs of lice. Head lice is a nuisance but is not a health hazard nor a sign of unclean homes.

Please take the following steps:

- Check your child's hair for lice or nits, which are tiny white ovals attached to the hair shaft.
- If lice are found or suspected, you need to notify me in the Health Office. I know some people are embarrassed to tell anyone that their children have head lice, but the only way to get rid of them is to find and treat all cases as early as possible.
- All cases of head lice need to be treated with an appropriate lice shampoo following the directions, but this treatment is not enough. After shampooing, the hair needs to be combed with a lice comb and all the nits removed. This is a time-consuming process, but the shampoo does not kill all the nits and if they are not removed they will hatch and start the problem again.
- Before your child can return to class, they must be checked and cleared by me as being nit-free.

- Clean and wash anything that has been near your child's hair, as this may contain nits. This includes clothing, coats, bedding, hats, brushes, headbands, etc. You also need to vacuum rugs, furniture and cars.
- Be on guard. Continue monitoring and combing daily for at least two weeks. Missing even one tiny nit could result in reinfestation.
- For more information: www.headlice.org

TECH Tidbit from Mr. Goguen, IT Specialist

Mobile Devices

Does your child have a mobile device? The decision to provide a phone or tablet to your child was most likely not an easy one. Thankfully, there are many steps you can take to provide some piece of mind. And of course, many articles have been written on the subject and no doubt there are friends and family that can offer advice as well. Another solution is to use technology to manage the technology. OurPact.com is one of many solutions available to parents and there are adequate controls available for free. Browse their site and if you have any questions or would like assistance with setup don't hesitate to ask. ~ Tech Blog

SEPAC

Did you know that there is a **Parent Advisory Council** in every school district in Massachusetts with the specific role of acting as a liaison between parents of students with disabilities and the School Committee and school administration? Westwood Public Schools is lucky to have an energetic and committed group of parents who are looking to increase the visibility and supportive role of Westwood's Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC). In order to do this, Westwood Public Schools and the SEPAC are asking for input from the Westwood community about what would be most useful to parents and students. Are you looking for guest speakers? Interested in attending workshops? Maybe looking to find social connections and brainstorming? You don't have to have a child in the schools with a disability to share your ideas. Please consider responding to the SEPAC survey link at:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/YD7KZBV. You are also welcome to learn more about how to join and support this organization at the Westwood Public Schools' website:

http://www.westwood.k12.ma.us/district/superintendents-office/Student_Services/SEPAC.cfm

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Sarah Cronin, Principal

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لك. لطلب كنتشكر mmartin@westwood.k12.ma.us البريد الالكتروني الخاص بك