



# Hanlon School Newsletters

January 2016

**From the Desk of Mrs. Cronin:**

**December 8, 2015**

Hello Hanlon Families,

Hanlon 4th Graders did a great job on Sunday when they represented our school at the Town Hall Annual Tree Lighting. Thank you to all the families who were able to attend, and congratulations to Pam Quinn on winning the Gingerbread House contest!

On Monday, November 30, the entire WPS staff gathered at the High School for Professional Development. We are fortunate that Westwood supports teacher collaboration around student learning and professional growth. Led by Westwood staff, workshops included such topics as: Are You Born Smart?, Diving Deep Into the New Units of Study (led by Hanlon's own Barbara Lindsay), Teaching Character in the Modern Classroom, Coding in the K-5 Classroom (led by our Technology Coach, Mark Goguen), Google Classroom, and many more. The format of the full-day professional development allows teachers to self-select options that are meaningful to their own learning. Just as teachers differentiate instruction for the variety of learners in their classroom, Monday's PD day enables our district to differentiate for the teachers. Many thanks to the parent community for supporting this day of professional growth.

We hope you can join us for Holiday Fair this Friday, December 11th from 6-7:30PM. We are in need of more bakers for the cookie trays. If you are able to help, please contact Serena Valentino at [valentinoempire@gmail.com](mailto:valentinoempire@gmail.com) or Dawn Khoury at [drdawn@khourychiro.com](mailto:drdawn@khourychiro.com).

If you were able to join us at the high school on December 2nd for Lynette Owens' presentation on Internet Safety, you learned how important it is for us as parents to be involved with our children's technology use. As they experiment with internet searches, sending emails, and posting to social media, we have the opportunity to recognize teachable moments and guide our children toward being safe, being kind, and being savvy. [Lynette's blogs on the Trend Micro website](#) give lots of great tips to help parents guide their children. The idea to bring Ms. Owens to Westwood came out of Hanlon's parent suggestions for

community education opportunities. I hope you and your children enjoyed her! If you were able to join her presentation, I'd love to hear your feedback. Send me an email or stop by!

On December 30th at 2PM, Hanlon students and families are invited to the men's basketball game at Boston College. As part of their Teacher Appreciation program, BC will honor Ms. Velluti, 5th grade teacher, at halftime, and all Hanlon families will be invited for an on-court photo after the game. Discounted tickets are available to Hanlon Families by visiting [bceagles.com/promos](http://bceagles.com/promos) and typing in EDUCATION. [Click here to see the flyer.](#)

Our Student Council would like to remind you that our next Spirit Day will have a Sports theme. Does your child love the Patriots, Bruins or Red Sox? Perhaps he or she has a Westwood team jersey to wear. On Wednesday, Dec. 8, students are invited to dress in their favorite sports gear. No equipment like bats or helmets please!

The Winter Chorus and Band Concert will take place on Friday, December 18th at 9:15AM. Donations of Health and Beauty products will be collected through December 11th for the Westwood Food Pantry. For each item donated, a snowflake is hung in the gymnasium for all to see at the concert.

As we approach the holiday season, parents often ask about teacher gifts. If you are considering purchasing or contributing to a teacher gift, you should know that public employees are not permitted to accept personal gifts larger than \$50. Class gifts up to \$150 are permitted if the gift is given from the whole class, without identifying individual givers and/or amounts given. Teacher gifts are optional, and no one should feel obligated to participate.

In the next few weeks, I hope you'll take a moment to look through our Lost and Found. Many items have accumulated this fall, and whatever is left at Winter Break will be donated to charity. The Lost and Found is currently located by Extended Day, but we will move it to the front of the building for the Holiday Fair so more families can take a look.

For those of you celebrating Hanukkah, I want to wish all of you a happy holiday. I hope you enjoy this special time with family and friends. Sarah

## **December 21, 2015**

Hello Hanlon Families,

We had a phenomenal turnout for our Holiday Fair last Friday. Under the direction of Dawn Khoury, helpers of all ages worked to transform the gym into a kid-friendly shopping mall. With the help of our fifth grade "elves," students got to shop for family and friends from a variety of themed tables, and have their gifts wrapped to ensure that the recipients

will be surprised. It was heartwarming to see children emerging from the gym with proud smiles on their faces. My own daughter spent close to an hour carefully selecting just the right gifts. My son missed the wrapping tables entirely in his excitement to move into the cafeteria for the Frost Your Own Cookies! Somehow he managed to save his cups of frosting and sprinkles- which I discovered when he tried to eat them for breakfast the next morning! All in all, the event was a fantastic success. Many thanks to all parents and students who offered their help for the Fair.

I'd like to congratulate the 5th graders on their successful Winter Concert today. Under the guidance of Mrs. Pickering, Ms. Labeledz, and Ms. Legere, the band and chorus filled our gym with beautiful music. Set against a backdrop of paper snowflakes, the 5th graders sang in harmony and impressed us all. Thank you to the families who donated Health and Beauty products to the Westwood Food Pantry. Each donated item was represented by a paper snowflake. The sheer number of hanging snowflakes was a visual reminder of your generosity. Thanks to Ms. Goodwin, Hanlon's Art teacher, for her support in helping students create the snowflakes.

If you are going to be around during the vacation week, you may want to bring your children to a basketball game! On December 30th at 2PM, Hanlon students and families are invited to the men's basketball game at Boston College. As part of their Teacher Appreciation program, BC will honor Ms. Velluti, 5th grade teacher, at halftime, and all Hanlon families will be invited for an on-court photo after the game. Discounted tickets are available to Hanlon Families by visiting [bceagles.com/promos](http://bceagles.com/promos) and typing in EDUCATION. [Click here to see the flyer.](#)

In the next few days, I hope you'll take a moment to look through our Lost and Found. Many items accumulated this fall, and whatever is left at Winter Break will be donated to charity. The Lost and Found is located by Extended Day.

Our Student Council would like to announce the next Spirit Day. On Wednesday, January 13th, students are invited to wear their pajamas to school. Please leave slippers at home, and remember to bring gear that is appropriate for outdoor temperatures for recess.

As we head off for Winter Break, I wish you all a peaceful week. Enjoy your time with family and friends.

Sarah

Update from Hanlon's Technology Department

Hello! My name is Mark Goguen and I am the Instructional Technology Coach (ITC) here at the Hanlon School. This is my 20th year in education (3 + years in Westwood at my current

position and 16 years as a fourth grade teacher in Franklin). I would like to give a brief overview of my role, then follow-up every other week with a technology related blurb.

The main goal of the ITC is to guide and support teachers as they integrate technology. Additionally, one might say there are four domains in which we operate. 1) Work directly with teachers to learn new technologies and provide professional development. 2) Collaborate with teachers to plan and deliver lessons to students 3) Work on district initiatives 4) Communicate with families and the greater community

My schedule is somewhat flexible. I spend Monday, Wednesday and Friday at Martha Jones and Tuesday and Thursday at the Hanlon School (although quite often I run back and forth between schools on any given day).

I am looking forward to sharing updates, ideas and insights in the months to come. Please never hesitate to contact me with questions, concerns or suggestions regarding technology integration or related topics. Happy Holidays and I wish you a healthy New Year.

Mr. Goguen

#### BOKS Volunteers Needed

Many families will remember the success of our BOKS program the last few years. BOKS is an early morning exercise program for children sponsored by Reebok. BOKS prepares students for a day of learning and is an important step in helping children appreciate the benefits of exercise and healthy choices that will last a lifetime. Several studies establish that moderate to vigorous physical activity stimulates brain function and creates the physiological conditions for students to be ready to learn. BOKS directly addresses these points by getting kids moving in the morning to help boost their academic and physical performance, in addition to their overall confidence and well-being. Classes are filled with team oriented games, individual activities, and provide plenty of opportunity for play, since the program focuses on fun! There is also information given about making healthy food and snack choices.

BOKS will run on Monday and Tuesday mornings, with one morning dedicated to students in grades K-2 and the other morning for students in grades 3-5. All sessions will take place in the Hanlon gym from 7:45-8:30AM. At this time, we are looking for the names of parents interested in volunteering to lead or help support BOKS. Without you, we can't run this awesome program! If you are interested, please contact Sue Foscaldo at [sue439@verizon.net](mailto:sue439@verizon.net). Once we have our volunteers, we will reach out again to begin student sign-ups.

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

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