



Hanlon School Newsletters

September 2016

From the Desk of Mrs. Cronin:

September 23, 2016

Hello Hanlon Families,

I am hoping to see many families at our PTO sponsored **Family Fun Night** on Tuesday, October 4. You are invited to gather on our playground from 4:30-6:00PM. Bring a blanket, chairs, and your picnic dinner, and mingle with other Hanlon families. We will have our traditional game of Tug-o-War and popsicles for all students. Save the date!

One of the many ways to be involved this year is to join our **Site Council**. The Hanlon School Site Council meets several times throughout the year as mandated by the Education Reform Act of 1993. Our Site Council is designed as an advisory group consisting of parents, school staff, and community members. The Site Council assists in developing goals for school improvement and other school initiatives. Hanlon's Site Council will have our first meeting from 3:15-4:15PM on Thursday October 20th. We would like to encourage new and returning parents/guardians. If you are interested in serving on Hanlon's Site Council, please email me at scronin@westwood.k12.ma.us.

Many Hanlon families are planning to attend **Westwood Day** festivities tomorrow, Saturday, September 24th. Many students in Ms. Goodwin's art class submitted artwork honoring our public safety departments. The 1 Mile Fun Run at Westwood High's Flahive Field promotes "School Spirit/Pride." This inclusive event challenges each school to participate and show their spirit as a group. The elementary school with the highest percentage of students participating and school spirit will be awarded the perpetual trophy to proudly display at their school until Westwood Day 2017. The Sheehan School was awarded the 2015 Westwood Day Trophy. Perhaps Hanlon will be this year's winner!

Starting the Year off with Technology

Technology integration is alive and well in the Westwood Public Schools. September necessitates a review of our district CLEAR policy for grades 3 -5 (see 3/11/16 blog posting). Meanwhile, students in K - 2 focus on learning a set of responsibilities and understanding that the acceptable use of technology is for learning and education. The CLEAR acronym will be introduced to second graders in a few months.

The start of the school year is also a time to ensure student accounts are active and accessible. Third graders sign into Google Classroom & Drive for the first time. Kindergarteners get rolling with Lexia Core 5 while first and second graders dive into reading with Raz Kids. All students have access to digital math content through IXL. One of the most important messages to students at this time is the protection and privacy of their usernames and passwords.

[Blog of previous posts](#)

A Message from Hanlon PTO:

Kidstuff Coupon Book

The PTO is selling valuable, family friendly Kidstuff Coupon Books filled with hundreds of coupons for all ages. Hanlon earns 50% of the profit for every book we sell! Use just a few coupons and save more than the \$25 cost of the book.

If you would like to purchase a coupon book, please fill out the order form and include a check for \$25 made out to Hanlon PTO. The deadline is this Monday, September 26. If you are not interested in purchasing a coupon book, please return the book to your child's classroom teacher.

Parking Raffle

Imagine not having to arrive at school 20 minutes early just to get a parking spot on those cold, rainy and snowy days! The winner of the Hanlon PTO Parking Raffle will receive a reserved first row parking spot on Gay St. between 3:00-3:20pm! Purchase one ticket for \$5 or get 3 tickets for \$10. Look for ticket order forms coming home in your child's backpack or purchase tickets at the Hanlon Family Fun Night on Tuesday, October 4. The lucky winner will be announced at the end of Family Fun Night. We will also collect dues at Family Fun Night, so bring your checkbooks!

A Message from TMS PTO co-President and Hanlon Parent:

My name is Ariel Mullen and I am co-president of the Thurston Middle School PTO. The TMS Administration and PTO are presenting the movie **Screenagers** at the high school on Tuesday 10/4 with a Q&A session after. This important movie is about the challenges we face raising children in this time of social media and electronics. While our targeted audience is middle school parents; we all know that children are starting with cell phones, iPads etc even in elementary school, and I think many of your parents would benefit from this information as well. [Please see the attached flyer.](#) If you follow the link listed in the flyer you can see more about this movie.

Sept 9, 2016

Hello Hanlon Families,

On Tuesday, we gathered for our first monthly **All School Meeting** (ASM) in the Hanlon gymnasium. It was so special to see the entire student body and faculty gathered in one room! The vision for ASM is to bring our school together as a community, and to celebrate what is happening in and around classrooms. This year, we kicked off our ASM by sharing a story that came out of this summer's Olympics: American runner Abbey D'Agostino, and New Zealander Nikki Hamblin, tripped and fell during one of their races. Instead of getting up and running, D'Agostino stopped to help Hamblin up. Neither runner won the race that day, but both gained a new friend. This story and [short video clip](#) was used to set our school-wide theme for September and October: **Be Friendly**. When students are seen going the extra mile to be friendly, they are recognized with a Medal of Friendship that is hung on our Olympic bulletin board in the lunchroom. Throughout the year, we will focus on five different character themes (one for each Olympic Ring). We look forward to seeing Hanlon parents and guardians at **Curriculum Night** this Thursday, September 15th. Classroom presentations for students in Grades 3-5 will take place from 6:00-6:45. All parents are invited to gather in the gymnasium at 6:45 for a General Meeting, including my Principal's Welcome as well as presentations from PTO. Classroom presentations for students in Grades K-2 will follow immediately after our General Meeting. Please remember that this is an adults-only evening. If childcare is preventing you from attending, please contact me for assistance at scronin@westwood.k12.ma.us.

Please remember to **update your emergency contact information** in the district's Aspen database. Aspen is available on the District Website under Quick Links. At this point about half of Hanlon families have updated, and we need 100% to ensure that our PTO Directory is correct, and that our main office has the most current emergency information. The deadline to update is September 9th (today). Parents of new students and kindergarten families should pay special attention to the Media Permissions question. In order for students to have their photos in classrooms, on slideshows, in the yearbook and on the website, etc., we need the Media Permissions to say YES. If you have trouble finding the Media Permissions, please email me at scronin@westwood.k12.ma.us and I can do it for you.

School Picture Day is scheduled for Monday, September 19th. We are hoping for beautiful weather and for several volunteers from 8:45AM- 12:30PM to help keep the lines moving, entertain the children, and

make sure each student is looking his or her best. If you are able to volunteer some or all of the time, please email Ms. Goldstein at agoldstein@westwood.k12.ma.us, or call 781-326-7500 x8424. Please send in a note or email your child's teacher and the Main Office any time your child's **dismissal plans** change. We prepare a daily bus list for our driver, and it is essential to ensure that we account for all students., and that we know how they get home each day. Please do not bring a neighbor's child home without first obtaining permission from the parent and alerting the Main Office before leaving school grounds. While well-intended, this practice causes confusion for staff as we do our very best to track each and every child. Safety is our number one priority.

The staff parking lot was resurfaced over the summer, and we lost several **parking spaces**. As a result, additional staff have had to park along Gay St. We understand that this impacts arrival and dismissal times for families, and we thank you for understanding. Please do not park in the staff parking lot behind the school. Also, when entering the front circle, please adhere to the signs. The circle uses one-way traffic with the entry point by Laura Lane. Some cars have been entering close to main entrance, which causes a safety concern.

Have a wonderful weekend, and keep reading for some important information from our Library and our PTO!

Warmly,

Sarah

A Note from the Hanlon Library:

Calling all potential **LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS!** Your help is needed with book check-out with the following library classes. You do not need to have a student in the class to help. Training will be provided.

Mrs. Patterson- Mondays-12:45-1:30

Mrs. Kelly- Fridays- 12:45-1:30

Mrs. Sharpe- Tuesdays- 2:25-3:10

Ms. Cavanagh- Mondays- 10:40-11:25

Mrs. Clifford- Tuesdays- 8:55-9:40

Mrs. Stygles- Mondays- 9:45-10:30

Ms. O'Neil- Mondays- 2:25-3:10

Mr. Wolfe- Wednesdays 9:45-10:30 (long Wed.) 9:40 -10:20(short Wed.)

Mrs. Rizzi- Fridays- 11:50-12:35

I will also need some 'special projects volunteers' to help with processing books, shelving materials, and other tasks. Training will be provided.

You can send me an e-mail: bsilverstein@westwood.k12.ma.us or complete the Volunteer Form which is available on the Hanlon website.

Thanks so much!

Ms. Silverstein

Notes from our PTO:

The PTO will be collecting **Annual Dues** at Curriculum night. Dues are \$50 per family. Please speak with Mrs. Cronin if financial assistance is needed. Checks should be made out to Hanlon School, PTO. Your dues help to fund classroom supplies for each student, field trip transportation, Teacher Appreciation Week, and enrichment programs including educational, musical and artistic presentations. As a thank you for

paying your dues in a timely fashion, the PTO will send a **Hanlon School Directory** home in your child's backpack later this month, or you can pick it up in person at our Fall Picnic on October 4th.

The Hanlon PTO is sponsoring a **fundraiser** at Bamboo on Curriculum Night from 5-9PM. 20% of the proceeds will go to our PTO. Just mention Hanlon when ordering. [Click here to see the flyer.](#)

The PTO is also running a **KidStuff Coupon Book** fundraiser. It's a great way to support Hanlon, and to get discounts at many stores, restaurants, and entertainment spots. Please send in payment, or return your unused book to school by September 29th. We will need **Room Parents** to help sort and track payments and returned books, so let your child's teacher know at Curriculum if you would like to be a Room Parent.

Sept 3, 2016

Hello Hanlon Families,

Although it was short, we had a great first week of school!

On Wednesday, we practiced our first fire drill for students in grades 1-5. Students were well prepared by their teachers, and the entire building was safely evacuated in under four minutes. We will practice fire drills and lockdown drills for all K-5 students several times this year.

Thank you to the parents who were able to attend the Welcome Principal's Coffee on Thursday morning.

We introduced our new PTO Co-Presidents, Mary Kate Ferreira and Lynne Weston. Along with Mary Kate and Lynne, the PTO Board includes Amanda Drainville, Susan Garratt, Katie Roche, and Allison Gustie.

They are working very hard to publish a PTO Directory of all Hanlon families. In order to make this possible, please go into the district's [Aspen database](#) and update your emergency contact information and permissions right away. PTO Dues are \$50 per family (payable by cash or check at Curriculum Night), and are the primary funding source for PTO sponsored Enrichment events, buses for field trips, school supplies, and monthly PTO events. The PTO Directory will be given as a "thank you gift" for families who pay their PTO dues early this fall. The Directory is a great resource for setting up playdates and getting contact information for parties.

Hanlon's BOKS program will start up in late January. If you are interested in becoming a trainer, there are several free training sessions already posted to the [BOKS website](#), including Sept. 6,7, Oct. 26, 27, Nov. 16, 17, and Dec. 13.

I have a staffing update to share with families of students who work with Marie Mullen in our Learning Center/Resource Room. Ms. Mullen resigned due to a change in her husband's job, and has decided to stay home with her daughters. We were all very sad to say goodbye to Ms. Mullen, as she has been a wonderful source of support to Hanlon's students. I am pleased to announce, however, that Jennifer Maxwell has been hired to fill the Resource Room role. Ms. Maxwell holds her Massachusetts Certification in Special Education, as well as a B.A. in Psychology and a Master's Degree in Special Education from Lesley University. She has worked at Westwood's Integrated Preschool, as well as the Igo Elementary School in Foxboro. Ms. Maxwell started on Thursday, and is excited to join the Hanlon community! We will welcome students back after the long holiday weekend with our first All School Meeting. The ASM planning team is looking forward to setting a new theme for the '16-17 school year! Have a wonderful weekend!

Warmly,
Sarah

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

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