

Haddam Elementary School Dolphin Times

Notes From the Principal

Welcome Back!

I always look forward to getting back to school. We had such a great start! It has been fun to walk around and see the students and teachers getting to know one another. The students expressed their excitement to be back in school (although there were a few sleepy yawns in between).

If you are a new parent/guardian to our school, I would like to extend a special welcome to you and encourage you to attend our Open House event for K or 1-4 and the September PTO meeting. We look forward to your active involvement in your child's school!

Some time this week you will receive a number of documents that need to be reviewed and/or completed. Please note that the Emergency Contact Sheet is of the utmost importance. We ask that you fill it out completely and legibly.

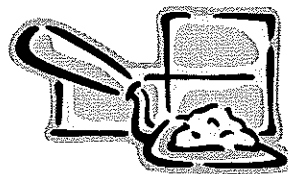
You will also be receiving the Elementary Schools Student Handbooks and we hope that you will take some time to review that information. Please pay special attention to the Inclement Weather Schedule and Scheduled Half Days. We would especially like to emphasize that one of our major concerns is appropriate footwear. Students should come to school with footwear that allows them to fully participate in recess activities and to walk around the school comfortably. Students are not allowed to wear flip-flops, slipper-type shoes (without a back strap), or high heels. Please read the student dress code/guidelines on pages 12-13 for more information. *Special note: the elementary school exceptions mentioned for outerwear and headcovering apply only to keeping those items in the classroom, not the wearing of the items in school.*

Last year our PTO designed a dismissal form that can be downloaded at :

<http://www.rsd17.org/hes/resources.shtml>

We ask that you use that form to communicate your child's transportation changes. As a district we are moving toward a standardized way of communicating pick-up/bus changes. A similar form will be used at the other elementary schools and middle school. Thanks in advance for your cooperation!

Last year we also started a "Compliment Board" in which any member of our school community can compliment another on a "job well done". You can find the compliment brick template under the resource tab of our website. I encourage you to send one in when you think of it to help us to continue to build a strong community !



Haddam Elementary
School—Regional School
District 17

Volume 1, Issue 1

September 2009

Special points of interest:

REMINDERS:

Rolling Backpacks are no longer allowed in the RSD 17 Elementary Schools.

School Lunch is now \$2.75

For safety reasons, please use the crosswalk during pick up and drop off of students.

September 15th
Kindergarten Ringing-In & Open House 5:00-6:00p.m.

September 22nd
Open House for Grades 1-4 6:00-7:15 p.m.

September 23rd
PTO Meeting @ 6:45p.m.

September 29th
PICTURE DAY!

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Special Welcome To New Staff!

This year we have been joined by:

- Mrs. Jessica DeAngelo, Special Education (3rd/4th grade)
- Mrs. Celeste Formica, Kindergarten Teacher
- Mrs. Eileen Grunenwald, Paraprofessional
- Mr. Bryan Kercharsky, Elementary Teaching & Learning Specialist (Districtwide)
- Mrs. Donna Pecoraro, 3rd grade Teacher
- Mrs. Lisa Stankiewicz, Paraprofessional

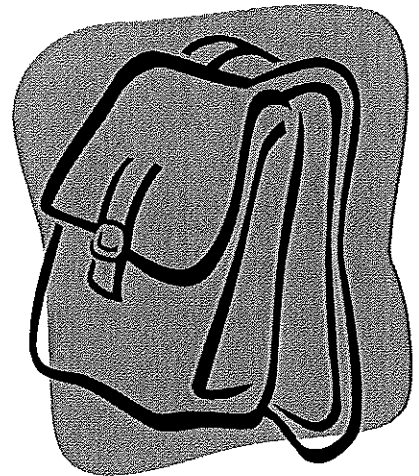
- Mrs. Robyn Webb, Building Substitute

We welcome them to HES and wish them a wonderful school year!

Congratulations to our school counselor, Stacey Rossignol on her recent summer nuptial. She is now Mrs. Stacey Mahoney.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Our school office is open between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:30pm
- Student hours are from **8:40a.m. – 3:25p.m.**
- Please use the **Dismissal Form** (found on our website under the Resource tab) if you have a change in your child's transportation.
- If you have an emergency change to your child's transportation, we ask that you call as soon as that information is known (prior to 11:30 a.m., if possible). It is difficult to assure that messages received after 2:30p.m. are communicated to your child, so please help us by
 - Parents picking up their children must sign the dismissal log located in the All-Purpose Room.
 - Only students and staff are allowed on the playground during recess. If a parent must pick-up a child during their recess, please go directly to the office and someone will assist you.
 - Please sign up for our Emergency Alert System (Honeywell). Directions are attached to this newsletter.



ONLY BACKPACKS WORN ON THE BACK ARE PERMITTED. NO ROLLING PACKS, PLEASE.

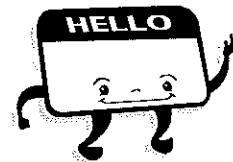
School Security Measures

The school is equipped with an intercom/buzzer system in use during the school day. All doors, including the front door, will be locked during school hours. The doors will continue to be monitored by surveillance cameras and frequent security checks will be made by custodians and school staff. You will need to press the button and state your name when asked. Please do not hold the door open for anyone, or place a wedge in the door

for any reason. As you know, the office is often very busy, please be patient as it may take a few moments for someone to respond.

At no time should a visitor exit the building through an exit other than the main entrance, unless directed by school authorities to do so. We continue to require visitors to keep their visitors' badges visible at all times.

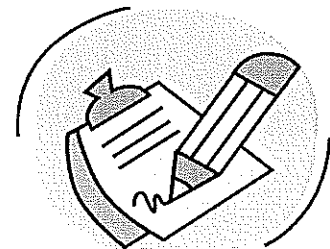
All Visitors must wear badges while in the building.



End-of-Day Parent Pickup

If you plan to pick up your child at the end of the day, please **write a note** and send it with your child in the morning. Please specify who will be picking up your child. **Anyone picking up a child must always be prepared to show identification.** Please meet your child in the All Purpose Room. These doors will be opened for parent pickup at 3:20pm.

If your child is in the afterschool program or takes a different bus home on certain days, please write a note to your child's teacher communicating the specific days and the duration of your arrangement. We will keep this letter on file for the specified time.



DON'T FORGET TO HAVE ID READY FOR SIGN OUT AT THE END OF THE DAY!

Helping Your Child With Homework (Part 1)

Why Do Teachers Assign Homework?

Teachers assign homework for many reasons. Homework can help their students

- review and practice what they've covered in class;
- get ready for the next day's class;
- learn to use resources, such as libraries, reference materials and computer Web sites to find information about a subject;
- explore subjects more fully than classroom time permits;
- extend learning by applying skills they already have to new situations; and
- integrate their learning by applying many different skills to a single task, such as book reports or science projects.

Homework also can help students to develop good study habits and positive attitudes. It can

- teach them to work independently; and
- encourage self-discipline and responsibility (assignments provide some children with their first chance to manage time and to meet deadlines).

In addition, homework can help create greater understanding between families and teachers and provide opportunities for increased communication. Monitoring homework keeps families informed about what their children are learning and about the policies and programs of the teacher and the school.

How Can Parents Help?

Children need to know that their family members think homework is important. If they know their families care, children have a good reason to complete assignments and to turn them in on time. You can do many things to show that your child that you value education and homework.

Set a Regular Time for Homework

Having a regular time to do homework helps children to finish assignments. The

best schedule is one that works for your child and your family. What works well in one household supplies that might be helpful include a stapler, paper clips, maps, a calculator, a pencil sharpener, tape, glue, paste, scissors, a ruler, a calculator, index cards, a thesaurus and an almanac. If possible, keep these items together in one place. If you can't provide your child with needed supplies, check with her teacher, school guidance counselor or principal about possible sources of assistance.

For books and other information resources, such as suitable computer Web sites, check with the school library or your local public library. Some libraries have homework centers designed especially to assist children with school assignments (they may even have tutors and other kinds of individual assistance).

Remove Distractions

Turn off the TV and discourage your child from making and receiving social telephone calls during homework time. (A call to a classmate about an assignment, however, may be helpful.) Some children work well with quiet background music, but loud noise from the CD player, radio or TV is not OK. If you live in a small or noisy household, try having all family members take part in a quiet activity during

homework time. You may need to take a noisy toddler outside or into another room to play. If distractions can't be avoided, your child may want to complete assignments in the local library.

Set a Good Example

Show your child that the skills he is learning are an important part of the things he will do as an adult. Let him see you reading books, newspapers and computer screens; writing reports, letters, e-mails and lists; using math to balance your checkbook or to measure for new carpeting; doing other things that require thought and effort. Tell your child about what you do at work.

Help your child to use everyday routines to support the skills he is learning—for example, teach him to play word and math games; help him to look up information about things in which he is interested—singers, athletes, cars, space travel and so forth; and talk with him about what he sees and hears as the two of you walk through the neighborhood, go shopping at the mall or visit a zoo or museum.

Adapted from the US Dept. of Education publication:

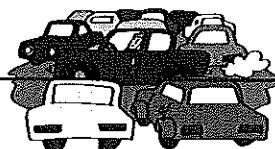
<http://www.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/homework/index.html>

Copies of other sections of this article and articles will be published in future newsletters.

PARKING

Please do not park your car in the drop-off lane to walk your child to the front door. If you would like to walk your child to the school door, please pull into a parking stall. This will help us to avoid a traffic back-up onto Route 154.

Overflow parking for school events is located across the street at the Higganum Green. Do not park on the grass area that abuts Route 154. That creates a real safety hazard!



KEEP OUR PARKING
LOT SAFE.

CAFÉ DELFIN



Beginning the week of September 22nd, we will again be offering an opportunity for you to have lunch with your child. Please call to reserve a seat on stage (Café Delfin) and order your lunch if you'd like. Due to space constraints, we ask that you reserve for no more than 2 adults per child in a particular month so that we may accommodate as many parents as possible.

Honeywell Instant Alert™ for Schools

Parent User Interface

Minimum Requirements

Register and create your account

1. Go to the Honeywell Instant Alert for Schools website, listed above.
2. If you are a staff member in the school, use the user ID and password given to you by the school.
3. If you are not a staff member in the school, click on 'New User' below the login boxes.
4. Complete the Student information form. (Fields marked with * are mandatory) Click 'Submit.'
5. Complete the corresponding Parent information form. (Fields marked with * are mandatory) Click 'Submit.'
6. After receiving the Confirmation message, click on 'Proceed' to get started with Instant Alert.
7. Note: Remember your Login Name and Password so you may use it to update your profile.

View and check details about yourself and your family members

1. Upon successful login, click on 'Account Details.'
2. Click on 'Parent Profiles' to view and edit details about yourself and your family members.
3. Click on 'Student Profiles' to view details about your children enrolled in this school.

Configure alert settings for yourself

1. Click on 'Alerts.' Click on 'Alert Configuration.'
2. Click on the name of a contact from the list.
3. Click on the tabs (Phone, Email, Text Messaging, Pager) to view this person's contact device information.
4. Enter contact device information within the gray box and click 'Add' to add more contact devices.
5. Click on the check boxes in the appropriate column to select which alert type you would like to have sent to which device. Click on 'Save' when complete. Note: Phones only receive 'School Closing' Alerts.
6. For e-mail, text messaging and pagers you may send yourself a test message. Click on 'Send Test Message' to check if the address has been entered correctly. Common cell phone text messaging addresses are located in the Help section – click on 'Help' while on the 'Text Messaging' screen. You can also contact your cell provider to receive your text messaging address.

Additional Functions

View History of Alerts

Click on 'Alerts' to view Alerts that have been sent to you. Use the calendar icons and 'Alert Type' list to filter.

Identify key contacts for your children

1. Click on 'My Other Contacts.'
2. Click on 'Add New Contact' and complete the form. (Fields marked with * are mandatory)
3. Click on the 'Pick up Rights' check box if you wish to allow this person the right to pick up your child from school. This person's name will appear on a report for the school.
4. Click 'Add' OR click 'Save and Configure Alerts' to directly configure alert settings for this contact.
5. Select a child's name from the drop down and click on 'Change Priority' in order to prioritize the contacts for that child. If you want a contact to receive Alerts, click on the 'Yes/No' button in the Contact List.

Set your 'Out of Town' calendar

1. Click on 'Account Details.' Set your travel calendar and still stay in touch with your child's school.
2. Complete the form (Fields marked with * are mandatory); use the calendar icons to specify travel dates.
3. Assign a primary contact while you are away.

For Assistance: InstantAlertHelp@Honeywell.com