

HADDAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

JANUARY, 2009

NEWSLETTER



Dr. Janice Harris
Principal

PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

"Wisdom lies neither in fixity nor change, but in the dialectic between the two." -Octavio Paz (writer, poet & diplomat)

This quotation is one that inspires me as we look at ways to make our school the best place it can be for children to learn and grow. Each "new" year provides us the opportunity to reflect on things that we would like to change, improve, or just leave the same. It is through reflection that our direction is shaped. This year we will be asking all members of the school community to share in the reflection. **A parent questionnaire is attached to this newsletter.** We hope that you will take a few moments to complete it to help us understand your perspectives about our school. You can send it in with your child, drop it off in person, or mail it to the school. *Please do not put your name on the survey.* We ask that you send it in by **Tuesday, January 21st 2009.** Staff and students will be completing a similar survey in the coming weeks. Our school improvement committee will be helping to compile and summarize the results so that it can be shared with the school community. Thank you in advance for your response!

I wish to express gratitude for the tenacity of the PTO Cultural Arts co-chairs, **Lisa Weis** and **Diane Stock** in securing an assembly program to support us doing a very special professional development program for our classroom and special education teachers. While our students were listening to (and mesmerized by) the "Sounds of Ancient Civilization", teachers were engrossed in a presentation by Dr. Nancy Boyles, associate professor in the Graduate Reading Program at Southern Connecticut State University and consultant to the Connecticut State Department of Education in Language Arts. Both students and teachers found their afternoon educational and enjoyable. This would not have been possible without the support of our PTO and the staff that supervised students during the assembly. Thanks to all who helped make this a successful afternoon!

January is a truly a busy month at HES. We have had to make some schedule adjustments due to weather, including moving the date for the educators from China to visit HES. The new date will be Friday, January 16th. In preparation for this visit, we have prepared a bulletin board and will have mini-assemblies to teach our students a



SNOW CANCELLATION PROCEDURES

School cancellations or delay's are made between 5-5:30 a.m. followed by the Honeywell Instant Alert Message. When school is delayed, student's begin school at 10:40. Normally, early dismissals are at 1:05 depending upon the circumstances. We realize most people work away from their homes, so please let us know in advance what transportation procedures you prefer for your child when he/she is dismissed early. Also, during a delayed opening, only "Lunch A" will be offered.



DISMISSAL TIME

Parent pickup is at 3:20 to allow the All Purpose room to clear in order to accommodate students for bus dismissal. Parents should wait in the designated area for their child to be dismissed. Please be mindful not to park your car to obstruct the entrance to the school lot. We would really appreciate parents using the parking stalls across the street from the school to avoid a dangerous back-up onto Route 154. Thanks for your cooperation!

David Costello Performs at Brainerd Library

Here's a great **free activity** for an RSD#17 early dismissal day! David Costello brings his background in theater to the library in a one-man variety show on Tuesday, January 20 at 4:00 PM. With ukulele accompaniment, Costello opens with an original song and just keeps going with a fun-filled lively program. He will share his book, *Here They Come!* and introduce the audience to a young hobgoblin from the story. David will also lead the children in a brainstorming session to demonstrate how he generates new ideas and creates stories. There will be lots more audience participation as kids help him illustrate the plot for a story. Then everyone can sit back and relax while listening to their story and another one of David's favorites.

Both children and adults will enjoy this program that combines storytelling, puppetry, music, and lots of creativity! Call the library to register for this free family program for children age 5-12. Of course younger siblings are welcome, too!

Read & Respond Together

(Due December 18th, 2008)

Read a book with your child and respond to the question below.

Name of Book: Harry & the Terrible Whatzit

Child's Name: Luke Malone

Parent's Name: Theresa Malone

How are you the same or different from a character in the story? (Give an example from the story to support your thinking.)

Luke says he is different than Harry because he is not afraid of the cellar. He also said he is different because he would use his Karate tricks rather than a broom.

Name of Book: Poodlena

Child's Name: Bliss Weston

Parent's Name: Caren Weston

How are you the same or different from a character in the story? (Give an example from the story to support your thinking.)

"When I was born, I was like Poodlena. I thought that being dirty was the worst thing in the world. But after a while, I learned that getting dirty was ~~lots~~ ^{lots} of fun. That's how I'm like Poodlena."

Read & Respond Together
(Due December 18th, 2008)

Read a book with your child and respond to the question below.

Name of Book: A family in India

Child's Name: Alexa Pullman

Parent's Name: Constance Pullman

How are you the same or different from a character in the story? (Give an example from the story to support your thinking.)

Our family is very different from the family described in the book. The family speaks the Hindi language, attend school only until 12:00 pm and when they return home, the children work to help support the family. There are very few cars and the main form of transportation is riding a bicycle. The family also relies on selling fabrics for

their income. There are no telephones or televisions in their home. In the evening, the family prays and sing songs together.

Name of Book: The Sleeping Giant of Goll.

Child's Name: James Knowlton 12/2/08

Parent's Name: Christopher Knowlton & Sally DeGozzaldi

How are you the same or different from a character in the story? (Give an example from the story to support your thinking.)

I am the same as princess Keenan because I am not like princess Keenan because she can use magic. She uses it to fight spar.

Parents

Please complete this form using a No. 2 pencil.
Be sure to completely fill in the circle that describes best what you think or how you feel.
Thank you!

PLEASE USE NO. 2 PENCIL.

RIGHT	WRONG
<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I feel welcome at my child's school	①	②	③	④	⑤
I am informed about my child's progress	①	②	③	④	⑤
I know what my child's teacher expects of my child	①	②	③	④	⑤
My child is safe at school	①	②	③	④	⑤
My child is safe going to and from school	①	②	③	④	⑤
There is adequate supervision during school	①	②	③	④	⑤
There is adequate supervision before and after school	①	②	③	④	⑤
Teachers show respect for the students	①	②	③	④	⑤
Students show respect for other students	①	②	③	④	⑤
The school meets the social needs of the students	①	②	③	④	⑤
The school meets the academic needs of the students	①	②	③	④	⑤
The school expects quality work of its students	①	②	③	④	⑤
The school has an excellent learning environment	①	②	③	④	⑤
I know how well my child is progressing in school	①	②	③	④	⑤
I like the school's report cards/progress report	①	②	③	④	⑤
I respect the school's teachers	①	②	③	④	⑤
I respect the school's principal	①	②	③	④	⑤
Overall, the school performs well academically	①	②	③	④	⑤
The school succeeds at preparing children for future work	①	②	③	④	⑤
The school has a good public image	①	②	③	④	⑤
The school's assessment practices are fair	①	②	③	④	⑤
My child's teacher helps me to help my child learn at home	①	②	③	④	⑤
I support my child's learning at home	①	②	③	④	⑤
I feel good about myself as a parent	①	②	③	④	⑤

Children's grades: <input type="radio"/> Kindergarten <input type="radio"/> First Grade <input type="radio"/> Second Grade <input type="radio"/> Third Grade <input type="radio"/> Fourth Grade <input type="radio"/> Fifth Grade <input type="radio"/> Sixth Grade <input type="radio"/> Seventh Grade <input type="radio"/> Eighth Grade <input type="radio"/> Ninth Grade <input type="radio"/> Tenth Grade <input type="radio"/> Eleventh Grade <input type="radio"/> Twelfth Grade	Number of children in this school: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑨ My native language is: <input type="radio"/> Chinese <input type="radio"/> Eastern European <input type="radio"/> English <input type="radio"/> Japanese <input type="radio"/> Korean <input type="radio"/> Spanish <input type="radio"/> Vietnamese <input type="radio"/> Other _____	Number of children in the household: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑨ Ethnic background: (fill in all that apply) <input type="radio"/> African-American <input type="radio"/> American Indian <input type="radio"/> Asian <input type="radio"/> Caucasian <input type="radio"/> Hispanic/Latino <input type="radio"/> Other _____
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