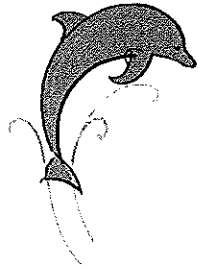


Haddam Elementary School



NEWSLETTER
November, 2008



*Dr. Janice Harris
Principal*

PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

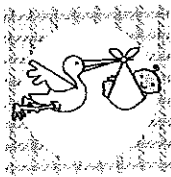
October was a busy month for us here at HES! Thanks to the commitment of our many volunteers, families had the opportunity to browse through a vast selection of books at our annual fall book fair. Later in the month, the Hoe Down bonfire warmed a frosty night as fun and laughter filled the air. A great deal of planning yielded a successful event...thanks to all who made this possible. Finally, on a warm Friday afternoon, a large audience of onlookers admired costumed students as they circled the primary playground for the Halloween parade. We thank all of our visitors for their cooperation as we adjusted our "check-in" procedures for the class parties that followed. As you know, parking remains a challenge for all-school events.

This month we look forward to celebrating our local veterans on Monday, November 10th with an assembly and light refreshments beginning at 2:00pm. Please be sure to share this with a veteran you know. We look forward to this opportunity to teach our students about service to our community and to our country and to say thank you to those who have served us!

As the Thanksgiving holidays approach, we can reflect on the fact that we have a lot to be thankful for as a school community. We have wonderful students and a great staff—working together for excellence! Our focus on providing a strong academic foundation that meets the needs of all of our learners can only be done in the context of the "whole child". Therefore, we emphasize our non-negotiable school values: **Respect is Required & Manners Matter**. Please take every opportunity to reinforce any of the following topics that support our school values (Project Wisdom message themes):

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Caring• Civility• Compassion• Confidence• Cooperation• Courage• Diligence• Education, (love of learning)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Empathy• Fairness• Forgiveness• Generosity• Gratitude• Honesty• Human dignity and worth• Human excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integrity• Kindness• Love• Nonviolence, (conflict resolution)• Patience• Patriotism• Perseverance• Positive attitude	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Positive work ethic• Prudence• Respect• Responsibility, (individual and social)• Self-discipline• Service to others• Tolerance
---	--	---	--

Wishing you all a reflective Veterans' Day and a very happy Thanksgiving!



DIAPER DRIVE

Since the prices of food and heating have gone up, some CT families can only afford ONE diaper a day for their babies. The HKHS National Honor Society and Student Council have taken on the effort of collecting baby diapers for needy children specifically in the New Haven area via the United Way. If you can help with this cause, we ask that you drop off your diaper donation(s) from November 10th through the 25th in the foyer of Haddam Elementary School. We will have a marked box available as you come in the office entrance. The high school students will be picking up the donations on November 25th. Your contribution is appreciated.

FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE



Now that winter is upon us, children are coming more often to the nurse's office with complaints of cough and dry lips. I wanted to let you know that I have cough drops here in my office, and I can give them to your child with your permission **only**. You may bring in your own supply of cough drops to me and I will be happy to keep them here for your child. Additionally, your child **cannot** keep a package of cough drops with them in class as I will need to monitor how many they are taking and can assess if something more serious might be going on. I appreciate your attention to this matter.

As for the concern for dry lips, children should bring their own chapstick to school to keep with them in class. I am happy to give them chapstick here in the nurse's office when necessary, but having their own, means they are not out of class as often.

If your child is running a fever, having diarrhea, or vomiting, we ask that you keep them home until they are free of these problems for 24 hours. While this is not a hard and fast rule, we do ask that you respect the other children and staff at this school if your child is not well, and keep your child at home to rest. We want your child to be at his or her best while they are at school so that they can learn at their full potential. If you ever have a question about your child's return to school after an illness, you may call me at any time in the health office and we can discuss it further. Each situation is unique and worth discussing at any time.

The last thing I want to discuss is the need in the health office for extra clothing. Incontinence is common in elementary school age children, and I do not have many extra things to offer these children when they need a change of clothes. I mostly need small sizes – sizes 5,6,7,8 in pants and shirts. Also we are in desperate need of underwear for girls and boys (same sizes) and socks for these size children. If you have extra clothing that you can donate to the school please bring (or have your child bring) them to the health office. You may also bring to the health office extra clothing specific for your child that we can label and store to be used when necessary. I highly recommend this for the Kindergarten and first grade classes.

Also, in the interest of good health and nutrition, we strongly urge parents not to send candy or soda to school for their child. Also, gum is not permitted.

My door is always open for comments, suggestions, and questions. Feel free to call or come by any time!

Thank you,
Jennifer Pletcher, RN
HES nurse



Project Graduation's November meeting has been moved to Tuesday, November 18, 2008, at 7:00pm in the lower media center of the high school. Please join us for this meeting to participate in the planning of this alcohol and drug free night of celebration for Haddam-Killingworth High School's 2009 graduates. The Project Graduation committee will also meet on Tuesday, December 9 at 7:00pm. The committee is still urgently looking for co-chairs of the food committee. Please grab a friend and make the decision to help! There is an army of volunteers to help pick-up the food items the night of graduation. There is also an opening for a person to write thank-you notes to the businesses that donate their goods and services for this worthwhile event. Please contact Kaycee Blancaflor (kccallahan@uks.com) or Sue Craffey (jcraffey@snet.net) with any questions.



Honeywell Instant Alert – all students should now be in the system. If you had trouble logging on before, please try again. Go to: (<https://instantalert.honeywell.com>) Remember, if you don't register, you may miss important announcements.



THERE'S A CHILL IN THE AIR

As the weather turns colder (temps below 50°) we ask that your child be dressed appropriately for school by wearing winter coats, mittens, hats, etc. Students not wearing coats will not be allowed outside. When snow is present on the playground, the children who bring in snow pants, boots and gloves will be allowed to play in the snowy areas of the playground. Those children who do not come dressed for the snow will have to stay on the blacktop area of the playground. Also, please remember to label all articles of clothing sent in with your child. We would like your child to fully participate in recess and enjoy their time outside!

NEW LIBRARY BOOKS

Students have been enjoying the 45 new books that were purchased by the PTO at the book fair and donated to the HES library. Thank-you!

NEW LIBRARY BOOKS

Students have been enjoying the 45 new books that were purchased by the PTO at the book fair and donated to the HES library. Thank-you!



LOST & FOUND

Our lost and found box is located on the AP room stage. Please take a look for any items you may be missing. All unclaimed items will be donated to charity during the December Holiday Recess.

BRAINERD LIBRARY NEWS

Lynn Lewis and Friends Entertainment Express will be performing at Brainerd Memorial Library in Haddam, CT on Tuesday, November 11 at 11:00 AM. Her program is full of interactive music and movement for children ages 6 months - 10 years and their families. This lively program features live music, surprise characters, singing, dancing and lots of fun! Lynn plays the guitar and children will have the opportunity to play instruments and join a conga line, too!

Call the Brainerd Library to register (860 345-2204) for this fun program.

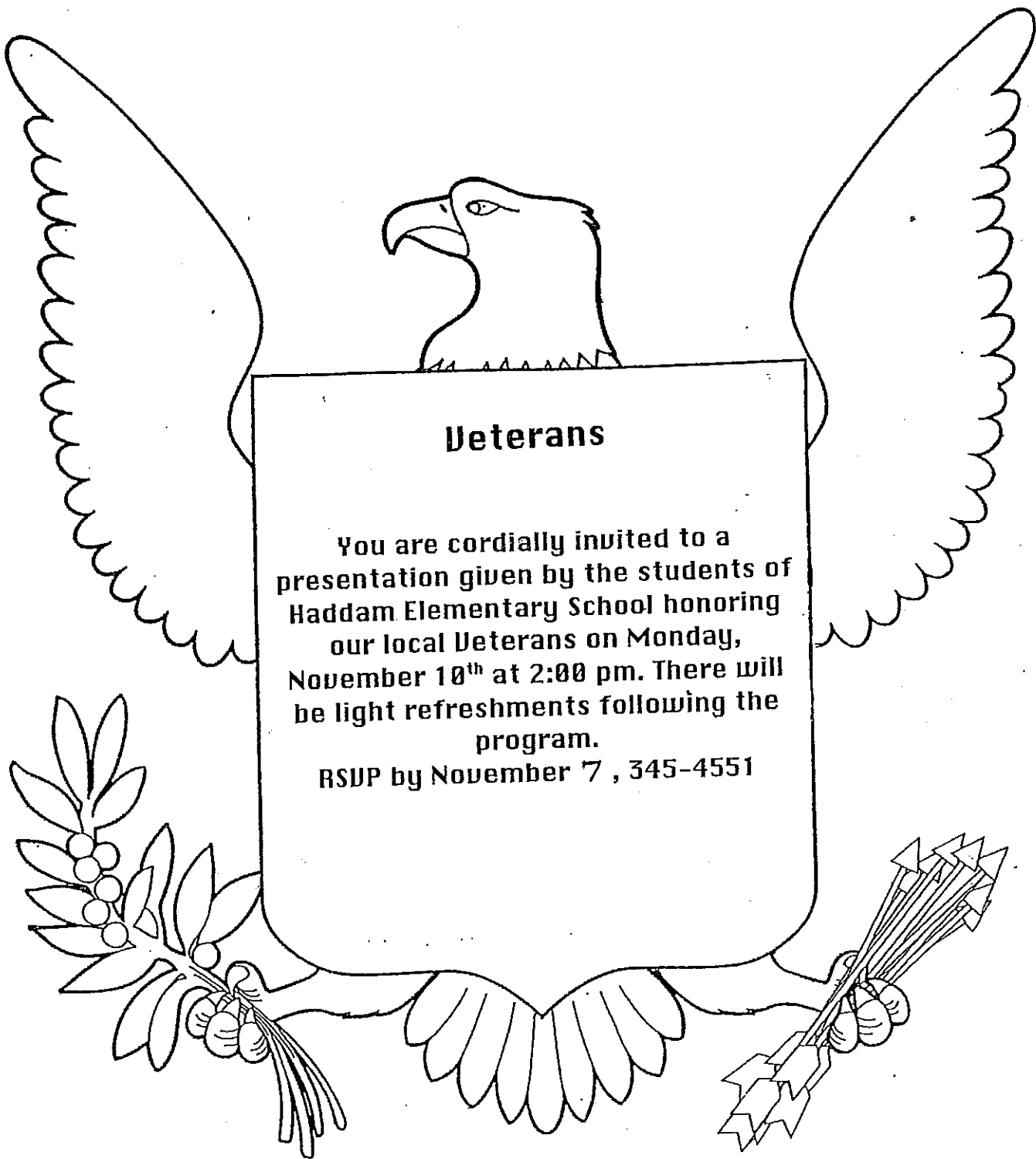
IMPORTANT DATES

NOVEMBER 10	VETERAN'S DAY ASSEMBLY <i>(see attached)</i>
NOVEMBER 11	NO SCHOOL (VETERAN'S DAY)
NOVEMBER 26	EARLY DISMISSAL ALL STUDENTS @ 1:05 PM
NOVEMBER 27 & 28	THANKSGIVING RECESS - NO SCHOOL



REMINDER

In the event of an evacuation in which students and staff must leave the school premises, we have two locations that we are authorized to use. One is the United Methodist Church next door and the other is the Town Garage. The EMERGENCY LINE TELEPHONE NUMBER is 345-8526.



Veterans

You are cordially invited to a presentation given by the students of Haddam Elementary School honoring our local Veterans on Monday, November 10th at 2:00 pm. There will be light refreshments following the program.

RSVP by November 7 , 345-4551

Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION®

2008

Haddam Elementary

SHORT NOTES



Dressed to learn

When choosing school clothes, safety and comfort count. Clogs, short skirts, and baggy pants can distract your child in class and make PE and recess challenging. Instead, help her pick clothes that fit well and can get dirty. Elastic-waist pants instead of belts, or leggings rather than tights, will make bathroom breaks easier for younger students.

Good sport

Next time you play a game with your children, encourage good sportsmanship. Talk about the fun you had rather than who won: "Good game! I love Chinese checkers." Play games of chance (Candyland, Crazy Eights) so your youngster can experience winning and losing.

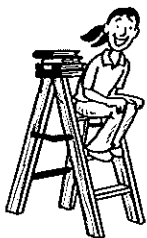
DID YOU KNOW?

Students who get enough sleep can concentrate better and learn more. For elementary school children, that means 10–11 hours a night. Make getting into bed on time fun by giving your youngster a special bedtime kit that includes a book, a flashlight, and a soothing CD.

Worth quoting

"Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere."
Chinese proverb

JUST FOR FUN



Q: Why did the girl bring a ladder to school?

A: So she could go to high school!

Blast off for success

Like an astronaut preparing for a launch, a student gearing up for a new school year will be more successful if she's organized and sticks to a routine. Here's a countdown your family can try.

3...

Organize mission control. Stock homework supplies (pencils, sharpener, paper, dictionary) in a convenient spot like a kitchen shelf or your child's desk. Set aside a box for storing graded work. Post school information, such as the calendar and cafeteria menu, on the refrigerator. Your youngster can highlight important events (test day, book fair) and lunches she plans to buy.

2...

Plan a soft landing with a regular after-school routine. *Example:* Empty backpack, eat a nutritious snack, exercise (walk around the block, ride bike), do homework. If your child doesn't have homework, she can read for 20 minutes, write in a journal, or play math games.

1...

Give your youngster a "breakfast briefing" each morning to help her get ready for the day. Wish her good luck on a quiz, remind her of a special activity such as an assembly, or ask what she wants to do in computer lab.

Lift-off!

Prepare a "launch pad." Place a sturdy shopping bag in a hall closet or near the front door. Load it with extra socks, ponytail



holders, sunscreen, snack bars, and water. Your child can grab what she needs on her way out. Have her keep her backpack next to the bag for a smooth takeoff. ♥

Ways to praise

Complimenting your child is a great way to boost his confidence. Choosing the right words can motivate him to try new things and work hard, too. Here are a few suggestions:

★ Focus on your youngster's feelings. Try, "You must be proud of yourself," in addition to, "I'm so proud of you."

★ Praise his achievements. You might say, "You've got subtraction down pat!" instead of, "You're so smart."

★ Place an encouraging note on your child's bedroom door. *Example:* "This room is sparkling. Your hard work shows!"

★ Praise him to others when he's within ear-shot: "Chris was so nice to his sister when she scraped her knee." ♥

