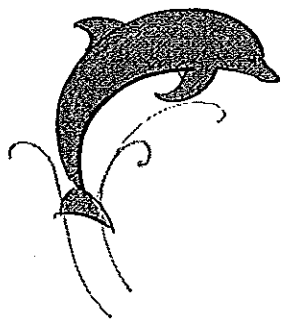


Haddam Elementary School



Newsletter

September, 2008

*Dr. Janice Harris
Principal*

Principal's Notes

Welcome back to a brand new school year! We are excited to welcome our Kindergartners and other new students to our HES family. I would like to thank the staff and parents who helped to make our Ringing In/Kindergarten Open House a success!

Open House for students in grades 1-4 will be on Tuesday, September 9th from 6:00-7:30pm. (Kindergarten teachers will not be here on that night.) There will be a brief presentation at 7:15 in the All Purpose Room. We encourage our parents and students to attend this event as you will have the opportunity to meet teachers, staff members and visit classrooms. It is a busy night, so be sure to make an appointment for a parent conference to discuss specific concerns about your child. Parent Conferences will begin on October 14th and teachers will make every effort to accommodate a mutually convenient time to meet with you during that week. Of course, if you have more immediate concerns, please touch base with your child's teacher before that time.

We are pleased to welcome the following staff members to our school:

Mrs. Donna Jones (Kindergarten Teacher)

Ms. Kelly Fagan (Paraprofessional)

Mrs. Jennifer Pletcher (School Nurse)

Mrs. Nancy Lavriha-Smith (Speech/Language Pathologist)

Mrs. Courtney Parmalee (Building Substitute)

H.E.S. continues to be a respectful, nurturing environment that supports high expectations for student achievement. We will continue to reinforce this through assemblies, morning "Wisdom" messages, and daily routines and procedures. As a school community, we look forward to making this a great year.

Afternoon/Tea & Book Club will again take place this fall on October 21st from 4:00-5:00pm and will be focused on the book Crazybusy by **Dr. Edward Hallowell**. It gives a great perspective to those of us who have a life that is "crazybusy". Please pick up a copy of the book and join us for a lively discussion! We will send out an RSVP invitation in early October.

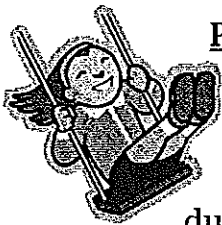
REMINDERS

- 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.
- To reduce the number of classroom interruptions, we ask that **parents call the school by 11:30 a.m.**, if an emergency message is to be given to your child so that the message can be put in the teacher's mailbox or voice mail prior to lunch. Calls for changes in transportation will not be taken after 2:30 p.m.
- Please make transportation arrangements with your child prior to his or her coming to school in the morning and send in a note if a change is made. Parents picking up their children must sign the dismissal log located in the All-Purpose Room.



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 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.



PLAYGROUND

In today's changing world, we need to be even more vigilant about the safety of our students when outside on the playground. 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.

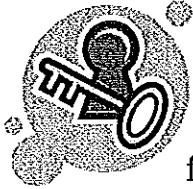
COUNSELING

This year the school counselor, Stacey Rossignol, will be running therapeutic groups that deal with divorce and changing families. If you feel that your child will benefit from participating in these groups, please contact Stacey Rossignol at 345-4551.



STUDENT FOOTWEAR

Absolutely no flip-flops, loose-fitting sandals, or high heels are allowed. (This creates a real hazard when students have to walk up and down stairs) Students should wear comfortable, safe footwear at all times. (Students should be able to play at recess or make a quick exit in the event of an emergency).



NEW VISITOR PROCEDURE

All the doors to Haddam Elementary School will be locked during school hours. All staff and visitors must enter and exit through the main office doors using the buzzer system from 8:40 a.m. - 3:25 p.m. 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.

Staff will be wearing photo IDs and visitors will have to sign-in at the office to obtain a building pass. Your patience and understanding are appreciated.



HEALTH ALERT

Please discuss with your child the importance of consumption and/or drink of open food containers on the school bus or van as some students have life threatening allergies.

We have made arrangements for allergy-free tables (egg & nut) to be used during lunch time.

Please direct any questions or concerns to our nurse, Mrs. Jennifer Pletcher.

SCHOOL FORMS

Please be sure to complete the forms sent home with your child on the first day of school, and return back to school with your child by September 15th.



HONEYWELL SYSTEM

See attached.



LOST AND FOUND

Our lost and found items are located behind the stage curtain. If you think your child lost something, please check our Lost and Found. All left over items will be donated to Goodwill during Holiday Recess and then again in June. Thank you.

SEPTEMBER 9	OPEN HOUSE, 6PM
SEPTEMBER 12	PICTURE DAY
SEPTEMBER 26	EARLY DISMISSAL ALL STUDENTS

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.

Haddam-Killingworth High School Project Graduation

Haddam-Killingworth High School's Project Graduation is gearing up to begin planning our all night drug and alcohol free graduation celebration for the class of 2009!

All meetings take place on the second Tuesday of each month and meet at 7:00pm in the lower media center of the high school.

The committee is in need of a chairperson for the food committee and for the entertainment committee. If you are able to help out with either of these two committees, or in any other capacity, please contact Project Grad Chairperson, Kaycee Blancaflor, at 345-7419 or kccallahan@uks.com or Vice Chair Sue Craffey at 345-3908 or jcraffey@snet.net with any questions.

Parents of HKHS students, please keep an eye out in your daily mail for Project Graduation's major wrapping paper fund raiser. Please consider placing an order to help Project Graduation raise funds for this worthwhile cause. Orders will be collected at the HKHS Open House in September.

Hello to all returning students, parents, and guardians. I hope that you all had a happy and HEALTHY summer vacation! I am pleased to be returning this fall as the part-time Elem. Health teacher for district 17. I will begin teaching students here at HES for about a third of the school year, before continuing on to Burr District, and finally Killingworth Elem. I will meet with students in grades 1-4 twice a week for 1/2 hour. Some of the topics I will be covering include food and nutrition, personal health, and injury prevention. The goal of the Health curriculum is to provide students with the skills and information that they need to make healthy choices. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call or send an e-mail to my address at the district's web-site. Bethany Kohary

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

Regional School District No. 17 Calendar

2008-2009

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<input type="checkbox"/> No school for students or staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Professional Day - No school for students	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Early dismissal for all students <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Opening day of school
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July 4	Independence Day	January 20	Early dismissal all students;
August 26 & 27	Staff professional development	January 21	portfolio day for K-12 staff
August 28	Opening day of school	February 11 12	Early dismissal all students;
September 1	Labor Day	February 16	professional development K-8
September 26	Early dismissal all students;	February 16-20	Early dismissal all students;
	Staff professional development	April 6-10	K-12 parent/teacher conf.
October 13	Columbus Day	April 10	Presidents' Day
October 14 & 15	Early dismissal all students;	May 22	Winter recess
	K-12 Parent/teacher conferences	May 25	Spring Recess
November 4	No school for students; staff	June 12	Good Friday
	professional development day.	June 15	Early dismissal all students;
November 11	Veterans' Day		Staff professional development
November 26	Early dismissal		Memorial Day
November 27 & 28	Thanksgiving Recess		Early dismissal all students;
December 23	Early dismissal staff & students		portfolio day for K-12 staff
Dec. 24-Jan. 2	Holiday recess		Last day of school if no snow days.
January 1	New Years Day		Early dismissal.
January 5	Classes resume		High School graduation.
January 19	Martin Luther King Day		

182 student days; 185 teacher days

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
Regional School District No. 17

57 LITTLE CITY ROAD, P.O. BOX 568
HIGGANUM, CONNECTICUT 06441-0568
TEL: (860) 345-4534 / FAX (860) 345-2817

GARY S. MALA
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

MARTHA R. VAUGHN
DIRECTOR OF FISCAL OPERATIONS

MINDY OTIS Ph.D
DIRECTOR OF PUPIL SERVICES

MICHAEL DISTEFANO
DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES

CATHY LUISI
INTERIM DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION

SHARON SHETTLEWORTH
DIRECTOR OF FOOD SERVICES

DEBORAH DONDIK
DIRECTOR OF CHILD CARE

EDWARD GOETZ
DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY

August 18, 2008

Dear Parents and Concerned Citizens:

I am once again honored and excited to welcome you back to another school year. As in past years, this one is filled with the great promise for our continued success as a district. Above all else, this year provides us with another, unique opportunity to shape the lives of the children we serve.

This is yet another pivotal year for our district given the massive work achieved over the past few years and the realities associated with raising the expectations associated with our work particularly in the areas of teaching and learning. Our agenda, dedicated to children, is aggressive and is highlighted by the following initiatives that we are implementing during the 2008-2009 school year:

- We will commence the formal activities at our high school in preparation for the upcoming accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges during the Fall of 2010.
- We will fully utilize our acquired technology to store data, review it and use it to report on student achievement.
- We will continue to integrate technology with instruction at all levels.
- We will commence the second sequence of reviewing our existing curriculum in identified areas.
- We will continue to create opportunities for all staff to pursue professional development opportunities.
- We will continue to engage in meaningful dialogue about teaching and learning.

A complete listing of what we hope to accomplish this coming year has been printed in the annual *School Year Priorities*.

While these activities represent some of the significant tasks that lie before us, they are superfluous in comparison to the two things that I believe need to occur for us to move another step forward. One, we must continue our commitment to ensuring that we maintain a district that is known for excellence in the teaching and learning of all students. This excellence will be reflected in maintaining supportive learning environments for all students, delivering high quality curricula, practicing continuous assessment of learning, implementing respectful and diverse instructional tasks to students and communicating information in a variety of meaningful ways. Second, we must develop opportunities to further cultivate the relational trust among all of us as one school district community. These relationships will foster the courage necessary for all of us to take both the personal and professional risks associated with raising the standards and expectations associated with our work. While these two things may seem a bit simplistic, I believe they are the necessary ingredients to solidify our success as a district for many years to come.

As I am sure you will concur if you have been a part of this district for any length of time, we have cultivated something very special. We have emerged from the past much stronger and more committed to children than ever before. If you are new to the district, you are now associated with a school district which has transformed itself into one that is once again recognized state-wide for excellence in public education. We have redefined who we are as people and professionals, clearly articulated our vision, and have fostered relationships where they mean and count the most. As we seek to challenge our own progress, it is critical that we celebrate all that is good in our schools. We must continue to recognize and publically discuss both our strengths and areas where we need to improve.

Just as last year the district articulated its commitment to making dreams come true, this year we must believe that we can positively impact the results associated with the work of our schools by working together to achieve great things for our children. Our belief in ourselves and in each other will allow for our achievements to become more pronounced.

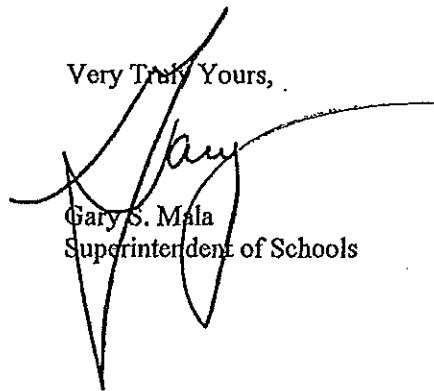
This year, our slogan will be *"Believing is Achieving."* As I reflected on what the slogan would be for this year, I remembered what it was like to be a young child believing in Santa Clause, the Tooth Fairy and other mystical characters. This was repeated when my wife and I nurtured our daughters during their childhood years. As I recall for myself and while observing my daughters' grow, it was through the act of believing that everything seemed possible. The act of believing has left me forever optimistic that anything is possible as long as you actually believe that it can and will happen. During this upcoming school year, I believe that by moving together as one team, we will achieve all that we have set out to accomplish plus much more. The only contributing or limiting factor to what I see as our ability to achieve rests in what we truly believe we can or cannot do. We will achieve only if we believe that we can. To me, there is no time more urgent than the present. I urge you to join me by continuing to be passionate about public education and to contribute to maintaining the conditions we know as so critical for ensuring the success of all children.

As I reflect on opening my fifth school year as your Superintendent, I am humbled by the honor I have to lead this district and am motivated by the endless possibilities that come with another school year. I also want to personally thank you for all that you have done in the past and will do in the future to positively impact your district. I am forever optimistic that we will achieve what we have set out to accomplish due in large part to focusing on high standards, cultivating deep, professional relationships with one another based on trust, renewing our commitment to achieving excellence and for believing that anything and everything is possible.

Best wishes for a great 2008-2009 school year.

I remain,

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary S. Mala", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gary S. Mala
Superintendent of Schools