

Hannah News

A Word from the Principal...

Dates to remember:

- Feb. 5: Pasta Palooza and Cake Walk
- Feb. 9 and Feb. 11: Superintendent Finalist Candidates Visit Hannah
- Feb. 10: Internet Safety Assembly @ 1:10 p.m.
- Feb. 11: 100th Day of School
- Feb. 12: Read Around the World Assembly

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At Hannah, we are proud of our sense of community. At the Evening of Accomplishments hosted by the Citywide PTO last month, Hannah teachers Maeve Moore and Tanya O'Malley gave a presentation highlighting our sense of pride, school and PTO sponsored activities, Morning Meetings, and access to Study Island. They began with our school motto, "Be kind. Be responsible. Be the best you can be." The kids say it every single day. The adults at school try to reinforce the message each day. As much as we all try, there are days when we see kids make mistakes and fail to treat one another with kindness or respect. While these instances are the exception, rather than the rule, the impact can be significant. We often hear the word, 'bullying' used in reference to instances when kids treat

each other badly. While this can be an accurate word to reflect the nature of the incident, we often hear particular children referred to as 'bullies' as well. We teach children that when they make a mistake they aren't bad people, they have simply made a poor choice. We all make mistakes and must learn from them, make amends if we can, and move on to better things. Kids are the same way. They can make poor choices, but it is our responsibility to help them learn why their choice was poor and how they can make up for it. In my experience, all kinds of kids can make a poor choice at least once in a while. As a parent, I have learned to never say, "my



child would never..." Parenting often brings humility. At school, we do our best to teach children to be assertive, yet kind. We also try to teach them what to do when someone else is unkind or physically aggressive. We strive to address all such concerns. At times, there may be consequences for kids, but we hope all kids will learn to make good choices. The tried and true Golden Rule is timeless and true: Treat others the way you would want to be treated.

Reading Challenge Update

Our reading challenge theme this year is "Book a Trip. Read Around the World." Students have been busy filling their reading passports with stamps they have earned by returning their reading logs. Students are learning about

the continents we are "visiting" each week. We have had weekly trivia contests and are looking on the maps learning about far away places. So far our reading total is 189,798 minutes! We are on track to exceed our goal of 200,000

minutes. On Feb. 12, we will have an assembly for the student body in which each grade level will share something they learned about a specific continent. Keep up the reading at home!

Hero Art

On Monday, February 1st, the PTO Arts and Enrichment committee sponsored a special program by artist Rob Surrette called "Hero Art."

Rob is an artist, but he is really so much more. He skillfully conveyed his message of respect, compas-



Be somebody!

sion, creativity, and the power of positive thinking. His ability to paint images from a blank canvas as students watched historic video clips and listened to music was amazing.

He painted portraits of the Statue of Liberty, Abraham Lincoln, Mother Theresa, Martin Luther King, Jr., Beethoven, and Albert Einstein right before our eyes.

Students were amazed and impressed. They thoroughly enjoyed the presentation. I hope many came home and told you about it!

Through the generosity of the PTO, we were able to purchase one of

the portraits. Teachers voted and we purchased the portrait of Abraham Lincoln. We hope to have it hung in our cafeteria soon. It is quite large and will require special hanging materials.

If you are interested in learning more about Rob's program, visit his website at www.amazingheroart.com

Again, many thanks to Donna Goodall for arranging the show!

News from the Nurse

I will be conducting screening for heights/weights and BMI for grades one and four, in the near future. This is mandated by the Massachusetts Department of Health. You will receive a letter in the mail with your child's BMI results. Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.
Thank You,
Leann Moody RN, BSN,
NCSN

Hats for Haiti

Last month, Hannah School students participated in a fundraiser to help Earthquake victims in Haiti. Students were encouraged to wear a hat and pay \$1 or give a donation of their choice to the American Red Cross to support relief efforts in Haiti.

We are proud to say that

through the generosity of the Hannah School community, we donated over \$1,200 to the American Red Cross' Haiti Fund.

Many parents sent donations in amounts greater than the \$1 suggestion. One second grader, Natalia Francis, emptied her piggy bank and donated the entire con-

tents totaling \$48. Two fifth graders, Meredith Enright and Maggie Loft donated the proceeds from a lemonade stand. They had been saving the money to donate to a different charity.

Many thanks to all who participated!

Staff Changes

Kindergarten teacher Kathy Lavoie retired this week. Mrs. Lavoie taught the half day kindergarten classes. She retired on her birthday. Mrs. Lisa Scharffenberg joins us as the new half day kindergarten teacher. Mrs. Scharffenberg joins us after working in Salem. She holds a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education. Longtime Beverly paraprofessional, Mrs. Agnes

Palaima also retired in January. Mrs. Palaima worked with many students in grades 2, 3, 4, and 5 within classrooms providing assistance with reading and math instruction.

Mrs. Kristin Kelly joins us as Mrs. Palaima's replacement. She will continue to work in classrooms deliver-

ing reading intervention services and support for students.



We say goodbye to two professionals and welcome two new professionals to our school.

Internet Safety Assembly Planned

On Wednesday, February 10, Carrie Kimball Monahan, from the District Attorney's office, will give a presentation on internet safety to our third, fourth, and fifth grade students.

Mrs. Monahan is experienced at presenting stu-



Be safe online!

dents with the information they need to be safe online. Her presentation covers topics such as, password safety, what to do if a student accidentally finds an inappropriate website, how to maintain safety and privacy online.

The main focus of her presentation is to teach students that the internet is not a private venue. Anything that is posted online can be found by someone else and students are responsible for anything they write.

This is true of e-mail, text messaging and social networking sites.

While not the focus of the entire discussion,

the topic of cyber-bullying will also be addressed. Students will be reminded that once they hit the send button, they lose control of their very own words. They cannot get them back and they cannot control where else they may be sent. These are important messages for children growing up in the age of technology that advances very quickly.

Parents are welcome to attend as well.

Students will receive handouts to take home. Look for them on Feb. 10th.

Reading News

Last month, we included an article about the DIBELS assessments and how they are used to identify students who may be 'at risk' or at 'some risk' of experiencing reading difficulties. When students fall into one of those 2 categories,

we do our best to match the student to a reading intervention that will help him or her develop the skills that are weak. In some cases, we analyze the assessment results and determine there is a weakness in reading fluency, phonics, blending

sounds together to identify words, syllabication or reading comprehension.

This year, we have been able to add to our 'menu' of interventions to meet all of those needs. Some students may participate in an intervention called,

**February Vacation:
February 15-19, 2010**

"Read Naturally," which addresses fluency weaknesses by providing opportunities to practice reading the same passage many times in a timed setting. Students work to improve the number of words they can read in one minute, with comprehension. "Word Warm Ups" is another interven-

tion program that helps students practice reading at the word level. It helps to build automaticity in word reading as well as helping students recognize phonic patterns within words. Others may participate in an intervention call QAR,



Reading is fun!

designed to increase reading comprehension by teaching students categories into which questions may fall. Is the answer 'right there' in the text or is it 'in my head?' requiring a student to use (cont. on p. 4)

Hannah School

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*Be kind. Be responsible. Be
the best you can be. The
choice is yours.*

Hannah School Mission Statement

The Hannah Elementary School strives to meet the individual needs of its students by encouraging them to become life-long learners. The students, staff, and families work collaboratively to promote academic excellence by using programs and curricula that are current and research-based. By fostering emotional, social, physical, and intellectual growth, we will create an atmosphere of respect for each member of our school.

Notice of Non-Discrimination

All educational and non-academic programs, activities and employment opportunities at Beverly Public Schools are offered without regard to race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, and any other class or characteristic protected by law.

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inferential skills? For kindergartners, we have an intervention called the ERI (Early Reading Intervention) that reinforces letter names and sounds as well as phonemic awareness (the ability to manipulate sounds orally). Lastly, we have a program called GATE, which helps early readers develop a variety of necessary reading skills: early fluency, phonics and sound blending, and reading comprehension.

Our paraprofessionals and reading staff have been

trained to implement these interventions in the classrooms during literacy time. If your child is receiving one of these interventions, you should

have received a notice from our reading coach.



Superintendent Search Finalists

Finalists for the Superintendent's position will visit the Hannah School on February 9th and 11th. There will be an opportunity for parents to meet the finalist candidates on those days. Look for a notice on Monday with specific times.