



HANNAH NEWS

Hannah School

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January 2009

A Word from the Principal...

Happy 2009 and welcome back to school! I hope you all enjoyed the vacation time. I'm sure it was filled with fun and family time, but often in the cold weather months, vacation times can also be filled with TV and video games. While there is a place for this type of entertainment, it is important for parents to be vigilant about what their children are watching and playing. Parents can teach children to watch TV with critical eyes and ears by teaching them fact from fiction, right from wrong, and how to interpret what they may see in advertisements. Watching TV with your child keeps you in touch with what they see and hear. Here are some basic guidelines :

Be wise to advertising. When you watch, point out that advertisers pay for the time to promote their products to make money. Teach them to be alert for hidden sales pitches like long "infomercials," that appear to be informative programs, but are actu-



ally paid advertising.

Know the difference between real and make-believe.

TV show writers can often make dramas, comedys, and movies seem real. Ask your child if they know the difference between these types of shows and those that depict actual events like news, talk shows, and sports.

Understand TV violence. Children who are exposed to more violence on TV tend to believe that some violent behaviors are acceptable. If violence is presented as a solution to a problem or mere entertainment, point out that in real life there are better, non-violent solutions.

Place sensible limits on TV watching.

Find good programs for your child to watch. Watch programs together when possible and don't put TV's in your child's room. Television can be a wonderful resource to enrich a child's (cont. on page 4)

Dates to remember:

- *January 7: School Council Meeting*
- *January 12: Accelerated Reader Assembly for grades 3-5 at 8:30 a.m. Parents welcome.*
- *January 19: Martin Luther King Day—No school*
- *January 20: Briscoe move-up night for 5th graders and parents @ 7:00 p.m.*
- *January 29: State of the Schools @ Briscoe (6:30 coffee hour; 7:30 speakers begin)*

Back to Rock

On January 26th, the Hannah PTO Arts and Enrichment committee is sponsoring a special program for Hannah students called, Back to Rock. It is a program designed to teach students about music and creativity in an interesting and engaging format. The program will take place in the morning hours. Ask your child about it at the end of the month!

Save the Date

State of the Schools
A review and forecast of the projects, highlights and issues in the 7 Beverly Public Schools

Hosted by Beverly Citywide PTO

Date: Thursday, January 29, 2009 @ Briscoe

Time: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.: *Coffee & Refreshments*

7:30 – 9:00 p.m.: *Speakers:* Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Hayes, Mayor Bill Scanlon, State Representative Mary Grant, SC President Annemarie Cesa , Citywide PTO representative

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Read Like a Rock Star

Hannah School will soon begin the 2009 Reading Challenge. This year's Reading Challenge will follow the theme, "Read Like a Rock Star." Students will be challenged to read each night and keep track of the minutes they read on special "Read Like a Rock Star" forms. The forms should be returned each week. Teachers will keep track of forms turned in and students who participate will be acknowledged.

Look for more information, including starting dates and forms, to be sent home in the next few weeks.

Accelerated Reader participants in grades 3-5 will be recognized at a quarterly assembly on January 12th at 8:30 a.m. Parents of students in those grades are welcome to attend. Check with your child to see how many points they have earned. Remember that students earn Accelerated Reader points by reading during their spare time at home and at school. Students take comprehension tests on the computer to earn points and document their reading efforts.



Good books are "cool."

Mrs. Retallack is hosting a music education student teacher this winter. Her name is Ms. Cherry and she will be working with students in all grades, along with Mrs. Retallack. Ms. Cherry will be at Hannah for the next 7 weeks.

Second Step

Students participate in Second Step lessons each week in the classroom to help them develop and practice appropriate social skills. This program is part of our curriculum. Ask your child about strategies or role play activities. You may also notice the posters in each room to remind students of strategies.

Reminders

Please remember to arrive at school on time each day. Traffic back ups do not begin until approximately 7:55 a.m. If you do plan to park your car, you must park in the lot and walk to the school yard. There are limited parking spaces along the driveway after the entry curve up to the service delivery driveway and after the stop sign at the drop

Dress for the weather every day.
Students go outside daily, weather permitting. Our standard is a temperature of 20 degrees or higher.

off circle on the right hand side. There is **NO PARKING** on the left side of the driveway or around the drop off circle at any time.

We appreciate your cooperation in not entering the service driveway at any time. This is for bus use only!

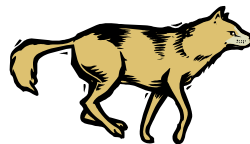
Students and parents have been very cooperative in using sidewalks when walking rather than cutting across the grass (or snow at this point.) This is very much appreciated and safer for everyone.

When the weather is bad, students will wait in the gym before school.

Nature at Hannah

At Hannah, we are lucky to be surrounded by a beautiful natural setting, which includes our pond, some woods, and a swampy area. For the past two years, we have had a mother duck fly into one of our courtyards and lay eggs that hatched into adorable baby ducklings. We also had a mother snapping turtle exit the pond to lay eggs near our schoolyard. On a weekend day in the Fall, the baby turtles were observed making their way to our pond. We have also had reports of coyote sightings near the school and in the parking lot, but all have been in the late afternoon. I tell you this not to alarm you, but just so you will be vigilant if you pick up your child in the late afternoon or visit the grounds late in the day

to use the playground or adjacent fields. We have not had any problem and do not anticipate any. Being surrounded by nature in Beverly always provides learning opportunities and we encourage you to remind children not to approach wild animals. We also encourage you to talk to your child about approaching dogs they do not know. Ask if the dog is friendly first. We also ask that dogs not be brought on school property at dismissal time. Thank you.





Inauguration Day 2009

This year's inauguration of President-Elect Barack Obama will be an historic event. At Hannah, we are planning some classroom activities to support student learning about our government and its functions. On January 20th, 2009 at 12 noon, Barack Obama will be sworn in as President of the United States of America. We plan to have students view portions of this ceremony in school. At each inauguration, the new president recites the following oath, in accordance with Article II, Section I of the U.S. Constitution:

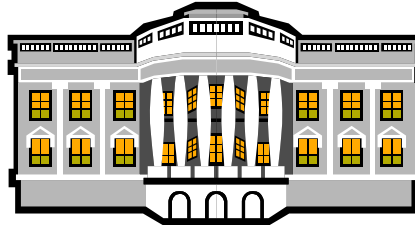
"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

The ceremony will take place at the Capital in Washington, D.C. Students at different grade levels will complete age appropriate activities such as: examine symbols of the U. S.,

reflect on Barack Obama's theme of "Yes, we can," learn about poetry that has been included in inauguration ceremonies, or analyze data about past presidents, such as age at inauguration.

Since the inauguration will take place at noon, we will be asking just 2nd and 3rd graders to bring a bag lunch that day. All other grade levels will be able to eat in the cafeteria at their regular lunch time.

If your child is in 2nd or 3rd grade and participates in the school lunch program, you may request a bag lunch from the cafeteria for that day. Please let your child's teacher know if this is your preference.



Inauguration Day : January 20, 2009

Kindergarten Registration

The Beverly Public Schools will begin its annual kindergarten registration process later in January. If you have a child who will be 5 years old by August 31st, 2009, he or she is eligible for kindergarten. If you have friends or neighbors with children this age, please remind them of this process. Parents may pick up a registration packet at their home school during the weeks of January 20th and 26th. The forms in the packet should be completed and returned, along with proof of residency, copy of the child's birth certificate, and updated health records, to the Memorial Building during the week of Feb. 2 from 9:00 am-4:00 pm with extended

hours until 7:00 pm on Thursday.

Registration materials are accepted centrally, not at each elementary school. Parents should indicate their preference for full or half day kindergarten. Tuition is charged for full day kindergarten; half day kindergarten is provided free of charge. Scholarship applications are available and included in the registration packets.

Pennies for Fuel

We will have a collection box for the "Pennies for Fuel" program, which is being sponsored by Beverly Bootstraps. The aim of this program is to collect spare change, which always adds up to more than we think, when we put it all together, for the benefit of families who have requested fuel assistance from Beverly Bootstraps.

If you have a few extra pennies, your child may bring them to the office and put them in the "Pennies for Fuel" collection box.

At the end of the month, we will count the change and send it to Beverly Bootstraps.



It's cold out there!

I Go Bananas for Hannah T-shirts have arrived. If you ordered a shirt, it will be sent home with your child. Thank you for your support.

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. Teachers and support staff provide opportunities to meet students' diverse needs and abilities as measured by district, state, and national standards. The Hannah community is committed to meeting the needs of the whole child. By fostering emotional, social, physical, and intellectual growth, we will create an atmosphere of respect for each member of our school.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION:

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.

(cont. from page 1)

vocabulary or learn new concepts. It can also present ideas that you find unacceptable and take away from activities like sports or other hobbies. You can use the TV rating system to help make your decisions about TV watching. The basic ratings are:

- TV-Y** Appropriate for all children
- TV-Y7** Suitable for children age 7 and above
- TV-G** Suitable for all ages
- TV-PG** May be unsuitable for younger children
- TV-14** May be unsuitable for children under age 14
- TV-MA** For mature audiences only.

A basic rating code appears at the corner of the TV screen for 15 seconds at the start of each program. News and sports programs are not rated, but can have advertisements that are aimed at older populations, some of which you may find inappropriate for some children. Most cable companies offer parental controls to enable parents to block certain channels. Families must make their own personal decisions about what may or may not be appropriate. I hope you find this information helpful.

Skating away

Technology Donations

We are VERY FORTUNATE to announce two substantial technology donations for the Hannah School. A donor from the Pascucci Foundation has donated Smartboards and projectors for our elementary classrooms, grades K-5. These smartboards have been delivered and will be installed this month. Teacher training on Smartboard use will follow.

The federal government, specifically the HUD office in Boston is planning to donate 30 laptop computers to the Hannah School this year as well. This donation is being made possible through a connection with Elizabeth Roble, fifth grader Colleen Mooney's grandmother.

We look forward to receiving these two donations and feel they will enhance our ability to provide instruction in the classroom. We thank the donors for their generosity.

