



November 2019 Newsletter

Hanson Middle School

<http://www.whrsd.k12.ma.us>

781-618-7575 – Main Office

781-618-7375 – Absentee Line

As we enter November we start to notice that the days are much shorter with the sun setting at about 4:30. Before long, the winter chill will be setting in.

November gives us an opportunity to reflect on things that we are thankful for. Our national holiday is filled with traditions from football and parades to a big turkey dinner with family and friends. Please take the time to enjoy this part of the holiday season with your children.

During the month of November, we will be having Parent Teacher conferences. On Monday November 4th there will be an evening conference from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. On Wednesday November 6th there will be an early dismissal at 11:00 and afternoon conferences will be held from 12:30 until 2:30 pm. Evening conferences will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Parents are able to sign up for appointments on line. The website to schedule appointments opened on Monday October 28. Directions on how to sign up were included in an email earlier this week.

SRO Harrington has asked me to remind parents not park in the Fire Lane in front of the school **AT ANY TIME**. This includes dismissal and for after school activities. Anyone parking there could be ticketed.

If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Bill Tranter, Principal



Upcoming Events

November 1 Early Release
11:00 am Dismissal Grading day

November 6
Annual Turkey Trot 8:30 am
Early Release 11:00 am Dismissal
November 4 – 8

Book Fair - During school hours
During Parent Teacher conferences

Monday November 4 - Parent teacher Conferences evening (6-8 pm)

Wednesday November 6 –
Early Release 11:00 am.
Parent Teacher Conferences
12:30 – 2:30 and 6-8 pm

Monday November 11- No School
Veteran's Day Holiday
November 27-29 Thanksgiving
Recess No school

Community Events

School Committee Meeting
November 5, 5:30
November 13, 7:00 p.m.





From Guidance – Ms. Sweeney

News from the Guidance Office – Mrs. Sweeney

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Grade 7 and 8 Parents: PCC (Project Contemporary Competitiveness) will soon be accepting applications from our current 7th and 8th graders for the summer of 2020 program. PCC is a residential summer enrichment program which is held at Stonehill College. Students participate in enrichment classes during the day and recreational and social activities in the evening. Many of our students have participated in past years and have always given great reviews of their experiences! Brochures and applications will be available from Mrs. Sweeney at the end of November. Please visit www.pccasp.org for more information.

Grade 8 Parents: Please mark your calendars with the following dates:

Friday, November 15th, During the school day

Presentations by Whitman-Hanson Regional and High School and South Shore Vocational Technical High School

Thursday, November 21st, 6:30 PM

Open House at Whitman-Hanson Regional High School (Performing Arts Center)
(Students and Parents/Guardians)

Thursday, February 13th, 6:30 PM – WHRHS Curriculum Night at WHRHS
(Parents only)

Teaching Kindness Reduces Bullying

Instead of teaching children what NOT to do, teaching them what they CAN do is important to create change. Teaching and encouraging kindness is related to many of the following positive outcomes:

- ✚ Happy children! There is a natural good feeling that results when we do an act of kindness, even if it's small. Happy and compassionate children do not have a need to bully others.

- ✚ Higher self-esteem. The “helper’s high” that comes from endorphins in our brains when we do something kind increases our sense of belonging. Children will feel like they can have a true impact on their environment.
- ✚ More friends. Feeling like they are accepted and liked by peers is usually very important to children of all ages. Kindness increases our connections with other people on a deeper level.
- ✚ Improved academic success. The feel good effects of being kind help increase children’s concentration and memory, which greatly impacts learning.
- ✚ Better mental health. Acts of kindness increase serotonin levels, the natural brain chemical that improves mood. Have a consistently unhappy child? Encourage them to look outside themselves and be kind to someone else.

For more information about why kindness is important, check out this article:

<http://www.edutopia.org/blog/teaching-kindness-essential-reduce-bullying-lisa-currie>



From The Assistant Principal

Electronic Devices:

With the availability of Chromebooks in all of our classrooms, students do not need access to personal electronic devices. As the policy is written, the use of electronic devices, unless allowed by teacher/administrator for educational purposes, is not permitted during the course of the school day; this includes lunch time. Students should keep phones turned off and in their lockers. If you need to reach your child, please contact the main office.

Afternoon Pick-Up:

When picking children up afterschool, please be sure not to block the bus lane. Doing so often causes the busses to have to cross the double yellow line into oncoming traffic waiting to enter the pick-up loop. Once in the pick-up loop, be sure to leave plenty of room for school vans to park in the pick-up area. Please do not park in front of the vans. Feel free to stage in either staff parking lot until busses leave.

Walking Home:

Please remind your children to be safe as they head home and to be respectful of the businesses and residences they pass along the way. Students should try and stay on sidewalks and be careful when crossing any streets. They should also be aware that they should not use the playground behind Indian Head School until the elementary school is dismissed.

Attendance:

As a reminder, please be sure to review our attendance and tardy policies. Students should be prepared for the start of the school day by 7:35 and should be in homeroom by 7:40 to avoid being marked tardy. If a bus is running late, homeroom teachers will be notified and students will not be marked tardy. Attendance at school is expected of all children on a regular basis. If your child will be absent, please call the school office prior to 10:00 A.M. at (781) 618-7375. *Pursuant to Chapter 222 Acts of 2012: The school will notify parents or guardians in the event that a student has missed 5 or more school days, unexcused, in a school year requesting a meeting to develop action steps for student attendance. Absences may be excused for the following reasons: illness or quarantine, bereavement or serious illness in family, weather so inclement as to endanger the health of the child, or the observance of major religious holidays.*

A Message from Whitman Hanson Regional High School

I would like to invite all 8th grade parents and students to attend the **Whitman-Hanson Regional High School Open House on Thursday, November 21st, 2019 from 6:30-8:00** Presentations will be given by each academic discipline as well as a showcase of athletics and extra-curricular activities. Please join us for this informational event which will begin in the Dr. John F. McEwan Performing Arts Center at WHRHS.

If you have any questions, please contact me at Christopher.Jones@whrsd.org

Dr. Jones, WHRHS Principal

SCHOOL NURSE NEWS



As mandated by the Department of Public Health, hearing, vision, and BMI screenings are conducted annually for grade 7 students. Additionally, grade 5 students are required to have vision screening only. These screenings are scheduled to begin in December. ***NOTE***: If you **DO NOT** want your child to participate in the screenings, please notify me in writing of this request. You can email me at lisa.godbout@whrsd.org or send in a written note with your child to bring to me.

Once the screenings are completed, parent/guardian(s) will be notified in writing only if the student does **NOT** pass for the hearing and vision screenings. If you would like the BMI results for your child, you may contact me to request that information be sent to you. If your child is not in 7th grade and you feel that he/she may need a hearing or vision screening done please contact me.

REMINDERS:

- Now that we are well into our new school year, I want to remind parents that if your child needs to take medicine during the school day or has an emergency medication (such as an inhaler or an epi pen), parent authorization and doctor order forms need to be renewed each school year. Please be sure to have these forms completed to bring when you deliver the medication to school. If you have not yet brought in your child's emergency medication, please do so as soon as possible. In addition, it is important that you inform the school nurse about any medical and/or health concerns that your child has that may impact his/her school day. If your child has sustained an injury, we must have a note from the doctor stating the child's physical limitations including being excused from gym and an order for the use of assistive devices such as crutches or a wheelchair.
- **There are still several grade 7 students that I need current physical exams and immunization records for. Parents/Guardians should have received e-mails from me if your child still needs to bring in those forms. Please check your e-mails and get these forms to me ASAP!**

Lisa Godbout, M.Ed., BSN, RN

781-618-8761 lisa.godbout@whrsd.org

Turkey Trot

Hanson Middle school will be holding our **52nd Annual Turkey Trot** on Wednesday Nov 6th. The event began at Indian Head School back when it was a middle school, and moved with us when we built the new Hanson Middle School.

The girl's race will begin promptly at 8:30 am, with the boys following at approx. 9:15. The awards assembly will be held in the gym at 10:15 am. 30 Turkeys and 30 Medals will be awarded to lucky winners.

ALL STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE!! Medals will be awarded to the top 15 finishers in each race. Turkeys will be awarded to the top 3 overall finishers in each race, plus the top finisher at each grade level. 18 More turkeys will be raffled off among all students who finished the race. Parents are welcome to attend both the races and the awards assembly.

BOOK FAIR

Dear Parents and Families:

Reading for pleasure inside and outside of school has real and long-lasting benefits. The Scholastic Book Fair is a reading event that brings to school the books kids want to read. It's a wonderful selection of engaging and affordable books for every reading level. Please make plans to visit our Book Fair.

Book Fair dates: *November 4th – November 8th*

Shopping hours: *During school hours & During Parent Teacher conferences*

Take a look at our booklist flyer to see a sample of the great titles that will be available. Many parents find it helpful to make a wish list ahead of time: www.scholastic.com/bookfairs/books There is also a great video provided to parents from Scholastic, you can view this video at this link: <http://www.scholastic.com/bookfairs/parentvideo>

Before you visit the Book Fair, be sure to download the Book Fairs app to help you find the right books for your child. For more information, visit: www.scholastic.com/bf/hansonmiddleschool And if you are unable to attend the Fair in person, we invite you to visit our online Book Fair at scholastic.com/fair. Our online Fair is available from until November 10th

We look forward to seeing you and your family at our Book Fair! Remember, all purchases benefit our school.

BOX TOP UPDATE:

Phasing out of old Box Tops



Mrs. Lander's class continues to collect box tops. **Box Tops are worth 10¢ each for HMS. Mrs. Lander uses the proceeds to support the Life Skills program, specifically cooking class.** Traditional Box Tops clips are being phased out of production, but may continue to be found on many products throughout the store. You can still clip and send them to school.



New Digital-only Program

Eventually the Box Tops program will become digital-only. Participating brands are starting to change their packaging from a traditional Box Tops clip to the new Box Tops label. The new and improved Box Tops mobile app uses state-of-the-art technology to scan your store receipt, find participating products and instantly add Box Tops to your school's earnings online. Download the app and choose Hanson Middle School. If you see this new label, use the new Box Tops app to scan your receipt. **Box Tops are still worth 10¢ each for HMS.** The app will find participating products purchased at any store and instantly add cash to HMS's earnings online.

If you would like Mrs. Lander's class to scan your receipts for you, feel free to bring them in as well as the old clipped box tops and her class will take care of it!



Got Unwanted Halloween Candy?

Please drop off all unwanted, uneaten, and still wrapped candy at the Hanson Middle School Main Office. We will then donate this candy to the Soupman of Bridgewater. The Soupman will happily pack this candy in their lunches for the homeless.

Collection dates: 10/31 - 11/7

Questions: Mrs. McGrath