



The HMS Principal's Update

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Hazardville Memorial School

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Special points of interest:

- * Dress for the weather, the cold is here.
- * Student Safety and Dismissal
- * Volunteers Welcome
- * Join the PTO
- * Playground Equipment
- * Community Involvement is Key

A Chilly Time of Year

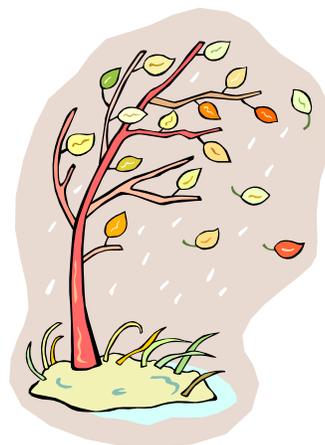
It's hard to believe but it's that time of year again. Every year when we hit this point on the calendar, there could be frost or snow on the ground in the morning, short sleeve weather at lunchtime and then back to coat temperatures by the end of the afternoon. The best way to ensure that your child is comfortable during the day is to dress them in layers.

Looking ahead at the weather forecast to stay on top of the temperatures and conditions for the following school day will also help you keep your child ready to learn. When a student is either too hot or too cold they can't do their best learning and HMS strives

to provide the best possible educational experience available for our children.

Recess is an important part of the school day. It helps our students get fresh air and sunshine, work off excess energy, and make social connections with their peers. Because it is such an important part of the day, we intend to be outside as often as possible. That means that if your child isn't dressed for the cold weather, they may not be able to fully participate and enjoy the social and academic benefits of recess.

As the temperatures continue to drop over the next few weeks, please consider sending students with their



winter coats or layered in a heavy sweatshirt and fall jacket.

Please contact the school or Family Resource Center (FRC) if you are having trouble providing a winter coat for your child and we'll do our best to put you in touch with people or organizations who can help.

Enjoy the seasonal air!

New Parent Pickup Procedure at Dismissal

In order to increase student safety and security during our school dismissal, we ask that if you are picking your child up, you remain in your vehicle. Students will be dismissed direct-

ly to your vehicle from the dismissal line at the designated pickup location at the end of the parking lot. As more and more parents have begun to pick up their child/children by greet-

ing them in person at the dismissal doors next to the library, the practice has been identified as a safety concern.



Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports

Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports, or PBIS, is a research based program that provides a positive and proactive school-wide approach to behavior management. By focusing on creating desired behavior through

positive reinforcement and a unified set of expectations throughout the school, there isn't any guesswork for



students. Everybody in the building is taught and can demonstrate what "good" behavior looks and sounds like at HMS.

As adults, it's easy to assume that every child has the same understanding of what "good" behavior is. Because we all come from different homes that are influenced by a multitude of different factors, "good"

behavior can be defined differently by each child. For example, the volume of my voice might be acceptable at my house but not at your house or questioning a direct instruction might not be okay with my parents but your parents don't see it as an issue. By teaching students what the expectations are at HMS, and doing it by focusing on positive reinforcement, we can support learning, safety, and school community.

PBIS is coming to HMS soon!

Playground Equipment Update

The HMS PTO, in partnership with the Town of Enfield, are looking at increasing the amount of playground equipment at HMS. As the largest primary school in the district, it was found that we have the smallest playscape. This limits the number of students who can use the playground area during the same recess period and also limits community use on the weekends.

We are very lucky that our PTO started raising money last year in order to add to the existing playscape. At the end of the summer, the PTO consulted with the Town about the possibility of

"It is a happy talent to know how to play." — Ralph Waldo Emerson

a partnership to speed up the process of improving our school playground. The feedback that we received acknowledged the need for improvements and started the ball rolling to make those improvements.

We are all very excited about this project and as we receive more information, we'll pass it along to you.

First Readers Rock!

First Readers celebrated their opening ceremony of the 2014-2015 school year on the evening of Monday, November 17th. The ceremony was held at Fermi High School and recognized several HMS students who had certified as readers since the ceremony last sum-

mer. In all, 47 students received invitations to participate in the ceremony.

The next First Readers Recognition ceremony is scheduled for the night of March 9th and we encourage you to join us in celebrating our young readers!



Hazardville Memorial School Volunteers

With all of the new security requirements being implemented across the district, it may feel like your volunteerism is being discouraged. Please let the HMS staff assure you that is not the case. The safety measures are being put in place to ensure that our students are as safe as possible while they are at school.

HMS couldn't function without the dedication and commitment of our volunteers. Whether you enjoy

reading with a group of students in your child's classroom or making copies for your child's teacher, the work you do is both appreciated and encouraged. When community members have an active role in the work schools do, our students receive a fuller, richer educational experience.

If you haven't volunteered but have considered it, please let us walk you through the steps necessary to get you on our approved



volunteer list. Your contribution has the potential to change a child's life for the better.

Dismissal Arrangements: Calls, Emails, and Notes

Dismissal is one of the busiest times in any school. Because HMS is a primary school, the hustle and bustle at dismissal time requires that much more adult attention.

Many young students feel anxiety over a change in their expected dismissal procedure. In order to minimize your child's anxiety and keep both the main office and your child's

teacher properly informed, please send a note with your child the morning of any anticipated change in dismissal. An email may not be received in time because teachers are busy teaching and a phone call to the office too close to the end of the day can make it difficult to get the information to everybody that needs to know.

Emergencies happen but if you know

there is going to be a change, please let us know that morning by sending the changes in on a note with your child.

"Communication leads to community, that is, to understanding, intimacy and mutual valuing." - Rollo May

The HMS PTO Wants You!

Yes, the HMS PTO wants you! We are very lucky to have such a dedicated group actively involved in all the wonderful things our PTO does for our students. However, we would love to have more participation at our meetings. Without your input and support the organization can't support our students and families in the ways that they'd like.

The PTO only meets once per month

for an hour. In order to make sure all of our families can participate, we have started alternating our meeting location from the HMS library one month to room 207 at Alcorn the next. We know life is crazy and that everybody is overworked and overscheduled but attending PTO meetings is an easy way to show your support and stay connected with all the exciting things going on at HMS.

Thank you for considering sitting in on our next meeting and for the time you'd be giving us. It is appreciated!



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Differentiating for Success

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Dear HMS Families,



I would like to personally thank you for your exceptionally warm and inviting welcome to Hazardville Memorial School this fall. In the past few months I have come to see what a truly special school this is and I am honored to be a part of it. As the building principal and as the father of 3 young children, I have been so impressed by the level of commitment and talent shared by the adults at HMS. I hope that as we continue working together and getting to know each other through this school year you, the families of our students, will feel both welcome and compelled to become active participants in our school.

Sincerely,

J. Graham

HMS Family and Community Participation: A Seat at the Table

The staff at HMS shares a firm belief that active involvement by our community members makes for a stronger, more representative school. We encourage you to take a seat at the table through volunteerism here at HMS and through your participation at our PTO meetings. We also encourage you to let us know what you are thinking by participating in our Family Survey at the beginning of the year and again at the end of the year.

Providing our students with a world class educational experience can only happen through our commitment to continued improvement. That improvement happens when our community voices areas that are working well and areas that we need to look at again.

In short, HMS is your school and we invite you to be a part of it.

