



# Hanlon School Newsletters

January 2017

## From the Desk of Mrs. Cronin:

January 25, 2017

Hello Hanlon Families,

On Tuesday, we hosted our first **All School Meeting** of 2017. We enjoyed video performances created by several classes. Third graders in Ms. O'Neil's class created a movie to culminate a Mystery Reading unit. In it, they explained what to expect when reading the genre of mystery books. They explained lots of important vocabulary like "villain" and "red herring," and their presentation style was funny and fun to watch. Students in 1S and 1C spent time studying Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his "I Have a Dream" speech. They created videos in which they shared their own dreams for a positive future. Some examples are: that no one will litter any more, that people will be kind, that every child will have a home, and that people can be whatever they want when they grow up. It was heartwarming to hear the hopes and dreams of some of our youngest students.

At the end of Tuesday's All School Meeting, we introduced our next school-wide theme: **Perseverance**. Over the next two months, we will teach students the importance of sticking with something, even when it's challenging. Some of you may be familiar with Carol Dweck's work on [Mindset](#) or Angela Duckworth's ideas about [Grit](#). Teaching children to take risks and to persevere through difficult tasks is an important part of helping students to become independent, motivated, successful learners. To kick things off, we showed [this music video](#) from Bruno Mars and the Sesame Street characters. Our second grade students already knew the words because they are planning to perform it at our February meeting!

Our Student Council would like to remind you of our next **Spirit Day: Student Teacher Flip Day**. On Thursday, February 2nd, students are invited to dress like a teacher, and teachers will dress like students. Bringing warm layers is especially important for students who go to Extended Day on Wednesday. Many thanks to 5th Graders Ethan, Sami, and Benny and their **Senior Webelos Cub Scouts** for donating nearly 50 coats to Anton's Cleaners' Coats for Kids Drive. This is a great example of leadership and service. Last weekend, the **Grade 1 Tiger Cub Scouts** did some community service at Hanlon. They cleared acorns from the front of the school. You would be amazed at how many acorns were gathered. Many thanks for saving our lawn mowers and for giving back to Hanlon!

I'd also like to thank Leeann Sullivan for coordinating our **Family Bingo and Game Night**. Although I wasn't able to be there, I saw firsthand the amount of planning and preparation that went into getting ready for it. As with all of our events, we couldn't pull them off without the help of many volunteers. Thank you to all who came and played!

If you have a third, fourth, or fifth grader at Hanlon, please make sure you have marked down the **MCAS testing dates** on your calendar. A complete list has been posted to the "News" section of this website since early November, and can also be found by [clicking here](#). If you are making spring travel plans, please try to avoid testing dates.

Families can expect to find **January Progress Reports** in their mailboxes very soon. They will be mailed on Friday, Jan. 27th. Teachers work incredibly hard to write about current progress and to set goals for the second term. The purpose of the progress report is to provide parents with information about how their child is progressing toward the grade level curriculum standards and benchmarks. If you have any questions

about your child's progress, please reach out to your child's teacher. If you do not receive a report card by Wednesday, February 1st, please let Ms. Goldstein know. Here are a few reminders about the report cards: Grading is done on a 4 point scale:

- 4 – Meets or exceeds June expectations
- 3 – Steady progress towards June expectations
- 2 – Progressing towards June expectations with additional time and support
- 1 – Working on concepts and skills below grade level

Given that we are mid-way through the year, if your child is progressing at the expected pace, he/she will receive a 3, indicating steady progress towards June expectations; this is where the majority of students will fall. In some content areas, students may have finished a unit of study, in which case they could earn a 4. For the categories Respect, Responsibility, and Work Habits in Art, Music and Physical Education, students will receive ratings of Usually, Sometimes, and Rarely, the same as the November Status Report Grades. We hope you find the report cards helpful in understanding your child's progress.

#### **Tech Tidbit from Mr. Goguen**

What do 5 Wits and Escape the Room have in common? They are both live-action, reality-based experiences that require teamwork and problem solving. How can educators deliver a similarly exciting, collaborative and challenging scenario to the classroom? [Breakout Edu](#) is one solution. The main premise is to open a series of locks to gain access to a wooden box within a set time period. If designed properly, with little to no direction, students are literally and figuratively required to "Think outside the box." Persistence, trial-and-error, inferential thinking, attention to small details, clear communication and leadership qualities are on display during a game session. Recently, our 5th graders had an opportunity try it out for the first time. Using knowledge of multiplication, division, order-of-operations, fractions, place value and geometric solids, students had to piece together clues to open a set of online word and numeric locks. Along the way, subtle hints to the combination of the "master" directional lock were provided. In the end, everyone Broke Out! Moving forward, the plan is to design new game experiences for other grade levels across the curriculum.

Are you interested in **Westwood's Special Education Parent Advisory Council**? SEPAC is hosting a Social on Monday, February 6th. [Click here to see the flyer.](#)

January 6, 2017

Hello Hanlon Families,

Happy New Year, and welcome back from what I hope was a restful December Break. I enjoyed spending time with my family and watching my children playing with new toys and with one another. Along with hosting three separate holiday parties and eating lots of delicious leftovers, I saw Rogue One (awesome!), and read Ready Player One by Ernest Cline and Take Me With You by Catherine Ryan Hyde. It was a great week! That said, it has also been nice to get back to work. It's amazing how quickly children re-adjust to the routines and structures of school. Teaching and learning were

happening at optimum levels as I visited classrooms this week. It seemed as though students and their teachers returned from Break refreshed and ready to learn!

One lesson that I observed really stuck out. Ms. Rizzi was reading a picture book called The Other Side by Jacqueline Woodson to her fourth grade class. Set during the time of segregation, it's a story about two little girls who live on either side of a fence separating the white side of town from the African-American side. The two girls strike up a friendship, and get around the grown-ups' rules by sitting on top of the fence together. The fourth graders engaged in a deeply thoughtful discussion around the themes and big ideas of the story. Their written reflections were insightful and reminded me how important it is to delve into "sticky" topics with children in age-appropriate ways. Picture books are great conversation starters! As we approach the observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, teachers will use a variety of ways to discuss the holiday with their classes. I encourage you to do the same!

Our Student Council would like to remind you of our upcoming **Spirit Day**. On Wednesday, January 11th, students are invited to wear their pajamas to school. Please leave slippers at home, and remember to bring gear that is appropriate for outdoor temperatures for recess. Bringing warm layers is especially important for students who go to Extended Day on Wednesday.

We hope that many Hanlon parents and guardians will attend the **Parent Math Workshop: Understanding Fractions in Grades 3-5**. It will be held at Downey on Wed. Jan. 11th from 6:00-7:30PM.

Best of luck to the Hanlon teams competing in today's **WFE Spelling BEE**!

MATH LEAGUE IS COMING!

CALLING ALL GRADE 3, 4 & 5 STUDENTS

Math League Starts on Friday, January 13th

WHAT IS MATH LEAGUE? Math League is a parent run enrichment opportunity for students to increase their confidence and build strategies around math computation and problem solving. Math League is available to students in grades 3, 4, and 5 in all of the Westwood Public Schools. The students come together for sessions over the course of the year at their own school and then once or twice a year get together with students from all 5 schools for Math Meets.

Math League is a great way for students to collaborate and get excited about Math. Interest is more important than aptitude! Math League takes the fun and engaging elements that make sports exciting and interesting for kids and applies those same principles to Math. Students work together in small groups to solve complex multi-step math problems in a fun environment. Math League helps build both confidence and problem-solving abilities. This is a terrific opportunity and I hope many families will take advantage of this program.

More information regarding registration and volunteer opportunities will be sent to families of 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders.

#### Exciting News from the Stock Market Game Mini Course

The Hanlon Stock Market Game mini-course is proud to announce that we placed second and third in the Massachusetts elementary division for the Fall 2016 trading session. Investors Kevin and Bridget (from 4R) placed third with a portfolio worth \$114,411.57. The "Wolf Pak" made up of Caleb and Nicholas (also from 4R) placed 2nd with a portfolio worth \$117,387.14. Our second place team is invited to Fidelity Investments in May for a grand celebration of elementary, middle and high school students winning teams. A high point for the Wolf Pak was selling 3,067 shares of SunCoke Energy Inc. (SXC) for a profit of more than \$7,100. It looks like we might have some future Shark Tank investors at the Hanlon School!

#### BOKS 2017 is here!

We are excited to announce that BOKS (Building Our Kids Success) is returning to the Hanlon School this winter!! BOKS is an early morning exercise program for children sponsored by Reebok. BOKS prepares students for a day of learning and is an important step in helping children appreciate the benefits of exercise and healthy choices that will last a lifetime. BOKS was inspired by the book "Spark" by Dr. John Ratey of Harvard

Medical School. Several studies establish that moderate to vigorous physical activity stimulates brain function and creates the physiological conditions for students to be ready to learn.

We are planning on running this session once per week for each group. Grades 3-5 will meet on Mondays from 7:45am-8:30am, and K-2 will be on Tuesdays from 7:45am-8:30am in the Hanlon gymnasium. The session will run for eight weeks from the week of January 30th through the week of March 27th (no class during February vacation). The cost to participate is \$15.00 per student for the session.

A pre-registration email and form will be sent for sign ups on JANUARY 10th at 6 PM. Sign-ups will not be accepted prior to Jan. 10th. \*Update: Sign-ups have closed. There are waitlists for both sessions.

Each week we will need one parent volunteer to help with attendance, bathroom breaks, and activities. We also need several energetic volunteers to help lead the classes. Volunteers may bring younger siblings to BOKS sessions. Your group leaders will be in touch to set up a volunteer schedule.

If you are in need of financial assistance, please register on Jan. 10th as described above and then contact Sarah Cronin at [scronin@westwood.k12.ma.us](mailto:scronin@westwood.k12.ma.us). Financial assistance will remain confidential.

If you have any questions about this program, please contact Sue Foscaldo at [suef439@gmail.com](mailto:suef439@gmail.com)

ACTIVE KIDS = ACTIVE MINDS

Hanlon School Play

We are pleased to announce the Hanlon School's 2017 performance of The Frog Prince. This mini course is for all interested students in grades 1-5. Rehearsals will take place on Mondays and Thursdays after school from 3:10-4:30PM for eight weeks, January 23 - March 24. The show will be held on Friday, March 24th. Students in first and second

grade will only rehearse on Thursdays, while students in grades 3-5 will rehearse both Mondays and Thursdays. Auditions will be held on Monday, January 23rd, and the first rehearsal will be held on Thursday, January 26. The students are not required to have anything prepared on these dates. The cost is \$110.00 for students in grades 3-5, and \$50 for students in grades 1-2. If you are signing up siblings, the charge will be \$50.00 per additional child. First and second grade students will only rehearse once per week, therefore the cost for these students will be \$50.00 as well. [Click here to see the flyer, rehearsal schedule, and sign-up information.](#) Registration is due by Jan. 12th.

From Westwood's SEPAC

Please see below two important updates from the Westwood Special Education Parents Advisory Council (SEPAC):

#### Save the Date

Please hold the date of Tuesday, January 17, 2017 for the next SEPAC meeting. The meeting will occur at 7:00 pm in the Professional Development Room of the Administrative Offices of the school department located at 220 Nahatan Street. Topics will include the 2017-2018 school budget development and updates on winter/spring programming in the District.

#### SEPAC Survey

Also, the SEPAC is soliciting your input on what the organization can do to be most supportive to you. Please share your perspective by completing the survey at the link below. The following is a brief article that appeared in the *Westwood Community Newsletter* this week explaining more about SEPAC and the survey.

*Did you know that there is a Parent Advisory Council in every school district in Massachusetts with the specific role of acting as a liaison between parents of students with disabilities and the School Committee and school administration?* Westwood Public Schools is lucky to have an energetic and committed group of parents who are looking to increase the visibility and supportive role of Westwood's Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC). In order to do this, Westwood Public Schools and the SEPAC are asking for input from the Westwood community about what would be most

useful to parents and students. Are you looking for guest speakers? Interested in attending workshops? Maybe looking to find social connections and brainstorming? You don't have to have a child in the schools with a disability to share your ideas. Please consider responding to the SEPAC survey link at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YD7KZBV>. The survey is available for input until Monday, January 16, 2017.

You are also welcome to learn more about how to join and support this organization at the Westwood Public Schools' website:

[http://www.westwood.k12.ma.us/district/superintendents-office/Student\\_Services/SEPAC.cfm](http://www.westwood.k12.ma.us/district/superintendents-office/Student_Services/SEPAC.cfm)

#### Assistance for Families

The winter can be a difficult time for families who are struggling. If you or a family you know of is in need of financial assistance, please let Mrs. Cronin know and we will work together to get you what you need.

Hanlon Elementary School, 790 Gay Street, Westwood, MA 02090 781-325-7500 x.8424  
Sarah Cronin, Principal

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如果您需要翻译本文档，请致电Westwood的公立学校的学生服务部在781 326-7500 x1345或电子邮件您的要求 [mmartin@westwood.k12.ma.us](mailto:mmartin@westwood.k12.ma.us) 谢谢你。

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