



# Hanlon School Newsletters

November 2016

From the Desk of Mrs. Cronin:

December 20, 2016

Dear Hanlon Families,

As we prepare to head off for Winter Break, I want to thank our families for the support you give to Hanlon. As parents and teachers, our community works tirelessly every day to educate our children both in and out of school. The goal is to keep our students healthy, safe, engaged, supported and challenged. The staff couldn't do this important work without the help of our families. Together we make a great team! I wish you all a restful, relaxing, rejuvenating Winter Break with your families. Merry Christmas and Happy Hannukah. If you are traveling, I wish you clear roads and sunny skies. I am looking forward to hosting nearly 30 family members on Saturday and Sunday. After the dust settles, I hope to read some books with my children (and at least one myself!), see the new Star Wars movie, and spend some quality downtime with the family. I hope you find some time to relax and enjoy some family time. I'll see you in 2017!

## Food Pantry Donations/Peace Project

Thank you to all families who donated items to the Westwood Food Pantry for our Peace Project. The Fay Family brought more than 308 items to the senior center garage this week. Thank you for helping to model our school-wide theme of generosity within your families.

## Holiday Fair

Thank you to Dawn Khoury and her merry band of helpers who made last week's PTO Holiday Fair such a great success. The Fair is one of our most well-attended night

events, and we couldn't do it without lots of generous volunteers. Congratulations to John-Carlo for winning the 5th Grade Raffle!

#### Room Parents

I would like to take a moment to thank our Hanlon Room Parents for coordinating classroom crafts, small celebrations, and the other things you do to support our teachers and students.

#### Lost 'n' Found- Last Chance!

Our Lost 'n' Found has filled two full garment racks in the main lobby. All unclaimed items will be donated to charity over December Break, so please take a minute to stop in and see if there is anything that belongs to your family.

#### **Cold Weather**

Now that the cold weather has arrived, I'd like to share a few reminders. Children play outside on the playground before school and at lunch recess, unless the temperature is below 20 degrees, or raining hard. It is important to make sure children are properly dressed for the weather, and this is especially important for students who walk to school, or who wait at the bus stop.

My second grade son would wear shorts every day if he had his choice, so I understand how tough it can be to convince your child to dress for the winter cold. Winter jackets, hats, and mittens are appropriate for cold days. Sweatshirts, fleeces, and light jackets that are worn inside will not keep children warm enough to prevent cold injury. Please be sure your child has the correct clothing so that recess can be enjoyed safely. Many children keep an extra pair of mittens stuffed inside a hat in their backpack just in case.

Remember to label everything with your child's name. Labeled clothing is always returned to children when it arrives in Lost and Found. If you need assistance with financing winter gear, or you know of a family in need, please contact Mrs. Cronin. Financial assistance will be handled respectfully and confidentially.

December 2, 2016

Dear Hanlon Families,

In my last Post, I wrote about our **All School Theme: Be Generous**. I'm thrilled to report that Hanlon students are exemplifying the spirit of generosity every day. Last Monday, I was in Ms. Velluti's class at the end of the day and noted several students staying back to pick things up off the floor, and I saw one 5th grader return to the classroom to turn over attendance cards for students who forgot. At morning recess, I watched a first grader take a kindergartener by the hand and invite him to play on the structure. In the hallway, I saw a second grader pick up a dropped sweatshirt to hand to a classmate. These small acts of generosity are reminders of what kind, thoughtful children we have at Hanlon.

### **Food Pantry Donations/Peace Project**

Our donation bin to the Westwood Food Pantry is overflowing. The Fay Family brought 204 items to the senior center garage this week. Our final donation delivery will go out on December 14th. Thank you for helping to model our school-wide theme of generosity within your families.

### **Holiday Fair**

I hope to see many of you at our PTO Holiday Fair on Friday, December 9th from 6:00-7:30PM. Volunteers are still needed for this awesome Hanlon event. I brought my children last year, and they enjoyed shopping in the gym while my husband and I relaxed in the cafeteria. I was thankful that the 5th graders were there to guide my youngest around the gift tables, help him make good choices about budgeting his tickets, and making sure he found something for everyone on his list. It was a great experience for all us! In addition to the many crafts and items for purchase, the 5th Grade Activities Committee is raffling off a Chromebook. [Click here](#) to see the flyer. There is so much to do and see at the Holiday Fair. I hope you'll join us!

### **Teacher Gifts**

As we approach the holiday season, many parents ask about gifts. Teacher gifts are optional and no one should feel obligated to participate. However, if you are considering a teacher gift, or contributing to a class gift, please note that public employees, including teachers, are not permitted to accept personal gifts with a value of \$50 or higher. Class gifts up to \$150 may be given if the gift is identified as only being

from the class and the identity of individual givers and/or amounts are not identified to the recipient.

### **Grade 5 Winter Concert**

The Grade 5 Chorus Winter Music Performance will be Fri., Dec. 16th at 2:00PM in the Gym. This performance is for parents and families of grade 5 students, as well as students in grades K-4.

### **Lunch Cards**

All students are provided with a lunch card beginning in Kindergarten. Families who choose to use the school lunch program, can set up their child's lunch account using the myschoolbucks website linked through the district page. For students who don't regularly purchase lunch, these cards can be used "in a pinch" on days that children forget to bring a lunch. A bill will appear on a monthly statement. Teachers do not eat with students, thus parents and guardians are responsible for communicating lunch plans to their children. Some families may decide that they do not want their children to have access to the lunch card at all, so that their children do not make unapproved lunch purchases. If this is the case, please email your child's teacher and ask them to remove your child's card from circulation. We cannot remove cards on a day by day basis, so removal of the card is an "all or nothing" option. Feel free to contact Mrs. Cronin if you have any questions.

### **Lost'n'Found**

Our Lost'n'Found has filled two full garment racks in the main lobby. All unclaimed items will be donated over December Break, so please take a minute to stop in and see if there is anything that belongs to your family.

### **Front Circle Traffic**

The circular driveway in front of the main entrance is closed to cars in the morning from 8:00-8:45 AM, and in the afternoon from 2:45-3:30 PM. The reason for this closure is to

allow buses and vans safe access. Permission can be granted for special circumstances. Email Mrs. Cronin at [scronin@westwood.k12.ma.us](mailto:scronin@westwood.k12.ma.us).

### **Tech Tidbits from Mr. Goguen**

December 5 - 11 is Computer Science Education Week! CSEdWeek is held in recognition of the birthday of computing pioneer Admiral Grace Murray Hopper (December 9, 1906). I also [wrote](#) about this topic on 2/26/16.

Why is it important for students to learn computer science?

Computer science is a foundational field for every 21st century career or field of study. Learning the basics of computer science prepares students for a world that is increasingly dominated by technology. Research shows that students who study computer science also perform better at math.

Besides, computer science is where the jobs are. More than 50% of all jobs in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) are computing jobs. Some other stats:

- Computer science is one of the highest-paid college degree for new graduates.
- Computer programming jobs are growing at two times the national average -- but there aren't enough graduates to fill these jobs.
- Nine out of 10 K-12 schools do not offer computer programming classes.
- In 35 out of 50 states, computer science does not even count toward high school graduation.

(This was reprinted from <https://csedweek.org/>)

~ [blog](#) of previous postings

### **WHS Dance Marathon**

The Westwood High School Senior Independent Project Program would like to invite you to Westwood's 2nd Annual Dance Marathon. Over the past month, Westwood High has been raising money for Boston Children's Hospital trying to reach a goal of \$30,000. In celebration of our fundraising and Boston Children's we will be hosting an event on Sunday, December 11th, from 1 pm-4 pm in the WHS gymnasium.

It's a day that's filled with dancing, music, games, bouncy houses, obstacle courses, face painting and all kinds of amazing raffle prizes!

Above all else, the Dance Marathon is for the Miracle Families of Boston Children's Hospital, who will be there to share their stories and thank you for your support!

Our fundraising page can be found here :

<http://events.dancemarathon.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=1381>

Our Facebook page is:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1301900119872132/>

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Sarah Cronin, Principal

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