

✦ Knightly News ✦

September 2011

Hollis Brookline Middle School



From the Administration

During the past few years we have fine tuned the Knightly News based on parent feedback. Again this year some adjustments have been made. The majority of the news will be general information describing school activities, upcoming events and specific dates for your calendars and topics for your immediate attention. I will categorize each area as seen below. Please feel free to share your input as our year progresses.

FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

NECAP testing is right around the corner. The schedule is as follows:

Oct. 4	Session 1 Mathematics	
Oct. 5	Session 2 Mathematics	
	Session 3 Mathematics	
Oct. 6	Session 1 Reading	
Oct. 7	Session 2 Reading	
	Session 3 Reading	
Oct. 11	Session 1 Writing	Grade 8 ONLY
	Session 2 Writing	Grade 8 ONLY

All testing will be held during CORE instructional time. It is extremely helpful to have students present during these times. Make ups are mandatory; therefore, if a student is not present I must pull them from instruction to take the exam. Please support our efforts by assuring your child has a good night's sleep, eats a healthy breakfast and arrives on time! In advance, thank you for your support!

Library Volunteers Needed. If you are looking for an opportunity to become involved IN THE MIDDLE, the library is a great spot. Please contact Betsy Solon for more information @ 249-9453 or email elsolon@yahoo.com. Mrs. Jahns is teaching as part of the Middle School 101 class; therefore our volunteer needs have increased. One day a week or month would make a positive difference!

Washington, DC. Many parents have inquired about the payment schedule. A Fact Sheet will be sent home via AlertNow within the next week. For your planning, please note the payment schedule listed below. Also, if you are a nurse and are interested in our trip, please contact me directly @ patricia.goyette@sau41.org.

Oct. 14	\$250. (\$100. non refundable deposit)
Nov. 28	\$200.
Jan. 4	Maximum \$180. (will depend on the number of Students and your Scrip totals)

As I stated during the Open House, I am more than willing to support a fundraising initiative to decrease the cost of the trip.

Calendar Of Events

September 23rd—School Dance
October 4th—Early Release
October 4th-7th—NECAP Testing (All Students)
October 11th—NECAP Testing (Grade 8 Only)
October 10th—No School—Columbus Day
October 20th—PTSA Meeting- 8:30-10:00 HBMS Library
November 8th—No School—Teacher Workshop Day
November 10th—Veterans Day Assembly
November 11th—No School—Veterans Day
November 15th—Report Cards
November 17th—PTSA Meeting- 8:30-10:00 HBMS Library
November 23rd—No School—Teacher Workshop Day
November 24-25—Thanksgiving Recess
December 7—Early Release
Dec. 26-Jan. 2—Holiday Recess
January 16th—No School—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Interscholastic Sports. We have posted an opening for the following:

Girls' Basketball Coach
Boys' Baseball Coach

Any interested candidate should contact Gayle Bottcher @ gayle.bottcher@sau41.org

Drama Club will host an informational meeting on **Thursday, Oct 6** from 2:30 until 3:00. Anyone interested in learning about or participating in theater activities should plan to attend. The club will meet every Thursday after that from 2:30-4:00, until Nov. 17th. Attendance is not mandatory, nor is it required for participation in the spring musical. Choice of the spring musical will be announced during the first week of December. Auditions for the play will be held Dec. 6th.

GENERAL INFORMATION

We are pleased to report a **smooth transition** into our 2011-2012 school year. Students have arrived prepared with materials and full of energy. Although somewhat anxious, students have asked great questions and demonstrated sincere polite, respectful behavior!

Mrs. Ouellette (art), Ms. Bouchard (7th grade English) and Mrs. Silveria (Life Skills) have settled very quickly into their **new positions**. Parents have seen me directly, all sharing positive experiences. In addition to our mentoring program, the full staff is recognized for the supportive culture they have established.

There is no question how valuable the **Seventh Grade Orientation** is for our incoming students from Brookline and Hollis. Students had an opportunity to tour the building (without 8th graders), meet all teachers in their respective rooms and enjoy

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an hour of team building with their Core teachers. Extended ROCK gave ample time to study a rotating schedule and face their combination lock! The early release schedule was sufficient. Your feedback is greatly appreciated!

*As a final step to the **Writing Review Committee** a writing assessment was administered to all students during their transition year; grade 4, 7, and 9. To support the request, seventh grade teachers elected to administer the writing prompt on the third day of school. Thanks to the organization of the committee we were able to schedule the 72 minute session and administer the assessment easily. The writing samples are without names; as a result we will receive data based on the grade level. We are anxious to receive the HBMS results from the 9th grade assessment. This will provide valuable baseline data.*

*Again this year we organized two evenings for our **Open Houses**; one for each grade. September 13th we welcomed grade 8 parents with a self guided tour from 6:20-6:45 pm followed by a formal schedule following their child's typical day. I met parents during skills period to describe the HS 101 class designed in lieu of FCS. The 7th grade Open House was held on Sept. 15th at which time Mr. Secor described the Parent Portal and demonstrated how to access different levels of detail.*

*The **Building Leadership Team** will engage in a book study this year to increase our knowledge and schoolwide dialogue regarding grading. We will read the book How to Grade for Learning, by Ken O'Connor (forward by Rick Stiggins). Many schools have begun looking at standards based grading. This is our initial step to begin the conversation.*

*Thirty four parents attended our **Volunteer Orientation** (otherwise known as **Staying Connected in the Middle**) on Sept. 8th. Volunteer Handbooks were distributed, the PTSA Co-Presidents shared many opportunities with which to become involved and I detailed confidentiality expectations.*

*Once again ROCK groups engaged in their first **service project; gift baskets**, which will be raffled off during the Walk for Wishes/Dash for Dreams run/walk, Sept. 24th. All profits will be donated to the Make a Wish Foundation in memory of Jordan Coffey.*

*A **Washington, DC informational meeting** was held for the parents of 8th grade students immediately following the Open House. A draft itinerary was shared as well as details specific to accommodations, clothing and behavior. Parents who were unable to attend have been mailed the paperwork.*

*Students who will be applying to **private schools** this year **must** submit all forms, including individual teacher recommendation forms, to Ms. Christy in Guidance. Guidance will then deliver the necessary forms to each teacher for completion. This will allow Guidance to track each student's application and ensure that all forms are mailed together in a complete package. Forms must be submitted **at least two weeks** prior to the application deadline to ensure they are mailed out in time. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Christy directly.*

The Knightly News will be sent via Alert Now throughout the year. We are attempting to consolidate information to decrease the use of Alert Now for general information purposes. Hopefully you will take the time to read in its entirety. Please feel free to phone or email if you have follow up questions.

Sincerely,

Patricia Lewis Goyette, Principal HBMS

Fitness and Fun for the Whole Family

Join us on Saturday, September 24, 2011 for the fifth annual **Jordan's Walk for Wishes and Dash for Dreams**, a FAST 5K run and walk in memory of Jordan Coffey, son of Sharon and David Coffey and brother to Amanda and Devon Coffey, who lost his battle with brain cancer on September 10, 2005.

The course begins and ends at the Richard Maghakian Memorial School and winds through the center of Brookline, taking runners and walkers down Main Street past the Town Hall, Brookline Community Church and the Public Library. Enjoy music, entertainment, massages, carnival games and a complimentary barbecue on the RMMS grounds. Unique gift baskets, donated by friends, students and businesses will be raffled after the race. Fitness and fun for the whole family!

All proceeds from **Jordan's Walk** benefit the **Make-A-Wish Foundation® of New Hampshire**. You can be a part of the growing excitement and help Make-A-Wish NH grant their 1,000th Wish – and Beyond! For nearly 25 years The Make-A-Wish Foundation® of New Hampshire has grown from granting 4 wishes in its inaugural year to nearly 100 in 2011! Wishes empower not only the Wish Children, but their families and the many donors and volunteers throughout the state who play a part spreading the magic of a Wish.

Register or donate online at www.JordansWalk.org. Runners' registration is \$20 (\$25 on race day), and walkers' registration is \$10. After you register, create a web page to collect pledges from family and friends. Suggestions on how to "sleepwalk," form teams or request matching gifts are also available on our website. In addition, you may join our group on Facebook at Facebook/Jordan's Walk for Wishes and Dash for Dreams, email us at huskeynh@aol.com or call Sharon 603-305-1636 for further information. Join us and share the power of a Wish!



JACK AGATI

*A dynamic, informative speaker with a unique perspective, promoting ideas that address **real issues** with **real solutions**.*

PRESENTS

The Art of Encouragement *How do we encourage a discouraged child?*

This often asked question must be answered if we hope to bring about long term changes in another's way of behaving. We need to look upon encouragement as a skill, an art that needs to be understood and practiced to be successful. At the end of this session, the participants will be able to distinguish between praise and encouragement as motivational tools, identify the three techniques that others will use to discourage us from encouraging them, and explore ways to avoid becoming discouraged in our efforts to encourage others

When: Tuesday, October 4, 2011
Time: 7 p.m.
Place: Hollis/Brookline High School

Hollis Brookline PTSA S-Team will sponsor this educational workshop, free and open to anyone in the community. Please contact **Monica Gallant at 672-6115 or mgallant4@aol.com to pre-register or for more information.**

WWW.HBHSPTSA.ORG
This is not a school sponsored event

From the Health Office

We have students at HBMS who are immune-compromised. Because the immune systems of these students aren't fully functioning, these students are at higher risk of developing serious illness and complications from contagious diseases such as strep throat, mono, flu, etc. Please inform the school if your child has a contagious disease. Also, please keep your child home from school if they have:

- a fever over 100 degrees-they should not return to school for 24 hours until fever free without the use of fever reducers such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen
- productive cough and/or sore throat
- diarrhea and vomiting
- have not been on an antibiotic for 24 hours to fight an infection such as strep throat, bronchitis
- rash with illness

Also, there are students who have allergies to nuts and latex. Due to these allergies, we don't allow latex balloons in our school or items containing nut products or that were manufactured in a facility with nuts in the classroom (students are allowed to eat nut products in the cafeteria for lunch as long as they don't sit at a nut free table). Students eat snacks which usually occurs mid-morning in the classroom. We encourage water, fruit, vegetables and nut free crackers, cereal and cheese sticks.

Please contact Sheila Mandragouras, school nurse, with any concerns at 465-2223.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping all our students safe and healthy!

Reminders to All Parents

Due to students with allergies, we don't allow latex balloons, gloves or koosh balls at HBMS. Also, although we are not a nut free school, we do have restrictions on nuts in the classroom. Please send a nut free snack, one that doesn't contain nuts or that wasn't manufactured in a facility that processes nuts, for snack. Students may eat nuts products at lunch as long as they don't sit at the nut free tables.

We also have students at HBMS who are immune-compromised. Infections such as mono, chicken pox or strep throat could have very serious consequences for them. Please keep your child home if they have an unexplained rash, temperature over 100.,if fever reducer such as Tylenol or ibuprofen is used and the fever is reduced, the child should remain home for 24 hours until fever free without fever reducer. Also, students with productive cough and or sore throat with fever, vomiting and diarrhea should be kept home. Please contact Sheila Mandragouras RN HBMS School Nurse at 465-2223 with any questions.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping all our students safe and healthy!