

✦ Knightly News ✦

DECEMBER 2011

Hollis Brookline Middle School



From the Administration

As the last couple of days before our Holiday break wind down, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of HBMS. The support comes in a myriad of ways; volunteering, attending Board meetings, sending emails, checking PowerSchool, baking, attending PTSA meetings, cheering at sporting events, picking your child up from an afterschool activity or sending a positive note. Please know your time is appreciated and recognized. You are central to the successes at HBMS.

It has become tradition that the last hour of the day before vacation is a staff/student volleyball game. The physical education classes have held tournaments all week to prepare. Five teams will challenge the staff. Feel free to stop by and cheer; for the staff of course! Dismissal is at the regular time of 2:15.

Please note that the price of a school lunch will increase from \$2.25 to \$2.50 beginning January 3rd when students return. Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, passed by Congress, July 1, 2011 has made this a requirement for school lunch programs.

As a final reminder, the last Washington DC payment is due January 4th. Letters have been mailed to your home including the cost of the final payment, a "What To Bring" list and a contract. The bottom portion of the contract should be signed by parent and student, torn off and returned with the payment. Please read the contract carefully as students will be held responsible for its content.

During the month of January the Student Council will be sponsoring three fund-raising events, Pennies for Patients, Janu-Hairy and Play for the Cure.

From January 9-20, we would like ROCK groups to collect pennies for a fundraiser we are doing in support of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society called Pennies for Patients. At the end of the two-week period Student Council will collect and count the pennies and make the donation in the name of one of our 8th grade students who recently completed his last round of chemo therapy!

Since January is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, several of the male staff members will again be participating in a Janu-HAIRY in support of the Prostate Cancer Foundation. This year, instead of collecting checks to send, we have set up a website through firstgiving.com. It is a completely safe and secure site used by many charities. Please visit our site to donate and feel free to send the link along to friends and family or post on Facebook. We want to get the word out and shoot to outdo last year's donation of \$1000. Link: <http://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/TeamHBMS/januhairy>

Calendar Of Events

Dec. 26-Jan. 2—Holiday Recess
January 10th—Teacher Workshop Day (Primary Voting)
January 16th—No School—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 9th—Early Release
February 27th—March 2nd—Mid-Winter Vacation

Along with the Janu-HAIRY, the boys' basketball teams' last home game on January 12 will be a "Play for the Cure" fundraiser for cancers that affect men. The boys will be wearing blue "cancer ribbon" shirts. There will be a free will donation at the door. Parents will be in the hall selling goodies. Please mark January 12 on your calendar. Plan on seeing a great game and supporting Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

The 2011-2012 school calendar indicated a to be determined (TBD) date in January to accommodate the NH Primary. January 10th will be a full professional day for staff, no school for students.

Dates for all school board and budget committee meetings are posted on the SAU 41 website. We hope you will participate and stay informed to prepare for votes at the Annual Coop School District Meeting scheduled for March 5th, 7:00 PM at HBHS!

The next PTSA meeting will be held January 19th from 8:30-10:00 AM in the middle school library. Hope to see you there.

At the November Coop Board meeting I submitted my letter of intent to retire as of June 30, 2012. I truly appreciate all the notes and kind words. We need to remember that change is good! I have been asked to organize an interview committee for my successor. I am looking for two parents; one from Hollis and one from Brookline to serve. The two key weeks will be:

*January 23—Review paperwork
January 30—Interview*

If your schedules allow such a commitment and you are interested, please contact me by January 13th. In advance, thank you for your consideration.

Feedback to these redesigned, shorter Knightly Newsletters are appreciated!

Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year are extended to you. We hope you have time with family and friends. See you next year!

*Patricia Lewis Goyette, Principal
Stephen R. Secor, Assistant Principal*

From the Health Office

It is sometimes difficult to decide whether or not you should keep your child home from school due to illness. Here are some basic guidelines to refer to. Of course when in doubt, it is always best to contact your healthcare provider concerning your child's health.

- Fever of 100 degrees or higher within the past 24 hrs.
- Vomiting or severe diarrhea within the past 24 hrs.
- Very sore throat or red throat with white or yellow patches.
- Unexplained rash.
- Earache or drainage from an ear.
- Red, itchy eye(s) with dried yellow mucous.

Excessively runny nose or a productive cough, especially with yellow/green drainage or sputum, accompanied by a fever.

Please contact Sheila Mandragouras, R.N., at 465-2223 with any questions.