

# ❖ Knightly News ❖

August, 2012

Hollis Brookline Middle School



## From the Administration

Hello! Welcome to our new students and families and welcome back to our returning students and families. We hope this newsletter finds you well. We have had a busy summer, getting acquainted with the Hollis Brookline community, and planning for a new school year. We are excited about our new roles, and look forward to seeing all of you.

We have included quite a bit of information for you in this first newsletter, including numerous forms that need your attention. Please complete the forms and return to HBMS at your earliest convenience. Last year, parents gave positive feedback about the opportunity to fill out paperwork ahead of time, and we'd love to have the information organized prior to the start of school.

The **Knightly Newsletter** is created for our students and families as a way to share current information, special events and dates for future activities. Please note that the August newsletter is the only newsletter we mail home. All future newsletters can be found on our website, with the new month's letter posted on the first Friday of each month.

The **7<sup>th</sup> grade Orientation** is scheduled for Wednesday, August 29th. Students will be greeted by their ROCK advisor outside and led into the building. An extended ROCK will provide ample time to review schedules, participate in some team building activities, tour the building and meet briefly with their teachers. Lunch will be provided followed by dismissal at 12:00 pm.

Please join us in welcoming our *newest staff member, Mrs. Susan Kinney, Library/Media Specialist*

Our **PTSA** is an excellent resource for new and returning parents. Please plan to get involved by becoming a member or a volunteer. Your involvement directly contributes to our success! Monthly meetings are scheduled for the third Thursday of each month (tentative) in our school library from 8:30-10:00 AM. A special introduction is planned for September 6<sup>th</sup>, 9:00-10:00 AM entitled **Parent Orientation – How to Stay Connected in the Middle**.

Please review the paragraph on page 3. **PEANUT FREE AREA IN CAFETERIA**. In addition to this notice please understand we are in full support of *healthy snacks* at the middle school. There is rarely a news article which doesn't reference the childhood epidemic of obesity. Snack time will be afforded to students with the expectation that fresh fruits, vegetables, and nut free products will be the norm. Please check Mrs. Mandragouras' website for a full suggestion list.

We are excited about the start of a new year. Please know that we value your input and look forward to greeting your young adolescent(s)!

Sincerely,

Bob Thompson, Principal  
Patti Flynn, Assistant Principal

## Calendar Of Events

August 22nd—New Student Orientation—9-11:00 AM

August 29th—First Day of School—7th Grade ONLY  
—12:00 Dismissal

August 30th—ALL STUDENTS  
—Sports Tryouts (see article on page 2)

September 3rd—**No School**—Labor Day

September 6th—School Pictures

September 6th—Parent Orientation: How To Stay  
Connected in the Middle, 9—10 AM, Library

September 11th—Open House-Grade 7-6:45 PM

September 13th—Open House—Grade 8-6:45 PM

September 20th—PTSA Meeting 8:30-10 AM, Library

October 2nd—Early Release

October—NECAP Testing (Dates to be determined)

October 8th—**No School**—Columbus Day

November 6th—**No School**—Teacher Workshop Day

November 12th—**No School**—Veteran's Day

## VOLUNTEERS—WE VALUE YOU!

There are several ways for parents to get involved at HBMS. Some require a regular time commitment throughout the year, while others are one time only or seasonal. To sign up for events and activities you would like to support:

1. Go to the PTSA website at <http://hbmsptsa.org>.
2. Click on VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES. You'll find a description of each volunteer activity, as well as links to Sign-Up Genius (the on-line service used to manage PTSA volunteer sign-up lists). To volunteer, simply click the link in an event description, then follow the Sign-Up Genius prompts to add your name to the sign-up list.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Tammy Fareed, Volunteer Coordinator  
[tfareed@tds.net](mailto:tfareed@tds.net)  
554-6931

# Food Service Information

Ms. Liz Murray is our Head Cook at Hollis Brookline Middle School. Mrs. Amy Cassidy is the Food Service Director for the Hollis Brookline Cooperative District.

The Food Service Program operates on a prepayment system (as well as cash for purchase). If you would like to utilize the prepayment system you may send a check with your student made out to Hollis Brookline Hot Lunch. Please be sure to include your child's full name and school ID# on the check. The money is deposited into the students account and s/he is able to access it via their ID# at the register. Another option is to access myLunchMoney.com where parents can create an account for their student (you'll need the student's school, grade, birth date and student ID number) to purchase hot lunches as well as track meal history and make payments. If you have additional questions you can contact Amy Cassidy at amy.cassidy@sau41.org.

Please be aware that student accounts from 6th grade roll over to the Middle School.

A full lunch is available for the cost of \$2.50. A lunch includes a main entrée, fruit, vegetable, bread/grain, milk and dessert when available. Daily alternates include a variety of sandwiches, salads and pizza.

Please note that if a student owes more than \$4.00, a cheese sandwich lunch will be provided in lieu of the main meal or alternate. At no time is charging of snacks or beverages allowed.

We are always looking for substitute kitchen workers. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Cassidy at 465-2269 ext. 245.

Lunch times are as follows:

- 11:42—12:10 (Grade 8)
- 12:30—12:58 (Grade 7)



## Athletic Spotlight . . . .

### Interscholastic Sports

All students trying out or participating in a fall sport **MUST** have the *Pupil Data/Emergency Form* and a *current physical on file at HBMS* prior to their participation. **There will be no exceptions!** Practices are held every day there is school, and students representing HBMS are expected to be at all practices and contests.

**Field Hockey** (Coaches – Mrs. Smith and Mr. Capraro) Tryouts will begin on

Thursday, August 30th from 2:30-4:15. All girls interested **must bring** shin guards, a colored mouth guard covering all teeth, water bottle and a change of clothes. All girls should be picked up behind the Middle School promptly at 4:15.



**Girls Soccer** - (Coach – VACANT) Tryouts will begin on Thursday, August 30th from 2:30-4:15. All girls interested **must bring** shin guards, a colored mouth guard covering all teeth, cleats, a water bottle and a change of clothes. All girls should be picked up behind the Middle School promptly at 4:15.

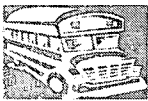


**Boys Soccer** (Coach – Mr. Lyle) Tryouts will begin on Thursday, August 30th from 2:30-4:15. All boys interested **must bring** shin guards, a colored mouth guard covering all teeth, cleats, a water bottle and a change of clothes. All boys should be picked up behind the Middle School promptly at 4:15.

**Girls Volleyball** (Coach – Ms. Dunbar) Tryouts will begin on Thursday, September 1st from 2:30-4:15. All girls interested **must bring** knee pads, sneakers, a water bottle and a change of clothes. All girls should be picked up behind the Middle School promptly at 4:15.



**Boys and Girls Cross Country** (Coaches – Mr. Johnston and Mr. Bond) Practices will begin on Thursday, August 30th from 2:30-3:45. All students interested in running roughly 2 miles on trails through the woods should bring running shoes, a water bottle and a change of clothes. Everyone who joins the team may participate in all practices and meets. All students should be picked up behind the Middle School promptly at 3:45. Please email Mr. Johnston at ronruns2@yahoo.com with questions about the team or training programs.



## Bus Safety

There are a number of expectations of students which should promote the safety of all persons while the school bus program is in operation. Please take a few moments to review the following with your child.

Students should:

- 1) Remain at a safe distance from roadways at bus pick-up points. If necessary to cross a road, always walk in front of the bus.
- 2) Remain quiet and orderly while riding the bus.
- 3) Remain in their seats until destinations are reached, keeping aisles clear for possible emergency exiting.
- 4) Keep hands and objects inside the windows at all times.
- 5) HBMS students may choose seats within the first half of the bus.
- 6) Students may not eat or drink on the bus.
- 7) Alternate buses will only be allowed when maximum seating has not been reached. A note from

home that is also signed by administration must be presented to the bus driver. A signed note is also required to exit at a different stop.

- 8) Students may not board nor get off their bus at the high school.
- 9) Students must board buses at their home stop. A parent should accompany a student in all other cases.
- 10) Students are required to arrive at their home stop five minutes prior to the scheduled pick up time.

Failure to comply with the safety rules and regulations may lead to suspension of riding privileges.

In advance, thank you for your attention to these expectations. Safety is our primary concern.

## Library Media Center—By S. Kinney

The Library Media Center becomes very busy with the many activities of fall. New books will be on display throughout September and student orientations will be scheduled the first few weeks. Parents are invited to visit the media center during our HBMS Open House night. Also, check the Library Media Center page on the school website for information throughout the year.

Reading time? With so many activities for middle school students, it can be a challenge to find time to pursue reading at home; one way to encourage reading is to talk about books. How do you choose a good book? What makes a fascinating character or setting? What type of plot interests you? Here is a great list of “Best Books for Young Adults” from the American Library Association (ALA):  
<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/booklistsawards/bestbooksya/09bbya.cfm>

The variety of themes and genre for young adults is amazing!

The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) is a growing division of the ALA and sponsors an annual Teens’ Top Ten (TTT) where books have been chosen by students nationally:  
<http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/teenreading/teenstopten/teenstopten.htm>



## Bytes from the Technology Department

-By Mr. Gruce

Hollis Brookline Middle School strongly encourages students to have USB Flash/Jump/Thumb Drives. This item will make the transporting of Open Office documents, and other school related files easier. It is suggested that your child’s USB Flash Drive does not need to be any larger than 16 **Gigabyte**. Some suggested places to purchase this item;

Target / [target.com](http://target.com) COMPUSA / [compusa.com](http://compusa.com)  
 STAPLES / [staples.com](http://staples.com)

A search on the web can produce more.

Make sure that the USB Flash Drive **does not have any “security”** software installed (U3). If that is the only type you can find, please disable the security feature once you bring the USB Flash Drive home. Check the manufacturer’s website for help. There are also “third party” websites that can help.

### COACHING VACANCY

Hollis Brookline Middle School

### GIRLS SOCCER

August 30—October 26

Contact Gayle Bottcher, Athletic Director, 324-5997  
 Or [gayle.bottcher@sau41.org](mailto:gayle.bottcher@sau41.org)

### SKI PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



In order for our 2012 Ski Program to be successful, we are in need of a Coordinator, as well as chaperones, to accompany the students to Wachusett Mountain. This is a six-week, Monday evening program beginning in January. Buses leave the school at 2:30 PM, arriving at Wachusett by 3:30 PM. Departure from the Mountain is 7:30 PM.

The number of chaperones is dependent upon the number of students participating but the ratio is 1 to 10. Please contact Penny Arsenault at the middle school at 324-5997 to lend a hand.

### PEANUT FREE AREA IN CAFETERIA

As a larger population of students begin to have allergies to peanuts, we have established procedures that will help protect students while at school. We ask that parents carefully consider ingredients that may be included in any food prepared for school events or activities.



Due to this increasing need we have established a peanut-free area in the cafeteria. There will be two tables designated as peanut-free. These tables will be clearly marked.

If you have any questions, please contact Sheila Mandragouras, School Nurse at 324-5997.

# FIRST DAY JITTERS



Please help with your child's first day jitters by reviewing with him/her the following information.

Grade 7 students will arrive on Wednesday, August 29th. They will be greeted by staff on the north side of the building. (The same procedure will be followed for grade 8 students on Thursday, August 30th.)

ROCK lists will be posted on the side wall for easy viewing. Teachers and students will congregate in the general area of their lists. When signaled, teachers will escort their group into the building.

Our first day will include orientation time. Administration will be present during lunch to answer student questions. Grade 7 students will be dismissed at noon on Wednesday, August 29th.

Should you have a specific question regarding our opening day, please feel free to call us at 324-5997.

## NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

On Wednesday, August 22nd from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. we will hold an orientation for all new students to the district (both 7th and 8th) who have registered this summer.

Please join us!

### Bus Routes

Complete bus routes will be posted on the front doors of the Hollis Brookline Middle School, on Friday, August 24th. Routes will also be publicized in all the local newspapers.



# MOST COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## ? - Does every student have a locker?

✓Yes, all students will have their own locker with a combination. Lockers are large, therefore may accommodate sports gear, coats, books and backpacks. Combinations should not be shared with anyone.

## ? - Do I need to call the office when my child is absent?

✓Yes please! We do follow up on all student absences with phone calls unless we have heard from you.

## ? - When should I write the school a note?

✓Please send a note, via your child, when he/she will be dismissed early or when requesting permission to ride a different bus or exit at a different stop.

## ? - Is there a specific spot to drop off my child in the morning?

✓Yes. Use the drive to the left of Farley and proceed to the front of the building for drop off. (Busses will use the drive to the right of Farley and travel behind the building for drop off.) Please pull up to the end of the building before stopping. **Also, we ask you to not idle your vehicle at the end of the day when picking up your child.** Please turn your engine off. Go green!

## ? - What time does school start?

✓Our day begins promptly at 7:15 a.m. and dismissal is at 2:15 p.m.

## ? - How will my child know which bus to take?

✓Bus routes will be posted on the front doors of HBMS on August 26th. They will also be published in the local newspapers.

## ? - How do I know if there are any changes to afterschool sports/ activities?

✓Please check the Sports and Activities alert on our website. Any change will be made by 1:30 PM.

## ? - How does my child collect homework when absent?

✓On the third day you may call the office to collect. Prior to the third day your child should check the website.



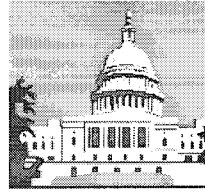
## Hollis Brookline Middle School Expectations!

- Manage Yourself
- Cooperate with Others
- Respect Personal and Public Property
- Act in a Healthy and Legal Manner

## APPEARANCE AND DRESS

The matter of dress and appearance is, for the most part, a matter of individual taste. Students must, however, respect the learning environment. Any appearance or dress which would cause a distraction from the learning process, infringe upon the rights of other students or dress that is unsafe will not be tolerated.

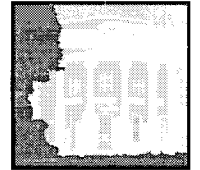
1. Dress and grooming should be clean.
2. Immodest clothing will not be tolerated.
3. Students may wear shorts however, shorts and skirts must be at least slightly above the knee.
4. Students may not go barefoot at any time.
5. Students must wear a shirt at all times inside and outside school buildings.
6. Abbreviated tops such as halters, tube or thin strapped tank tops are not permitted.
7. Students will refrain from self-imposed body art.
8. Shirts advertising illegal substances, violence or vulgarities should not be worn.
9. Undergarments should not be visible.
10. Students may not wear hats at any time (including bandanas and visors).



## WASHINGTON, DC March 19th — March 22nd, 2013

Attention Grade 8 students and parents! Our eighth grade Washington, DC trip has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 19 through Friday, March 22, 2013.

A parent information session will Be held immediately following the Grade 8 Open House, Sept. 13th.



### Private School Application Process

Students who will be applying to private schools this year ***must*** submit all forms, including individual teacher recommendation forms, to the grade 8 guidance counselor, Mr DuBois. 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 guidance directly.

### ATHLETIC FEE

Parents and students, participation on an interscholastic team will require a **\$40.00** fee with a family limit of **\$160.00**. All monies will support championship banners, coaches awards and replacement uniforms.

### EMERGENCY FORMS

Dear Parents and Students,

In order to facilitate a smooth entrance to school this year, we are requesting that an *emergency form* and a *current physical* be on file prior to the start of the school year. All 7<sup>th</sup> grade students are required to have a current physical on file in the Health Office. (Please note, we have no standard physical form. Whatever your doctor provides you with is acceptable.) ***Pupil Data/Emergency Forms*** need to have current information annually. For your convenience we are enclosing an emergency form to be completed and returned to HBMS before the start of the school year.

***Students who plan to try out for a fall sport will have met the initial contract requirements, once the above described paperwork has been completed and returned. School tryouts for fall sports are scheduled to begin on the first full day of school, August 30, 2012.***

If you have any questions, please call the HBMS office at 324-5997.

Sincerely,

Robert Thompson, Principal    Gayle Bottcher, Athletic Director    Sheila Mandragouras, Nurse

## Kids Who Read Succeed

***How can we best help our students?*** The answer is READING. Reading daily, for a *sustained* period of time. Research states that students who read excel. The following chart shows the correlation of standardized test scores with daily time spent reading:

Standardized Test Scores Percentile	Time Spent Reading a Day	Number of Words Read Per Year
20 %	7 minutes	25,000
30 %	9 minutes	35,000
40 %	13 minutes	250,000
50 %	20 minutes	500,000
70 %	45 minutes	1,500,000
80 %	60 minutes	2,000,000

\* From: *Reading Research Quarterly* and Ellin Keene, Berg, *Increasing Your Success As a Literacy Coach/ Reading Specialist*, 2008.

The culture of HBMS is literacy based. We expect students to carry a novel with them throughout their day. They can read during skills, ROCK SSR time, or after completing a test. Through curriculum and classroom activities, students interact with a variety of texts during the school year. This may include short stories, poetry, textbooks, research articles, primary source documents, newsprint, online database resources, as well as novels. To support these efforts, we are asking families to create a culture in your own home that values literacy and provides structure so that students will spend more time reading.

### ***What exactly is a literacy-rich home?***

This is a home environment that encourages family members to become lifelong readers. Parents can support language learning by creating an atmosphere in which reading, writing, and discussion are a natural part of daily life.

### ***Here are some tips to help your family:***

- Designate specific time / place for reading, writing or discussion to occur.
- Find books the family would all enjoy reading and then discuss them together.
- Newspapers, magazines, and other reading materials should be in easy reach of all family members. These materials can be borrowed, new, or used. They just need to be a part of your home and everyday life.
- Allow for choice. Choice motivates readers.
- Read aloud at home.
- Model reading, including book selection. Allow your child to see you reading and let him know when you cannot put the book down. Supper will just have to wait until the book is done.
- If your child is a reluctant reader, help the child find the right book by talking to a librarian. Finding the right book is critical. Then, have the child start off reading in short chunks of time until he or she is hooked on the book.
- Find books on tape/downloadable that can be played in the car while on the go. Hearing the expressions of the reader models fluency and brings the story to life.

Reading is like exercising; people love it or hate it. However, when a person decides to get fit, he needs to start off exercising for smaller chunks of time before he can run a mile. The same is true here. Struggling readers need to slowly build up their time for sustained reading.

Reading Is Fundamental Newsletter: May-June 2009, Creating Literacy-Rich Homes, 29 June 09. <<http://www.rif.org/parents/literacyrich/default.msp>>. ©2008 Reading Is Fundamental, Inc.

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**2012 FALL SPIRIT WEAR-N-GEAR SALE SPIRIT WEAR-N-GEAR SALE**  
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The PTSA is pleased to announce the 5th annual Fall Sale of Hollis Brookline clothing and gear, all of which promotes school and community spirit and pride!! Every Friday at HBMS is "SPIRIT DAY"! Order forms are available in the Front Office. All profits from this fundraiser go to programming opportunities at HBMS

The order DEADLINE is Friday, September 14th!! Any questions, email Leslie Eisenberg at [leslieeisenberg@charter.net](mailto:leslieeisenberg@charter.net)

Descriptions and Prices (pricing may be subject to change):

Tee-shirts—Light grey short- or long- sleeve cotton tees with Hollis Brookline on the front in fashionable "distressed" lettering.  
 Sizes Adult s m l xl xxl xxxl Both styles are \$10.00

Hoodies—Come in zip-front or over-the-head styles, royal blue or light grey. HB on the chest and Hollis Brookline across the back.  
 Sizes Adult s m l xl xxl. Zip hoodies are \$25.00 and over-the-head style is \$20.00. Names can be embroidered on the sleeve for an additional \$5.00.

Sweat pants—Come in both open-legged and elastic-bottom styles. Light grey. Hollis Brookline lettering down one leg. Open leg style sizes-Adult xs s m l xl xxl. \$20.00 Elastic-bottom style sizes-Adult s m l xl xxl. \$15.00

Flannel pants—Blue plaid flannel style sweatpants with Hollis Brookline down one leg.  
 Sizes-Youth L, Adult s m l xl xxl xxxl \$20.00

Flannel Shorts—Blue plaid boxer style shorts with HB on one leg.  
 Sizes—Youth L, Adult s m l xl xxl xxxl \$15.00

Mesh Shorts—Royal blue athletic style shorts with Hollis Brookline at bottom of one leg.  
 Sizes—Youth L, Adult s m l xl xxl xxxl \$15.00

Baseball Hat/Cap—"Distressed" khaki hat with Royal blue HB on hat. One size. \$10.00

Sports back-sack—Royal blue back sack with Hollis Brookline on it. One size. \$10.00

Sports Blanket—Royal Blue polar fleece blanket with weatherproofed backing. Hollis Brookline on corner. Roll up with strap. One size. \$20.00 Names can be embroidered on blanket for an additional \$5.00.

Sports Chair—Folding sports chair. Royal blue with cup holder and carry bag. Hollis Brookline printed on the back of the chair. One size. \$25.00 Bags can be embroidered for an additional \$5.00.

FLIP FLOPS—Royal blue with Hollis on one strap and Brookline on the other!!  
 Sizes-Adult s (women's 5-7) m (women's 8-10) l (men's 8-9) xl (men's 10-12) \$10.00

Polar Fleece Vest—Royal blue zip vest with Hollis Brookline on the Chest.  
 Sizes—Youth L, Adult xs s m l xl xxl xxxl \$25.00 Names can be embroidered on chest for an additional \$5.00.

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***Fitness and Fun for the Whole Family***  
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Join us on Saturday, September 22, 2012 for the sixth 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.



MAKE A WISH  
 Foundation

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**. 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](http://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](mailto:huskeynh@aol.com) or call Sharon 603-305-1636 for further information. Join us and share the power of a Wish!