

# Hardyston School District

# FRONT PAGE

Volume: XVII Issue: IV

January 2014

Welcome to our **FIRST ELECTRONIC EDITION** OF THE FRONT PAGE.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Parents & Guardians,

In the first few days that our parent portal has been open, 35% of our parents have visited the site. This is a great start to using a tool which will greatly enhance our communication with parents. Log-in instructions have been posted on the district webpage. I am hoping by the end of the month 100% of parents will have visited the parent portal.

The frigid weather and snow these past weeks has been a reminder that winter weather frequently impacts school events. As of this writing, we have had three snow days and we are yet to get through January! Safety is always the litmus test for delayed openings or school closures. To be sure you receive information in a timely matter, please be sure the school has your most recent phone numbers so you can benefit from the Instant-alerts.

Finally, the Board of Education plays a vital role in school governance. Members volunteer their time to implement district policy and guide the district toward achieving its goals. As we begin the new year, I welcome two new members to our Board of Education, Donna Carey and Brian Kaminski. Their future service to our district is greatly appreciated. I also wish to thank outgoing Board members, Mr. Todd Anderson and Dr. Kevin Johnson for their outstanding service to our school community. All those who serve on our Board are extremely dedicated. Thank you!

Sincerely,



Richard R. Corbett, C.S.A.



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Happy New Year!

I hope that you and your family had a wonderful holiday season. With the coming of a new year there is always talk of the New Year's resolutions.

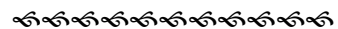
If you have not decided on a resolution, I would like to offer an academic suggestion that you and your child can do together. We are often told by teachers, parents, and the state test makers themselves that students today do not know their math facts.

One possible resolution would be to practice basic math facts. At the elementary level it involves basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. There are approximately 90 days of school left this year. If a student reviewed just five math facts each school day that would be 450 facts by the end of the school year. I guarantee that your child will improve with even this small effort!

The nice thing about elementary math facts is that it only takes a few minutes and can be done almost anywhere. You can make small games out of them and it can also serve to connect parents and children even for a short time each day.

If you are one of the parents who decide to take this resolution suggestion, please let me know how it is working for you.

Again, Happy New Year and let's have a great 2014!

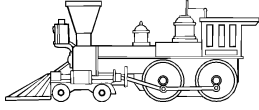


## DATES TO REMEMBER

- 1/10 PTA TGIF (grades 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>), ES, 7:00-9:00pm
- 1/17 PTA Winter Social (district), MS, 6:00-9:00pm
- 1/20 SCHOOL CLOSED**
- 1/27 - 1/31 Kindergarten Registration, ES
- 1/28 2<sup>nd</sup> Marking Period Ends
- 2/04 Report Cards Posted
- 2/05 PTA General Meeting, ES, 6:30pm
- 2/07 PTA Father/Daughter Dance, ES
- 2/05 – 2/07 Hardyston Basketball Tournament
- 2/11 – 2/12 MS – 3:30
- 2/17-2/18 Winter Recess – School Closed

## CLASSROOM NEWS

### HOLIDAY EXPRESS



**The Second Grade Classes** went on an imaginary trip around the world to see how other countries celebrate the winter holidays!

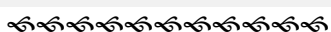
They began their journey by jumping on the train with **Conductor Zicarelli (H.T.P.D.)** calling "Alllll Aboard!" and having their tickets punched by the Train Attendants **Corbett, Meyer, Margarum, Rowan, and Junior**. Several moms and dads were there to see them off.

In each country they had their passports inspected and stamped. They visited Italy and learned about La Befana. This legendary witch leaves presents in the shoes of good boys and girls. They made their own hidden letters. In Mexico, they learned about Las Posadas, which begins on December 16 and continues for nine days. During this time the people in their towns go to different homes each night to reenact the Christmas story. Piñatas, Mexican food, and songs are part of the celebration. The students also learned that the Christmas flower, the poinsettia, is native to Mexico. The students left Mexico singing, Feliz Navidad. In Germany they learned that some of our most treasured Christmas goodies- including many Christmas cookies, the gingerbread house, gingerbread man, and the first Christmas tree as we know it developed in that beautiful country nestled in the heart of central Europe. The children made gingerbread babies and learned a song. In Sweden they learned about St. Lucia Day traditions, the Aurora Borealis, the Arctic Circle, and the weeks of darkness day and night that they experience in Scandinavia. They saw a julbock and put some birdseed in their suitcases for Christmas day good luck. Lastly, they visited the Netherlands where they designed their own wooden shoes and learned about Sinterklaas.

After visiting all five countries they met at the North Pole. Some of their parents were waiting there for them with hot cocoa and cookies. They had an exciting trip. Their suitcases were full of souvenirs; their hands held a bell with a tag that simply said, "Believe", and they each wore a smile. Second Grade sure is fun!

### ART CLASS with MRS. MORTENSEN

Many of **Mrs. Mortensen's 2nd and 3rd grade art classes** were very busy this past November. The students were asked to make holiday greeting cards for our military personal that are either serving abroad or are stateside in VA facilities. The students designed and made beautiful cards that had Christmas trees or cardinals on them. The cards were then sent back to their homeroom teachers, where hand written notes of holiday greetings and heartfelt thanks were added. The students were very happy to be able to send some holiday cheer to our military people and let them know that they are all being thought of during the holidays. Over 200 cards were sent to the Red Cross (Holiday Mail for Heroes) to be distributed to various destinations around the world.



## THE GIVING TREE

What a wonderful sight greeted visitors as they entered the Hardyston Elementary School during the month of December. Our "Giving Tree" had almost every branch covered with gloves, mittens, hats and scarves. The theme for December was "BEE Giving" and that is exactly what the students and families were, giving! When totaled up the count was 50 hats, 88 mittens /gloves and 15 scarves, 10 of which were made by a staff member. These generous gifts were donated to various organizations and charities in our area to help keep some very happy children warm for the winter. The Heart of a Hornet Committee wishes to thank everyone who donated the gift of warmth this season and for BEE-ing so giving.



### WHAT'S IN YOUR CLOSET? CLOTHING DRIVE

Please join our Hardyston Teacher's Education Association in raising money for the Philanthropic Fund. This fund is used for our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation awards.

We are holding a used Clothing Collection to take place at the Hardyston Elementary School during the week of January 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>.

We will be collecting: wearable and usable clothing (men, women, and children clothing), shoes, belts, handbags, linens, stuffed animals, and hard toys.

Please put all items in tightly tied plastic bags and bring them to the front lobby of the elementary school during school hours the week of January 27<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>. Please contact Mrs. Margarum with any questions. 973-823-7000 ext. 8015.

### 2014 HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL YEARBOOK ORDERS

If you haven't order your yearbook yet, there is still time. Ordering your yearbook is done online ONLY this year. Payments will not be accepted at either school. There is a link you can use on the school's homepage.

Order Online Only at <https://ybpay.lifetouch.com>

Enter Code- 8590114

Please do a separate order for each child, so we know who is receiving each book. Thank you.

## HEALTH OFFICE NEWS

Winter preparedness! Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather; mornings are getting a bit cooler at the bus stop!

If your child is going to be absent please call the nurse's office in their building and leave the following information:

- Name
- Date
- Reason for absence
- Expected duration

When your child returns please send a note regarding the absence.

## IMMUNIZATION REGULATIONS

Every child born on or after January 1, 1997 and entering or attending grade 6 or a comparable age level special education program **must receive one dose of Tdap** (Tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) and **must receive one dose of meningococcal vaccine. This is to be given no earlier than the 10<sup>th</sup> birthday.**

## PEANUT ALLERGY INFORMATION

When sending in any food products to school, parents and guardians need to pay close attention to nutrition labels. In order to provide the safest environment for all of our students with food allergies, we are asking that you follow a **VERY STRICT, NO PEANUT OR TREE NUT** policy when sending in foods that **are to be shared**. Every food item that is made at home must also be accompanied by the labels of the ingredients that you used in your food preparation. Please make sure that there are **NO PEANUT / TREE NUT INGREDIENTS** in any food products that you send in. If either peanuts or tree nuts are part of the ingredients, the food item will not be sent to the classroom and will have to be sent back home. Also, please be sure to look for any disclaimers.

## 2014-2015 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION



**Kindergarten Registration** will be held the week of January 27<sup>th</sup> through 31<sup>st</sup> at the ES from 9:30 to 11:30 AM and from 1:30 to 2:30 PM. No appointment is necessary and the child does not need to be present. Original birth certificate, record of immunizations, and proof of residency are required to complete the registration process.

For more information call 973-823-7000, ext. 8203.

## FUN LOOM BRACELETS!



All through the school, I see children enjoying rubber band bracelets. A student in my class, Mason, made a red one for each of his classmates for Red Ribbon Week! It gave me an idea. Could we send a package of them to the Haitian and Dominican children as a gift from their American friends? If you are able to make one or two extra bracelets to donate that would be terrific!

I will put a collection box by the front door where anyone can stop and drop off their donated bracelets.

Thank you so much,

Mrs. Junior

## FROM THE FCS KITCHEN:

### Winter Warm Up Taco Soup

On these chilly winter days, our families are often craving something warm and comforting. Rather than fill up on cream-based soups, try this easy taco soup. Creamy and nutritious, this flavor-packed soup will fill them up with plant-based proteins instead of animal fats. It's so easy to make, the kids can help in the kitchen and it works great for lunch, dinner or a snack!

- 1 large onion
- 1 (1 1/4 ounce) packet taco seasoning
- 1 (15 ounce) can whole kernel corn, drained
- 1 (15 ounce) can reduced-sodium chicken broth
- 1 (15 ounce) can black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 (15 ounce) can great northern beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 (16 ounce) can fat-free refried beans
- 1 (15 ounce) can spicy diced tomatoes (like Rotel)
- 1 (14 ounce) can diced tomatoes

#### Directions:

Put a tablespoon of olive oil in a stock pot. Slice or dice the onion and sauté in a stock pot until soft.

Add remaining ingredients and simmer 15-20 minutes.

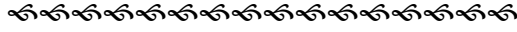
Serve with fat free sour cream and low-fat shredded cheese, if desired. If you like cilantro, chop a little and throw some on top of the soup. Also tasty (though not as healthy) topped with a handful of Fritos.

Serve with a piece of hearty corn bread and fresh fruit.



**DISMISSAL**

We would like to remind elementary school parents that our final bell is at 3:34 PM each day. Our classroom teachers are generally instructing till 3:24 PM. Please be aware of this in planning student pick up and sign out.



**TRANSPORTATION**

Each month Mrs. Stukenborg, bus driver for Bus E209, nominates 3 or 4 students on her bus that she feels have best demonstrated bus safety. She then has the entire bus vote on and select one winner each month. The winner receives the right to sit in one of the back seats for the entire month and a coupon from her to be used for dessert in the cafeteria.

**JANUARY BUS SAFETY AWARD**

For the month of **January** the following students were nominated: **Jane Einreinhofer, Gabrielle Spadora, Diana Rocco, and Jacob Evans.** The students on the bus voted **Jane Einreinhofer** as **January’s Bus Safety Award Winner.** Congratulations **Jane!!!**

**REMINDERS**

**DELAYED OPENINGS**

In preparation for the upcoming winter months, we would like to remind you about school procedures regarding **delayed openings** or **early dismissals.** Please listen to any of the local radio stations, WSUS (102.3 FM), WNNJ (103.7 FM), WHCY (106.3 FM) and WNNJ (1360 AM) and local television channels (ABC, News12, NBC, Fox5), for reports of delayed openings, early dismissals or school closures. Our parent notification system will also be activated. Please visit our website for more information and please be certain to let us know of any change in contact information.

In the event of a **delayed opening,** school will begin ninety (90) minutes after the normal opening time. Therefore, for a delayed opening the Middle School will open at 9:30 AM and the Elementary School at 10:10 AM.

**NOTE: STUDENTS MAY NOT BE DROPPED OFF BEFORE THESE TIMES.**

**EARLY DISMISSAL**

Early dismissal time due to inclement weather may vary depending on the circumstances that may surface at those times. Early dismissal time is 12:35 PM at the MS and 1:15 PM at the ES for the normal pre-approved scheduled half days for holidays, conferences, etc. Again, AM and PM pre-school students are to follow the schedule that was sent home previously. Please be reminded that no elementary school student will be dropped off at a bus stop without a parent or guardian present.

**LITTELL COMMUNITY CENTER**

**January 2014**

- After School at the Movies, January 8, 4:00pm, Showing, “Despicable Me 2”  
\$2.00/F/H/H residents, \$4.00 non-residents
- Dance (grades 5-8), Saturday, January 11, 7-9p  
\$5.00/F/H/H residents, \$10.00 non-residents
- Kiddie Kraft, Monday, January 27, 11a-12p  
\$3.00/F/H/H residents, \$5.00 non-residents
- Happy Walkers, Mondays-Fridays, 9-10am Littell Center Gym. Strollers Welcome)
- Zumba, Wednesdays, 6:00-6:45pm  
\$3.00/F/H/H residents, \$5.00 non-residents
- Music and More, Thursdays, 10:00-10:45am  
\$5.00/F/H/H residents, \$8.00 non-residents  
(For ages 1-4)

**Snow Closing information:** If area schools are closed then scheduled programs will be canceled. The building may still be open to groups/leagues using the facility. Call for further information.



**Wallkill Valley Little League  
\*\*\*Spring Registration\*\*\***

**In Person at the Littell Center:**

**Saturday, January 18 from 9 AM to Noon  
Sunday, January 19 from 10 AM to Noon**

**or**

**Online at [wvllbb.org](http://wvllbb.org)  
Credit Cards Accepted online**

**PLAY BALL!!!**



**RECYCLE, RECYCLE**

Mr. Demeter will be collecting old digital cameras, MP3 players, notebook computers, cell phones, ink cartridges and toner cartridges. These items can be dropped off at either school. He will continue using the recycled material to obtain various items for the school district. Thank you for your help in this effort.

