

May 28, 2009

Hardy Herald

CALENDAR

May 27 & 28: Incoming Kindergarten Visits

June 2: PTO Meeting
– 6:30 in Library

June 3: 3rd Grade Colonial Day

June 12: Field Day

June 16: BBQ

June 18: 5th Grade Graduation

June 22: LAST day of school/Step-Up Day

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Deborah D'Amico
Principal
Linda Garrity,
Secretary
781-316-3782

Claire Lewkowicz,
Nurse
781-316-3788

Todd Morse, HASP
781-316-3734

Safe Arrivals
Call 781-316-3780 or
e-mail:
kmerta@arlington.k12.ma.us
lgarrity@arlington.k12.ma.us

*to report your child's
absence, tardiness or
dismissals before 8:30
a.m.*

A message from the principal...

“Look! A ladybug!” Three words spoken on a sunny May morning near the Kindergarten play area.

A ladybug had landed at the bottom of the slide, a tiny red dot on a yellow mountain. Like magic, an enthusiastic audience for the tiny creature appeared. Three, four, five children stopped everything to witness this wonder as it made its way slowly up the slide.

Someone produced a soft green leaf. “Let it crawl here,” the leaf-holder said. Another leaf appeared, and another. The ladybug was surrounded. Obliging her audience, she stepped onto a leaf and held perfectly still.

Silence. Then, “I know a song about a ladybug!” someone whispered, and she began softly, “Ladybug, ladybug, fly away home...”

Someone else began to count the spots. “I think there are four. That means she is four years old,” the child announced. “She doesn’t seem that old,” mused another.

Several children, full of energy, continued their play up and down the structure nearby. However, when they reached the top of the slide, they stopped. They saw instantly that something important was being witnessed below. Some simply turned around and continued their play elsewhere. But others joined the observers, squatting at the top of the slide to peer at the ladybug. Even a trip down the slide was abandoned for this moment of wonder.

The ladybug snapped her shell open, revealing tiny, translucent wings. “Ohhh, look!” was the enraptured response. “She has wings under there!” The ladybug took a very short flight and landed at the tip of the leaf, tucking her wings neatly under her shell. This insect knew her audience!

“She just flew! Did you see that? She can fly!” Surely this was not news. But to witness this flying in a real ladybug – one that for these moments was *their* ladybug – was a special kind of “knowing” for these children. This was *real!*

I have worked in schools for over 35 years. I’ve witnessed such encounters dozens of times. Yet there are several things about this playground moment that have stayed with me.

I am struck by the simplicity. In an age when children are bombarded with sophisticated high tech attempts to grab their attention, it is reassuring that a random encounter with a ladybug can provide such wonder. I am struck by the ownership of the learning. We know that student engagement is essential to the acquisition of knowledge. We know that relevance makes for greater understanding. It is wonderful to witness both in action – in a “learning moment” that had nothing to do with lesson plans and state standards. I am struck by the timelessness. As I watched the children, I had a sudden vivid memory of being six on the playground of my New Hampshire school. I am certain that a 1950s-vintage ladybug would have been offered leaves and songs – probably the same song – and been met with similar awe. Similar scenes are repeated daily wherever children gather. This quest to “make meaning” from our world unites us as humans across time and across nations. I find this particularly reassuring in a world that seems so huge and complex. It is wonderful that the quest for truly “knowing” provides us with a common ground.

It is moments like this one that make my work so special – and that are worth sharing as we approach the end of another school year.

The Herald is published every other week on Thursday, taking vacations into consideration. The deadline for submitting articles is Tuesday, two days before publication. Our next (last for this school year) deadline is **6/9** for a publication date of **6/11**.

Please submit your article in the text of an e-mail to: hardyherald@arlington.k12.ma.us
If you don't get a reply that it's been received, please re-submit!

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday, June 22nd -
180th School Day **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL**
[*Note change due to TWO Snow Day]

Opening day for the 2009-2010 school year will be Thursday, September 10th for grades 1-12 and Monday, September 14th for kindergarten.

Find the entire 2009/2010 school calendar at:
http://www.arlington.k12.ma.us/news/09-10schoolcalendar_direct.asp

AEEF Snap Grants

Congratulations to our second grade team AND our Kindergarten team. Each has been awarded an AEEF Snap Grant!

The Kindergarten team of Debbie Pielech, Kim Lane, and Erin Eldredge will use their grant to fund the creation of "Number Sense Activity Bags" for their kindergarteners to take home.

The second grade team, Ann de Cifuentes, Laura Gregg, and Richard Sullivan, will use their grant to fund the purchase of materials for Kamashibi Story Telling which will support the second graders' study of Japan.

These are innovative, creative ideas that AEEF looks to support. Way to go, team!

Thanks go out to the AEEF Board for the funding of these endeavors and to our Board representative, Chris Foster, for cheering us on.

Enrichment News

On Wednesday, May 20th, Kindergarten, First, and Second Grade students enjoyed a performance by "Caravan Puppets." The children watched stories from Greece, Egypt, Africa, and China enacted by beautiful puppets.

The Hardy students were joined by pre-Kindergarten children--and their parents--who were invited to watch the performance and visit their future classrooms and meet Kindergarten teachers.

The Enrichment Committee wants to thank all Hardy parents who--through their PTO memberships--make such programs possible.

Frans Rijnbout
Co-Chair Enrichment Committee

Seeking Gardening Volunteers!

Volunteers Needed for Hardy Garden Groundbreaking!

Date: Saturday June 6th

Start Time: 8:30 am

Place: Front Entrance of the Hardy School

To Volunteer: please contact Suma at sumanara@comcast.net

Task List for Saturday June 6th

- * Build retaining wall
- * Removing sod from garden area
- * Adding dirt to level garden area
- * Spreading woodchips
- * Building 2 of the 3 raised beds

Tools & Equipment Needed

- * Rotor tiller
- * Shovels
- * Pitchforks
- * Flat rakes
- * Watering cans and hose
- * Wheel barrels
- * Power saw
- * Pruners

Seeking outgoing 5th grade parents for OPAC

WANTED: 1 or 2 chair people for the Ottoson Parent Advisory Committee.

Work with a new principal to engage parents, enable enrichment options for the middle school, coordinate social activities, organize cluster parents, and make a difference to our Arlington middle school students.

Time requirements include: monthly meetings with the principal, monthly committee meetings, bi-monthly town wide PTO meetings and occasional contact with cluster parents and sub-committee chairs.

BONUS: Retiring OPAC co-chairs both will remain active and both will still have students at Ottoson and we already have a treasurer and enrichment coordinator.

If interested, please contact Cindy Starks (acmi@comcast.net or 781-646-8887) or Sandy Stergiou (stergiou4@verizon.net or 781-643-3201).

Go Green Festa!

Make a Difference, Walk or Bike to school

Go **Green** Party Tuesday June 9th. Rain Day June 10th

Prizes, **Green** Popsicles and a Special Appearance by Super Cyclist and local Cycling Legend Bobby Mac of Quad Bicycles

Hopefully many of you have been walking or biking to school over the last month. We are in our final week of our **GO GREEN** month. Don't forget to track your walking or biking to school trips on the official **GREEN** calendar. Tally up the total and pass it in at the **BIG GREEN BOX** in the Main Lobby on Friday, June 6th. Remember it does not matter how far or how many days you walked, all participants have a chance to win. Our **Green** Team will tally up all the totals and present the final results at our **GO GREEN PARTY** on Tuesday June 9th at 2:30 in the Playground! **Green** Popsicles for all participants. We hope you can all be there dressed in **Green** and ready to cheer on this wonderful initiative. We have lots of prizes for everyone that participated.

There will be a final drawing for over \$500 dollars of really cool Bike Prizes donated by Wheelworks, ATA, Quad Bicycle Shops and Ciclismo Classico

Be there and Be **Green**

Lauren and the Green Team

cell 617-640-4837

Hardy Parent Author party

For those of you who missed Mabel at the Fox Library book party, you have another chance to meet her!

Hardy mom Margaret Muirhead will read and sign copies of her picture book, ***Mabel, One and Only***, on Sunday, May 31, 3 p.m. at Book Ends on Main Street in Winchester. There will also be a craft, snacks, and of course, free super balls! Please come and say hello.

Community Events

The Little Fox shop - helping to keep our community library open!

Help by donating:

We really need donations of boys clothes up to size 12! Even a few items would help. You can even arrange to give them to Susan Dorson on the playground after school (if it isn't too big a bag) - contact me: sedorson@yahoo.com. Donations of quality goods (including infant equipment such as strollers, high chairs etc.) are accepted during business hours on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Come shop:

Our racks are bursting at the seams! Come and help us make some space for more new clothes and summer wear to come! Come check out our slowly growing selection for older boys and girls. We even got a great donation of older children's books recently!

Or volunteer:

Volunteers are also needed!! Join our staff and get a 15% discount on everything in the store! Even one shift a month is extremely helpful and children are welcome to join you. E-mail Amy Weitzman if you are interested: amy@kshanti.com

The Little Fox is a volunteer run children's resale shop benefiting the Fox Library. Located inside the Fox Branch Library on the corner of Mass Ave and Cleveland St in East Arlington, The Little Fox is accessible by bus and has easy local parking. We have an amazing array of toys, books, games, and clothing for children ages birth through 14. We also carry all things baby related including strollers, carriers, baby gates and maternity wear. Our hours are Tues 9-12, Wed 2:30-8 and Thurs 9-12.

For more information on donation guidelines, volunteering or what is in the shop this week, please check out our website: www.littlefoxshop.com



11th Annual Feast of the East Festival

Come join the free festival celebrating the unique character of East Arlington to be held on Saturday, June 13th, from 1pm – 5pm. This celebration will take place along Mass Avenue from the Capitol Theater block to JN Phillips Glass Company, right in our neighborhood. Activities will include sampling of local restaurants, merchant sales and giveaways, live band music and crafts. Children's activities will include a moon bounce, pony rides, face painting and more. Join in on the fun with your friends and neighbors and celebrate in the pride of East Arlington!



Fox Library - Summer Reading Kick-Off: Blast OFF with Books-Mike Bent Magic Show

Sign up for summer reading and come to the show: Blast Off with Books: Mike Bent Magic Show! Hilarious stories, amazing magic, music and puppets! Ages 4-10. Pick up ticket 1/2 hour before the show (6:00).



