

November 6, 2009

# Hardy Herald



## CALENDAR

**Nov. 11 – NO SCHOOL** – Veterans Day

**Nov. 12** – Hardy Hoe Down – 6:30 p.m.

**Nov. 19** – Hardy School Council mtg 5:30 p.m.

See the full calendar on the Hardy website: [www.HardySchool.com](http://www.HardySchool.com)

## 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:  
[Safe@HardySchool.com](mailto:Safe@HardySchool.com)

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

## A message from the principal

Hardy School is truly a place of learning. As I walk the halls and visit classrooms, I see your children actively engaged in a variety of learning experiences. They work in whole-class groups, in small groups, with their peers, and on their own. They write, read, think, create, compute, design, revise, and share what they are learning.

The variety is wonderful:

- a fifth grader holds a model of a bird he created and asks his classmates to guess about this bird's diet, flight pattern, and defenses
- a second grade class uses a Venn diagram to compare and contrast frogs and toads
- a first grader checks with a classmate to make sure she has not made any mistakes on her hundreds chart
- a kindergartener's brow wrinkles as she writes "My dad is a fireman" during writer's workshop
- a class of fourth graders use "sticky notes" to keep track of the questions their brains are asking as they read a challenging text
- a third grader manipulates letter tiles to explore the sounds in words

You would be proud of your child's work here, and impressed with the thought and attention that goes into each lesson.

However, the learning at Hardy is not restricted to the hours of 8:10 and 2:10...and the learners are not all young! I also walk the halls *after* dismissal, and I encounter adults actively engaged in their own learning. Long after the school day has ended, our teachers meet to do the work their students most need them to do.

Throughout this year, grade-level teams of teachers at Hardy will be working collaboratively to ensure academic success for all their students. Using data from district and state assessments, these teams of teachers identify an area of concern. They then formulate a specific, measurable goal for student success, and develop pre and post-tests to measure growth. Then they share their children across classes, providing focused, targeted instruction to reach all learners – those needing extra instruction to master the targeted skill, those who just need more practice, and those who have already mastered the skill and are ready for something different. After a predetermined amount of time children are reassessed, progress is measured, and learning is celebrated.

There is a growing, and very exciting, body of research that shows the positive effect that such collaboration has on student learning. It also makes our work more exciting and rewarding. There is no better place to work than in a school where everyone is a learner, from the newest kindergartener to the most experienced pro. And, in our opinion, there is no place we would rather do this work than Hardy School.

**Read the Herald online: <http://www.HardySchool.com/herald.html>**

The Hardy Herald is published every other week on Thursday, taking vacations into consideration. The deadline for submitting articles is Tuesday, two days before publication. The Herald will be distributed via Hardy Parents e-mail group AND available on the Hardy website.

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

**Next Deadline:**  
**Tuesday, November 17**

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

**Wednesday, Nov. 11:**  
**Veteran's Day: NO SCHOOL**

**Wednesday, Nov. 25:**  
**EARLY RELEASE:**  
**12:00 Dismissal**

**Nov. 26 & 27: NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving**

Find the entire APS 2009/2010 school calendar at:  
[http://www.arlington.k12.ma.us/news/09-10schoolcalendar\\_redirect.asp](http://www.arlington.k12.ma.us/news/09-10schoolcalendar_redirect.asp)

## **Concert for Arlington-Teosinte sister city project**

For the first time this year, through a collaboration between the Arlington-Teosinte Sister City Project and the Arlington schools, Arlington fourth graders are participating in a Social Studies and English Language Arts curriculum based on life in Teosinte, Arlington's sister city in El Salvador.

The Arlington-Teosinte Sister City Project welcomes fourth grade families and the entire school community to our annual benefit concert, featuring Sol y Canto founders Rosi & Brian Amador. Proceeds will benefit the Arlington-Teosinte Sister City Project's high school and college scholarship program for youth in Teosinte. Rosi and Brian will perform joyful, original Latin roots music that moves, delights, excites, and connects the audience to the richness of Latin American culture. This show will have both adults and kids out of their seats and dancing in the aisles! As a special treat for young audiences, Rosi and Brian's 13-year-old twin daughters Alisa & Sonia will perform as well. At the show, enjoy our bake sale and shop for fair-trade handbags, housewares, and other items...all beautifully handcrafted in Teosinte! Get a start on your holiday shopping!

Date: Sunday, November 22, 3:00 pm.

Location: Arlington Town Hall , 730 Massachusetts Avenue , Arlington .

Advance tickets prices: \$8 adults, \$5 children. At the door: \$10 adults, \$7 children.

Family maximum: \$35. For advance tickets, see [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) (look up "Teosinte"). For more information, contact Sarah at 781-643-7804.

## **Parent Forum – November 9**

### *THE IMPACT OF THE LOSS OF FREE, UNDIRECTED PLAY IN CHILDHOOD*

*For parents of children, grades pre-school – 12*

**Monday, November 9, 2009 -- Dallin School Gymnasium 7:00-9:00 PM**

Play is what makes us human; it is the source of children's creativity and imagination. Researchers estimate that in the past twenty years, children have lost nine to twelve hours per week of free, undirected play. There is evidence to suggest that this loss of play is affecting children's weight, their social competence, their ability to focus and their brain development. Dr. Thompson will address the loss of play, the role that schools have in promoting play to parents and what schools can do to protect the natural play of students.

**Presenter: Michael Thompson:** The heart of Dr. Thompson's work is lecturing to parents, teachers and students about the development of boys, the social lives of both boys and girls, the parent-teacher dynamic, school culture, how to raise responsible children, and the psychological journey of children through school. He and his co-author, Dan Kindlon, wrote the New York Times best-selling book, *Raising Cain: Protecting the Emotional Life of Boys*. He is the author of *Speaking of Boys: Answers to the Most-Asked Questions About Raising Sons* and co-author of *Best Friends/Worst Enemies: Understanding the Social Worlds of Children*, *Mom, They're Teasing Me: Helping Your Child Solve Social Problems*, *The Pressured Child: Helping Your Child Achieve Success in School and in Life* and his latest book, *It's a Boy!* is a comprehensive guide for the parents of boys.

A dedicated speaker and traveler, Michael Thompson has appeared on *The Today Show*, *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *ABC 20/20*, *CBS 60 Minutes*, *The Early Show* and *Good Morning America*

Dr. Thompson lives in Arlington with his wife and is the father of Joanna, 23 and Will, 18.

## Community News

Catch "Fantastic Mr. Fox" on stage this fall!

Based on Roald Dahl's tale about the adventures of a clever fox who outwits three angry farmers. Young audiences will cheer the efforts and antics of Mr. Fox and all his animal friends! A joint production of ACA and Arlington Children's Theatre.

Public Performances:

November 7 & 8, 2:00pm

Arlington Center for the Arts

41 Foster Street

Arlington, MA 02474

(781) 648-6220

[www.acarts.org](http://www.acarts.org)



### Little Fox Big Fall Sale - All Clothes 30% off!!

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 2:30-7:30 and Thurs 9-12.

#### Help by donating:

Donations of quality goods (including infant equipment such as strollers, high chairs etc.) are accepted during business hours on Tuesday and Wednesday. We ask that all donations be in very good condition and clean and limited to 2 bags of clothes per drop-off and 2 boxes/bags of toys. For more donation guidelines please check our website.

#### Come shop:

Our racks are bursting at the seams! Come and help us make some space for more new clothes and holiday wear! Come check out our ever growing selection for older boys and girls (we have a large number of pants for boys size 10-14!!)

#### 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. If you are interested, fill out the New Volunteer Form under the "volunteer" section of our website.

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



Sale to benefit the Friends of the Fox Library.

The sale will take place on **Friday, November 13, 5-9pm**, and **Saturday, November 14, 1-6pm**, in the lower level of the Fox, and will feature current fashions in like-new condition, including clothing, shoes, jewelry, handbags, scarves, hats, gloves, and belts, vintage (1970's and earlier) clothing and accessories, and an eclectic selection of brand-new, vintage, and handcrafted house wares.

