

February 24, 2010

# Hardy Herald



## CALENDAR

**Mar. 2: Early  
Dismissal – 12:30 pm**

**Mar. 2: PTO Meeting,  
6:30 pm – Hardy  
Library – All are Invited**

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

*"Let the games begin!"*

A group of antsy first graders waited *almost* patiently in a *sort-of* line along the bleachers of the Hardy gym. It was Tuesday afternoon gym class, the first one after the February break, and they were ready to let off some steam.

"OK! Toes on the red line for me please," their teacher, Mrs. Flynn, instructed. Eighteen pairs of sneakers obliged.

"I want you to look across the gym," Mrs. Flynn continued, her voice lowering to an engaging whisper. "What do you see on the wall?" All eyes focused on five hula-hoops ~ green, red, yellow, blue, and purple (the stand-in for black) ~ arranged in the now-familiar design and taped to the far wall of the gym.

"The Olympics!!" came the enthusiastic reply.

"That's right, the Olympic rings!"

"Here! At Hardy School?" a delighted 6 year old said, eyes wide.

"Well, yes, why not?" their teacher replied with a smile. "We are going to celebrate the Olympics in our own way in gym class this week." Gasps of excitement: this was something new!

Mrs. Flynn continued with a challenge: could they go home tonight and talk with someone about these rings and find out why there are five exactly and why those five colors? She would be very interested to hear what they learn.

"Does anyone know what starts the Olympic Games," Mrs. Flynn continued, holding her young students' rapt attention. "How do we know when the games have officially started?"

"There's a parade and people wear costumes."

"Someone puts up the flag with the rings."

"There's a torch."

"Yes! The torch!" Mrs. Flynn reaches into a bag and pulls out an Olympic torch lovingly fashioned of aluminum foil wrapped around a small cone with red and yellow tissue paper flames.

"Oh! Cool!" This was getting better and better.

*[cont'd next page....]*

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](mailto:Herald@hardyschool.com) If you don't get a reply that it's been received, please re-submit!

**Next Deadline:**  
**Tuesday, March 9**

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)

**NEW**

The 2010/2011 APS calendar has been posted online:

[http://www.arlington.k12.ma.us/news/10-11schoolcalendar\\_redirect.asp](http://www.arlington.k12.ma.us/news/10-11schoolcalendar_redirect.asp)

Mrs. Flynn continued with the story of the Olympic flame: how it is carried for miles and miles without ever being put down; how people are specially chosen to carry that flame, running and running until the flame reaches the Olympic stadium.

“And then that person has to run up many, many steps until they reach the very top of the stadium where a giant torch is waiting to be lit.” Mrs. Flynn demonstrates this run, jogging in place and holding the torch high. “Can you just imagine how strong that person must be?” The children nod. They can imagine!

“We are going to open our own Olympic Games right now and each of you will hold the torch and run around our own track,” Mrs. Flynn explained, showing them a course marked out with colorful cones.

“When you have the torch, you must run proudly and hold the torch high! We will cheer for you until you return and pass the torch to the next runner.”

Children turned to one another, huge grins, eyes wide, hands clapping. This was even more exciting! Toes left the red line as eager athletes prepared to take their turn.

Mrs. Flynn jogged to the CD player and flicked a switch. The gym filled with the Olympic theme ~ loud, strong, inspiring. One by one, the children took the torch, held it high, and ran the track to the cheers of their classmates.

“We will shout your name as you run!” their teacher declared, and the audience obliged.

“Go Tessa!” “Yay Teo!” “Isa! Isa!” The smiles were ear-to-ear as each athlete ran the Olympic track.

Of course, they were also doing their routine warm-up for gym class, as they do twice every week. But they didn't know this. To these 6 year olds, this was an Olympic stadium and they were having the run of their lives. As the last Olympic runner completed her lap Mrs. Flynn announced, “**Let the games begin!**”

And they did! The gym class continued on the Olympic theme, each event focusing on a specific fitness goal: upper body strengthening with the bobsled (prone on small four-wheeled scooters) and ski jump (on wheeled “turtles” belly down, chin up), coordination and strengthening with speed skating (cloth pads attached to feet ensuring a smooth glide), partner work with pairs figure skating (same cloth pads), eye-hand coordination with curling (sorry, no fancy outfits!) and more. The music changed to accompany each event. This will be what our K-3 children do in gym this week and it mirrors several other special gym classes this year, including the Winter Wonderland in December and the Haunted Gym at Halloween.

This is an example of excellent teaching – creative, purposeful, challenging, fun. Teaching like this makes a difference for our children. They are engaged physically, socially, and intellectually. They gain in self-confidence. They succeed at endeavors they would not otherwise attempt. We all delight in Mrs. Flynn's inventive gym classes and we appreciate both the intelligence and the sense of fun that inform her work. As word spread around the school (“You HAVE to see what Linda is doing in gym today!”) teachers took time to stop in and watch.

We learn from each other here. We are inspired by our colleagues' work and understand that, even though our individual work with the children at Hardy may LOOK different, our goals and purposes are the same: success, confidence, skill, and love of learning.

## Hardy International Festival

### Save the Date! - Thursday, April 8th, 2010

Please join us for a fun-filled evening of multicultural activities and international food and desserts! Travel to foreign countries with your Hardy passport and learn about other cultures. There will also be live, international performances!

If you're interested in helping to organize this event, please come to a brief planning meeting this Thursday, Feb. 25th at 8:15 am in the Hardy cafeteria. We need people to host foreign country tables and bring international desserts. If you or someone you know is from another country, has international roots or international experiences to share please contact Heather Smith at harchersmith@yahoo.com.

## Other Arlington School events

Thompson School International Festival: Saturday, March 13, 2010 from 11 AM- 3 PM  
North Union Street, East Arlington, MA 02474

The Thompson School Community welcomes you to attend our popular International Festival. Admission is free. Start the event with the parade of nations fashion show that begins at 11 AM. See 50 children dressed in costumes and traditional attire from many regions. Celebrate the diversity of our East Arlington neighborhood by watching dances and listening to live music. Buy your tickets to the world famous cafe that opens at noon. Sample a smorgasbord of food donated from generous area restaurants and families. Purchase raffle tickets and International cookbooks. Take a chance and walk to the music as you try to win a cake at the cake walk. Play multicultural games and make arts and crafts from around the world. Hear a variety of world music and become a traveler at our museum. Have your passport stamped as you travel to India, Ireland, Greece, China, Israel, Japan, Brazil, Norway, India, Romania and simply too many countries to count. See you at Thompson School International Festival! This multicultural and educational event begins at 11 AM and goes until 3 PM. Bring your family and plan to spend the day with us. All proceeds will help support the educational and enrichment activities for the Thompson School.

### DALLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

#### ELECTRONICS RECYCLING FUNDRAISER

Don't throw away that old computer or TV...Recycle it!

Saturday, March 13

9:00-1:00

Dallin School at 185 Florence Ave.

\$15 for TV and monitors and a small donation for other electronics (Accepted: hairdryers, toasters, other plug-ins. Sorry, no large appliance or non-electronics)

Ottoson Middle School presents "Thirteen", a new musical on March 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm in the Wood Gym. Over sixty talented Ottoson Middle School students will be featured in this funny, high-energy pop-rock musical celebrating the joys and challenges of turning thirteen. "Thirteen" was originally produced on Broadway with an entirely teenage cast.

## Welcome a new Herald editor!

As I mentioned in an earlier issue, I was looking for someone to take over as the Herald editor, and I have a successor! Brett Miller, father of Zoe in Ms. Dusombre’s Kindergarten class will be the new editor starting in late Spring. Stay tuned for more information...

Thank you, Brett!

## Stop & Shop A+ Rewards program – benefit to Hardy

### Another Look at the Stop and Shop A+ Rewards Program

Many of you already know you can earn money for our school every time you buy groceries at Stop and Shop or Peapod.com between now and March 25th. Just visit [www.stopandshop.com/aplus](http://www.stopandshop.com/aplus) and click on the “Register Your Card” button. You can designate up to three schools in this program (Hardy’s id is 07542). If you register before February 28<sup>th</sup>, our school will receive credit for all of your Stop and Shop purchases made during the entire month of February.

Think this program can’t make a difference? Check out the progress of some other schools in the area:

<b>STOP AND SHOP</b>				
<b>(Hardy Compared with Top Earners in Arlington and Neighboring Towns)</b>				
<b>School Name</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Number of People Enrolled in A+ Rewards</b>	<b>Number of Students in School</b>	<b>Amount Raised Since 10/9/2009</b>
Hardy	Arlington	41	352	\$85.24
Bishop	Arlington	93	366	\$409.05
Bowman Elem.	Lexington	119	488	\$442.74
McGlynn Elem.	Medford	152	600	\$720.60
Perkins School for the Blind	Watertown	65	200	\$240.05
Vinson-Owen Elem.	Winchester	64	285	\$275.68
No Schools Registered	Belmont			\$0
E. Somerville Community School	Somerville	58	600	\$318.81
Malik Academy	Cambridge	9	59	\$19.83

Recently, an anonymous donor offered to give \$30 to the Hardy School if 30 people register for this program between now and March 5<sup>th</sup>, so if you haven’t registered your Stop and Shop card, now is the time. Don’t forget that grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, neighbors, and friends can also register their Stop and Shop cards to benefit the Hardy School? Visit [http://www.stopandshop.com/our\\_stores/bonus\\_bucks/tools\\_for\\_schools.htm](http://www.stopandshop.com/our_stores/bonus_bucks/tools_for_schools.htm), download the “Friends and Family Letter,” fill it in, and pass it on.