

April 29, 2010

Hardy Herald



CALENDAR

Apr. 29: Art Show –
6 – 8:30 p.m.

May 3-May 7:
Teacher Appreciation
Week

May 7: Plant Sale

May 14: Walkathon

See the full calendar
on the Hardy website:
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

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

A message from the principal

The budget issues that directly affect our work at Hardy School are ever changing. Just before vacation we learned of some shifted revenue from the town budget to the school budget and some shifts in allocations within the school budget itself that have resulted in more revenue. The Arlington Education Foundation, under the "Bridge the Gap" initiative, (www.arlingtoneducationfoundationma.org/bridgethegap) seeks to raise \$1million to help maintain the programs and the people so crucial to our children's education. The School Committee has been clear that any additional money must be put toward maintaining teaching staff and reasonable class sizes. This is all good news. I want to share with you how things stand as of now and how we, as a staff, are planning to meet our needs next year.

1. Enrollment and Class Size: Hardy's incoming Kindergarten enrollment stands at 46, which is down significantly from the current year. This has resulted in a decrease from three kindergartens to two. We will be watching these numbers very closely in the coming weeks, but we do not expect a significant change. Other than this, our grade configurations remain as this year: three sections each of grades 1, 2, and 3 and two sections each of grades 4 and 5. This gives us an average class size of 23 students with the largest classes being our 4th grades with 28 in each.

2. Class Configurations: While the possibility of mixed-grade groupings has been discussed, our staff feels we can best meet our students' needs by keeping classes intact as single grades, even with a large enrollment. At this time, the complications inherent in mixed-grade groupings seem to outweigh their benefits. We believe a creative use of strong Teaching Assistants, coupled with our experienced teachers, will provide a solid year for our fourth graders.

3. People: One of the most important questions we face is how can we hold onto the strong teachers we currently have on staff. As many of you know, Stacey Elliott, one of our first grade teachers, is returning to Florida with her husband after three outstanding years at Hardy. This is obviously a huge loss to us. But the silver lining is that the opening this creates allows for some shifting of current staff to fill this first grade position. I am discussing this with our teachers so we can decide how best to make this happen.

4. Add-backs: The School Committee instructed Dr. Bodie to draw up a prioritized list of "add-backs" to direct them when money comes available. The elementary principals' first priority is to add back classroom teachers. For Hardy, this would mean either a fourth grade position or a third kindergarten, depending on what happens with enrollment. We will be watching all of this very closely in the coming weeks.

I hope this information helps to answer some questions you have. It will very likely raise some questions as well. I am happy to answer as many as I can.

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, May 11

Find the entire APS 2009/2010 school calendar at:
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

Garden News

It is almost May and our garden is really shaping up! Thanks to your generosity our garden shed is fully equipped with gloves, hand tools, adult size tools etc.

The Hardy Garden would like to thank Marc Richardson, David Blood-Deschamps and Tony Cabral for their digging work during the school vacation. They pulled out large root systems that needed to be removed so we can plant native blueberry bushes.

Many thanks also to all that helped clean up the garden on a Wednesday after school: Trish and Sammy Richardson, Lynne and Christine Cogswell, Allison Cooper and Gabriel McNinch, Nina and Nicholas Wang and Somya Yellswarapy.

More Thanks to Sophia Camelio who walked over with her mother to present the garden with a bird-feeder, Nina and Nico Wang for the wind chime, Sarah Kelly for the garden shed, Barbara Popolow and Theo Hall for the front doors flower arrangements and for Barbara's help with the patio design, Gareth Kane and his parents for lots of great garden materials, Paula Couture for lots kids garden gloves, Andy Forbes for assembling grow lights in a very cool structure, and lastly, Deb D'Amico, for her enthusiasm and continue support of the garden.

If I forgot to name some of you, I apologize. With our busy lives it's wonderful to see how many of us are putting time and effort to make our garden bloom!

Things we can use:

- FLOWERS!! If you can share some of your garden flowers, plants or shrubs we'll have use for them.
- Bird-food
- Bird bath
- Garden decorations (especially if made by the children)

Or any other garden related idea you and your children may have.

Thank you Hardy!

Cristiana Navarro.

Teacher Appreciation - Reminder

Next week, Monday, May 3rd to Friday, May 7th is Teacher Appreciation week. The Hardy School PTO and parent volunteers will be treating the teachers to special events all week!!

We would also like to encourage all students and families to be involved. On Wednesday, May 7th, the teachers will be presented with special gifts in the morning. Please have your child bring a homemade letter, poem, drawing or card for his/her teacher on this day.

Nothing says "thank you" better than a gift from the heart!!

Mother's Day Plant Sale

Mother's Day Plant Sale

Friday, May 7

8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Purchase a beautiful plant for your mom and support the 5th graders!

Made possible by the generous support of Barbara Popolow of Derby Farms.

Seeking Teosinte curriculum volunteers

As you may know, this year the Arlington elementary schools initiated a fourth grade curriculum about life in Teosinte, El Salvador. Teosinte is a rural village that has been Arlington's sister city for 22 years. The curriculum brings real-world content about life in a different society and about international friendship, to Social Studies and English Language Arts requirements. It includes an "imaginary trip to Teosinte" presented by Arlington-Teosinte Sister City Project volunteers, a lesson on "knowing your audience"/cultural awareness, and a letter exchange between fourth graders and kids in Teosinte. Arlington High School Spanish students participate by translating the letters.

The curriculum has been a great success, and we look forward to another exciting year ahead. In late spring, the Arlington-Teosinte Sister City Project will hold an orientation meeting for parents who are interested in volunteering to support and enhance the curriculum at their child's elementary school next year. Volunteer opportunities include helping with the classroom presentations, planning a mini-fiesta in the classrooms to celebrate when students receive their letters from Teosinte, or many other options. The time commitment is flexible.

Please contact Beth Soltzberg at bethss@comcast.net or 781-648-1445 if you are interested.

The current Hardy volunteers for this school year are Thea Frost, Sonia Lackey and Heather Smith. Please feel free to contact them also if you have any questions.

Show Moms, Dads, Grads the love & help Hardy, too!

Did you know there's a great shop near the corner of Lake Street and Mass. Ave. that carries cool kitchenware, jewelry, books, toys, and a lot more?

Maxima Gift Center, which is run by a couple with children in the Arlington Schools, will donate 5% of all your purchases to Hardy. First-time participants in Maxima's "My School Program" are required to fill out a short form but will also earn an additional 2% of sales for our school (first-time purchases only). For directions to Maxima and store hours, visit www.maximacenter.com.

English conversation classes...

English Conversation Classes for Non-native English Speakers

Do you want to improve your English communication skills? English conversation classes for international parents meet every Wednesday at the Hardy school. A native English speaker will help you improve your English conversation skills in a fun and informal setting. This is a great opportunity to meet other parents and gain a better understanding of school programs and local customs.

Please contact Heather Smith (Hardy School parent and ELL Community & Family Liaison) at harchersmith@yahoo.com or call 781-526-7929 for more information.

Community News

Lesley Ellis School is holding its annual Kids Gently Used Clothing Sale on Saturday, May 1, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Lesley Ellis School, 41 Foster Street, Arlington (between Mass. Ave and Broadway). Get incredible bargains on shoes, coats, tops, pants, skirts, and more!

So Long, Farewell...

This is my last issue as Editor of the Hardy Herald, a position I've held for the past four school years! Thanks to everyone for their contributions during that time.

And welcome to Brett Miller, who is taking over.

Please continue to send your contributions to Herald@HardySchool.com -- there are still three more issues before the end of the school year.

Thea Frost
