

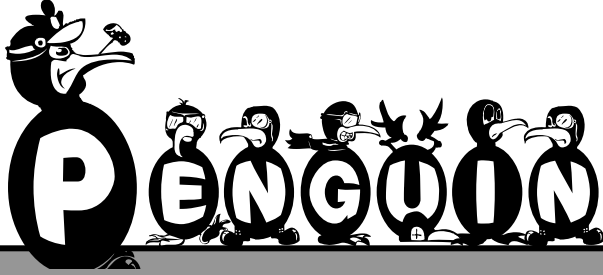
May 2009 Newsletter
Penguin Press



HARBORSIDE

M I D D L E S C H O O L

"Excellence in Education"



May 2009

**Save
These
Dates. . .**

May 21 - Chorus Concert
@ Foran

May 25 - Memorial Day,
No School

May 27 - Enrichment
Project Night

May 28 - Grade 8 Band
Field Trip

May 29 - Grade 8 Chorus
Field Trip

June 1 - Grade 8
Enrichment Presentations

June 4 - Band/Strings
Concert @ Foran

June 9 - PTO Meeting,
6:30pm

June 11 - Grade 6/7
Enrichment Presentations

June 25 - Last Day of
School



Dear Friends of Harborside,

During the April break I hope your child was able to rest and energize for the close of the academic year and anticipated end of the year activities. In order to keep informed as to the happenings at Harborside you can obtain the most updated listing of school events by visiting our school website calendar at: www.milforded.org, click on – our schools – Harborside then click on - calendar.

Over the course of this past year, the teachers and administrators of all three middle schools (East Shore, Harborside and West Shore) have been collaboratively working together in reviewing our middle school program. As a result of our work, revisions have been made to the Milford middle school program. The presentation to the Board of Education on the middle school revisions is available on the Milford Board of Education website: www.milforded.org If you have not had the opportunity to see this presentation, I encourage you to do so. Please feel free to contact me with any questions that you may have regarding the middle school revision.

Your continued support, understanding, and commitment to the middle schools make the learning experience for our students successfully. The staff at HMS is always appreciated of your continued support. The insight and knowledge of all of our parents are important in comprehending the needs for consistency, structure and involvement in the lives of your child. By developing a stronger program, together we can lead to our students’ future success.

The HMS staff remains committed to creating a middle school program that creates an active and engaging learning environment that allows all students to enjoy learning.

Professionally yours,

Ken Saranich, Principal

Statement of Compliance

The Milford Public School system does not knowingly condone discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in employment or assignments in programs or services provided by the Milford Board of Education. Dr. Harvey Polansky, Mr. Michael Cummings and Philip G. Russell are designated as the employees who will coordinate compliance with Title IX, Title VI and Sec. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. They may be contacted by mail at the Milford Board of Education, 70 West River Street, Milford, CT 06460 or by phone at (203) 783-3400. Questions, concerns or comments regarding possible discrimination under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should be made in person or in writing to the following:
Regarding Facilities: Philip G. Russell/Deputy Superintendent of Operations; Regarding Employment: Wendy Kopazna/Director of Human Resources; Regarding Programs: Susan Kelleher/Director of Pupil Personnel Services



HARBORSIDE STUDENT OF THE MONTH MONTH OF APRIL, 2009

I am happy to announce the Harborside Students of the Month for the month of April. These students are selected on their ability to demonstrate, consciously or unconsciously, acts of good citizenship or contributions to the school community.

This program provides recognition to students, who support the beneficial aspects of school community service and builds positive school to home relationships.

Blue 8

Robbie W
Annie B

Blue 7

Hannah J
Noah J

Blue 6

Jamie G
Nick S

White 8

Eric F
Rosario M

White 7

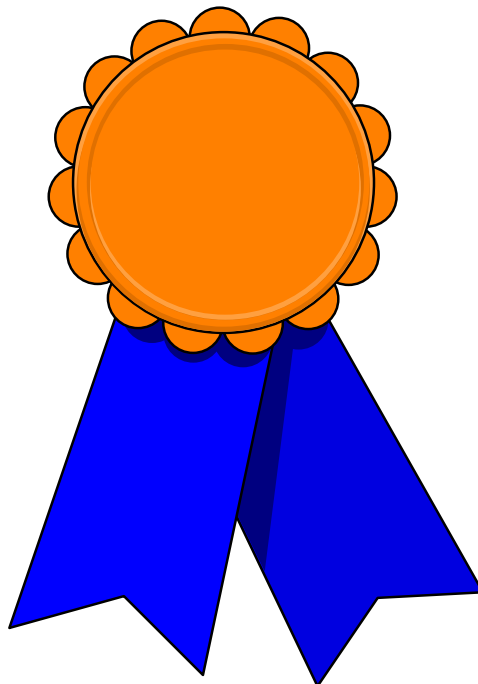
Ariel K
Kelly C

White 6

Emily F
Anthony R

Humanities

6- Emily F
7- Katie C
8- Nomin M



PTO News

Greetings from the PTO Board!

Hard to believe that the year is almost done – we are in the season of end of the year activities and concerts and our schedules get a little crazy.

The PTO is in the process of putting together a board for next year. If you would like to be on the board as a secretary or president-elect, please let Tricia Janik know through e-mail (janik91@optonline.net) or call me at 783-1050. If you have a recommendation from the upcoming 5th grade, please share those names too!

I hope you all had a chance to thank a teacher (or many) last week during teacher appreciation week. I would like to thank Meta Evans for coordinating “thank you” for our teachers and staff throughout the week. She was extremely creative and very industrious!! A small treat was left for the teachers each day...for example, on Friday they received fortune cookies with messages about how we are so “fortunate” to have them for teaches.

Hopefully you also had a chance to attend the Barnes and Noble book fair. I saw all kinds of wonderful things that night from the talent show acts to the band to the amazing artworks and of course the poetry reading – full of snaps for our great poets! Thanks to Marge Jones and all of the volunteers for a very successful and fun night.

Thank you to Ms. Kessler and her volunteers for a fantastic coffee house...I heard great things from all of the kids. It’s great to give them a safe environment to come and socialize with their classmates.

Just as an FYI, the 3 middle schools’ presidents have been meeting together at various points of the year to try and coordinate efforts. From this group, we managed to negotiate a terrific price for planners for next year. This will save our PTO lots of money that we can use for other programs within our school!

The presentation regarding the changes for the middle school next year can be found on the home page of www.milforded.org. I would

recommend everyone to take a look at this to see how this will impact your child next year.

Our next PTO meeting is June 9 at 6:30 in the media center. We will be finalizing a budget for next year.

Tricia Janik
PTO President

From the Health Office

Whooping cough (pertussis) is a highly contagious respiratory tract infection. Although it initially resembles an ordinary cold, whooping cough may eventually turn more serious. Whooping cough is most contagious before the coughing starts. The best way to prevent it is through vaccinations. The childhood vaccine is called DTaP. A booster vaccine (called Tdap) is now available for adolescents and adults. Both DTaP and Tdap protect against whooping cough, tetanus, and diphtheria. For further information on pertussis and its prevention consult your primary care provider or the Center for Disease Control Website (www.cdc.gov).

Notes:

- Free sports physicals (for grade 8 students attending high school at either Foran or Law and planning on participating in a fall sport) are scheduled for June 10th during the school day at Harborside. Forms will be available in the health office beginning the week of May 26th. No physical can be done without the parent permission and health history completed and returned.
- Students entering grade 7 who have not already done so, are required to show documentation of a grade 6 physical (dated 5/08 or later). School physicals may be obtained free of charge by calling the VNA for an appointment (777-5521 Ext 6057 or 859-6057 Evin Alvarez coordinator). Free immunization clinics will be offered throughout the summer at the Milford Health Dept. Check your local newspaper or call 783-

3285 for dates and time. Requirements must be met before starting school in the fall. Notices have been mailed indicating which students are not in compliance for the next school year.

- All medications not picked up from the health office by the end of the school year will be destroyed. Please make every effort to pick up your child's medications.
- Remember...all medication orders expire at the end of the school year. New orders need to be obtained for next year.

*Linda Bospuda, RN
Elle Renzoni, RN*

That's Life Club

The *That's Life Club*, in partnership with Nike, collected old sneakers to be recycled and used in playgrounds in underprivileged areas in our country. The soles of the sneakers will be recycled for used in the playgrounds. During the month of April the club focused on recycling and helping to make the Earth a greener place. They not only collected old sneakers but also sold Earth Day t-shirts that were purchased by a lot of staff and students. We would like to thank everyone who brought in their old sneakers and purchased t-shirts. Pictured below with some of the sneakers collected are: Erica, Ashley, and Kelli representing The *That's Life Club*.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thanks for all your help.

Michelle Irvine and Jodi Hagen
That's Life Club



SCHOOL STORE NEWS

Our student designed t-shirt sale will take place outside of the cafeteria during lunchtime. Shirts are \$10 a piece. The store accepts cash and checks written out to Harborside Middle School.

Thank you to all for your support of the Harborside School Store!

Fun and Success for the HMS Science Olympiad Team!!

Congratulations are in order for the Harborside Science Olympiad Team who won several awards April 4th at UCONN, Storrs during the 2009 Connecticut Science Olympiad. Our team was coached by science teachers Dory Holmes and Julie Pelczar and met weekly throughout the school year to prepare for the various science events. This year the team ranked eighth overall in a field of twenty Division B teams. First place winners included Dan O. and Ariel K. in "Disease Detective," and Liam R. and Alexa K. in "Environmental Chemistry." Placing third in their events were Tom A. and Sean H. in "Amphibians and Reptiles," Dan O. and Christopher M. in "Physical Science Lab," Jessica W. and Kira T. in "Meteorology."

Also earning points for the team were Zach A.; Lindsay M. and Liam R. in "Anatomy," Alexa K. and Tom A. in "Bio Process Lab," Brittany M. and Taylor W. in "Compute This," Taylor W. and Sean H. in "Dynamic Planet," Liam R. and Dan O. in "Ecology," Michael R. and Brittany M. in "Elevated Bridge," Dylan R. and Michael R. in "Experimental Design," Alexa K. and Abigail J. in "Reach for the Stars," Kira T. and Christopher M. in "Road Scholar," Lindsay M. and Ariel K. in "Science Crime Busters," Abigail J. and Brittany M. in "Scrambler," Michael R. and Dan O. in "Trajectory," and Dylan R. and Kira T. in "Write It; Do It." The Board of Education will be honoring the team at this month's meeting.



TEAM NEWS



Team Blue 6

We're in the final marking period of the school year! While students have learned a great deal thus far, we still have plenty of work to do. We know that spring is in the air, but teachers still have lots of material to cover, in order to prepare students for 7th grade. Parents, please encourage your students to maintain their focus and best work effort in their classes, despite the nearing end of the school year.


Team 6 Blue's Writing students just finished their persuasive marketing presentations, where they identified a target audience and created a product designed for that audience. Students then used their persuasive skills, including identifying key reasons that their products would benefit their audience, to market their creations through presentations and visual aids.

We had many fabulous presentations, and two groups even shared their talents by presenting at Harborside's Barnes and Noble book fair! Now, students are taking those skills and applying them to their first persuasive writing process piece! We are debating on some current issues in society, and students will soon choose one issue, form and opinion and defend it with elaboration, specific details and fluency. Ask your student what topic(s) he or she is interested in!

Mrs. Palladino

Reading

In reading the students are working on finishing up the book, *Maniac Magee*. They have also been recently introduced to a biography unit and will be working towards their final project throughout the month of May. Each student will be collecting information on their person of choice and at the end of the month they will

 be presenting on his/her person. Parents, please ask your child what biography they have chosen and have them tell you a bit about their person.

Ms. Collett

Team White 6

Reading

Hello! Students are reading about the lives and accomplishments of a variety of famous personalities. The biography unit is underway with several in-class activities planned and a scrapbook as a final project. Your child has all the info. Just ask to see the calendar of events!!

Ms. Dey

Math

GRADE 6 MATH FINAL EXAM is scheduled



for Friday, June 5th. All grade 6 students should be preparing nightly. Please refer to study guide for concepts that will be covered. End-

of-the-year projects have been assigned. Be on the look out for project rubrics and due dates. Extra credit projects are available on my teacher website.

Mrs. Rossetti

Team Blue 7

Team 7 Blue has four Milford Star of Respect nominees. They are Amanda D., Liam O., Jake R., and Kelli Z. Congratulations!

Reading

May flowers are growing, and 7 Blue's readers are blooming! This month students will be previewing more than 15 novels. Next, the students will be creating a Top 5 List and will be assigned to a new literature circle group based on their book choice. This is one of the most popular literature circles! Be sure to ask your child which book he or she was assigned, and how the story is developing.

As we come toward the end of the school year, it would be a good idea to begin thinking about three or four book titles that your child will be interested in reading over the summer. Each seventh grader needs to read three books over the summer, and complete a summer reading sheet on two of those books. They are available online on the Harborside Website.

Look for the thumbnail “Summer Reading” on the right-hand side of the page. The book choice can be fiction or non-fiction and will be the first grades of the new school year. Do you need some suggestions? Please ask your child to see me as I have many favorites to recommend!



Mrs. Mulhall

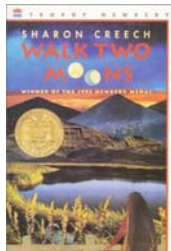
Math

End-of-the year math activities will center on our final unit of study, probability. Throughout the fourth marking period, student work will focus on the application of skills in real-world situations. In recent weeks, student analyzed fast food meals to compare nutritional value with daily calorie, fat, and sodium recommendations. This activity involved numerical and proportional reasoning, statistics, geometry, and technology. In the enrichment portion of the activity, student data was used to create pie charts with Microsoft Excel.

Ms. Bodnar

Team White 7

Reading



We are now getting into the final stages of the year. I can't believe that it is already May. The students are now reading the novel, Walk Two Moons. As they read the book, they are responding to the novel in their literary

response journals. They are assigned reading homework in this book nightly, as well as other assignments. As the end of the novel, Ms. Doyle (Media Specialist) and I will be showing the students PhotoStory. For their culminating activity, they will be utilizing this computer program to summarize the novel and connect to it. This program includes the use of inputting their voices and music onto the slide show. We think the students will love learning this fun creative program.

Mrs. Zodi

Science

Science students on Team White have just completed a lengthy unit focused on five major human body systems. Now we'll answer the question - how do scientists explore inside Earth?? With our new textbook, Inside Earth, students will research what seismic waves and rock samples tell us about our planet. In addition, they will identify and describe the forces inside and upon the earth's surface for their Earth Science Flap-book Project. Continental drift, sea-floor spreading, volcanic eruptions, and earthquakes have contributed to the formation of the continents as we know them. Seismic data tells us that Connecticut is a relatively stable region, but for more information check out the Fun Science Links on my web page!

Mrs. Holmes

Team Blue 8

This is an exciting time for our eighth graders! They recently enjoyed a great trip to New York City to see Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty, and other important historic sites. More fun spring/end-of-the-year activities are also close at hand. Students must keep in mind that there is still much work to be done, as well. :) Soon they must begin preparing for final exams, which cover the entire second semester's curriculum. It is not possible to study successfully for them in one evening. Students must keep up with their work now, organize their information for each class, and spend two or three weeks actively reviewing the material at home. Here are a few handy study ideas:



- flash cards with vocabulary or a question on one side, and the answer on the other
- mnemonic devices that make a sentence to remember a list of key words in order. For example, **King Philip Came Over From Germany Safely** (kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, species)
- acronyms that use first letters of key word to make up one new word

- practice examples for math, practice conjugating verbs for Spanish, etc.
- hypothetical exam questions: think of them and then try to answer them as completely as possible
- rhymes that are easy to remember and therefore help the student remember information

Of course, there are other important ways to prepare for exams, too. Make sure that your students have a quiet place to study, adequate sleep, and breakfast, so that their brains are prepared to learn. We all have much to look forward to, and these practices will help the students to get the most out of their last several weeks of school. I, for one, am excited to do one more chemistry lab and then build and squash some bridges. :)

:)Mrs. Lehman

Team Humanities

Gifted Enrichment

Gifted/Enrichment Presentation Nights:

- Grade 8: Monday, June 1 from 6:15 PM – 8:15 PM
- Grades 6 & 7: Thursday, June 11 from 6:15 PM – 8:30 PM

Participation is mandatory. Each project will be presented for family and invited guests. Puppets made by students (a few are shared below) will also be on display). Mrs. Coleman will be sending out invitations soon.

Students have been completing puppets, scripts, and performances in our new puppet theatre. Below is a sampling of puppets designed by students. The puppets are constructed primarily with fleece, foam, & a polyester stuffing material.

Mrs. Coleman



Tim J. with puppet



Gr. 7 Gifted Enrichment Puppets
Alexa K., Marissa L., & Abby J.

Guidance

Grade 6—Developmental Guidance Class

Students are continuing to explore and practice strategies for “taking a stand” as a bystander to bullying or name-calling through discussion and role-playing. Upcoming lessons will continue to include taking a look at the reasons for bullying and the actions we can take to come to the aid of the victim in order to help stop the bullying.

Ms. George & Mrs. Mackin



WANTED:
GENTLY USED OR NEW
BOOKS!



Please donate books to Booster Books. This new program will provide children ages newborn to 14, with a book of their choosing when they visit the Milford Health Department immunization clinic or VNA Wellness Clinic.

Reading is such an important skill for life long learning and success. Help ensure that all children have books in their homes. Donate today!!!

Drop off books in the school lobby. Or to arrange for pickup or drop off of a large quantity of books please contact Alison Elliott, at 874-1809 or aelliott55@yahoo.com

Thank you for your support!

