



September 2009

Save These Dates. . .

September 16 - Open
House 6:30

September 17 - PTA
Council @ Simon Lake

September 24 - Sixth
Grade Potluck Dinner, 6 pm

September 28 - Yom
Kippur, No School

September 29 - Board of
Ed Meeting @ Parsons

October 6 - Late Buses
begin

October 7 - Early
dismissal

October 13 - PTO
Meeting

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

From Our Principal —

Welcome, to our new families and welcome back to our returning families. While we had a very productive summer, we missed you and we missed your children. I am pleased to say that the year has begun rather smoothly. We have welcomed over 580 students and 70+ staff members. Already, I can see the 6th graders easing anxiety, the 7th graders new found confidence, and the 8th graders taking ownership of the building that they are now leading.

In addition to using this newsletter to provide you with pertinent information around upcoming events, I will be using this forum to speak to you about issues that are of concern for middle school parents, and their children. These may include everything from handling risky behavior, to standardized assessments, to grading. However, this being my first opportunity to write in the Penguin Press, I want to speak with you about communication; specifically, how to best communicate with middle school teachers.

An important thing you should know is that middle school is not the time to become uninvolved in your child's education. Even though they might reject your interest, you need to be there for your child. How does one do that? How does advocating for your middle school child differ from what it might look like at the elementary school? A few pointers and things to remember:

- Understand that what you are hearing from your child is being filtered through the lens of a pre-teen. For many of these children, everything is unfair, no one likes them, and no one cares or understands. Spend some time delving into the details of what your child is saying.
- If your child comes home with a concern, please encourage your child to go to the teacher him/herself. It would be appropriate to role play what this conversation might sound like. Also, please ask your child to ask the teacher when a good time to speak to him/her might be. Suggest that your student make an appointment with the teacher (not in the middle of class).
- If, after your child speaks to the teacher, there is still something that is unresolved, feel free to call or email the teacher with a clarifying question or two. As much as we want to hand over this conversation to the child, occasionally, adult to adult dialogue is necessary. Your input is always valued.

Building productive parent-teacher relationships will continue to play a critical role in your child's ability to succeed. The rules change with respect to when, where and how often you talk with teachers, but the effect is the same - solid relationships equal solid achievement. We look forward to working with you as you navigate these exciting years.

All the best,

Gordon Beinstein
Principal



From Our PTO President

Dear HMS Families,

Welcome back from the PTO. Thank you to everyone who has already joined the PTO - your support will make it possible to give our children many great programs.

Our first meeting is on Tuesday Oct 13 at 6:00 in the media center. Visit our website at

<http://teacherweb.com/CT/HarborsideMS/HSMSPTA/> for more information regarding the PTO.

The PTO is in need of volunteers in the following areas:

- Barnes and Noble Night on Wednesday Dec. 2
- Chair for Sound Tigers Fundraiser on Sunday Jan 31
- Beautification
- 8th grade events in the spring
- Lyman Orchards fundraiser in the fall

The time commitment for most of these is minimal and can be done during the day or evening!

The 2009-2010 board is:

Vice-President:	Sarah DeBenedictis
Treasurer:	Laura Terranova
Recording Secretary:	Kathy Manto
Corresponding Secretary:	Allison Lorenzo

Feel free to contact me with any questions at ElizabethCap@optonline.net.

The Board and I are looking forward to a great year.

Elizabeth Capobianco
Harborside PTO President

Website Information

Harborside Website:

<http://teacherweb.com/CT/HarborsideMS/SchoolHomePage/SDHP1.stm>

Milford District Website:

www.Milforded.org

Harborside PTO Website:

<http://teacherweb.com/CT/HarborsideMS/HSMSPTA/ap4.stm>

Harborside Calendar:

<http://calendar.milforded.org/cgi-bin/we4.0/webevent.cgi>

After School Activities:

<http://teacherweb.com/CT/HarborsideMS/SchoolHomePage/ap11.stm>

Cafeteria Menu:

<http://milfordfs.org/Menus/menu-m.pdf>



From the Health Office:

Welcome back! Due to the presence of students and staff with **severe latex and food allergies**, it is important that we all be mindful of product ingredients. Often the offending allergen is not obvious in a list of ingredients (for example anchovy paste in salad dressing that may harm a person with an allergy to fish or cross contamination of a knife used to cut bread that was also used in peanut butter for a peanut allergic child). We discourage the sharing of food between students at school. Please check with the teacher or health office regarding any possible allergies before bringing food or other items to school for a special occasion.



Please keep your child home if he/she is ill, especially with fever, vomiting or diarrhea. Your child should be free of fever (without medication), vomiting and diarrhea for 24 hours before returning to school. If your child is on antibiotics for a communicable disease (such as strep), he must be on antibiotics for a full 24 hours before returning to school. This is even more important in light of the new H1N1 strain of flu that may be a problem this fall.

Flu shots are being strongly encouraged for children and adults again this year. Talk to your doctor or watch for clinic announcements.

September is a good time to check your child for the possibility of head lice. Check your child's scalp and hair for the presence of tiny crawling insects or their nits – small, oval shaped white or light colored eggs that are glued tightly to the hair shaft. If you find something or you are not sure what you are seeing, let us know. Remember that head lice are a nuisance, not a health hazard and not related to poor hygiene. The earlier you catch an infestation, the easier it is to deal with.

No medications (including over the counter: for example Tylenol, Tums) are allowed in school without proper medical authorization. You can also come in and administer medication yourself to your student at any time.

If a student's health status changes, we strongly encourage parents to either send a note or call the health office (783-3541). Wishing you all a healthy school year.

Linda Bspuda, RN and Elle Renzoni, RN



TEAM NEWS



Team Blue 6

Welcome to Harborside, Team 6 Blue families! We're off to a new and exciting year. As we get to know your students and establish routines and expectations, it is our hope that we begin to foster a great partnership between school and home. Sixth grade is a year of transition. That means we want to aid students in feeling comfortable with their new learning environment and school schedule. At the same time, sixth grade is the year in which we start to instill a sense independence and ownership in students'



responsibilities. It is our goal to challenge students academically, and in doing so, strengthen their work ethic as they shift from elementary school to middle school. Of course, this is also a time for social growth. We look forward to helping your students achieve their

personal best!

You may contact the team's teachers via email at any time:

Mrs. Palladino - Language Arts

kpalladino@milforded.org

Ms. Eppoliti - Language Arts

jeppoliti@milforded.org

Mrs. Civitello - Math

wcivitello@milforded.org

Mrs. Olschan - Social Studies

colschan@milforded.org

Mr. Boemmels- Science

jboemmels@milforded.org

Please ask your students about their middle school experience thus far; they have a lot to share already! We look forward to seeing you at Open House on the 16th!

*Mrs. Palladino
Team Leader*

Team White 6

On behalf of Team White 6, I would like to welcome all of our new students and families to Harborside! We would like to maintain open communication with parents, so please feel free to contact us by phone or through email if you have any questions or concerns. From the Harborside website you will find links to our individual websites, which will include important news and information. We look forward to meeting you at our Open House on September 16th!

TEAM WHITE 6 STAFF

Lauren Napier- Team Leader & Language Arts

Rick Shea- Science

Pamela Rossetti- Math

JoAnn Dey- Language Arts

Debra Nielsen- Social Studies

*Lauren Napier
Team Leader*

Team Blue 7

Welcome to Team 7 Blue! It is sure hard to believe that summer vacation has come to an end but we are all very excited about beginning a new and successful school year as a team. This year the faculty members of our team are Mr. Hunkele in science, Miss Isiofia in social studies, Miss Maudureira in Spanish, Mrs. Zammiello in math and myself, Mrs. Mulhall, in language arts and as team leader.



It has been a pleasure meeting all of our new students over the last couple of days and we look forward to meeting parents at our Open House on September 16. I hope to see you then.

*Mrs. Mulhall
Team Leader*

Team White 7

Welcome back everyone! We're delighted to welcome our new Seventh graders to Team White. Although the first days of school are always a bit hectic, we hope that everyone makes a smooth transition to being with us. Our team has some new staff members this year. In addition to Mrs. Zodl for Language Arts, Mr. Urban for math, and me for Social Studies, we welcome to our team, Mr. Fielosh for Spanish, and Mrs. Zentz for Science (until Mrs. Lehman returns from her maternity leave in November).

If you have any questions at all after the first few days, please contact any teacher on our team. Several of us also have websites which can be accessed through the Harborside website by going to "Academic Teams" and clicking on our names. The websites contain homework assignments and general information.

This year we have our first field trip planned for November 2, 2009 to Nature's Classroom in Colebrook, CT. This is a great day of outdoor fun with group science activities at a gorgeous camp. Permission slips and specific information about the trip will be going home the week of Sept. 8th, so look for it then.



We are looking forward to meeting you all at Open House, Wed. September 16th.

*Mrs. Stockwell
Team Leader*

Team Blue 8

The entire Grade 8 Blue Team would like to wish our Harborside community *a warm welcome* to the new academic year! This is an exciting time to be part of our school family - new schedules, new teachers, and a new middle school model. However, one thing never changes, and that is our commitment to providing the *best* learning experiences we can for our students. The Team 8 Blue is ready! We present to you an *awesome* team of teachers: Ms. Ladoucer will teach Language Arts for the first part of the year while Mrs. Brilvitch completes her leave, Mrs. Dorso is our Mathematics teacher, Mr. Hansen teaches Social Studies, Ms. DeSarbo joins us to teach Spanish, and Mrs. Holmes will be Science teacher and Team Leader. We would like to wish all our students a *most successful* school year, and we look forward to seeing all the parents at Open House on September 16th!

*Mrs. Holmes
Team Leader*

Team White 8

Team White 8 would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our eighth grade students and their families. Our team members are:

- Mrs. Maria Baris who comes to us from West Shore Middle School- Language Arts
- Mrs. Megan Flaherty who comes to us from East Shore Middle School- Social Studies
- Ms Marissa Giordano- Spanish
- Mrs. Diane Maltese-Mathematics, Team Leader
- Mrs. Julie Pelczar- Science

We are excited to be working with your children as they begin eighth grade and look forward to meeting you at Open House on Wednesday, September 16th. As partners in your child's education, we know this will be a productive year.



*Mrs. Stockwell
Team Leader*

Team: Humanities

The Humanities Team is excited about the 2009-10 school year! There are many changes with the schedule this year at Harborside, and with that change, Technology Education has become a part of the Humanities Team! We would like to welcome Mr. Dillon and Mr. Sheldon, our new Tech Teachers to the Harborside family and look forward to all of the exciting things to come from their classes! With the schedule change, P.E. and Music will now be every other day. Due to this increase in P.E., we welcome Mr. Cagginello to our P.E. Department. All of us in the Humanities Team look forward to enriching your child's perspective on education and assisting with the creative aspects of their learning!



HARBORSIDE
MIDDLE SCHOOL
"Excellence in Education"

New Teachers at Harborside

Harborside is pleased to welcome several new teachers to our family:



Mr. Cagginello, Phys. Ed.



Ms. Plumeau Cheng, School Psychologist



Mrs. Civitello, Math, Team Blue 6



Ms. DeSarbo, Spanish, Team Blue 8



Mr. Dillon, Tech. Ed.



Ms. Straub, Spanish



Mr. Sheldon, Tech. Ed.

set goals ~ you can do it ~ study ~ eat a good breakfast ~ focus ~ go to bed early ~ set family time ~ do your homework ~ read ~ give 100% ~ try your best ~ ask questions ~ eat ~

The Good News Bulletin

Upcoming Events in the Milford Public Schools ♦ September 2009

Dear Friends!

Welcome to the first *Good News Bulletin* issue of the year. The monthly *GNB* lists *all* of the activities going on in the Milford Public

Schools, from districtwide events, to PTA Meet-

ings, to BOE programs, to individual school events. Folks find the *GNB* to be extremely helpful in organizing their schedules and helping to plan for other events around the city.

To get an idea of what is happening in the months ahead, (particularly good for those of you planning events in the future), we suggest you visit the Milford Public Schools website at www.milforded.org. Click on *About Our District*, then *School Calendar*. You can advance the calendar many months forward and see what dates have already been reserved.

And, if you are planning an event that will be held in one of our schools, please complete a **Building Use Form** with your principal. Have a great month! ~kath



~ cover your mouth ~ get some rest ~ use your manners ~ listen ~

~ play ~ cover your mouth ~ get some rest ~ use your manners ~

set goals ~ you can do it ~ study ~ eat a good breakfast ~ focus ~ go to bed early ~ set family time ~ do your homework ~ read ~ give 100% ~ try your best ~ ask questions ~ eat ~

Sunday, 30	Monday, 31	Tuesday, 1	Wednesday, 2	Thursday, 3	Friday, 4	Saturday, 5
			<p>■ DISTRICT: FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!</p>		<p>■ JLAW: Hotdogger: Athletic Field, 6:00 p.m.</p>	
Sunday, 6	Monday, 7	Tuesday, 8	Wednesday, 9	Thursday, 10	Friday, 11	Saturday, 12
		<p>■ CPM: PTA Meeting, 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>■ JFK: PTO Meeting, 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>■ JAF: Meet the Fall Coaches Night; (in the Caf and Red Hall), 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>■ WSMS: Open House, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>■ CPM: Meet the Principal, (Gr. K-2 parents), 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>■ CPM: Meet the Principal, (Gr. K-2 parents), 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>■ MATH: Open House, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>■ ESMS: PTA Meeting, 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>■ PD: Open House, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>■ CPM: Open House, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>■ OHILLS: PTA Meeting, 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>■ JFK: Family Picnic, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.</p>	
<p>Key</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ School events ■ Districtwide Event ■ PTA/O Meeting ■ BOE meeting ■ Open House 		<p>ABBREVIATIONS: CPM=Calf Pen Meadow, JFK=John F. Kennedy, LO=Live Oaks, MATH=Mathewson, MEAD=Meadowside, OAVE=Orange Avenue, OHILLS=Orchard Hills, PD=Pumpkin Delight, SL=Simon Lake, ESMS=East Shore Middle, HSMS=Harborside Middle, WSMS=West Shore Middle, JAF=Joseph A. Foran, JLAW=Jonathan Law, ACAD=The Academy</p>				

<p>Sunday, 13</p>	<p>Monday, 14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ OAVE, MEAD, MATH: Instrumental Open House, (held at Harborside Middle School -- cafeteria) 6:30 p.m. ■ BOE: Board of Education meeting, Parsons, 7:00 p.m. 	<p>Tuesday, 15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ESMS: Open House, 6:30 p.m. 	<p>Wednesday, 16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ JAF: Pep Rally, 1:05 p.m. ■ MAGE: Gifted/Enrichment PTA Open House, 6:30 p.m. ■ HSMS: Open House, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. 	<p>Thursday, 17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ JAF: Senior Parents Night (Media Center); 6:30 p.m. ■ JLAW: Open House, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. ■ PTA COUNCIL: Monthly Council Meeting; (@ Simon Lake); 7:00 p.m. ■ OHILLS: Open House; 7:00 p.m. 	<p>Friday, 18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ OHILLS: PTA Pot Luck Dinner 	<p>Saturday, 19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ OHILLS: Orchard Hills Harvest Festival
<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ JAF: Open House, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. ■ WSMS: PTA Meeting, 7:00 p.m. 	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ JFK: Open House, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. ■ SL: Open House, 6:30 p.m. ■ LO: Open House, 7:00 p.m. 	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ CPM: Meet the Principal, Gr. 3-5 Parents, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. ■ CPM: Meet the Principal, Gr. 3-5 Parents, 6:00 -7:00 p.m. ■ MEAD: Open House, 6:30 p.m. ■ OAVE: Open House 	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ HSMS: Grade 6 Pot Luck Dinner, 6:00 p.m. ■ One Voice/High School PTSA: (held @ Foran), 6:30 p.m. ■ MEAD: PTA Meeting, 7:00 p.m. 	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ PD: Pajama Night, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. ■ MATH: Wheels of Freestyle Fine Arts Program 	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ DISTRICT: No school; Yom Kippur 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ BOE: Board of Education Meeting, Parsons, 7:00 p.m. 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ CPM: CT Audubon After-school Program, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. ■ JAF: Freshmen Parents Orientation, (in the Media Center), 6:30 p.m. 	<p>10/1</p>	<p>10/2</p>	<p>10/3</p>