

NORTH HALEDON LEARNING COMMUNITY

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Dear Learning Community Member:

Yes, Spring Edition! Wishful thinking. Cannot arrive soon enough. Recently, the event in Parkland, Florida, as well as anonymous calls and social media threats occurring throughout our state and country, it is truly a very sad time for all. The peace and tranquility we all search for has been interrupted. Still, we stay the course. Our students, staff, and community in North Haledon will continue its focus as to the provision of the most conducive learning environment that stimulates learning and growth. We will steer from reactive mode as we continue to be visionary and stay ahead as best as we can. With the support of our BOE, Mayor George and Town Council, and Police Chief Bracco and our Police Department, this important collaboration will bring the very best on all levels to our school community. Warm Regards,,,,

Nicholas S. Coffaro, Superintendent of Schools

"Wherever there is a human being, there is an opportunity for kindness..." Anonymous



Math-Literacy Skills Curriculum has been revised. We will bring new curriculum to board level for review and approval. We continue to align our curriculum with NJ SLS (New Jersey Student Learning Standards), as well as updates based upon analysis by our Administration Team. Curriculum is not only as to the "What," but focus on the "How" and the "Why." Best Practice and Professional Development have been integral in our approach as to the meeting of all student learner modalities.



PARCC

PARCC Parent University
Forum... March 26th @
Memorial Library (6-7pm).

Testing Dates:

Grade 3 & 4- April 23-27

Grade 5- April 30-May4

Grade 6, 7, & 8- April 30-May 7

Important Dates

March 27th

LEAD Graduation- 6:30 (HMS)

March 30th

Good Friday- No School

April 2nd to April 6th

Spring Recess- No School

April 9th

School Re-Opens

April 19th

HMS Science Fair



Student and Personnel Services

"Handle with Care" workshop was provided to all staff and faculty...therapists, counselor, and school nurses included. This workshop was turn-keyed by Ms. Kocevski, who we thank for all of her preparation and guidance. The focus was proper behavioral management and safe procedures practiced by all. Interest was high therefore future PD will be offered and extended. On a continuum, analysis of student performance will provide valuable data as to the implication of appropriate services and programming.

QSAC Update:

It is official... we are identified by the State and DOE as a HIGH PERFORMING DISTRICT!

Recently, I received a letter by Governor Murphy as to our certification as a high performing district. This now expands our QSAC evaluation process for another 3-years. Thank you to our entire school personnel team for this achievement. Our teachers, administrators, & support staff continue to work hard and dedicate to their craft.

This does not mean we rest. We will continue to provide the best education in the most healthiest learning environment to our students. But, we do need continued support and cooperation from many stakeholders.

With that, we thank our Home & Families, BOE, Mayor George and Town Council, Chief Bracco and our Police Department, our PTO, our NHEF, and valuable community stakeholders.

Truly takes a village...

Police Department

Chief Bracco and Captain Darby met with our Safety Team on February 21st. Attending this meeting as well were Mayor George, and our Board President, Mr. Anthony Griffo. Discussion as to School Safety and Security took place. A variety of topics were on agenda, including potential facility upgrades and enhancement.

Moving forward, a police liaison will meet with myself and our Supervisor of B&G, Mr. John Maguire, once per month as to updates and review of procedures.

Mayor and Town Council

We thank Mayor George for initiating our Safety and Security Meeting on February 21st.

We thank Mayor George and Town Council for their dedication and commitment towards our school community. Again, our proactive approach will continue as we strive towards providing the best for our students, staff, and community.



“What's happening in our schools...”

HIGH MOUNTAIN SCHOOL – Mrs. Mazzola... “Our G&T Grade 7 students took **FIRST PLACE** in Passaic County Geography Bee. Also, one of our own Grade 6 students won his Geography Bee as well with the result being his participation at state level. Congratulations to all who participated! Youth Art Month is held in March with 9 pieces chosen for Passaic County, and 2 came from HMS students. Their work will be displayed in Trenton at the State House in the month of March. HMS held its first Math Mob on February 26th. This event had students drop everything and focus on Math activities. Students enjoyed time completing critical thinking puzzles with their grade level peers. On March 14th we will celebrate Pi Day with a full day of Math Olympics. Grade 7 will be taking a field trip to the Jewish Heritage Museum on March 22 and welcoming a Holocaust survivor to speak to the students on March 23 as a culminating activity to their Holocaust study in ELA and Social Studies.

MEMORIAL SCHOOL – Mrs. Tait... Memorial School had a kick-off assembly to introduce the school-wide event of One School, One Book where students, teachers, and families share reading the same book. Thanks to a generous gift from the PTO, each student/family received a copy of *The Mouse and The Motorcycle*, by Beverly Cleary. We participated in Random Acts of Kindness Week in February. Hallways were decorated with their “acts of kindness!” Read Across America Week was celebrated in Memorial School. Students had the opportunity to participate in fun reading activities such as buddy reading and drop everything and read. Spirit days took place all week long with many Cats in the Hat and Things 1 and 2 making their way through the halls of Memorial! We will celebrate Absolutely Incredible Kid Day on March 15th. Parents are invited to send a letter or card to tell their child how absolutely incredible they are. Each child deserves to know how special they are...that is the purpose of Absolutely Incredible Kids Day. We will recognize all the absolutely incredible children in Memorial by wearing our best superhero clothing! We will have an author visit Memorial School! New York Time's Best Selling Author from Adam Gidwitz on March 16th for 2nd – 4th graders. Presenting on his new series: The Unicorn Rescue Society. Jump Rope For Heart is the week of March 12th and will take place during Gym classes.



Our commitment to excellence begins with a healthy partnership with home and family. We are about “community.” Here’s a perfect example:

The beauty of life is that one conversation can make all the difference.

Dialog has become a lost art form. In the age of social media, human to human contact is becoming increasingly obsolete. The YouTube, Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook “generation” has replaced dialog and conversation.

Regardless by what means people communicate, there needs to be an effectiveness as to the action. There is a fine line between communication and effective communication.

Talking to our children may be needed now more than ever. Reciprocity to this action needs to be evident as well. Sunday Supper at the table may need to reinvent itself. We all must be part of the process. Let’s continue to educate.



With the help of Mrs. Maree Padula, the district has applied for four grants from PSE&G through Sustainable Jersey for Schools. One Ten thousand dollar grant was applied for Memorial School which included a water bottle filler. Water free urinals for the boys bathrooms, which save an estimated 40,000 gallons of water a year per urinal. Hand dryers for the student bathrooms to reduce the use and waste of paper towels. The money leftover will be used to help add more flowers to the hill at Memorial School, by hydroseeding wildflowers into the hill. A ten thousand dollar grant was applied for at High Mountain School to also add bottle fillers, water free urinals, hand dryers for the bathrooms and finally more plants to add to the courtyard to increase the sustainable garden for the Home Economics classes. A two thousand dollar grant was applied for at both schools for recycling containers, as well as large rolling dumpsters for the custodians to collect the recycling and keep everything separated. The district has continued buying recycled paper products, and green cleaning products for our custodial suppliers which has a two minute kill time for the current influenza virus.



SCHOOL BUDGET- 2018-2019

Our Budget Presentation to the public will occur in April. Prior to this presentation, we will have preliminary discussion at our Public Work Session on March 14th. The 6:00 start time will provide us with the time necessary for our public to view and listen to our BOE at work thus asking questions as to the budget during our Petition of Citizen segment of the meeting. Again, this is a preliminary discussion, not the true budget presentation. Also, matters pertaining to personnel and staffing cannot be discussed in public, but may in executive session. Looking forward to our work and discussion as to the 18-19 school budget.



TOWN LIBRARY

Do reach Ms. Susan Serico if you need more information. Email at serico@northhaledonlibrary.org

March 1st to April 5th "All Things Tech" w/ Claire Houghton-Kiel on Thursday evenings. Reserve slot (7:30 or 8:15).

Chair Yoga from 10:00 to 11:00am from March 1st to April 5th on Thursdays.

March 6th at 1:30, Rich Feingold will present, *The Schuyler Sisters & the Hamilton Musical*.

March 20th brings Miss Ro and the *Crafty Ladies* at 1:30.

Walk n Talk- March 21st 10:00am.

Hidden Figures will be shown on March 27th at 1:30.

Board of Education

Meetings @ Memorial School:

March 14th Work Session @ 6:00 (Budget Discussion).

March 28th Regular Mtg. 7:00

April 11th Work Session 7:00

April 25th Regular Mtg. 7:00

“Let’s meet some staff members!”

For this issue, we will meet our new School Counselor... Mrs. Veronica Conover.

- Started in district August 29, 2017;
- MA in Forensic Psychology (Fairleigh Dickinson University) and Community/School Counseling (Montclair State University);
- Certified School Counselor;
- Married to someone who loves traveling, a good book, a suspenseful movie and all animals, big and small, just as much as I do;
- Started career as a Residential Counselor in 2010 and continued in the mental health field as an Access Clinician and Outpatient Counselor until 2014;
- School Counselor at Hudson Catholic Regional High School, 2016-2017 school year.

STATEMENT: “Although I have only worked in the North Haledon Public Schools for a short period of time, I consider myself lucky to be able to work hand-in-hand with dedicated educators, staff, administrators and a community that cares just as much as I do about effectively equipping and supporting all students on their path towards academic, personal and social success!”

FAVORITE QUOTE: “*The only person you are destined to become is the person you decide to be...*” Ralph Waldo Emerson



Policy Reminder:

- *Substance Abuse: Policy & Regulation 5530...*

“Substance” means alcoholic beverages, controlled dangerous substances, including anabolic steroids as defined at N.J.S.A. 24:21-2 and N.J.S.A. 2C:35-2, any chemical or chemical compound which releases vapors or fumes causing a condition of intoxication, inebriation, excitement, stupefaction, or dulling of the brain or nervous system, including, but not limited to, glue containing a solvent having the property of releasing toxic vapors or fumes as defined at N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10.4 and over-the-counter and prescription medications which are improperly used to cause intoxication, inebriation, excitement, stupefaction, or dulling of the brain or nervous system.

The Board of Education recognizes that a student's abuse of harmful substances seriously impedes that student's education and threatens the welfare of the entire school community. The Board is committed to the prevention of substance abuse and the rehabilitation of substance abusers by educational means, but will take the necessary and appropriate steps to protect the school community from harm and from exposure to harmful substances.

