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December 2009

Hyman Fine

JOURNEY TOWARD EXCELLENCE!

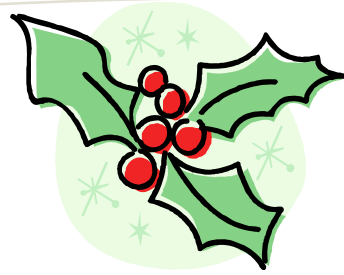
Principal's Message

The holidays are fast approaching and our Food Drive is in full gear. It's great when our boxes are overflowing and we have to add another one to our line. Our giving tree is up in the front lobby and parents and students can come and take an ornament to make a purchase on behalf of a needy family. Students can also donate mittens, hats, and scarves to hang on the tree. In mid-December some of our grade three and four students will be going to City Hall to help sort cans for distribution to needy families. This is a great activity and the kind of experience that often sticks in your mind for a long time – helping others that are less fortunate than yourself. Look for a notice to come home after Thanksgiving.

Students are “tuning up” for our winter performance! On Thursday evening, December 17th, we will have our show and directly following the performance staff will host our craft night where students of all ages can make a small gift to bring home. The show begins promptly in the auditorium at 6:00 PM and the craft tables will be open from 7:00 to 8:00 PM. We hope to see you there! In January, upon our return from the holiday break, we will begin our Pennies for Patients Program where students can bring in all their pennies (OK, they can bring nickels and quarters, too) for some friendly competition among classrooms and grade levels and all for a good cause: wiping out Leukemia and Lymphoma. The Pennies for Patients program teaches children compassion, builds character and saves lives, one penny at a time!

This fall has been rough with lots of colds, ear infections and stomach bugs going around. Due to the lack of flu

vaccine, the availability of the shots or mist has been sporadic and parents have been picking up students to get them to the clinic when supplies appear. Student attendance is important; however we realize that the shot is also important to your family. Whenever possible, it is beneficial to have your child return to school after they have received their shot to complete the day. And remember, should your child become ill and come down with a fever, they definitely should stay home until it is gone for 24 hours.



In November, Dr. Durkin attended our PTO meeting to talk about what we have accomplished in educating our students here in Attleboro and where we are headed for the future. I strongly encourage you to join the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and attend a meeting or two. Our school depends on the PTO for many of the educational activities the children participate in yearly.

While this newsletter goes to press, I will be hosting an information night for parents on the new report card. If you didn't get to attend, and have questions about our report card, please make an appointment to come in to see me and talk about how it will help you understand your child's performance in school. I look forward to seeing you at the Parent Conferences.

Have a safe and happy holiday,

Catherine White

Notes from the Reading Coach

A big focus at Hyman-Fine this year will be reading fluency. Reading fluency is the ability to read sentences smoothly with appropriate phrasing and expression. It has been proven to have a direct correlation to successful reading comprehension. As a child stops to solve a word, they lose the natural rhythm of language and often forget what was happening in the story. The more a child reads at their independent level, the easier reading and reading fluency will be.

Here are some suggested activities to support your child at home:

Be a Role Model: Read to your child at all age levels. Read stories above their independent level to increase their vocabulary knowledge. Read aloud with appropriate expression and phrasing. Get into the story! Have fun with reading. Your child WILL want to read just like you.

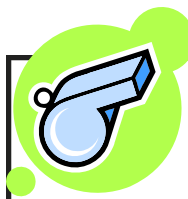
Practice Fluency Together: Take turns reading pages or paragraphs in your child's book. Take turns reading for different characters. Act out the story.



Choose the Right Book: Your child should make only a few errors per page. If they are struggling over every few words choose another book. Reading at home should be for enjoyment.

Recognize Punctuation: Discuss the punctuation marks in a story. Practice raising your voice for question marks, showing excitement for exclamation marks, and pausing for commas and periods.

Ask your Child to Read Aloud: Check in with your child every once in awhile. When your child is reading silently ask them to read a page aloud to you. Reading aloud is a skill that needs to be practiced. Listen and give feedback.



Message from the Gymnasium

As we progress through the school year, I would like to remind you about the importance of physical education. My name is Mrs. Cardillo. I am one of the physical education teachers for your child/children at Hyman Fine. I also teach physical education at Hill Roberts. Mr. Silver, our other Hyman Fine physical education teacher recently accepted a new position at Attleboro High School. He will be missed, but we wish him well in his new position!

Physical education in schools is the cornerstone of an active lifestyle for all students. School programs provide the skills, knowledge and attitudes that facilitate choosing physical activity after school, at home and in the community. As your child's physical education teacher, I pledge to:

- Establish a positive, safe learning environment for all students
- Teach a variety of physical learning activities that make physical education class fun and enjoyable
- Create maximum opportunities for all students, of all abilities, to be successful
- Promote student honesty, integrity and good sportsmanship
- Guide students into becoming skillful and confident movers
- Facilitate the development of physical fitness
- Provide constructive feedback to help students master motor skills
- Prepare and encourage students to gain skills and be active for a lifetime

I truly believe that health and well-being begins at an early age so Hyman Fine will provide the children with developmentally appropriate activities that will help improve their physical competence, self-esteem and joy of being physically active no matter what their physical abilities may be. Students who learn to appreciate exercise and good nutrition at a young age have a better chance of enjoying a lifetime of physical activity and good health!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Cardillo

Music Notes for December



Thursday, December 17th is the 4th grade chorus performance of *Snow Biz!* The show begins at 6:00 PM and our annual **Holiday Craft Night** will start at 7:00. The students are doing a fabulous job on this vaudeville show and we know that you will enjoy it. Permission slips for the Craft Night will be going home soon!

Another Hyman Fine tradition...singing at a Providence Bruins game! This year's event happens on **Sunday, January 10th at 4:00 PM**. All third and fourth graders are invited to participate. Tickets are only \$13 and all performers will receive a free



Student of the Month

The following students have been chosen as exceptional students for the month of November.

KINDERGARTEN

Mrs. Abreu-Brenna O'Connell Mrs. Sweitzer-Alison Dennehy

GRADE 1

Mrs. Hopkins-Delaney Plante
Mrs. Marshall-Sunny Oul
Mrs. Miozza-Hannah Dorrance
Mrs. Poluvatzick-Brad Lussier

GRADE 3

Mrs. Andrade-Alex Ferro
Mrs. Martin-Emily Shedd
Mrs. McLoughlin-Katie Kerrins

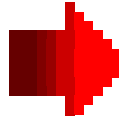
GRADE 2

Mrs. Braza-Daniel Hasenfus
Mrs. Martin-Lisandro Ortiz
Mrs. Robinson-Brandon Bourgault
Ms. Wyn-Racheal Kimani

GRADE 4

Mrs. Collins-Zachary White
Mrs. Crawford-Tabitha Guinan
Mrs. Hill-Teresa Turner
Mrs. Lusk-Meredith Piazza
Mrs. Murray-Olivia Bury

Procedures for Students Not Picked Up By Their Parents



What? No way you say? Children left in school? Yes, it does happen from time to time and as we approach the winter, traveling to and from school can be problematic in an unexpected storm. There is a school policy (EEAA-E-1) and procedure for students who are released at 3:20 PM and not picked up by the end of our contractual day at 3:35 PM.

Assuming contact has been made with the parent to determine who will pick up the child and when, the child will be placed in ABACUS. The person picking up the child from ABACUS must present a photo ID to the staff. Children picked up before 6:00 PM will be billed an hourly rate by ABACUS.

If the Hyman Fine staff is unable to contact the parent or someone on the emergency card (and yes, many numbers given to us change frequently or are not longer in use), the child will go to ABACUS and the ABACUS staff will continue to try and contact the family. If the child is not picked up by 7:00 PM (late pick up will be added to the hourly rate) the Department of Social Services (DSS) will be called.

Hyman Fine secretary, Donna Morgan, answers the telephone until 3:45 PM. After that time, the principal's emergency number is 508-431-3913. If you find yourself in the above situation, please call us and we will try to assist you in any way we can.



Your Child's Communication



Have you ever wondered how your child should be communicating at different ages? The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) has compiled a description of what your child should be able to do at various grade levels. Listed below are kindergarten, first grade, and second grade. Look for third and fourth grade skills in the newsletter next month.

By the end of kindergarten your child should be able to do the following:

Listening

- Follow 1-2 simple directions in a sequence
- Listen to and understand age-appropriate stories read aloud
- Follow a simple conversation

Speaking

- Be understood by most people
- Answer simple "yes/no" questions
- Answer open-ended questions (e.g., "What did you have for lunch today?")
- Retell a story or talk about an event
- Participate appropriately in conversations
- Show interest in and start conversations

By the end of first grade your child should be able to do the following:

Listening

- Remember information
- Respond to instructions
- Follow 2-3 step directions in a sequence

Speaking

- Be easily understood
- Answer more complex "yes/no" questions
- Tell and retell stories and events in a logical order
- Express ideas with a variety of complete sentences
- Use most parts of speech (grammar) correctly
- Ask and respond to "wh" questions (who, what, where, when, why)
- Stay on topic and take turns in conversation
- Give directions
- Start conversations

By the end of second grade your child should be able to do the following:

Listening

- Follow 3-4 oral directions in a sequence
- Understand direction words (e.g., location, space, and time words)
- Correctly answer questions about a grade-level story

Speaking

- Be easily understood
- Answer more complex "yes/no" questions
- Ask and answer "wh" questions (e.g., who, what, where, when, why)
- Use increasingly complex sentence structures
- Clarify and explain words and ideas
- Give directions with 3-4 steps
- Use oral language to inform, to persuade, and to entertain
- Stay on topic, take turns, and use appropriate eye contact during conversation
- Open and close conversation appropriately

I hope you find the information helpful. I want to extend an invitation to all parents to contact me if you have questions about your child's speech and language skills.

Joan Mullen



Mark Your Calendar!

Wed., December 2
Fri., December 4 -
Thurs., December 10
Mon., December 7
Wed., December 9
Thurs., December 10

Thurs., December 17
Thurs., Dec. 24-Jan. 1
Wed., Jan. 13

Early Release for Professional Development (12:35 PM), No PM Kindergarten Elf Shop

Report Cards go home
Evening Parent Conferences 6:00 - 8:00 PM
No AM or PM Kindergarten, Kindergarten Conferences 9:00 -11:45 AM
Early dismissal for Parent Conferences, Grades 1-4 (12:35 PM)
Afternoon Conferences 1:00 - 3:00 PM, Evening conferences 6:00 - 8:00 PM
Holiday Show and Craft Night 6:00—8:00 PM
Winter Vacation, School reopens on January 4
PTO Meeting 6:30 PM