

HAVERHILL ELEMENTARY PARENT NEWSLETTER



6633 Haverhill Ave.
Portage, MI 49024
(269) 323-6200



**Be Safe
Be Respectful
Be Responsible**

**December 2009
Volume 4**

IMPORTANT DATES

December

**12/3/2009 Choir Concert
6:30 pm**

**12/14-12/16/09- HPTO
Holiday
Boutique**

**12/18/09 Last full day
Before Winter Break**

**12/21/09 -1/4/10 Winter
Break**

1/4/10 School Resumes

**1/29/10 Records Day
No School for Students**

Bad Weather Information

PPS will notify the following
radio and television stations:
Call 323-6800 or listen to:
WWMT-Ch 3; WOTV-Ch-41;
WOOD-Ch-8: Radio Stations:
WKFR- 103.3; WNWN- 98.5;
WZUU 92.3; WKZO- 590
AM; WBCK 930 AM; WQLR
- 106.5; WMUK- 102.1;
WFAT- 96.5; WKPR- 1420
AM; WRKR- 107.7; WKMI-
1360 AM; WWKN- 104.9;
WQXC- 100.9; WBXX 95.3;
WRCC – 1400 AM.
Cable Access Ch. 20

PRINCIPAL'S NEWS & NOTES

(You can now get the newsletter on the school WEB site–
www.portageps.org)

Dear Parents, Students and Community,

On behalf of the Haverhill staff, we wish you all a happy and joyous
Holiday Season. As the calendar year comes to a close, we want to
thank you for your support, your smiles and all your help this year. We
look forward to continue working with all of you during 2010. Have a
restful and safe winter break.

**WINTER BREAK - DECEMBER 21, 2009 through
JANUARY 3, 2010:**

School Resumes Monday, January 4, 2010

END OF THE SEMESTER

There will be no school on Friday January 29, 2010. This is a
TEACHER- RECORDS DAY-NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS.
Teachers will be working on reports cards. **Report cards will be sent
home on Monday, February 8, 2010.**

WEATHER RELATED SCHOOL CLOSINGS

When the weather becomes severe during the school day Portage
Public Schools has a HOT Line where parents, guardians or daycare
can get information regarding any Portage school closings. Please do
not call the school office for information, simple call the PPS Hot Line
at 323-6800.

HPTO –Holiday Boutique

The HPTO Holiday Boutique will be held on Monday, December 14,
Tuesday December 15 & Wednesday December 16, 2009.



Student Council News

Movie Night

Our UP movie night was a great success! 225 people enjoyed pizza and a movie together. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the night an enjoyable gathering for everyone.

Thanksgiving Collection

We collected 1011 food items for the Portage Community Outreach Center.

Pop Can Fridays

Thank you to everyone who continues to send in pop cans.

School Store

The school store is open every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:35 – 8:50. The store is located in the activity area this year. The student council sell a variety of items priced from 25 cents to \$1.00.

School Drop-off and Pick-up

Please, when dropping off students in the A.M. or picking up in the P.M. make sure that you do not block the handicap parking. In the morning pull as far forward along the sidewalk to allow others to pull in the driveway. If you need to have a discussion with your student, please find a parking place so as not to hold up the flow of traffic during the busy morning and afternoon rush.

RECESS INDOORS OR OUTDOORS

We do check the temperature and the wind chill index each day during the cold weather. All elementary schools in Portage believe that children need time to relax and going outside gives them that opportunity. We check weather stations and consult a wind chill chart and children DO go out for 26 minutes each day when the temperature is at least 0 degrees or above. When it is close to the “danger zone” we will keep students in for safety.

Please send your children to school dressed for the weather. Send that extra pair of socks, hat and mittens for days you know they will go outside. With proper clothing, children enjoy the time to play and run with their friends. We do not have coats to lend. Many have worn out due to use and time. Also, please label all items you send with your student. This way, if they are turned in to the lost and found we may identify whom they belong to.

WEATHER AND SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Although we have not experienced a school closing this school year you can never know with Michigan and Mother Nature. If the weather looks threatening stay tuned to one of our local radio or television stations. Radio stations are notified first in order to get the message to parents as quickly as possible. Channels 3 and 8 will run information at the bottom of the screen. **Parents may also tune in to Portage Cable Access, Channel 20** for the latest school closings and delays Please do not call the school office regarding school closings. Stay tuned to local radio or T.V. stations for the latest information or call the “School Hotline” at 323-6800.

- If students are to be sent home early due to weather conditions or an emergency situation, secondary students are dismissed first. This allows them to arrive home prior to younger students in most cases.
- Please do not ask us to notify you in the event that school is closing. This is an impossible task considering we have 405 students.

PLEASE BE CERTAIN TO REVIEW WITH YOUR CHILD(REN) WHERE THEY ARE TO GO IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING.

As we prepare for winter, we request that you review our shared expectations for bus and walking-to-school behaviors with your children. Please remind children who wait for the school bus they are to arrive 5 minutes before the scheduled stop.

Children are to wait in a group at least 10 feet away from the edge of a roadway. Walkers need to stay on the designated route and be polite to the neighbors on their way to school. Remind children not talk to strangers along the way. It is tempting when we are all gathered together to play and rough house but remind your children that not all drivers are watching for them. Encourage your son or daughter to create a safe environment by not running or chasing others. All elementary students know that snowballs are not permitted....not even at the bus stop or on the way to school.

Whenever possible we encourage parents to help at bus stops. Your presence helps to create a safer environment and is a great way for our children to start their day.



NO SNOWBALLS

Due to the problems involved in supervising large numbers of students, as well as the potential danger of injury, School Board policy dictates NO SNOWBALLS at anytime, including on the way to or from school are allowed. Please remind your child of the hazards that could accompany the throwing of snowballs at another child.

Holiday Boutique

This year the Holiday Boutique will be held on Monday, December 14 through Wednesday, December 16, 2009 in the Activity Area. The Holiday Boutique offers students the opportunity to purchase inexpensive gifts for family members and relatives.

Gym Shoes- With students beginning to wear boots for the wintery weather, please remind your students to bring gym shoes. It might be a good idea to bring a pair of gym shoes that may be left at school just in case we forget them on occasion.

HEAD LICE

Head lice do not care whether a person is clean or dirty. Clean people can and do get head lice. Lice are wingless, crawling insects. They cannot fly or jump. Lice live on people not pets. If a student is found to have either head lice or nits (head lice eggs) parents will be contacted to take them home to be treated. Students may not re-enter school until they are lice and nit free. Although chemical treatments help to eliminate most of the lice it will not kill 100% of the lice and their eggs. Removal of all eggs (nits), egg castings, and lice is essential to end the life cycle of the louse. For information regarding head lice and its control, please contact Kalamazoo County Human Services Department at 373-5240; 373-5239; or 373-5267.

Ski Club Begins in January

You may still sign up for the Haverhill Ski Club. Discount cards give you 50% off all rentals and lift tickets for the 2010 ski season at Timber Ridge Ski Area. To purchase adult and sibling discount cards for the new season contact Mrs. Hilary McGowan at 329-1445.

Toys, Hand Held Video Games, iPods and MP3 Players

Students are not to bring toys, video games, iPods, MP3 players or other electronic devices to school. These can be expensive and the school can not be responsible for items lost. Toys and games brought from home also may create controversy in regards to who may touch or play with the item. We have invested in playground equipment, balls, sidewalk chalk, etc. and indoor games for all students to use and share. Except for special "show & tell" times approved by the teacher, students are not to bring toys or electronic devices to school.

Bus Turn Around

With winter quickly approaching, we want to remind parents that when dropping children off at school, please DO NOT USE the bus loop at the south end of the building. Please use the parking lot by the front door or drop children off at the sidewalk at the south end of the building on Buckhorn Street. Buses have a very tight schedule and cannot wait for car owners to be notified that their car is blocking the driveway. They also can not be trapped in the bus loop waiting for cars to leave the drive. With the snow piling up it is very dangerous for the buses to be forced to drop children off in the street. Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Looking For 2010-2011 Kindergarteners

We are beginning to look for children who will be attending kindergarten in the fall of 2010. Any child who will be five years old on or before December 1, 2010 is eligible to attend school. If you plan on your child attending school in 2010-2011 you can contact the Haverhill Elementary office at 323-6200. 323-6200 to start the registration process.

Volunteers: Background Checks, Badges and Confidentiality

□ *All regular volunteers working directly with children must have a criminal background check. Forms and letters for this to occur are available in the office.*

This background check must be done annually for any regular volunteer working directly with children.

□ All volunteers should also have a “Guest Badge” each time they work in the school. A badge is available in the office for volunteers

□ *Volunteers are also reminded that information regarding student behavior or progress observed while volunteering in our school is confidential and should not be shared with outside individuals.* Just as you wouldn’t want parents discussing your student’s behaviors or academics with others, they don’t want you discussing theirs.

□ Please be assured Haverhill’s teachers are well aware of the needs of the many students in their classrooms. Due to strict confidentiality rules and regulations, teachers are not able to discuss specific interventions that are in place for a child and/or a child’s ability/disability with volunteers.

***Volunteers are greatly appreciated and a
valuable resource to the Haverhill Elementary
School Community!
Your assistance is truly
appreciated by both students and staff!
Thank you for being willing to so generously
give of your time!***

