

# HAVERHILL ELEMENTARY PARENT NEWSLETTER



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Portage, MI 49024  
(269) 323-6200

BE SAFE  
BE RESPECTFUL  
BE RESPONSIBLE

January 2010  
Volume 4

## IMPORTANT DATES

### January 2010

- 1/4/10 - School Resumes
  - 1/13/10-6:30 PM HPTO Meeting  
In the media center
  - 1/14/10- 6:00 pm-4th & 5th grade  
Science Fair- Parent  
Meeting
  - 1/15/10- Dr. Martin Luther King  
Birthday Observed
  - 1/20/10-- 3:45-5:00 pm- Student  
Science Fair Workshop-  
computer lab & room 2
  - 1/21/10- 6:00 HPTO Family  
Fun Night
  - 1/22/10--1 & 2 grade Winter Music  
Concert 2:40
  - 1/25/10- 6:30 1&2 grade Winter  
Music Concert 1/26/10 snow  
date
  - 1/29/10- No School for Students  
Teacher Records Day
- End of the First Semester**

### February 2010

- 2/2/10- 3:45-5:00 pm- Student  
Science Fair Workshop-  
computer lab & room 2
- 2/2/10- 5:00 pm HPTO  
Chuckie Cheese
- 2/2/10- 5:00 pm HPTO  
Chuckie Cheese
- 2/5/10 - KSO Instrument Petting  
Zoo for 5th graders.
- 2/11/10- 5th Grade Parent Night at  
North Middle School
- 2/17/10-6:30 PM-5th Grade Human  
Growth & Development  
Parent Meeting at the Ad  
ministration Building -  
Community Room

## PRINCIPAL'S NEWS & NOTES

( You can now get the newsletter on the school WEB site-  
[www.portageps.org](http://www.portageps.org))

### New School Hours Start January 4, 2010

With the start of the new year 2010 due to the budget challenges the district is adding 10 minutes to our school day starting on January 4, 2010. The new hours will have us start our school day at 8:30 and end at 3:47. **Please see page four of the Newsletter for specific dates and times.**

We at Haverhill Elementary, want to wish all of our school family a wonderful Holiday and New Year. Our resolutions remain the same to continue to make improvements in the service that you allow us to do. We appreciate the opportunity to work with your children and also appreciate the volunteers and parent helpers who give of their time to make Haverhill the fine school it is. We continue to look to parents and the community for assistance in working with our students. If you have even an hour a week that you might like to work with a student, we would welcome your participation in our school. We can't thank you enough for all the help parents give and the assistance we receive from our community. Our school staff look forward to a continued partnership with you in assisting our children to have a successful and beneficial school experience.

### **5TH GRADE HUMAN GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT MEETING**

There will be a meeting for parents of 5th grade students regarding the Human Growth & Development program, taught during the fourth quarter, at the Administration Building on Wednesday February 17 at 6:30 PM in the Community Board Room. Parents will be provided the opportunity to hear about the 5th Grade Human Growth and Development Curriculum and watch the video materials that are used in the program. The curriculum is gender specific and much is taught to boys and girls separately.



### **HPTO MEETING**

The HPTO meeting will take place in the media center at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, January 13, 2010. All parents/guardians are invited to the meeting.

### **HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE**

Thank you to all the parents who put in so much time and help during the Holiday Boutique. Students thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to shop for gifts for their families. They really feel grown up when they can give a gift that they selected.

### **LUNCH BALANCES AVAILABLE THROUGH**

**PIV** - It is now easier to check to see if you need to send lunch money to school for your student! When you access your PIV account for your child, you can choose "MealTime Report" from the Pull down menu to see a report of the recent purchases and the current balance. This report is updated every night, so your report stays current. This report will tell you exactly what days the purchases were made, what item was purchased, the amount of the item purchased, and the remaining balance for the account. You may still contact the cashier for current balance or to have a printout sent home if you do not have access to a computer.

### **KEEP US UPDATED**

Please continue to provide the school with updates of changes in daycare providers, phone numbers, cell phone numbers and emergency information. It is important that the office be able to reach or contact a parent or guardian in the case of a student illness, injury or emergency.

### **VISITOR SIGN IN**

Parents and visitors to our school are always welcome. However, we do request that you sign in at the office and pick up a visitors identification tag prior to going to any classroom for a visit. Parents are welcome to visit their students classroom, but it is advisable to make arrangements with the classroom teacher in advance of the visit.

### **NEW MATH PROGRAM UPDATE**

Early math literacy is critical to success at the next level and, ultimately, for post-secondary educational opportunities. This year Portage Public Schools implemented a new elementary mathematics curriculum supported by the program, Scott Foresman. As you know, whenever we are learning new skills in a different context, there is an adjustment period.

Teachers have been reflecting on the success of the implementation, as well as areas that students are struggling with relative to the new learning expectations and materials. We are very pleased with the success of our implementation and our students' reactions to the new learning context.

If you would like to know more about the program and how you can help your child in mathematics at home, you can contact your child's teacher.

### **REQUEST TO STAY INDOORS FOR RECESS**

We believe that except on rare occasions, if a child is well enough to be in school they are well enough to go outside and enjoy time with friends at recess. Therefore, a note from a physician stating the child is to remain indoors for recess is required for a child to be individually supervised inside during recess time. We realize that there are times that a child needs a day inside. If you can't get a physicians note please contact the principal for permission for your child to remain inside for more than one day.

### **Why Is The Bus Late?"**

As weather and road conditions challenge us at this time of year, our bus drivers are instructed to think **safety before schedule**. Therefore, some of our routes may be delayed in picking up and/or dropping off students. We will continue on routes and service all accessible bus stops. Please have your students wait at their bus stops. For current information about your bus, call the transportation office at 323-5151. We are here until the last regularly scheduled student is delivered home safely every school day. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding during inclement road and weather conditions.



### **NO SNOWBALLS PLEASE**

Parents please take a moment to talk to your children about the Portage Public Schools Board Policy of **NO SNOWBALLING**. Because of the problems involved in supervising large numbers of students on school property, as well as the potential danger of injury, throwing snowballs is prohibited at all times. Children need to know the potential danger of injury.

**POP CANS**– The Student Council continues to collect pop cans to help support extra curricular student activities. If you have pop cans that you wish to donate, we have blue barrels at the front entrance of the school. Money from this collection benefits all students with camp, assemblies, computer software and supplies for special projects.

### **GYM SHOES**

With students beginning to wear boots for the wintry weather, please remind your child to bring gym shoes. It might be a good idea to bring a pair of gym shoes that can be left at school, just in case you forget them on occasion.

### **PARENT INTERNET VIEWER**

The Parent Internet Viewer, known as PIV, is available for parents/guardians of students in grades four and five. PIV allows parents / guardians to access current student grades and attendance information. Parents of students in 4th and 5th grade should have received access codes in the mail. If you have not received an access code or have lost the code assigned to you, you can obtain you code by emailing **pivsupport@portageps.org** or contact **Julie Kienbaum in the Technology Dept.**

### **BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION**

We continue to collect Box Tops for Education. The money collected has helped support a special assembly for the whole school and purchase additional materials for the Accelerated Reader, playground equipment and

other educational materials. Money received supports programs and materials not available through the regular school budget. Thank you to Mr. Ken Hardy for his efforts and for your continued support.

### **EARLY MORNING SCHOOL CLOSINGS**

Any decision to close school must be made early in the morning– usually before 6:00 a.m. The local radio stations, Channel 3, Channel 41 and Portage Public Access (Channel 20) are notified immediately, with the message being broadcast periodically during the early morning hours. Your best source of information is the local TV, radio or Public Access channel or by calling the district school closing hotline at 323-6800. Please do not call the office.

### **KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP**

We are starting to collect names of prospective Kindergarten students for the 2010-2011 school year. If you have a child or know of a neighbor's child who will be five by December 1, 2010, please fill out the information sheet with this newsletter or contact the school office at 323-6200. Items that will make registration easier for you and your student are an **official birth certificate, immunization records and proof of residence in the Portage School District**. The kindergarten parent orientation will be on Tuesday March 9, 2010 t 6:30 pm in the gym.

### **NEED TO COMMUNICATE WITH STAFF**

If you wish to communicate with Haverhill Elementary staff you can do so by e-mail. Simply type the teachers first initial and last name in front of @portageps.org. You may also telephone the school office and you can leave a message to which the teacher can return your call.

### **STUDENT COUNT DAY**

The “official” count day is Wednesday, February 10, 2010. Please make every effort to have your child in school on that date. If your child is sick or can not attend school on February 10, 2010, please send a note regarding that absence upon their return to school.



## 2009-2010 District Calendar

**Note: Beginning Jan. 4, 2010, we will add 9 minutes at the high school level and 10 minutes at the elementary level, (no change in middle school times) since we're shortening the school-year by 4 days to reduce expenses . Elementary day begins at 8:30 and ends at 3:47, while the high school day begins at 7:43 and ends at 2:47. Middle school remains at 7:43-2:47. Half-day dismissals are 11:57 for elementary and 11 for middle and high.**

### January 4, 2010 to June 4, 2010 Calendar

Monday, January 4	School Resumes
Monday-Thursday, January 25-28	High School Exams
Friday, January 29	End 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester - No School for Students Records Day
Monday, February 1	First Day, Second Semester
<b>Wednesday, February 24</b>	<b>Conferences Y5s-12 Evening*+</b> (Students Attend All Day)
Thursday, February 25	Conferences Y5s-12 Evening*+ (Students Attend All Day)
Friday, February 26	Mid-Winter Break – No School for Students and Staff**
Friday, March 26	Spring Friday – No School for Students and Staff
March 29 – April 2	Spring Recess
Monday, April 5	School Resumes
<b>Friday, April 16</b>	<b>No School for Students</b> <b>Elementary Teachers Records</b> <b>Secondary ½ day records, ½ PD</b> Records Day
Monday, May 31	Memorial Day
Wednesday-Friday, June 2, 3 & 4	High School Graduations
Tuesday-Friday, June 1 – 4	High School Exams
Friday, June 4	End 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester – Full Day for Students**
Last Day for Teachers**	