

HAVERHILL ELEMENTARY PARENT NEWSLETTER



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

Focusing on Success for
All Students

April 2010
Volume 8

IMPORTANT DATES

April 2010

4/8/10– Casar’s Pizza reintroduced at
the elementary school for lunch

4/13/10 @ 6:30 pm HPTO MEETING
Media Center

4/14/10 @ 2:50 pm 5th Grade Choir
school concert

4/15/10 @ 6:30 pm 5th Grade Choir in
the Gym

4/16/10—No School for Students—
Teacher Records Day

4/21/10 6:30-8:00 pm HPTO Ice Cream
Social

4/24/10 @ 2:30 pm Battle of the Books
Assembly-Gym

4/26/10 @ 2:50 PM 3rd Grade Music
Concert for school

4/28/10 Mobile Dentist Forms due

4/29/10 Report Cards Sent Home

4/29/10 6:30 PM 3rd grade music
concert in the Gym

May 2010

5/12/10 Muffins for Moms

5/13/10-3:00 pm Kindergarten Musical
5/13/10 Mobile Dentist @ Haverhill

5/27/10 -9:00 am Kindergarten Field
Trip to Nature Center– Full day

5/28/10 Y-5 and Kindergarten do not
attend school on this day

5/31/10 Memorial Day-No school

6/4/10 Last day of school
Full day for students

PRINCIPAL’S NEWS & NOTES

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

We hope everyone had a safe and relaxing Spring Break. As we enter the fourth marking period we continue to encourage students to work hard to complete all grade level objectives. With warmer weather arriving, students sometimes begin to think summer rather than study. Encourage your child(ren) to continue to work hard and follow all school rules. Ask them what they’ve learned in school and do not accept “nothing” as the answer. Stay in communication with the classroom teacher and make sure that there is a nightly routine to complete homework as necessary. We are very proud to be part of the Haverhill community and know that our students are the best.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

We continue to register students for kindergarten next year. If you have a child who will turn five years old by December 1, 2010 you are able to register them at Haverhill Elementary by contacting the office at 323-6200.

FEE FOR PARTICIPATION SURVEY

Portage Public Schools is in the process of considering implementation of a participation fee for middle school and high school students. This fee would impact students that participate in extra-curricular activities such as athletics, school plays, debate, forensics, some clubs, and intramural activities. An extra-curricular activity is one that occurs outside of the school day and is not a part of a class (note: marching band, choir, and orchestra are excluded when they are part of a related class). This survey will assist us with completing a final recommendation that would be implemented for the 2010-2011 school year. Thank you in advance for taking the time to assist us in providing the very best programming possible for students in Portage Public Schools. To take the survey go to: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6RDHJDN>

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Haverhill Parent Newsletter

Parent Newsletter



PLANNING TO MOVE

Will you be at Haverhill Elementary for the 2010-2011 school year? Do you plan to move during the summer break? Do you know where you will be moving and where school records need to be sent before the start of the new school year? If so, please contact the Haverhill school office at 323-6200 and let the office staff know about your changes and they will prepare records for transfer to the new school or district. Letting the office know of changes ahead of time will also help in the creation of classrooms for the 2010-2011 school year.

SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION

For the safety of your children, sexual assault prevention techniques are taught in all Portage Public School Elementary (K-5) classrooms and will be seen at Haverhill Elementary between May 3, 2010 through May 28, 2010-. A DVD will be available for parent previews starting Monday, April 12 through Wednesday April 30, 2010.

Despite efforts by law enforcement officials and others, this country continues to struggle to protect our children from sexual abuse. Experts tell us that education is a child's best defense. Our teachers have been trained in the use of the videotapes and materials used in the program. The videos they use are listed below:

GRADES K-1 WHAT TADOO

GRADES 2-3 YES, YOU CAN SAY NO

GRADES 4-5 IT'S OKAY TO TELL

If you have any questions about the materials used, or would like to preview them, please contact Mr. Nicolette at the office 323-6200.

LOST & FOUND

In order to reduce the number of lost and found items we are asking families to label hats, mittens and coats. If an item is labeled we can deliver it back to the student in a more efficient manner. Please check the lost and found for items your child may have left at school over the last year.

EMERGENCY DISMISSAL/ SEVERE WEATHER THREAT

In the event of severe weather or tornado watches, our school has made plans to safeguard your children. If, during the school day,

the U.S. Weather Bureau announces a tornado watch, students will be kept in school until the regular time for dismissal or until, in the judgment of the Superintendent of Schools, students can be safely dismissed. In the case of a tornado watch, **please do not call the school**. We need the telephone lines open for emergency communication. If you feel you should pick your child up, use your own judgment, but please check with the office before you go to any classroom.

ATTENDANCE/ TARDY LETTERS

If a student has excessive absences, parents can expect to receive attendance letters notifying parents of student absences. Letters will be printed and sent when your child is absent/tardy for 10, 18 and 27 days. This happens automatically, no matter the reason for the absence or tardies. Since parents are responsible for their child's attendance in school, it is important you are aware how easily absences/tardies accumulate. If you have questions, please contact the school office for attendance and tardy information. Parents of students in 4th & 5th grades are able to check attendance on the Parent Internet Viewer (PIV).

LUNCH MONEY REMINDER

Please send lunch money to school in an envelope. Label the envelope with the child's name, teacher and the number of lunches and/or breakfasts you would like to order. There are designated lunch envelopes available in the office that are easily recognized as lunch envelopes, please stop by the office and pick up a few so that delivery is convenient. The best day to send in money is, Monday. Also be reminded that money paid for lunches is not refunded if not used during the 2009-2010 school year, the balance will be carried over to the new 2010-2011 school year. If the amount is \$5.00 or more and you leave the district you may make a request for a refund. It is best to figure out the exact number of lunches your child will need and pay that amount. If you have questions contact Mrs. Harrigan at 323-6291.



WARM WEATHER DRESS CODE

As the warm summer temperatures begin, it becomes necessary to remind students of the school dress code. Please monitor the shortness of dresses and shorts. Spaghetti strap shirts or bare midriffs are not allowed. Also, T-shirts that promote violence, profanity, alcohol or tobacco products are not permitted. We appreciate your help.

SAFETY REMINDERS

Please take the time to discuss with your child the importance of practicing good safety habits when walking, riding the bus, or biking to and from school. If your child normally rides a bus and has your permission to ride a bicycle or walk to school, please have your child pick up a permit in the office for you to sign. This helps the office know what to expect if a student has a change of plans.

GUEST BADGES

As you enter the building to visit a classroom or do volunteer work for a teacher, please stop by the office and sign in as a visitor. Guest badges are available at the office counter and should be worn while visitors are in the building.

TALK WITH CHILDREN ABOUT FALSE IMPRESSIONS

A girl who would rather play sports than play with dolls is not boyish or a lesbian; especially in this day and age; she is just a girl who would rather play sports. The same is true for boys who may not enjoy rough-and-tumble activities. Calling children names like "gay boy" or "queer" just because they choose to follow their own interest is an ignorant choice and cannot be allowed. The best way to prevent our children from using inappropriate comments is not to use them ourselves.

RECYCLE INK CARTRIDGES

Haverhill continues to recycle used computer ink cartridges for the convenience of our school family. If you have computer ink cartridges that you need recycled, simply send them to the school office with your child and we will recycle the Cartridges for you so that they do not end up in the land-fill.

IMPORTANT TRANSPORTATION NEWS FOR 2010-2011

For those students eligible for transportation, we need your

help to plan efficient bus routes in order to best serve your individual needs. Therefore, we are asking all elementary, middle, and high school students to pre-register for bus Service. If your family plans on riding our school buses to or from school during the 2010-2011 school year, please return a Transportation Request Form to the Haverhill Elementary Office or the Transportation Office. The Transportation Request Form is the last page of this newsletter.

- The Request Form is also available at PPS website at www.portageps.org

As a reminder, middle and senior high school students grades 6-12, may be expected to walk up to 1-½ miles to school or up to 1 mile to a bus stop wherever appropriate walkways and traffic signs are available. Eligible students signing up for transportation will be assigned to bus stops based on their home address.

Middle and high students signing up by June 30 will receive a postcard in mid-August with specific transportation information.

Students not replying by June 30, 2010 may compromise our ability to provide timely bus service for you in the fall.

For more information, please talk with your bus driver, call Transportation at 323-5151, or go to www.portageps.org. Thank you in advance for your timely responses.

Don't delay, sign up today. You don't want to miss the bus!

School Meals

Did you know? If you qualify for reduced priced meals you only pay \$.30 for breakfast and \$.40 per lunch! That's a savings of \$391 at the elementary level and \$436.00 at the middle and high school level over the course of the school year! If you qualify for free lunches, you won't pay anything at all! Students who participate in the Free and Reduced Meal Program provide extra state and federal funding for reading and math programs in their buildings.

Free and Reduced Meal Benefit Applications can be filled out anytime during the school year.

Applications are available through your school office, at www.portageps.org or by calling 323-5155