

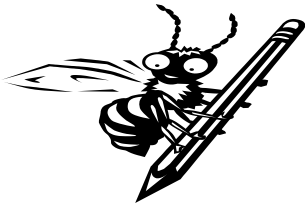
THE BUZZ

Haverhill Elementary School

January & February 2012

Volume 5

Welcome to Haverhill Elementary



Message from the Principal

Winter is finally here! As we take the time to enjoy all of the wonderful winter activities that Michigan has to offer, winter is also a great time to snuggle up and read a book with your child or play a family board game. One of my children's favorite winter activities is to make up stories and act them out. What's yours?

Portage Public Schools has started the process of reviewing textbooks for a new reading series adoption at the elementary level. Before a new series is adopted a thorough review process will occur that will include input from a district reading committee, classroom teachers, and parents. The materials from each of the two reading series we are considering will be available at Haverhill for parents to preview. **The Houghton Mifflin Parent Preview Night is Tuesday, March 6th and the Scott Foresman Parent Preview Night is Thursday, March 8th. Both preview sessions will run from 5:00-6:30 PM in the Haverhill Conference Room.** Please stop by during these evenings to review the materials and share your feedback.

Yours in Education,
Tabatha Reeves

Hive Happenings

- 1/23-1/26 Student Council Spirit Week
- 1/23 Rainbow Day
- 1/24 Sports Day
- 1/25 Twin Day
- 1/26 Haverhill Spirit Day
- 1/27 No school records day
- 1/30 4th & 5th grade Music Concert
6:30pm
- 2/1 5th grade parent night at Middle
Schools 6:30-7:30 pm
- 2/3 Talent Show permission forms
due, PTO Popcorn Day, Mother &
Son Night at Airway Lanes 6-8 pm
- 2/8 Count Day, Talent Show try outs
4:00 pm
- 2/9 HPTO meeting Media Center
6:30—7:30 pm
- 2/10 Father Daughter Dance NHS
cafeteria 6-9 pm
- 2/14 Valentines Day
- 2/16 Talent Show Dress Rehearsal
4-6 pm
- 2/17 Talent Show 4:30-6:30
- 2/21-2/22 Parent Teacher Conferences
5-8:45 pm
- 2/24 Mid-Winter Break No School
- 2/27 Middle School course selection
forms due from 5th grade
- 2/28 4th & 5th grade to KSO

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Haverhill is Going Green

Sign up to receive school news and reminders of upcoming Haverhill events via the school email listserve.

Simply go to the PPS webpage at:

<http://www.portageps.org/>
and sign up by clicking on "News and Links".

Once signed up you will receive our school newsletter, informational updates and reminders of HPTO and school events.

Kindergarten Registration

We are beginning the process of registering children who will be attending kindergarten in the fall of 2012.

Any child who will be five years old on or before December 1, 2012 and lives in the Portage Public Schools attendance area is eligible to attend school. If

you plan on your child attending Portage Public Schools in 2012-2013

please contact the Haverhill Elementary office at 323-

6200 to start the registration process.



Haverhill's Kindergarten Parent Meeting will be held on Tuesday March 13 from 6:00-7:00 pm in the cafeteria. This is a parent informational meeting about the kindergarten screening and enrollment process.

Parents may sign up for a screening time at the end of this meeting. If you are unable to attend the parent meeting please call the school office at 323-6200 on or after March 14 to schedule your student's kindergarten screening time. Kindergarten Screenings will be held here at Haverhill on Tuesday March 20 and Wednesday March 21.

Fifth Grade Parent Night

Fifth Grade parent night at Central, West, and North Middle Schools will be on

Wednesday February 1 at 6:30pm. *Will Wahmhoff*

Parents of incoming 6th graders are invited to come and attend an informational meeting about students transitioning into middle school next year.



Directories

If you would like to purchase a Haverhill Directory we have some available. The cost is \$5.00 each and they may be purchased in the office.



Electronic Flyer Update

Portage Schools is trying to be more efficient in how it communicate news of student events and activities by community organizations.

Instead of sending home thousands of flyers for every event or activity, the District has begun posting flyers from outside groups to a new web page (and also including official flyers from the District that apply to all schools). The flyer page, which contains links to each individual flyer, can be found from the District homepage (see Information link) or directly at this address: <http://www.portageps.org/departments/communications/flyers.aspx>.

Here is a sampling of current flyers (as of January 17): South Portage Baseball & Softball registration wraps up on Jan. 28, from 9 a.m. – noon, at the Portage Senior Center (bring birth certificate and proof of residence for the SPLL boundaries). Boys lacrosse registration for 5th graders is Jan. 23 and Feb. 6 at the West Middle School cafeteria from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Other elementary program flyers include Mad Science (sign-up through Community Education Center at 323-6700), Kalamazoo Area Math & Science Center "Fun Math," March 17, noon - 2 p.m., Kalamazoo Parks Winter Youth Bowling Camp (age 6 up), Feb. 20 - March 2. *Chloe Leitch*

Information posted for all grades includes: City of Portage Winter Events, Jan. 21, Feb. 12, and Feb. 23; The Civic Theatre 2012 winter classes, and Kalamazoo Valley Museum Winter winter programs, events, and exhibits. General information of interest to parents includes the 8th Annual Portage Lacrosse Pizza Fest, Feb. 25, 4 - 8 p.m., at Central Middle School; and the Portage Athletic Foundation, "Steppin' Out at the State," Jan. 28. Call the District's Community Relations Office with questions about this program at 323-5167.

Musical Moments at Haverhill



- 4th & 5th Grade Music Concert: Monday, January 30, 6:30 pm
- 4th & 5th Grade field trip to the KSO Youth Concert: Tuesday, February 28
- 2nd & 3rd Grade Music Concert: Tuesday, March 6, 6:30 pm
- 5th Grade Instrument Petting Zoo morning of Monday, March 19. Parent Volunteers needed from 8:30-10:15 am.

Where's the Bus?

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. *Kierstn Millbeck*

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.



Dress for the Weather

Winter weather has arrived and students need to dress for it! Children should be wearing winter jackets, snow pants, boots, hats and gloves or mittens to school.

Please write student names inside clothing and boots. Labeling clothing will assist us in returning lost outerwear to students.



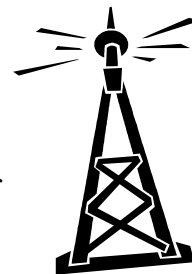
Note: If the actual temperature at recess is above zero degrees including the wind chill factor we will have outdoor recess.

Requests 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 *Mec'asia Smith* enough to go outside and enjoy recess. In addition, an adult must always be present to supervise a child staying in for 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 during recess time. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

School Closing Announcements

In the event that the District must cancel school due to weather, there are several ways for you to stay informed. Prior to 6 a.m., the announcement will be on the School Closing Hotline (323-6800), sent out via Twitter and Facebook, posted on the District's homepage www.portageps.org, through the District and individual school electronic communication e-mail lists that people subscribe to, and also, of course, through the news media.



Easy Ideas to Keep Your Child Healthy and Active in Winter

At home:

- * Play a few rounds of charades as a family. You'll laugh, use some energy while making memories
- * Turn on some music and dance when doing indoor chores.
- * Make a treat and walk it over to a neighbor.
- * Have some friends over and create an action-packed play or movie.
- * Younger children may really like playing a classic game like Simon Says or Ring Around the Rosy.
- * Try doing some jumping jacks, sit ups or push ups to fight cabin fever.
- * If you're feeling really adventurous, you can set up a simple obstacle course in your family room. Be creative!

Outdoor activities:

- * Go sledding, ice skating or skiing. Make sure that children are bundled up to stay warm and wear all the necessary protective gear.
- * Build a snowman, fort or igloo.
- * Make angels in the snow.
- * Take a walk and search for animal tracks or other wildlife.
- * Walk a neighbor's friendly dog.

In the community:

- * Sign up for swimming or tennis lessons at a local fitness center.
- * Visit an aquatic center or indoor splash park, if one is in your area.
- * Take a martial arts class, dance or gymnastics class at a local studio.
- * Organize a game of basketball or volleyball at an indoor gym with friends.
- * Take your kids to an inflatable amusement park to burn off some of that extra energy.
- * Go bowling (parents, too!) *Sam Durlach*

Oral Reading Fluency

What is Oral Reading Fluency?

You often hear students and teachers talking about DIBELS testing and reading fluency. DIBELS stands for **Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills. All students in kindergarten through fifth grade are assessed using this set of standardized, individually administered measures of early literacy development. These measures are given in September, January and May. They are one minute fluency measures used to monitor the development of pre-reading and early reading skills.**

The measures were based upon the essential early literacy areas discussed in both the National Reading Panel (2000) and National Reading Council (1998) reports to assess student development of phonological awareness, alphabetic understanding and fluency on text. The measures have been thoroughly researched and demonstrated to be reliable and valid indicators of early literacy development. These measures are highly predictive of later reading proficiency. The assessments aid in the early identification of students who may be at risk. These measures are also used to monitor the ongoing progress of students who have not made adequate growth and need adjustments in their instruction or practice.

So, what is reading fluency? It is the ability to read quickly and easily. It means that a child can recognize and decode words accurately and automatically and understand the words as they are being read. Children who do not read fluently (choppy readers) have to work so hard on the mechanics of reading that there's no mental energy left to think about the meaning of what they are reading.

How do I know if my child is reading fluently?



A simple way to know if your child is reading fluently is to listen to him/her read grade level text aloud. Have your child read a paragraph from his/her social studies, science or reading book. As your child reads consider the following:

- How many words does he/she struggle with?
- How easily is he/she sounding out an unknown word?
- Is he/she reading with expression? (for example, pausing at commas, periods, etc.)
- Can he/she retell the story or summarize what the paragraph/story was about?

Many schools test students' oral reading fluency skills as a way to screen for possible reading difficulties (Haverhill uses the DIBELS assessments). Your child may be asked to read a grade level passage for one minute. The teacher will then calculate the "words correct per minute" (wcpm). Children who have strong word recognition skills and can quickly use word attack strategies when coming upon an unknown word are able to read grade level text at an appropriate rate for that grade.