

Dear Hastings School Families,

The learning is in full swing at Hastings School. Students in preschool through grade three are using the fall season (changing seasons, leaves, harvest, apple-picking, pumpkins, Johnny Appleseed, Christopher Columbus) as the context in which to learn many new skills and concepts in reading, writing, mathematics, and science. It's always wonderful to see our students immersed and engaged in their learning.

Thank you so much for setting aside nightly reading time with your child, and completing the monthly reading calendar for September. Every recorded minute get us closer to our goal of exceeding 1,100,000 minutes by the end of the year. In addition, each month that our students read for at least 100,000 minutes, they earn a new book for the library. During the month of September, our students read for 132,661 minutes earning, "The Energy Bus for Kids" by John Gordon. Keep up the great work! Remember to send in completed October reading calendars at the end of the month.

Speaking of buses, Mrs. Doretta, our school guidance counselor, visited classrooms in September and October to talk with the children about bus safety, and to teach students how to safely evacuate the bus in case of an emergency. A list of bus safety rules that the children have been practicing are attached to this email. Please review them with your children, so everyone can have a safe pleasant ride.

As we near the end of the month, many teachers and grade level teams are planning celebrations of the fall season. Classroom celebrations will incorporate important events and traditions of the season, including Halloween. Students are invited to bring a costume to school, if they would like, to wear as part of the celebration. Teachers will plan different activities for children to choose from, some Halloween themed, and some themed for fall (harvest, pumpkins, apples, leaves). If you do choose to send your child in with a costume, we ask that they do not wear make-up, bring masks, or accessories that can get lost or broken (no weapons of any kind). We also ask that your child wear their regular school shoes that day. Your child's teacher will give you more information about what to expect as they plan their celebrations.

On Monday, November 2, starting at 6:30 PM, the Westborough Education Foundation is hosting their annual Trivia Bee at the Doubletree Hotel in Westborough. This is a great fundraising event, featuring teams from local businesses, schools and neighborhoods. There will be one team of elementary principals, and another team of Hastings teachers competing this year. Please come to cheer us on! The event is open to the public for a donation of \$5 per person, maximum \$20 for families, and will include pizza, drink, and dessert. There will also be children's activities, a raffle, a silent auction, and a 50/50 raffle. There is no school for students the following day, Tuesday, November 3,

as it is a professional development day for teachers. Come join the fun and help raise money for all the Westborough Public Schools!

Remember that Wednesday, October 28 is an early release day for parent-teacher conferences. Students in kindergarten through grade three will be dismissed at 11:55 AM. There are no preschool classes on early release days. If you have not yet signed up for a conference, please contact the Hastings office, or email your child's teacher directly.

Enjoy the change of seasons!

Fondly,

Leigh Becker, Principal