

Hastings Purple Day

Purple Day is a long-standing tradition at Hastings School started by former fourth grade teacher, Peggy O'Neil back in 1973. Peggy started **Purple Day** in her fourth grade class to show her students that children can make a difference in the world by influencing others. They did this by asking another person to wear purple. Children wrote letters to others in town requesting that they wear purple on a particular day. Over the years, **Purple Day** spread from Peggy's class to all fourth grade classes, and eventually the entire school. The children celebrated with banners, parades, and purple streamers on the busses. An original song was written and performed in honor of **Purple Day** by Mike Nobel just for Hastings School titled, "One by One".

Today, students at Hastings celebrate **Purple Day** a little differently, but the message stays the same, that children can make a difference in the world. To show how they can make a difference, students spend a portion of the day participating in a variety of community service projects from tending and planting gardens and trees, and spreading mulch around the playground, to walking around our school to raise money for cancer research as part of the Relay For Life. Students in grade 3 write letters to members of the Westborough community telling them what we are doing to make a difference on **Purple Day**, and asking them to support our efforts by wearing purple on that day. Second graders create **Purple Day** posters that are hung around our school, and around town. Our music teacher prepares our students for the **Purple Day** assembly by teaching them the original song, "One by One". **Purple Day** takes place in mid-May. Be sure to wear purple on **Purple Day** to show your support.