

Hopewell Happenings

October 2015



PTA President's Message

Thanks to everyone who was able to come to the Open House on September 16th. It was great to see you there. Hopefully you had a chance to visit your children's classrooms and stop by the PTA table. A big Thanks to our Teacher Appreciation Committee who provided dinner for the faculty and staff beforehand.

Thank you to everyone who has joined the PTA this year. We can't do what we do without you. Members will be receiving their membership card. Still want to join? PTA forms are available in the school lobby or by contacting me.

Kidstuff-please consider ordering Kidstuff books. The school makes over 50% of the sales on each book. All proceeds will be going towards the new school's playground. Books must be returned or orders need to be turned in by 10/2.

T-shirts- Hopewell PTA is selling school spirit t-shirts. Please turn in your order form by 10/2.

Hausman Fruit Farm is hosting a Fall Family Fun Day for all of the Southern Lehigh Elementary Schools on Saturday, 10/3 10am-5pm with a rain date of 10/4. 10% of the proceeds go towards our school. Please mention our school at check out.

Volunteers- Thanks for returning your Volunteer Forms. We're working on getting all the committees in order. Still want to get involved? You can contact a Committee Chair (names and contact information are located on the next page) or send me an e-mail and we can talk about what might be the right committee for you. Remember, it's never too late to volunteer.

Committee Chairs- We are still looking for Committee Chairs for the Hopewell Festival. We've had some parents volunteer as co-chairs but we still need some more help.

Our Fall Social is scheduled to be held on Friday, October 23th from 7-8:30pm. We have some parents working hard to make the night a success. Keep your eyes out for volunteer forms and admission sheets. It's a fun night for kids and parents alike. Grab your favorite costume and come on out!!

One More Thing- This is my third year, and last, as President. According to our by-laws, the next President must be on the PTA Board for this school year in order to serve as President next year. The clock is ticking. If you are interested, you can email me or come to our next meeting.

Our next PTA Meeting is on Wednesday, October 7th at 9:30am in the school cafeteria. We'd love to see you there. Remember, young children are always welcome.

Happy Autumn,
Jennifer Philipp
PTA President, jenniferphilipp06@gmail.com

Committee Chairs 2015-2016

- **Book Fair:** Thinzar Aung (thinzarkyi@gmail.com)
Madi Capoccia (madicap12@gmail.com)
- **BoxTops and Campbells Labels:**
Tiffany Hrinkovich (tiffanyhrinkovich@yahoo.com)
- **Copy Room:** Stephanie Jeitner (gerjeitner@gmail.com)
- **Directory:** Kerry Ross (kross11975@yahoo.com)
- **Family Social:** Tiffany Gyuricsko (tiffanygyuricsko@gmail.com)
Melissa Moffatt (melissaj13@gmail.com)
- **Holiday Open House:** Carla Stock (stocksonsunside@yahoo.com)
Jennifer Hedden (plzmindthegap@ptd.net)
- **Hopewell Festival:**
- **Teacher Appreciation:** Kelly Renquist (kellyr23@ptd.net)
Elaine Thode (elainethode@hotmail.com)
Vanessa Mackey (vbgmackey@gmail.com)
- **Yearbook:** Tricia Kutt (tkutty0327@gmail.com)
- **Hopewell Habitat:** Monica Scheinler (monicadee@mac.com)



A Message from the Principal...

Dear Hopewell families:

Welcome to October! I hope your family has settled into a regular “back to school” routine that supports your child’s academic, social and emotional success. We’re looking forward to a number of upcoming October events. I hope you’ll find the following information useful:

In the beginning of each month, we’ll send home a monthly PTA newsletter. Please take time to read the Hopewell Happenings as we’ll attempt to share our previous month’s highlights and identify upcoming events.

Please check out the Southern Lehigh School District website at slds.org. Our website is another source for up-to-date school district and school information. On the related links you'll find parent and student resources, the elementary curriculum, library information, PTA updates, our school lunch menu, the parent - student handbook, and transportation information (including green slips). You can also "Like" Southern Lehigh School District on Facebook!

Our food service department will send home a monthly lunch menu. On the opposite side of each school menu is a monthly Hopewell calendar of events which identifies school-wide or grade level events. Individual classroom activities will be communicated through your child's teacher.

Please check your child's book bag daily for information that comes home from your child's teacher or the Hopewell office. If we're asking for papers to be signed and returned, we ask you to please send them back the next school day.

Our next PTA meeting is Weds. October 7th at 9:30 AM in the school cafeteria. We had a great turnout at our first meeting. We hope to see you again! Please bring another Hopewell parent with you. Now that we're up and running for a month some of our needs are better identified and we always need more help.

Thank you Giant shoppers! Do you shop at Giant Supermarket? You may register your Giant bonus card to help us earn cash back for our school. Log on to: GiantFoodStores.com/aplus and enter the 5 digit ID code: 03403 for Hopewell Elementary School in Center Valley, PA. Please make Hopewell School in Center Valley your school of choice.

Hopewell School Picture Day is scheduled with Christmas City Studio on Tues., October 6th. Order forms have already been sent home with your child. Order forms must be completed and paid for in advance. Please call the office if you need another order form.

Parent Visitation Day is scheduled for Tuesday, October 20th between the hours of 9:30AM – 10:30AM and 1:30 – 2:30PM. Parents are welcome to enter and exit your child's classroom at any time between the hours listed. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate non school-age children for this activity. Parents will be asked to sign in and wear a visitor badge. An announcement will be made at the conclusion of each session for parents to exit the building at 10:30AM and at 2:30PM. **Please silence all cell phones.**

Our **Halloween Parade** is scheduled for Friday, October 30th @ 2:00 PM. Please note that costumes may not include any type of weapon. Even look-alike weapons are prohibited on school property. This is a fun Hopewell tradition therefore your cooperation is appreciated. If rain or wet pavements force us to cancel the parade, a notice will be posted by noon on the Hopewell website. Let's hope for good weather since the parade cannot be rescheduled. Please note that student classroom celebrations are for our students only and classroom volunteers that have been pre-arranged by the classroom teacher. All classroom volunteers must be on the district's approved Volunteer List.

October is **National Bullying Prevention Month**. We'll be sharing short lessons and activities on bullying prevention in each class throughout the month. In addition, there will be an announcement each week made by a student that focuses on bullying and being kind to others.

School Volunteers:

Please note a few times during our school year, classroom celebrations are planned for our students. A designated number of homeroom and PTA volunteers are established in advance. Volunteers are scheduled on a rotational, as-needed basis to assist for these activities or on field trips. Volunteer links may be found on our website @ slsd.org → District Home Page→Quick Links→Volunteer Information. Required clearances are listed below:

- [FBI Fingerprint Clearance](#) or receipt indicating registration ID# (**Only the PA Department of Education version will be accepted**) or [Volunteer Residency Certification Form](#) (for residents residing in district 10+ yrs.)
- Act 34: PA State Police Request for Criminal History Check
<http://www.epatch.state.pa.us>
- Act 151: PA Child Abuse History Clearance – Obtain form at
<https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home>
- Act24 – PDE Arrest/Conviction Form (available online @slsd.org)

AM Parent drop-off: In an attempt to keep bus traffic and car traffic separate, the drop off time for students arriving by CAR is between 8:40 AM and 8:50 AM on Bowood St. Car traffic should not pull into the bus lanes. Your cooperation is needed to help avoid traffic congestion on Hopewell Road. Staff are on duty during student arrival to direct traffic and assist. Please pull forward near the painted walkway so several cars may unload at a time. Parents are asked to remain in their cars and have students ready to unload so this process moves safely and timely.

PM Parent drop off: PM kindergarten starts at 12:54 PM. Parent drop off is 12:45 – 12:50 in the circle outside out front door. Students should report directly to the cafeteria and will be escorted by homeroom to their class.

Attendance: Absence excuses must be submitted within three school days of each absence or the absence will be considered unexcused. Please be aware that under a recent update to the PA School Code **all students are limited to 10 days of cumulative absences per school year**. After 10 days of cumulative absence, a physician's excuse may be required for each subsequent absence. *Parents will receive written notification any time a child reaches 10 days of cumulative absences.*

Tardy to school: All students arriving after the 9 AM start time (or 12:54 PM for afternoon kindergarten) must have a parent or guardian escort them into the building and sign them into school. Please address time management issues at home so your child arrives on time – when your child arrives late it puts them into a “catch up mode” with their classmates and this can create unnecessary stress for your child.

Birthday invitations may not be distributed in school unless your child is inviting all members of the class. We no longer celebrate birthdays with any form of edible treats due to serious food allergies that exist in many of our students.

Student foot attire: Footwear such as Heely's or other rolling shoes are not permitted in school. Shoes that tie, buckle, snap or fit securely around the foot are preferred for school day activities. Sneakers are needed on the days your child has physical education class.

Casual for a Cause: Each Friday, Hopewell staff dress Casual for a Cause. Some of the important foundations we've supported throughout the years are American Cancer Society, United Way, Retinal research, camp scholarships, local families in need, Veterans, Autism Awareness, Down's Syndrome, Kidney Foundation, Costumes for a Cause, Jump Rope for a Heart. If you have ideas or causes you'd like us to support you are welcome to bring it to our attention. We have a very giving staff!

Have a great month and enjoy the beautiful colors October brings!

Ms. Limpar

Hopewell Principal



October calendar of events:

- 10/3:** SLSD Family Fun Day @ Hausman Fruit Farm
- 10/5:** Fire Prevention week: demos will occur at
HW School courtesy of Upper Saucon Fire Dept.
- 10/5:** Spirit Day: Wear Blue for National Bullying Prevention Month
- 10/6:** School Picture Day – Smile! ☺10AM-5PM
- 10/7:** PTA meeting 9:30 AM
- 10/9 and 10/12:** NO SCHOOL / teacher in-service days
- 10/20:** Parent Visitation Day (9:30 – 10:30AM and 1:30 – 2:30PM)
- 10/23:** PTA Fall Social 7:00-8:30PM (HW students only- parents must accompany all children)
- 10/30:** Halloween Parade @ 2:00 PM (weather permitting) Students may bring (not wear) costumes to school for our parade
Spirit Day: Wear fall colors Orange and Black
(AM Kindergarten Parade is scheduled for 10:45 AM)

****CARES trait of the month: Self-Discipline****

October is Bus Safety Awareness Month!

Please review Hopewell School's Bus Responsibilities and Dismissal Procedures

Each day at 3:30PM, we dismiss our students to our school buses by their grade level. We start with Kindergarten, then dismiss First Grade, then Second Grade, and finish with Third Grade.

Students are expected to board the school bus with kindergarten filling in the front seats, students in grades 1 and 2 sitting somewhere near the middle, and grade 3 sitting somewhere near the back of the bus.

There's an assigned school staff member who reports to each school bus every day at dismissal and serves as our part of our Dismissal Team.

Each day, before the bus pulls away, our Dismissal Team reviews the following bus safety expectations with all students on each bus:

- 1) Students are expected to report to their assigned seating area and remain in that same seat until the bus arrives at their designated stop. Students may never get off at another bus stop without a green slip completed by the parent.
- 2) Students are expected to sit safely on their bottoms and face forward at all times.
- 3) Students are responsible for keeping their hands, feet and objects to themselves and not touch or take other's belongings. Students may not reach into the seat in front of them or behind them for any reason.
- 4) Students may not do homework on the bus. All pens, pencils and markers must be kept in book bags for student safety and to not encourage writing on bus seats.
- 5) Students may speak quietly to the person they share a seat with using words that make others feel comfortable, not uncomfortable. No teasing, name calling or making fun of anyone is allowed. We need to explain this to children as they often report back they were "just kidding." Be a "Bucket - Filler, not a Bucket - Dipper!"
- 6) No eating, drinking or chewing gum is permitted on any bus. Some of our students have severe allergic reactions to certain foods. Please explain this to your children.
- 7) No student has the right to tell another student where they can or cannot sit. Assigning seats is the responsibility of the bus driver, teachers, dismissal team or principal.
- 8) Students are expected to follow the bus driver's directions at all times. When a student violates the bus driver's rules and expectations, the bus driver will complete a bus referral form to the office and the parent will be notified. The child may receive an assigned seat as a consequence for misbehavior until the bus driver sees a change in student behavior. They may even lose their bus riding privilege for a period of time.
- 9) Students are encouraged to worry about their own words and actions and make sure they are "Being Nice, and Being Safe" at all times. When boys and girls try to be helpful and involve themselves in situations that are not their concern, it tends to escalate rather than de-escalate the situation.

- 10) Students are encouraged to use problem solving language to resolve issues that involve them on the bus: "Stop it, I don't like it, Leave me alone, I'm not going to let you bother me, If you keep doing that I'm going to tell the bus driver." If their words do not solve the problem, the child should report their concern immediately to the bus driver so their seat can be moved.
- 11) Students should be discouraged from sitting three to a seat unless absolutely necessary. Some students with behavior, sensory, attention and impulsivity issues should NEVER sit three to a seat. The bus driver and dismissal team staff will scan the bus and separate students who may not be able to sit together safely.

We would appreciate if you'd have a regular discussion with your child about the importance of safe bus behavior and discuss the above student responsibilities with your child.



Newsletter Submissions

Please e-mail submissions to kangney@rcn.com **by the 20th of each month.**

*All submissions are subject to approval by Ms. Limpar.