

Hopewell Happenings

January 2017



PTA President's Message

Monthly SHOUT OUT: Thank you to Stacey Hostetter and Elaine Thode for organizing a wonderful holiday breakfast and raffle for the teachers and staff. Thank you to all the volunteers who made or donated items.

Thank you Eileen Crawford and Dawn Resch for coordinating the Hopewell Ornament.

Thanks to all who were a great help in making our Annual Holiday Open House a success; Melissa Mofatt who organized the vendors, Jennifer Hedden who coordinated the delicious breakfast, Tiffany Gyuricsko photo with Santa, Shauna Werling for setting up volunteers, Avani Shah helped co-chair penguin patch, and all our parent & teacher volunteers. Also, our decoration committee did a great job- Nicole Emery, Dawn Resch, Renee D'Amico and Sasha Lees.

Our playground committee (Jennifer Hedden & Melissa Mofatt) did an outstanding job organizing the purchase of two new pieces for our playground.

HELP WANTED

- Co-chair for the Spring Festival. If you are interested please contact Tara Moyer moyermom5@gmail.com or Carla Stock carlastock10@yahoo.com
- Someone to run the PTA Valentine Carnation Sale
- A PTA treasurer for Fall 2017-2019



Message from PTA Vice President/Fundraising Dawn Resch:

*Please remember to register your Giant bonus card on Giant A+ on www.giantfoodstores.com. You can choose up to two schools. Please choose **Hopewell Elementary in Center Valley (ID # 23403)**. This does not affect your gas or savings on your bonus card in any way. We currently have 111 parents registered.

*Please consider shopping on www.smile.amazon.com Just register with your regular amazon log-in information and choose **Hopewell Elementary PTA** as your charitable organization.

*The **Yankee Candle Fundraiser** closes on **January 11**. Please visit www.yankeecandlefundraising.com and shop with Hopewell Elementary PTA's code: **990103202**.

Save the Date: Family Fun Day at the **Ironpigs** for Southern Lehigh Elementary Schools will be on **Saturday, June 10th** and there will be fireworks that night!

Join us at our next PTA meeting, **Wednesday, January 4th at 2:30 p.m.** or visit the monthly meeting minutes on slds.org under Hopewell PTA. Stay in the loop through Facebook please like us [HOPEWELL PTA](#)



Until next month,
Carla Stock -PTA President
carlastock10@yahoo.com

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A Note From Our Principal

Hello Hopewell families:

Happy New Year and welcome to 2017! I hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday and wish you good health and good fortune in the coming year.

Thank you! The Hopewell Staff would like to thank all Hopewell families who contributed to the Holiday Teacher Appreciation Breakfast that was prepared for us on December 13th. What a great way to begin our day. It's rare that our whole faculty sits down at the same time and shares a meal - we appreciate it so much!

Hopewell's Giving Tree: I'd like to offer a sincere thank you to all families who helped support our Giving Tree. Each year our goal is to assist families in need or those experiencing a temporary setback. Thank you for helping us achieve our goal! With your assistance and Hopewell's Casual for a Cause Fridays, we were able to assist 13 Hopewell families. We hope we made their Christmas a little brighter! We're very fortunate to live and work in such a giving community. Your generosity and support is greatly appreciated!

Recess reminder: Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for winter weather. Recess occurs daily throughout the winter, weather permitting. A shortened recess of 15 minutes or a 5 minute brisk walk may occur when the "real feel" temperature goes below 15 degrees. Please make sure your children have coats, hats, gloves and appropriate shoes for outside recess.

The following information is to clear up misinformation about Head Lice and provide information on proper treatment: Head lice is a common malady of school age children. It's an equal opportunity nuisance. It does not discriminate based on age, sex, hygiene, social class, etc. In fact, lice tend to prefer clean hair to dirty hair. Head lice are considered a nuisance, but not a health hazard.

Head lice are small insects about the size of a sesame seed. Lice are attracted to human hair and feed on blood by biting the scalp. They do not infest animals. They do not fly or jump. They are sometimes mistaken for dandruff, but lice are little white specks that are hard to remove from the hair shaft. Eggs, called nits, can be found at the nape of the neck and behind the ears. Lice can survive only a

limited amount of time off a human host. Lice can be spread by personal contact, sharing clothing, bedding, hair accessories etc. It can take up to two weeks for symptoms to occur (itchy scalp, redness, visible nits or eggs, or live lice). Since lice cannot fly or jump, they're typically spread by close head to head contact between a person with head lice to a person without head lice. Frequently, this happens as a result of sleepovers, sharing of helmets during sports, sharing of combs, hair ribbons, etc. Very rarely is head lice transferred from student to student in school. Many times when there are children with head lice a close outside connection can be determined. Research has shown it's not worthwhile for school nurses to screen students annually for head lice since it can occur at any time during the year. Therefore, the most proactive approach is asking parents to check their children's head regularly, especially before and after sleepovers and activities where sharing items and close head to head contact may occur.

Recent studies have shown that it's extremely rare for head lice to be acquired in school from another student. Studies have also shown that it's not necessary for children who have nits (eggs) to be excluded from school. Research has also shown that if there is no evidence of head lice, treatments such as NIX (or other pesticide containing treatments) should not be given. It has been documented that head lice are developing immunity to these treatments because the solutions are applied when they're not needed.

It's good practice to do head checks on your child as part of their routine hygiene and/or if you notice your child scratching their head. If you do notice evidence of head lice, you should notify any close contacts your child may have had (day care, parents of your child's friends or sleepover, sporting teams, scouts, and the school nurse.) By informing our school nurse, we can track the infestations and possibly find a commonality so the lice can be stopped.

There are a number of reputable web sites where you can find additional information on head lice. For further information, please refer to the CDC (Center of Disease Control) website on head lice: <http://www.cdc.gov/lice/head/factsheet.html> and the National Association of School Nurse's (NASN) position statement regarding head lice in school: <http://www.nasn.org/Default.aspx?tabid=237>.

Home Treatment: An over the counter medicated lice shampoo with a nit comb must be used. Please check the container for any precautions such as age or pregnancy. It's important to know that most lice shampoos kill only the live lice but do not kills the nits (the eggs that are attached to the hair). After shampooing, it will take a lot of combing with the fine-tooth comb to remove any active lice or nits (eggs). It's best to work on a small section of the hair at a time, starting at the scalp and continuing the full length of the hair. The infected person must be treated with the medicated lice shampoo before they return to work, school etc. All family members should be checked if there's a person in your family who's infested and those effected should all be treated at the same time. It's important to only treat those who have lice or nits visible otherwise the lice will build immunity. Continue to check daily for new lice or nits, and continue to use the nit comb daily. Do not re-medicate but remove nits or lice with nit comb or fingernails. **Treatment should be given again in 7 days** following the same procedures. The second treatment and the removal of all attached nits is of utmost important to avoid recurrence.

All bedding, coats, clothing and brushes or combs should be washed in HOT water. Furniture, floors, carpets and car seats should be vacuumed well, then dispose the vacuum cleaner bag. Anything that cannot be washed such as stuffed animals should be discarded or placed in plastic bags and sealed for two to three weeks.

If your child becomes infected, please notify our health room, your child's daycare or preschool or anyone that the infected person had close contact with. Early warning will help keep it from spreading to others. Please contact our school nurse, Mrs. Castetter @ 610-791-0200 X2560 if you have any questions regarding treatment.

Attendance: The PA school Code, 24 P.S. 13-1326, has identified that students may be excluded from school for the following lawful reasons: illness, family emergency, death of a family member, medical appointments, authorized school activities and pre-approved education travel. The statute identifies 10 cumulative absences as allowable during one school year. Please discuss this expectation with your child so they understand this statute at an early age. Parents are responsible for monitoring and managing their child's attendance.

Families who go beyond 10 days may be required to provide proof of attendance at a medical or judicial agency appointment per the Pennsylvania School Code.

The office must receive excuse slips validating the excuse within three days of the child returning to school. Please know that failure to produce a valid doctor or judicial agency excuse upon return to school will result in the recording of an unexcused absence. Unexcused absences from school are unlawful and in violation of Public School Code in the state of Pennsylvania. Failure to abide by the law could result in legal proceedings, fines, or sentence as determined by the magistrate.

Attendance impacts the success of children in school and it's our priority to ensure every child has the opportunity to learn to his/her fullest potential.

Arriving to school late: Please be advised that arriving to school late is not a good way for your child to start their day. An occasional late start due to a Dr. apt is always excused but children who chronically arrive after our 9AM start time are forced to start their day in a catch-up mode. This is detrimental to their education and a disruption to their educational environment. It also violates compulsory attendance laws.

Inclement weather reminder:

If your personal information changes, parents are asked to log onto the district website, click on the parent link, click on the Blackboard Connect tab, and update your address, phone and email information anytime your contact information changes. You must also notify the school office at 610-791-0200 and our transportation dept. at 610-282-3121 X 5301 whenever this information changes.

We ask that you have a discussion with your child about your family's inclement weather plan so they feel informed and know where to go. For working parents who need daycare arrangements in advance, please fill out the district's transportation "Green Sheet." This green sheet can be maintained in the school office and utilized for all weather-related early dismissals. We ask that you make childcare arrangements in advance. Hopewell only has three phone lines coming into the school and we must keep these lines open for communication from our central office. Our inclement weather memo is also located on our website. If you need an additional copy and cannot access our website please request one from our office.

Let's hope the weather cooperates with us this winter and that we have our snow days on weekends! Please note whenever the district closes, or opts for a late start or early dismissal the superintendent's decision is based upon numerous conversations with our transportation department. Student safety is always the determining factor.

We hope you have a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a wonderful New Year!

Ms. Limpar, Hopewell Principal

January dates to remember:

January 3rd: School resumes.

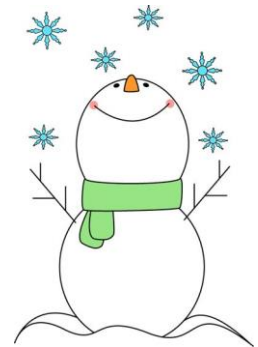
January 4th: PTA meeting @ 2:30 PM in Cafeteria

January 16th: Martin Luther King Holiday (School closed)

January 22nd: End of 2nd marking period

January 27th: Report cards distributed for K-6

January 27th: Pouncer PAL school-wide reward and Spirit Day - School wide BINGO /Wear your favorite sports team's shirt or logo



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.