

Hopewell Happenings



January 2016

PTA President's Message

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Happy 2016!!! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and had the chance to spend some time with friends and family over the break.

Thanks to Carla Stock, Jennifer Hedden and Tiffany Gyuricsko for chairing the Holiday Open House and Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 5th and to the volunteers who helped out that day. The food was amazing, the kids had the chance to get some special things for some special people and we were treated to a special visit by the big man in red!!!

As we mentioned last month, the **Hopewell PTA Facebook** page is back up and running! We welcome any Hopewell parents, guardians, faculty, staff, and administration to join, as this page will share great pictures and provide timely updates/reminders about events at the school. Search "Hopewell PTA" in Facebook to submit a request to join this page, and we look forward to growing this online community with you!

Time to Order your Hopewell Yearbook! Get your keepsake of memories for the 2015-2016 school year. **ON SALE NOW FOR \$20.** Please contact the office for additional forms and return to school with your payment. **Please make out checks to Hopewell PTA. CASH WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Please contact Tricia Kutt with questions at tkutty0327@gmail.com or [610-739-4859](tel:610-739-4859)

Please join us on **Wednesday, January 6th at 2:30p.m.** for our next PTA meeting. As always, small children are welcome.

Best Wishes for a wonderful New Year!!

Jennifer Philipp

PTA President

jenniferphilipp06@gmail.com

Hello Hopewell families:

Happy New Year and welcome to 2016! I hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday and wish you good health and good fortune in 2016.

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 18th. 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 9 Hopewell and Lower Milford 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 over 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 your 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. Once a person is treated with the medicated lice shampoo they may return to work, school etc. All family members should be checked if there's a person in your family who's infested and they should 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, 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. School districts and parents are held accountable for student attendance. Letters will be mailed out to families who go beyond the 10 day allowance notifying that future absences beyond the 10 days may require an excuse from a physician. Your cooperation with the PA code is necessary and appreciated. A copy of this mandate is available in the school office.

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 child 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.

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.

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. Parents may request additional copies of our inclement weather memo that's 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 and that student safety is always the determining factor.

Have a wonderful New Year!

Ms. Limpar, Hopewell Principal

January dates to remember:

January 4th: School resumes

January 6th: PTA meeting @ 2:30 PM in Cafeteria

January 18th: Martin Luther King Holiday (School closed)

January 22nd: End of 2nd marking period

January 29th: Report cards distributed for K-6

January 29th: CARES 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.