



Farragut Middle School

27 Farragut Avenue
Hastings-on-Hudson, New York 10706

Phone – 914-478-6230

Fax – 914-478-6314

<http://www.hastings.k12.ny.us>

A National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

FARRAGUT MIDDLE SCHOOL

February MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

E-Mail addresses / Telephone Numbers

Ms. Kipper, <i>Principal</i>	kipperg@hastings.k12.ny.us478-6230
Ms. McGivney, <i>Assistant Principal</i>	mcgivneyh@hastings.k12.ny.us478-6321
Ms. Hocherman, <i>5th Grade Team Coordinator</i> ...	hochermana@hastings.k12.ny.us478-6230
Ms. Richman, <i>6th Grade Team Coordinator</i> ...	richmanb@hastings.k12.ny.us478-6230
Mr. Shapiro, <i>7th Grade Team Coordinator</i>	shapiros@hastings.k12.ny.us478-6230
Ms. Jo McGrath, <i>8th Grade Team Coordinator</i>	scimcgrath@hastings.k12.ny.us478-6230
Ms. Gigantino, <i>Support Team Coordinator</i>	gigantinoc@hastings.k12.ny.us478-6230

Please dial - 478 extension first on numbers listed below.

E-mail addresses can be found on the district web-site

Department Chairs

Art – Mr. Merchant - 6312
Technology – Jeff Rosof - 6230
Foreign Language - Ms. DeRubeis, - 6230
Health & Phys. Education – Mr. Fennel, - 6240
Language Arts - Dr. Mahony, - 6298
Mathematics – Mr. Stephens, - 6294
Music – Mr. Rubino, - 6312
Related Arts - Ms. Coren, - 6299
Science – Mr. Markus - 6237
Social Studies - Mr. Buchanan – 6292
Athletic Director – Mr. Merchant – 6241
Athletic Office - Ms. Usher - 6241
Sports Schedules – 6245

Other Important Numbers

MS Office – Ms. Sassano - 6230
Ms. Dayton/Ms. Avila –6230/6231
Nurses –Ms. O'Loughlin / Ms. Cipollina– 6225
Attendance - 6223
Director of Special Ed. – Ms. Augarten - 6261
Psychologist - Dr. Samet, - 6264
Guidance Office - Ms. Percoski - 6228
5/8 Guidance Counselor - Ms. Perez 6256
6/7 Guidance Counselor - Ms. Horowitz 6227
Social Worker - Ms. Menendez - 6415
Social Worker – Ms. Repp – 8th Grade 6246

FMS NEWSLETTER – February 2010

February, 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We can look forward to a number of exciting events which have been planned for February. The monthly calendar should be helpful to you and your family as you plan your busy schedules.

As always, thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Gail Kipper

Gail Kipper



Early Release Days – 1:00p.m.

The following 1:00p.m. - Early Release Days remain for this school year:

February 3, March 10, April 21, and May 19. Please have arrangements made for your child(ren) to be released at this time.

Note: Lunchtime schedules for the above dates are:

Grades 5/6 – Period 6 – 10:55a.m. – 11:25a.m.; Grades 7/8 -11:28a.m. – 11:58a.m.

Board of Education Meetings

The Board of Education meetings and topics for the month of February are:

February 8th – Superintendent's Budget

February 22nd – Budget – Non Instruction

PTSA Used Book Fair – at Hillside School

The **PTSA's Annual Used Book Fair** will take place on **Wednesday, February 24th** and **Thursday, February 25th** in honor of "March as Reading Month". Your donations of used books are greatly appreciated. Donation boxes are located in each school. Thank you.

The Sixth Grade Begins Invention Dimension

Students have begun the Invention Dimension research project, a nationally recognized, longstanding tradition in sixth grade. Students have selected an "invention" from the ancient world to study in the coming months as they are taught relevant research skills in both language arts and social studies classes. At the end of the process, by early May, students will write about their findings in a formal report and complete a creative project. Each student is assigned to a "mentor" teacher (either their language arts or their social studies teacher) who will follow their progress and assess their work. Families can find more information about this project including a calendar and links to download relevant documents on the Sixth Grade Team page of the district website.

To access this page, go to <http://hastings.k12.ny.us>. Select FMS; then "Classroom Webpages"; then "directory"; then "group pages"; then "teams"; then select "Sixth Grade Team." Once the new website is launched, it will be possible to locate the "directory" on the FMS page.

For questions about your child's progress on this project, contact your child's language arts or social studies teacher. For general information, contact Barbara Richman, Team Coordinator.

Barbara Richman
Social Studies Teacher
Sixth Grade Team Coordinator

Arts Extravaganza

The 7th annual **Arts Extravaganza** is scheduled for **May 28, 2010**. Many community artists shared their talents last year with the 8th grade class. This event proved to be a huge success.

If you are interested in participating please contact Ezra Elliott at: www.elliott@hastings.k12.ny.us

Career Day – March 26, 2010 – 1:30p.m. – 2:45p.m.

The **Annual Career Day** is scheduled for the afternoon of **March 26, 2010**. Last year community members shared information about their profession with our 8th grade students. This event has become a tradition in the middle school. If you are interested, and would like to participate in this wonderful experience, please contact Mr. Romeo Spiniello, Home and Career Skills teacher, by e-mailing at spiniellor@hastings.k12.ny.us. Thank you.

National Geographic Bee

This year's National Geographic Bee took place at FMS in January. Students in grades 5-8 participated in the initial rounds in their social studies classes. Students who received a score of 7 out of 7 on the classroom rounds qualified to participate in the school semi-finals.

They were: Andrea Russo (5), Jenny (Chae-aun) Ahn (5), Declan Sava (5), Paola Luchsinger (6), Jordan Harding (6), Kate Gouran (6), Leila Hirschfeld (7), Gabe Pincus (8), Jesse Litvin (8), Matthew Hopkins (8), Mchael Akopian (8), Daisy Mitchell (8), and Miles Lewis (8).

This year, we are pleased to note that students from all four grades participated. Only four students made the tiebreaker round. Our four finalists were: Paola, Jesse, Matthew, and Michael.

The winner this year was Michael Akopian. Matthew Hopkins took second place. Michael will be taking a written multiple choice test supplied by National Geographic. Successful performance will qualify him to compete in Albany at the end of March. The National Competition will be on May 25 and May 26 and is aired on the National Geographic Cable TV Channel. Check local listing for the schedule. Students interested in geography can go to the National Geographic website to brush up on their knowledge and participate in a daily quiz. <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee/>

Winter Recess

Reminder, our winter recess will begin on Monday, February 15th. Students will return to school on Monday, February 22nd. Enjoy the break!



Enc: February Calendar, PTSA Newsletter

The 7th and 8th Grades at Farragut Middle School Proudly Present

The 25th Annual Putnam County **SPELLING BEE**

LOGAINNE SCHWARTZANDGRUBENIERRE

Half Jewish, with two gay dads, she gives new meaning to the term underdog.

OLIVE OSTROVSKY

Her parents are AWOL. Her dictionary is her best friend. And, if it would be ok with everyone else, she'd really kind of like to snag the big trophy.

WILLIAM BARFEE

A finalist in last year's Bee, he was disqualified for a health-related incident.

MARCY PARK

She made it to ninth place in Nationals, speaks six languages, plays rugby, hockey and multiple instruments, and sleeps three hours a night.

LEAF CONEBEAR

He's not sure about making friends or making the grade, but making his own clothes is a snap.

CHIP TOLENTINO

Last year's Putnam County champ is beginning to learn the ups and downs (and *ups*) of puberty.



7pm

Friday, February 5th

Saturday, February 6th

Hastings High School Auditorium

\$8/adults \$5/students free for senior citizens

February 2010

Farragut Middle School

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 A 3:15- Team Coord. 3:00- Chair Council	2 B Summer Leadership Assemblies Gr. 5-7	3 C 1:00 Dismissal 1:15- Staff Dev.	4 D 1:30- Guidance Meeting 3:30- CAC Mtg.	5 E <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">7:00p.m. - Gr. 7/8 Musical</div>	6
7	8 F 2:00- Advisory 8:00- BOE Mtg.	9 A 3:15- BLT Mtg.	10 B 3:15- HTA Mtg.	11 C 7:30a.m.- Gr. 8 Parent Meeting 1:30- Guidance Meeting 3:30- SDC Mtg.	12 D	13
14	15 President's day School Closed	16	17	18	19	20
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; width: 100%;">Mid-Winter Recess</div>						
21	22 E 2:00- Advisory 3:30- HTA Exec. Bd. Mtg 8:00- BOE Mtg.	23 F 3:30- Community Leaders Grp.	24 A 3:15- Gr. 5-8 Team Meeting <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">PTSA Used Book Fair</div>	25 B 1:30- Guidance Meeting 3:30- MCHS Sp. Ed./Art/Music/PE/ WL/ESL	26 C	27
28						

HAVE A RESTFUL WINTER RECESS

HARLEM WIZARDS WOW HASTINGS

No, the Hastings Hotshots did not upset the Harlem Wizards at their October 24, 2009 basketball game, held at the Cochran Gymnasium at Hastings High School. But the Hastings team helped to raise over \$4,000 for the PTSA.

The Wizards, known for their Tricks, Hoops and Alley-Oops, did not disappoint the crowd of over 600 Hastings parents and kids. The players showed off their skills on the basketball court and in a series of humorous skits, led by the outgoing and affable Dwayne "Swoop" Simpson, a 6'7" forward. At halftime, the Wizards held a contest in which a group of children competed to catch the most consecutive passes. After the game, the Wizards met the kids and signed autographs.

The Hotshots were coached by Hillside art teacher Nate "The Great" Morgan, who has been dutifully studying films of the Wizards since Hastings lost to the Wizards in 2007. Mr. Morgan's players included Superintendent Bob "The Enforcer" Shaps, Hillside Principal Laura "Sweet Feet" Sullivan, Hillside Assistant Principal Brent "All Net" Harrington, Athletic Director "Jammin'" Jesse Merchant, Hillside aide Maureen "Mighty Mo" Bassman, guidance counselor Jocelyn "Trash Talk" Perez and teachers Stefanie "Don't Me with Me" Denison, Kristen "The Piston" Kumar, Dennis "The Menace" Kiely and Romeo "The Spinmeister" Spiniello. Representing the parents was Marek "Fast Break" Fuchs. The Hotshots performed gamely, scoring on a variety of jumpshots and lay-ups, although when the Wizards offered them ten (and later twenty) points for scoring a basket within one minute, the pressure was too much and they did not convert.

The PTSA would like to thank the Wizards, the

Hotshots and all of the fans who came to the game and bought Wizards memorabilia. The money raised enables the PTSA to support grants for teachers, scholarships for students and various programs throughout the school year.

PALS RETURNS TO HILLSIDE!

With great enthusiasm we are pleased to announce that PALS (Playground Assistant LinkS) will be back at Hillside at the end of January, sponsored by the Hastings PTSA! The PALS program was created by Donna Hart and Julie Kuhn several years ago and piloted at Hillside School with terrific success. The PALS program places college interns on the playground during recess with the purpose of addressing and reducing issues such as bullying and social isolation, while promoting conflict resolution, making and sustaining friendships, and engaging in games and social interactions.

There are four interns from SUNY Purchase who will be at Hillside this year: Brittney VanDyke, Jana Rosenthal, Natalia Soto, and Virginia Stromberg. They are a diverse group of students with excellent references who are eager to meet and play with all of the children at Hillside. They are mindful that recess can be a stressful time for children who may be struggling with social skill issues or for children who are shy and have difficulty engaging with others during this unstructured period of the day.

The PALS will participate in a weekly supervision session to address concerns and issues that come up. Supervision will be provided by our local Youth Advocate, Jennifer Conte, who will act as the liaison between the PALS program and the Hillside School. For more information about the program, please contact Jenny Conte at (914) 478-3400 Ext 647 or jconte@hastingsgov.org.

PTSA FUNDS SPEAKER FOR HS ASSEMBLY

Each year the PTSA is pleased to provide grants to fund projects which enrich the learning experience for our students and teachers. The project should supplement the curriculum in some way by providing materials or resources not covered in the school budget.

In October 2009, at the request of Dr. Michael Mahony, chairman of the English Department, the PTSA funded a grant to bring in a speaker from the Innocence Project as part of the high school's Academic Field Day. The Innocence Project works to use DNA evidence to exonerate wrongfully convicted men and women. Alan Newton was sent to jail in 1985, convicted of rape, robbery and assault charges. The Innocence Project was instrumental in finding the evidence that had been mislaid in the District Attorney's office, and post-conviction DNA testing then proved that Newton was not the perpetrator of this crime. After 21 years in jail, Newton was exonerated July 6, 2006.

Alan's talk to the students started with a summary of his ordeal and was followed by a question-answer session with students. The one problem was that there was not enough time for all students to ask questions -- there were just too many questions for the 45 minutes set aside. Students found Alan's life and his struggle with his conviction to be a moving testimony to the resilience of the human spirit. Alan answered questions about what life was like in prison (a struggle to stay focused with hope of exoneration); how he spent his time (locked up for most of the day in his cell, eventually learning about law through all the petitions he made for evidence to exonerate him); and what his plans were now (he is going to law school starting next year). The students gave Alan a standing ovation that lasted a few minutes. Afterwards, several stayed after school to talk to him one-on-one. The PTSA is proud to have been part of

this moving experience for the high-school students. Teachers interested in applying for a grant can submit the forms found on the PTSA section of the school's website to Diana Jaeger (River234@aol.com).

GREEN SCHOOL SUPPLIES!

For the first time, the Hastings-on-Hudson PTSA ran a school supply fundraiser, but with a twist: we sold green products! We paired with Green My Locker, a small company founded by two Westchester mothers, and offered school supply packages to first through fourth graders. The products were made from recycled materials whenever possible, and they came from countries with fair labor practices. Helping to make the event even greener were our terrific Hillside teachers, who pared down the supply lists as much as possible, both minimizing waste and reducing the cost to our families. The students placed their orders in June 2009, and when they arrived at Hillside on the first day of school in September, they found their own package of fabulous green supplies.

We heard only praise from students, parents, teachers and administrators about the quality of the supplies and the ease of buying. As this was our pilot year for this fundraiser, we had no idea how popular it would be. To our wonderful surprise, roughly one half of the students participated! We were so successful that we were able to offer discounted supply packages to those who needed financial help, and the Hastings Youth Council donated supply packages to other Hastings families in need.

We will run this fundraiser again this spring for Hillside and we are exploring running it for our Middle School as well. Thank you all for your enormous support.

More Information available

The Innocence Project

www.innocenceproject.org

Green My Locker

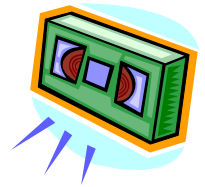
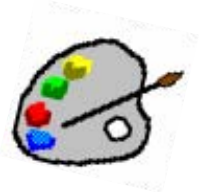
www.greenmylocker.com

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING WITH THE PTSA? CONTACT BARRON LERNER AT BHL5@columbia.edu. PLEASE WATCH FOR OUR NEW WEBSITE, COMING SOON!

THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL HASTINGS PTSA USED BOOK FAIR AT HILLSIDE

In honor of *March is Reading Month*,
the Hastings PTSA is collecting the following:

Baby/Toddler/Children's Books
Adult Fiction & Nonfiction Books
SAT/AP/Regents Exam Review Books
(no textbooks please)
Cooking/Gardening/Craft Books
Fine Arts Books
Board Games and Jigsaw Puzzles
G-Rated Audio & Video Tapes/DVDs/CDs
E-Rated Video Games



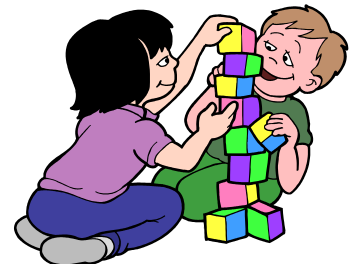
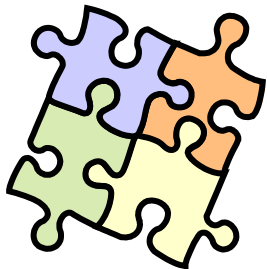
Items can be dropped off from
January 19 until **February 12** at the Main Office of any school.

Hillside Elementary School
120 Lefurgy Avenue

Farragut Middle School
27 Farragut Avenue

Hastings High School
1 Mount Hope Boulevard

Collected items will then be sold at:



THE HASTINGS PTSA USED BOOK FAIR

in the Hillside Small Gym

Wednesday, February 24th
8:30am ~ 4:30pm

Thursday, February 25th
8:30am ~ 4:30pm & 6:00pm ~ 8:30pm

**ONE
MONTH
EARLIER**

**PTSA Logo Wear
will be on sale!!!**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

for set-up on Tuesday, February 23, from 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
and also during any time and any day of the fair.

If interested, please contact Becca Mudge at 478-2649 (bamudge@msn.com)
or Donna Laing at 478-5788 (dhml1958@yahoo.com).