



The Hotline

The Harris Hill PTA newsletter for the Harris Hill Community

November 15, 2002

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<http://www.harrishillpta.org>

PTA
everychild.one voice.

Spooktacular was a Screaming Time!

Thanks to a group of generous and creative high school students lead by P. Reynolds , we enjoyed the addition of a haunted room. Yes, it was too scary for some and, yet, long overdue for others. It was a definite highlight of the evening. Also a special thanks to Iveth Reynolds for the support she gave the crew during the event.

Congratulations to this year's winners of the Halloween Spooktacular contest!! Principal Nelson, Mr. Solomon, and Mary Jo Wells judged the 7:00 p.m. contest. The winners were as follows:

- Funniest:** L. Klintworth,, a laundry basket, from Mrs. McNeil's class
- Scariest:** M. Vick, a witch with a doll witch, from Mrs. Wostl's class
- Most Original:** L. Silver, as spaghetti and meatballs, from Mrs. Shares' class
- Best:** L. Morris, as a Dr. Seus book, from Mrs. Shares' class

Mary Jo Wells, Fran Palma, and Janice Tornatore judged the 8:30 p.m. contest. The winners were as follows:

- Funniest:** A. Hess, a baby, from Ms. McDonald's class
- Scariest:** C. Hurley, a headless horseman, from Mrs. Harrison's class
- Most Original:** A. Guest, an M&M jar, from Mrs. Coughlin's class
- Best:** J. Vick, a cup of sodapop, from Mrs. McDonald's class

A special thanks to the following:

- Those who helped organize and execute the Spooktacular: Dawn D'Agostino, Laura Simon, Lisa Drete, Patty and Dennis Carroll, Marcia Vick, Donna & Paul Hess, and Laurie Owens
- Vicky and Tom Hines for handling all of the ticket sales during the event.
- Dorie and Elizabeth Jennings for another year of face painting fun.
- Carolyn Robbins for making all of the ticket boxes.
- Carl and Debbie Hotto for the corn stalks used in the haunted room and all of the other help they gave throughout the event.
- Mike Walker for loaning and setting up the palm reader's tent.

A huge thanks goes out to all of those who volunteered during the event: Ruth Aranov, Monica Argento, Paula Arvan, Johanna Bartlett, Barb Baumer, Jackie Beckerman, Nancy Catarisano, Laura Chase, Sandy Crance, Karen Cross, Meghan Dillon, Kathy Dudek, Terri Ercole, Sue Giuseppetti, Amy Hartman, Carla Herbst, Kristin Hewitt, Joanne Jaffe, Lori Joensen, Diane La-watsch, Carol Malone, Patty Marks, Carol Moriarty, Brigitte Nikolevski, Mary O'connell, Greg Owens, Terri Petrino, Steve Possanza, Susan Regruit, Beth Rogers, Barbara and Sara Ross, Theresa Sarkis-Kruz, Amy Sollie, Sue Sugnet, Ellen Swanger, Cara Vandermallie, Trisha Van-huff, Sue Vercruysse, Ann Wall, Mary Ann Walter. And a special thanks to Girl Scout Troop 812.

Diana Hetzke

Important Dates

- Nov 18- SDM Meeting
- Nov 19- BOE meeting
- Nov. 20 - Half-Day
- Nov 20- Roller Skating Party
- Nov 27-29 Thanksgiving recess

Update your calendars
December PTA meeting has been cancelled. Next Meeting is scheduled for January 8th, 2003.

Next Hotline deadline:
November 22nd

Type up or give us your article on a PC diskette, labeled with your name and we'll return it to you once when we're done!
You may drop off your articles or diskette in the Hotline mailbox, (located in the school copy room!)
Or you can e-mail them to hotline@harrishillpta.org

Editors:
Barb McKinley
Carole Nasra



A letter from your PTA President

Dear Parents,

More than two months have gone by since the start of school. So far it has been a busy and productive time for our school and our PTA.

We are pleased to tell you that we have achieved our goal of 10% increase in our membership compared to last year. Your support has made this possible! Thank you! Your personal approach to this involvement in our children's education will be making a difference.

This past week-end we had the pleasure to represent our PTA at the New York State Annual Convention. It is truly empowering to meet teachers, mothers, fathers, Board of Education members, Superintendents from all across New York State who drove or flew to Rochester. All of them came for one purpose and that is the betterment of our children's education. Being part of this annual event gave us another perspective of what it is like to be a member of an organization that is more than 100 years old.

For more than 100 years PTA has advocated that Parents and Teachers are equally responsible and partners in our children's education. Now more than ever, PTA is taking the lead in promoting the value of parental involvement. We are a strong supporter of this mission because we are already involved in our children's education. Again we thank you! Our involvement starts here by reading this newsletter, helping out in the classroom, running a booth at any one of our events, helping our children with homework or simply encouraging them. There are hundreds of ways to be involved, even if you are a busy parent with a full time job. We all know it, we practice it every day. But why PTA? Why not another Parent Organization? PTA is THE organization looking at the big picture on a National level. It is THE Organization lobbying for what we believe in. We all want to be part of this big picture. In November, we voted on Election Day because we want to be part of this big picture. In May we get involved again in the big picture by voting on school budgets and Board of Education members. We believe in public education and we want our voice to be heard. So for the price of one Happy Meal per year (\$3.50) from each one of us, we will make sure that what we care for is acted on when it comes to legislations. Consider it a bargain, an investment in our children's education.

Sincerely,
Carole Nasra
 Harris Hill PTA, President

Penfield Special Education Association (PSEA)
 is pleased to announce an informative meeting for families,
 teachers and administrators.

Special Education and the Law
presented by
Joyce Berkowitz, esq.
Attorney specializing in Special Education Law

Wednesday, January 8, 2003
 7:00 - 9:00 PM
 Penfield High School Commons

A time for questions and answers will follow the presentation
 For more information Contact Glenda Bondy (218-4175)
 or Liza Theuman (377-2170)



Harris Hill Kids Care Club Update

Wow! We were very successful with our birdhouse project in October. We made approximately 50 birdhouses and we have raised \$520.00 so far for Flower City Habitat for Humanity School HouseBuild 2003. We will also be donating 5 birdhouses to Habitat for Humanity to give as housewarming gifts to their families. Look on the "Walk the Talk" bulletin board in the cafeteria for some action pictures of our October project.

Thank you to all the children that helped pound nails and then paint the birdhouses to make some beautiful homes for birds to live in next spring. And thank you to everyone who purchased a birdhouse for School HouseBuild 2003. A very special thank you to the following Harris Hill parents who helped with the weekly construction: Steve Possanza, Kellie Vacanti, Marilyn Meyers, Beth Sullivan, Deb Lubberts, Karen Webb, Gail Swarthout, Bev Pugh, Diane Lawatsch, Lisa Silver, Barb Baumer, Jenny Strong, Marica Vick, Laura Chase, Barbara Ross, & Laura Payne Bourncy.

We are moving ahead with our November project – making bags to give to shelters such as Bethany House here in Rochester. Donna Ecker was at our meeting November 4th to talk to the children about Bethany House and all the wonderful things they do for women and children at their home. Cluster #1 will be collecting personal hygiene items that Kids Care Club will then stuff into the bags they sew and decorate. However, if you would also like to help out please feel free to bring in any of the following items to Cluster #1 November 12 – 22 and they will see that it gets to Kids Care Club.

Canned food items – (there is a real shortage of food in Rochester right now)

Soap; Shampoo; Deodorants; Toothbrushes; Toothpaste; Combs & Brushes; Hair items- headbands, ribbons, hair ties, etc. Stuffed animals (even adults need to hold a stuffed animal sometimes); Hand cream; Perfumes or other "feel good" toiletries

We will be having another project in February (we will meet on Tuesdays). If you have any ideas or want to help out please email Lisa Sykes at hkidscares.harrishillpta.org

Lisa Sykes

Thank you for " Making a Difference" in Food Drive

Dear PTA,

On behalf of the Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf, we would like to thank you for your efforts with the "Make A Difference Day" Food Drive. Once again, the generosity of the students, staff and faculty has truly made a difference for the Food Shelf.

The Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf has been in operation since 1997. Since that time, we continue to grow and serve the needs of many Penfield families. We are currently serving close to 40 families each week with perishable foods donated by Wegman's. In addition to the food, which is donated, we also purchase fresh food at the Public Market each week. This includes potatoes, onions, carrots, apples, and eggs. Financial donations allow us to be able to purchase these items.

Once every two months, our families are able to make an appointment with us to receive a larger portion of food items which we call "staples". They are able to select non-perishable items, which have been donated by the community, as well as to receive milk, butter, cheese, meat, bread, etc., which we have purchased. Financial contributions are always welcome. At Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter we provide our needy families with items for their Holiday dinners, which can get costly.

We thank you very much for your continued support of our program. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Please let us know if you have any questions about our program. We like to visit the schools and present our program to classes and organizations. Please call if you would like to schedule a presentation.

*Sincerely,
The Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf*

Girls and Bullying

On November 3, Rachel Simmons, author of Odd Girl Out: The Hidden Culture of Aggression in Girls, spoke at the Jewish Community Center. The following is a summary of the lecture.

The silent treatment, eye rolling, back turning, clichés. When these methods are put into operation, the end result for the receiver is loneliness. A girl who experiences loneliness that is controlled by those she thought to be friends will be left with life-long effects.

When girls are mean, it is usually cast as "a right of passage", or "developmental", or reasoned away by cliché or excuses. It is called everything but what it actually is: Aggression.

Research shows three categories of aggression exhibited by girls:

Social Aggression targets status.

Indirect Aggression happens when the perpetrator keeps their identity a secret.

Relational Aggression uses friendship as a weapon. This begins in preschool where a child might say, "If you don't give me that toy, I won't be your friend anymore." It becomes more sophisticated as time goes by. Later they might say, "If you don't stop talking to 'Sue', I won't be your friend, and I will turn everyone against you."

Relational Aggression can happen silently, in the form of eye rolling, subtle expressions of disgust during class, back turning, and the "silent treatment". Schoolwork suffers and academic potential is stumped. Think of the teacher in the Charlie Brown cartoons. The teacher never says anything intelligible, but just makes a "wah, wah" noise. We hear the teacher through Charlie Brown's ears. Why did she sound like that? Maybe it's because Charlie Brown had more important things on his mind than the lesson, like "Why doesn't anyone like me? What did I do wrong? I don't understand." It's hard for a child to focus when she is bewildered and worried.

Relational Aggression can be abusive, yet very hard to detect. So often, excuses are made because on the surface, two particular friends may appear to be happy. When adult intervention is needed, sometime what the girls get is, "You two are great friends; I'm sure you'll work it out." Or, "She's so nice, I can't imagine that she would do that to you." Usually, the nastiest girls are the most charming, cute, and endearing to adults, but when the adults aren't looking, behave in a hateful way.

Our culture tends to refuse girls access to conflict. It is deemed dysfunctional in girls, but just part of growing up for boys. Anger just grows. Aggression is a biological impulse, yet culture tells girls not to get angry. So, they release it in indirect ways. Girls need relationships for connectedness and intimacy; it's critical to their development. However, their inability to deal with conflict leads them to either keep silent in the face of conflict, or "go indirect". "Going indirect" is basically gossiping and spreading rumors, but it is euphemistically called "getting advice". "The anger WE feel toward her is bringing us closer together." Aggression actually becomes an event of friendship.

If anger is held in, it gets real nasty over stupid things, but never gets to the heart of the matter. FEAR is the bottom line. That's why so many girls side up, gang up, and build alliances. Boys don't necessarily do that. They're more apt to deal with the problem one on one.

There are two stereotypes that exist for girls: 1) Girls are nasty, and 2) Girls are all sugar and adorable. They are both extremes. All girls are nice, and all girls are mean. We all have the potential to bully. There is no middle ground for girls; either they are "nice" or they are..... well, let's just say "nasty". If we use these stereotypes, the conflict and anger is perpetuated. Girls need to own their aggression and admit to being human. Then they can have healthy conversations about aggression.

So often, when the subject of bullying or aggression is taken to girls, they simply cannot plug into those words. They cannot relate, because they don't know that that is exactly what they are doing. The rules that exist about bullying don't apply to girls because their form is subtle and covert. If we don't have a code of conduct that addresses the subtleties of girl-bullying, then it will continue into adulthood, and then the "playground" just looks different.

Girls complain that they feel like they're going crazy, because when they ask their friends if something is wrong, they are simply told "no", but the look, the tone of voice, and body language suggest the opposite. No, they are not crazy, but they need an adult's help to figure that out.

Math Matters: Games and Mathematics

For some parents, the idea of a child coming home with a game for math homework rather than a drill sheet might seem a bit unusual. But games are an important way to enhance the learning in mathematics. Following are the purposes of games in the Investigations curriculum:

- Games are a central part of the mathematics in the units, not just enrichment.
- Games develop familiarity with the number system and with “landmarks” in the number system, such as 10s, 100s, 1000s, and provide engaging opportunities for practicing computation.
- Playing games encourages strategic mathematical thinking as students find an optimal way (rather than just any way) of solving a problem.
- Games provide repeated practice. The teacher is free to observe students or to work with a few students.
- Games are played often throughout a unit and throughout the year to develop fluency with numbers. It’s expected that students will play a game many times.
- Games provide a school to home link. Parents learn about the mathematical thinking their children are doing by playing games with them at home.

Additional benefits of using mathematical games:

- Games are fun and therefore, motivating. Children sometimes forget they are doing “math.”
- Games show children how mathematics is real. Mathematical problems and solutions aren’t just created, they are needed to play the game.
- Games enhance the understanding of mathematical relationships. Often several skills are combined in games.
- Games inspire children to create their own games or variations. This fosters additional mathematical thinking and logical reasoning.
- Games help children accept more than one answer and more than one method to solve a problem.
- Games help children communicate mathematically because they require students to justify their thinking and rationalize decisions.
- Games help children learn sequential and directional skills.

Remember: Playing games together is a great way to get to know your child!



BoxTops Update

With the help of all of you that sent in box tops, we have already collected \$342.50 for our school. Keep up the good work! A special thanks to the following people that volunteered to clip and bundle the box tops:

Deb Lubberts, Laura Zwickl, Kay Gerlach, Barb McKinley
Karen Beaston, Marcia Vick, Cathie Corrado,
Paula Arvan and Caren Peffley

Amy Maring

Book Fair Thanks

The students, the faculty, and the library staff would like to thank the following people for making the Fall Book Fair a success. We could not run this important program without the help of our dedicated volunteers: Marianne Amorim, Maggie Angeline, Ruth Aranov, Barb Baumer, Karen Beaston, Cathie, Corrado, Lori Cogle, Lisa DeClerck, Kris Drabik, Jo Ann Eduardo, Amy Fell, Patty Ferrara, Patty Fry, Kim Fulton, Kay Gerlach, Erica Gnam, Lori Joensen, Ann Jones, Kathy Keech, Deb Lubberts, Patti Marks, Deb McCord, Mallory McCullum, Bonnie Miller, Dana Paladino, Jane Patrick, Caren Peffley, JuliePoehlmann, Nan Postlethwait, Susan Regruit Beth Rogers, Jamie Sandidge, Mary Sedota, Lisa Silver, Laura Simon, Amy Sollie, Jill Stanger, Mickey Stollberger, Jenny Strong, Sue Sugnet, Sue Vaughn, Lisa Von Bargen, Anne Zehler, Laura Zwickl.

Special thanks to Anne Zehler for being the Book Fair Treasurer.

Janet Kearns-Librarian

Audit Committee has been formed

Thank you to the three wonderful dads Jon Heron, Gus Chaves and Charles Orlando who volunteered their time and accounting expertise to be on our audit committee. We are looking forward to your report!

The Harris Hill PTA welcomes Theresa Sarkis-Kruz as our new Program chair for this year. We also welcome John Pretino as chairperson of our newly formed program, the PTA Academy and Linda Parker, chairperson of our end of year event. Thank you Theresa, Linda and John! Your help and involvement are greatly appreciated!



Chess Club is back!



Open to 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade students

Sign-up is by phone on Wednesday December 4th, from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Call 377-1974 - Beth Sullivan.

Club is limited to 36 kids only.

It will run on Wednesdays from January 8th to February 12th after school.

Fee is \$7.00

Parents: If you are interested in running another session for 4th and 5th graders please contact Beth and she will be glad to give you all the information on how to do it!

Looking for an additional Hotline Editor

The Hotline crew is looking for a third editor to join us in putting our newsletter together. Internet access, computer skills and having Microsoft Publisher are a must. This is a great position that you can do from home. Most articles come to you by email. All you will have to do is put the newsletter together after the deadline. You will be in charge of one issue every six weeks. The current editors are here for help, training and support.

Full procedures on all the responsibilities of a Hotline editor are available
on <http://www.harrishillpta.org/Procedures.htm>

If you are interested or for more information please send an email to hotline@harrishillpta.org