



The Hotline

The Harris Hill PTA newsletter for the Harris Hill Community

May 2015

Find us on the web
<http://www.harrishill-pta.org>

PTA

everychild.one voice.

Important Dates

- **May 8:** HH Girls' Night Out, 6-8 pm, Long Acre Farms
- **May 9:** ESOL Day at Penfield Library, 2-4 pm, Penfield Public Library
- **May 12:** HH Arts in Education Festival, 6:30-8:00 pm, Harris Hill
- **May 13:** HH PTA Meeting, 7pm, Harris Hill Cafeteria
- **May 19:** Budget Vote and Board Election, 6am—9pm, PHS Gym
- **May 20:** HH Spring Concert #1, 7 pm, PHS Auditorium
- **May 20:** SEPTA mtg, 6:30 am, BT Library
- **May 21:** HH Kindergarten Parent Information Night, 6:30—8:00 pm, HH
- **May 25:** Memorial Day, No School
- **May 26:** HH Spring Concert #2, 7:00 pm, PHS Auditorium

Next Hotline deadline:
 May 29, 2015—3pm

It's easy to submit an article!
 Just type up your information
 and email it to:

HarrisHillHotline@gmail.com

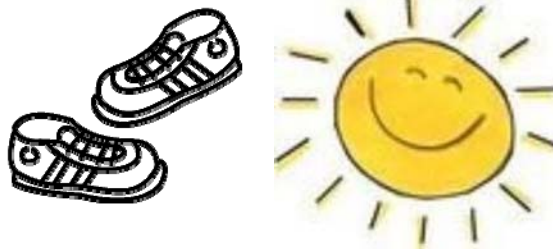
Hello Harris Hill Families!

Spring is finally here! Well, at least the calendar says so. So many events in such a short time! We hope you were able to participate or are planning to attend as many as possible. Volunteers are needed for many of the events, so please check folders for messages that are sent home. Are you looking for other ways to contribute? The PTA is holding elections for officers for the 2015-2016 school year. Please direct any inquiries to Patti Hickey at pattio71@gmail.com, or Steph Fuchs at stephfuchs1@gmail.com.

Getting involved is not limited to local levels. If you are looking for ways to help PTA advocate for children, please see the message here from the New York State PTA about contacting legislators regarding student assessments. Your voice is most important right now.

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Harris Hill PTA...



A Bright Future Begins at Harris Hill!

HARRIS HILL ELEMENTARY MISSION STATEMENT

Harris Hill is an open school where passionate professionals embrace our community by teaching students to think critically, and develop a sense of responsibility and respect for all. The Harris Hill family promotes lifelong learning.

HARRIS HILL ELEMENTARY VISION STATEMENT

The students of Harris Hill Elementary will be critical thinkers, readers, and writers. They will be prepared to contribute as responsible leaders and learners in middle school and beyond.

Presidents' Letter Continued...

Student testing deemed questionable by parents and educators combined with a state budget that links aid increases to even greater use of test scores has resulted in a storm of protest. An effective response will require both time and collaboration with state policy makers to craft solutions that will calm the rhetoric and improve student and teacher assessment to move education forward.

To those ends we request immediate legislation that requires:

1. ***Time Out.*** The Governor and legislature to postpone implementation of new Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) components until September 1, 2016, while distributing promised 2015 state aid increases to schools during 2015-2016 school year.
2. ***APPR Review.*** The NYS Board of Regents to recommended re-structure of the APPR program in a manner that recognizes students as more than a test score and educators as more than merely a test score and a classroom observation.
3. ***Test Review.*** The NYS Board of Regents to evaluate current state tests in direct response to testing concerns expressed in the field regarding length and frequency of test, item ambiguity, volatility of growth measures, developmental appropriateness and the validity of using test results for multiple purposes.
4. ***Parent Communication.*** NYSED to develop a communication strategy that makes the purpose of assessments and the interpretation of results more clearly understood, by providing individual student data with sufficient depth in a timely manner so parents and teachers can use the data to improve student outcomes.

To take action immediately, please click on the link below.

TAKE ACTION: Next Steps for Assessments (<http://cqrcengage.com/npta2ny/app/write-a-letter?0&engagementId=95653>)

Our next meeting is May 13th. We will be electing and welcoming our 2015-2016 officers as well as voting on our proposed budget. We hope you can join us. We also invite you to help us honor excellence and recognize the achievements of our Honorary Lifetime Membership award winners at a special meeting Tuesday, June 2nd at 7:00.

Happy Spring!

**Patti Hickey
Steph Fuchs**

PTA Meeting

**Please join us for the next
Harris Hill PTA Meeting
Wednesday, May 13th @7pm
Harris Hill Cafetorium**

Confidentiality Statement

As we enter Harris Hill School as volunteers and employees, we will remember to respect the privacy of our children, their families and each other. All that we hear, see or read will remain confidential.

From the Desk of Mr. Nelson

Please visit the Harris Hill website for newsletters and podcasts from Mr. Nelson.

<http://www.penfield.edu/HarrisHill.cfm?subpage=194434>



Springo was a SUCCESS!

We want to thank our sponsors Wegmans, Bill Grays, Delta Sonic, Jeremiah's, RMSC, Rosey's, Yummies, Angus House, Wickham Farms, the Red Wings & the Amerks for their generous donations; we couldn't do it without you! We had 56 Harris Hill Families participate in the event. Thank you to all the families for your donations to the Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf and for bringing your kids out for a fun evening of Bingo.



Attention 5th Grade Parents— Mark your Calendars:

The following events for fifth graders are coming up at the end of the school year.

- 5th grade bash- Friday, June 12 from 6:30-9 at Harris Hill (we will need parent volunteers)
- Camp Arrowhead- June 19
- 5th Grade Breakfast and Slide Show- June 22 at 7:30 am at Harris Hill
- 5th Grade Talent Show- June 22- parent show in the evening



Notes From the Nurse's Office

FIFTH GRADE PARENTS: Please be aware that according to New York State guidelines all children entering 6th grade in September will need to have a booster shot for diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus (also called Tdap). If you haven't already, you will be receiving a letter from Bay Trail Health Office with more details. Please take the time to fill out this form and return to Bay Trail Nurse's Office as soon as possible. Feel free to call me with any questions.



SCOLIOSIS: The New York State required scoliosis screening for the fifth grade students is now complete. Scoliosis is a side wards curvature of the spine. This screening is state mandated at the elementary level in 5th grade only. If my findings were not within the New York State guidelines, you would've been notified. Thank you to Mrs. Stark and Mr. Solomon for their assistance with this process.

A NOTE FROM THE BAY TRAIL HEALTH OFFICE

Bay Trail Health Office Summer Schedule:

The Bay Trail Health Office will be closed for the summer break.

For your convenience we will be here the following days:

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| August 18, 2015* | 8:00 am – 2:00 pm |
| August 19, 2015* | 8:00 am – 2:00 pm |
| August 31, 2015 | 7:30 am – 3:00 pm |
| September 1, 2015 | 7:30 am – 3:00 pm |

*These are also the dates of the 6th grade orientation.

The telephones in the Health Office will not accept messages during the summer. If there is an urgent matter, please contact the main office at [585-249-6451](tel:585-249-6451). The fax is on 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Katie Parasch, R.N.
School Nurse

Susan Cymbal, R.N.
School Nurse

Phone: [585-249-6464](tel:585-249-6464)

Fax: [585-249-6420](tel:585-249-6420)

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Notes from the Nurse's Office, continued...

SUMMER REMINDERS: Keeping Children Safe

Measures to prevent bites from mosquitoes, ticks, fleas and other insects and arthropods

To reduce the possibility of being bitten by insects or arthropods that can transmit diseases (vectorborne), such as West Nile virus, Lyme Disease, and Tick-borne Encephalitis (TBE), you should:

- Use an insect repellent on exposed skin to repel mosquitoes, ticks, fleas and other arthropods. EPA-registered repellents include products containing DEET (N,N-diethylmetatoluamide) and picaridin (KBR 3023). DEET concentrations of 30% to 50% are effective for several hours. Picaridin, available at 7% and 15% concentrations, needs more frequent application. Spray the repellent outside, primarily on clothing, and only on exposed skin. Avoid the eyes. Spray the repellent into your hands and apply it to the face with your hands. Do not spray the face.
- DEET formulations as high as 50% are now recommended for both adults and children over 2 months of age. Protect infants less than 2 months of age by using a carrier draped with mosquito netting with an elastic edge for a tight fit
- When using sunscreen, apply sunscreen first and then repellent. Inspect yourself or your child at night before bedtime and do not forget to look on the scalp. Wash off repellent at the end of the day before going to bed.
- Before you travel, make sure to visit the Centers for Disease Control website at <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/default.aspx> to determine whether there are any risks of diseases in that area, even if your travel is in the US. If tick or mosquito-borne diseases are a risk in the region, plan to wear long-sleeved shirts, which should be tucked in, long pants, and hats to cover exposed skin. When you visit areas with ticks and fleas, wear boots, not sandals, and tuck pants into socks.
- Inspect your child's body and clothing for ticks during outdoor activity and at the end of the day. Wear light-colored or white clothing so ticks can be more easily seen. Removing ticks right away can prevent some infections.
- Apply permethrin-containing (e.g., Permanone) or other insect repellents to clothing, shoes, tents, mosquito nets, and other gear for greater protection. Permethrin is not labeled for use directly on skin. Most repellent is generally removed from clothing and gear by a single washing, but permethrin-treated clothing is effective for up to 5 washings.
- Be aware that mosquitoes are most active during twilight periods (dawn and dusk or in the evening). Avoid areas with standing water where mosquitoes breed. Eliminate any standing water, such as cleaning gutters so they drain properly, filling ground depressions with soil, discarding old tires, putting away garden equipment that may collect water, such as pails, pots or wheelbarrows, and changing birdbath water at least every other day. Caution your children to do the same, as well as to avoid approaching unknown animals, wild or domesticated.
- Stay in air-conditioned or well-screened housing, and/or sleep under an insecticide treated bed net. Bed nets should be tucked under mattresses and can be sprayed with a repellent if not already treated with an insecticide.
- If you find a tick on yourself, try to remove it, and if you have any concerns about your or your child's health, please contact your private caregiver.

For other tips to keep your child safe in the summer visit:

http://www.cdc.gov/SafeChild/Fact_Sheets/Drowning-Fact-Sheet-a.pdf

Yours in good health, *Kathy Richards, R.N.*



Harvest of the Month Calendar

| Month/Date | Featured Item |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Thursday May 21, 2015 | Radishes |
| Friday June 12, 2015 | Peas |

Attention 5th Grade Parents!

Will you be a new parent at Bay Trail in September? The PTA has opportunities for parents to get involved by volunteering in many ways, from a few hours a month to an occasional event at school.

Volunteer Opportunities for 2015-16 School Year

- Vice President
- Recording Secretary
- Correspondence Secretary
- Treasurer
- Shared Decision Making Team representative
- Webmaster
- Library volunteers
- Harvest of the Month



Visit the [volunteer page on the PTA website](#) for a brief description of these positions, as well as other opportunities available. To volunteer or for more information, contact Mary Ann Christman at volunteercoord@baytrailpta.org.

Harris Hill Elementary School Shared Decision Making Team Parent Nomination

Nominations are now being accepted for a parent representative on the Harris Hill's Shared Decision Making Team (SDM).

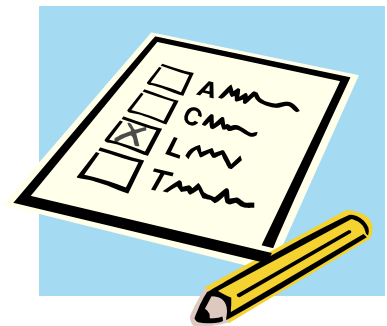
Next year, the SDM Team will work and plan for ways to improve and expand how our community celebrates the whole child.

- This is a two year term (July 2015 through June 2017).
- Any parent who will have a child at Harris Hill next school year is eligible to serve.
- The commitment requires monthly meetings after school; possibly one summer work day and/or outside research & preparation for meetings.
- Parents may nominate themselves or be nominated with consent.
- Nominations should include nominee's name and phone number, their child(ren)'s current grade level, and a **50-75 word statement from the parent as to why they would like to serve on the Harris Hill SDM Team.**
- Nominations will be accepted **April 28th - May 6th.**

If there is more than one nominee, all Harris Hill families will receive a copy of each nominee's statement along with a ballot for voting later in May.

Please submit nominations to the Harris Hill front office or mail to:

*Harris Hill- SDM Nominations
Harris Hill School
2126 Penfield Road
Penfield, New York 14526*



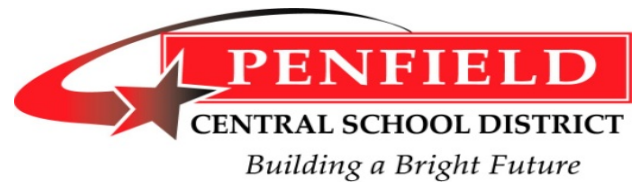
If you have any questions regarding the Shared Decision Making Team, please contact Marc Nelson, Principal, at (585) 249-6602.

Girls Interested in joining Scouts?

Girl Scouts of Western NY is now having spring registration. By registering now you become eligible to participate in summer camp programs, which are also open now for registration. Many existing troops have room to bring in new girls or new troops can be formed. It's never too late to join in the fun! Troops work together to earn badges, provide service to the community and learn lifelong skills in a fun and safe environment.

Interested or have questions? Please contact Lori Kocher, Harris Hill Organizer: kocher@millwheel.org or 313-9702.

Bay Trail Middle School



Winton Buddington, Principal

Joseph Kruger, Special Education Administrator

Stephen Eccleston, House A Principal

John Burke, House B Principal

Mary Ann Harrigan, House C Principal

For Bay Trail Students – Online Supply Order Information 2015-16:

For the 2015-16 school year, Bay Trail Middle School is again offering parents and students (grades 6 through 8) the opportunity to purchase school supplies online. The supplies must be ordered by June 16, 2015. They will be available to pick up at Bay Trail during our Locker Set-Up Nights, August 27 and 31, from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. Parents interested in purchasing school supplies online for next year should visit the Bay Trail Main Page website and click on the *Order School Supplies Online* link. If you prefer to purchase supplies locally, lists for each grade/house are available on the website on the *Supply Lists* link located on the left side of the Main Page.





ARTS IN EDUCATION FESTIVAL 2015

You are invited to the Harris Hill Arts in Education Festival on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. The festival features student artwork and live musical performances by our string students. Join us at 7:00 for a special presentation with Caldecott-winning illustrator and author, Brian Floca, followed by a brief autographing session.

Brian Floca's books will be available for purchase at the festival.

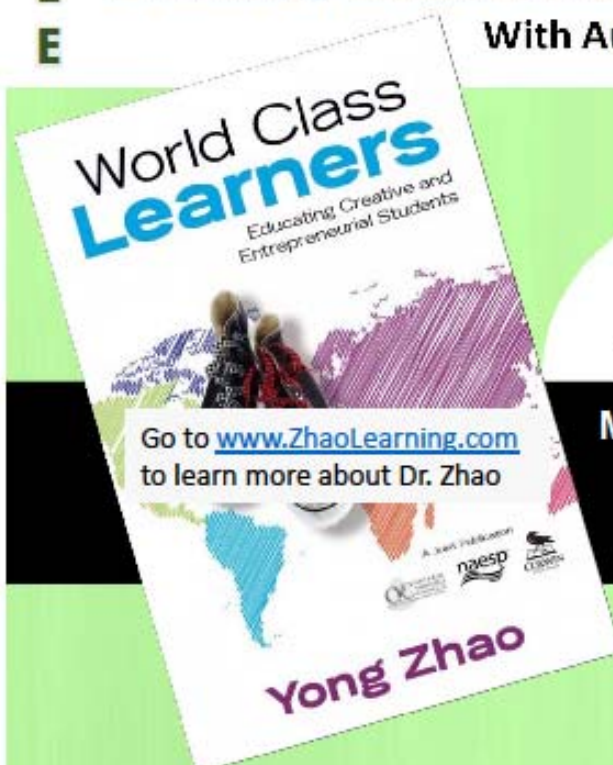
45% of American jobs at high risk of being taken by computers within 2 decades. Oxford U. Researchers, 2013
 Student Creativity scores have been dropping over the last 10 years. The Creativity Crisis, Newsweek, 2010

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Community Presentation

Educating Creative and Entrepreneurial Students

With Author, Dr. Yong Zhao



Go to www.ZhaoLearning.com
 to learn more about Dr. Zhao

Dr. Zhao speaks
 around the world on educational
 issues related to globalization,
 creativity, entrepreneurial students,
 competitiveness and educational reforms.

Monday, May 11, 2015 at 7pm

St. John Fisher College

Kearney Hall, Cleary Auditorium

*"The elements of the American
 education system that foster creativity
 and entrepreneurship are in danger of
 being destroyed altogether by current
 U.S. reform efforts"*

- Understand the growing demand for creative and entrepreneurial thinkers
- Gain insights on how you can support children
- Learn how the current model of education is stifling progress
- See evidence supporting an urgent shift in focus

WHEN: May 11, 2015 ♦ 7:00pm – 8:00pm

WHERE: St. John Fisher College, Rochester, NY

COST: Free

REGISTRATION Helpful

To register and find more information

visit: <http://world-class-learners.eventbrite.com>

Sponsored by:



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