

# Harding Avenue Elementary School Newsletter

August 2016

Mrs. Stephanie Sedor, Principal



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## Upcoming Events

- ◆ Early Release 8/31: Students dismiss at 1:15
- ◆ Labor Day: 9/5: School's Closed
- ◆ Spirit Day: 9/13: Crazy Socks
- ◆ Fall Pictures: 9/15
- ◆ Dining for Dollars: Bull and Bones
- ◆ Early Release: 9/27

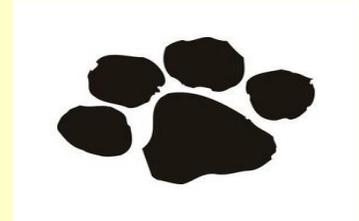
## Principal's News

Hello Harding Families,

We have really enjoyed the start to our new year! We already have so many fun and exciting things going on throughout the day. We have been enjoying the supplies in our new science and math closet. Your children have been involved in hands-on learning opportunities, STEM projects, and technology lessons. We have also finished the construction of our new playground! With such a great beginning, we are going to accomplish wonderful things this year.

For those of you that are new to Harding, we share our school spirit and promote college and career readiness by wearing specific attire on given days. On Monday's we wear our Harding shirts or school colors. Every Wednesday we wear, college, high school, and/or military branch attire as part of our division-wide Commit to Graduate focus. Please join us in promoting these days.

We will be sending car rider signs home this week. Please place in your windshield to assist us in



helping the line move quickly. You may also assist us by remaining in your car, pulling all the way up to the people on duty, staying in the appropriate lines (we only use one line in the am/we use two in the pm), and having your child enter and exit the vehicle curb side. In the event of rain, please stay in your cars. We will escort students to the cars with umbrellas.

We have already planned many exciting field trips for our students to enjoy. Please be sure that you have signed the blanket permission form provided at the beginning of the year so that your child may attend. Your classroom teacher will always update you prior to these field trips; however, we will not send home permission forms. The one signed in the beginning of the year will serve as permission for all field trips.

We try to maintain many up to date activities on our HAE webpage. Please be sure to continue to look at our calendar throughout the year. We are also using Twitter this year to showcase the great things happening at Harding. If you wish for your child's photo not to be posted on Twitter, please be sure to let the main office know.

Thank you!

Stephanie Sedor, Principal

## New Panthers

We have many new faces to welcome at Harding. We are pleased to welcome to our family Mrs. Snodgrass who is our new administrative assistant. We also are excited to have Mr. Calhoun and Mrs. Rogers joining us in our cafeteria. New teachers to our classrooms are Mrs. Smith (3<sup>rd</sup> grade), Mrs. Gillen (5<sup>th</sup> grade), and Mrs. Price (special education). Assisting us with our technology needs this year will be Ms. Radford, our new technology resource teacher. We will also enjoy having, Ms. Mey join our team as our school psychologist. You will also find new staff members on our Link team: Ms. Kent, Ms. Howell, and Ms. Adams. Please join us in welcoming them to Harding!



## Clinic News

Hopefully, everyone has made the adjustment from lazy summer days to busy school days. Less sleep, demanding schedules and hurried meals can all have a negative impact on our health and make us more susceptible to illness. While occasional illness is normal and to be expected in school age children, we can help minimize it through a healthy lifestyle.

- Get lots of sleep! Children need 10-12 hours a night.
- Eat a well-balanced breakfast. Don't forget fresh fruits and vegetables!
- Practice good hygiene! Please review the importance of daily baths, brushing teeth, and good hair washing.
- Use a tissue when wiping your nose and always cover your cough and catch your sneeze!
- Remind your children to sing the ABC's or the Happy Birthday song while they wash their hands!

### Upcoming Dates:

Harding will be doing health screenings for Kindergarten and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and Scoliosis screening for 5<sup>th</sup> grade on Wednesday **September 14, 2016** starting around 1pm. Look for a letter to come home next week with more details!

### When Should You Keep Your Child Home From School?

- **Fever:** Keep your child home if their temperature is greater than **99.7**. Your child should be fever free (without medicine) **for 24 hours** before returning to school.
- **Bad Cough/Cold:** Coughs and colds lasting longer than a few days or accompanied by a fever should be evaluated by a doctor. Return to school when cough improves and child is feeling better.
- **Vomiting/Diarrhea:** Keep your child home if they have any vomiting or diarrhea. Your child should be free from these for **24 hours** (without medicine) before returning to school.
- **Sore Throat:** A sore throat accompanied by fever, headache, or upset stomach could be strep throat. Keep your child home, and contact your doctor. If antibiotics are required, your child can return to school **24 hours** after treatment begins.
- **Earache:** Severe earaches should be evaluated by a doctor.
- **Pink Eye:** Keep your child at home until your doctor has given the OK to return to school. If an antibiotic is required, return to school **24 hours** after treatment begins.
- **Rash:** Children with a skin rash should be evaluated by a doctor, as this could be one of several infectious diseases.
- Return to school with documentation from your doctor.

### Student Medications

- All medications must be accompanied by a **medication permission form**. These forms are available at the school or can be downloaded from the MCPS website.
- **Prescription medications** require signatures from parents and the child's physician.
- **Non-prescription medications** require the parent signature only. **Note:** If a medication is given for more than 3 consecutive days, a physician signature is required.
- Medication must be stored in the **original container**. (No plastic baggies!) Information on the container must match info on the permission form.
- Medications must be delivered to the school **by the parent**.
- **All medications are kept in the clinic.**

I have had the pleasure of meeting some of you and look forward to collaborating with other Harding families throughout the school year. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Thanks and welcome back!

**Nurse Amy**

## Humphry News



*The World According to Humphrey* turned out to be a big hit with our summer reading program! Humphrey himself enjoyed the summer at the Blacksburg public library making new friends.

At our school, 108 students read the story of Humphrey and his antics in room 26. In addition, 25 students read two or more books in the series and 4 kids read all twelve! That's just amazing and we are so proud of all our readers! Mrs. Day's class had the highest participation, so Humphrey has been living in their classroom for the month of August. He will be visiting the 4<sup>th</sup> grade in September because those classes had great participation as well.

Thank you for continuing to encourage and support reading and literacy at home!

