

School Board Meeting
Monday October 23rd @
5:00



Parent Council
Mtg October
26th at 7:30

The Patriot Press

"The goal of education is not to increase the amount of knowledge but to create the possibilities for a child to invent and discover, to create men who are capable of doing new things."

Jean Piaget

HILLSDALE
PREPARATORY
SCHOOL

Volume II, Issue 2

October 2, 2017

October 5th Volleyball Game with Will Carleton has been moved to October 9th!

Special points of interest:

- ☺ Fall Festival
- ☺ Dress Code
- ☺ What's Going On
- ☺ NWEA Testing

FALL FESTIVAL

The Parent Council invites all parents, students and faculty to the annual event on October 20th from 6-8 PM. Come enjoy the games, costume contest for students, pumpkin carving, the bounce house, and lots of homemade soups and pies!

Everyone is encouraged to sign up for a soup or pie, or anything else needed. The entire event is free for everyone and pumpkins will be provided.

Come and enjoy the food, games, and fun!

Casual Day
Oct. 27

Dress Code.

Our Uniform Policy, or Dress Code, is part of the culture of HPS. It is an important part of our "socialization" in that we want all our students to be treated as individuals and be judged by their character and not by what they can or cannot afford to wear to school. This year we made a conscious effort to get every student to adhere to our stated and published policy. For the most part I would say we have been successful. However we still have a very few that either are not aware of the policy or maybe simply choose not to comply. If it is a matter of resources in the home, we are more than happy to assist in that regard. Simply contact Miss Melody and we will work something out. However, it would be greatly appreciated if students would wear the proper attire in school at all times. This includes wearing only the sweaters on the uniform list and not sweatshirts and hoodies. Thank you!

NWEA TESTING

Last week we completed the first round of MAP Growth testing (except for two students who were absent) and now will begin the process of making good use from the results. Teachers will be engaged in a training session on Friday, October 6 (a day off for students) and will learn how to access various reports as well as how to incorporate the results into individual learning plans for students. With the NWEA tests being aligned to the M-STEP tests students take in the spring, this will be a good indicator of how well students will perform on this State assessment.

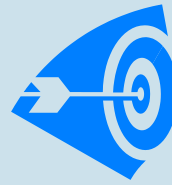
We have also started the discussion on the testing process with the hope of improving the experience for everyone. Given it was the first time for most teachers, it is understandable that there would be some bugs to be worked out. Matters were compounded when the testing site was shut down for two days due to issues within the system. Still we were able to get all of our students tested in a timely manner and under conditions which were acceptable and conducive for valid results.

As this is the week teachers are conducting conferences, we are also in a position to distribute the MAP results face to face with parents. Please do not hesitate to ask questions from teachers or myself in regard to your child's results and the meanings. We want you to fully understand the reports created from your child's taking the tests. If you are unable to attend the conferences, we will mail you the test results and you should feel free to come in any time to ask questions or seek clarification. Of course you can also contact me personally by phone or email if you have any questions at all.

"Education promotes equality and lifts people out of poverty. It teaches children how to become good citizens. Education is not just for a privileged few, it is for everyone. It is a fundamental human right." *Ban Ki-moon*

New Mobile App!

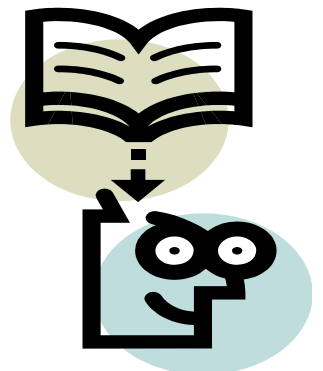
Work is moving along on schedule for our mobile app! I know teachers are already anxiously awaiting being able to utilize the App to communicate with parents and keep them informed instantly of what is going on in school. I feel confident that most everyone will find something positive and beneficial from this media platform. My hope is that we will "go live" before the end of the month, so this will be the last issue of the Patriot Press in a printed format!



School Attendance— This year schools are required to take attendance twice a day. We can no longer count students present for being here just part of the day. Please take care and only hold children from school when it is absolutely necessary.

What's Going On:

- The Volleyball team is rapidly becoming a force to be reckoned with! Both teams have had impressive outings. This Saturday the girls compete in a tournament at Will Carleton. This should be both exciting and enjoyable for the girls and a very valuable experience. Come out and cheer them to victory!
- We are starting a middle school robotics team, grades 6-8. Any parent interested in helping out as a volunteer should see Mrs. Fowler or Mr. Bauman.
- We are still looking for volunteers to be "room moms" (or dads). I believe the second and sixth grade classrooms are in need of someone to volunteer to fill this "new" position and assist the teacher. If interested please contact Mrs. Draheim or the school.
- Volunteers are always needed and welcomed at lunch time. In addition the Parent Council is always in need of people to help with their many projects to help the school, like the Fall Festival and Snowball Dance. You can contact Parent Council by attending a meeting or calling the school.



Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow (Mr. Bauman, Headmaster)

Last month I lamented about "the end of an era" with the Patriot Press, knowing that I still had one more issue to put out before the new mobile media application was up and running. Perhaps I was hoping for a groundswell of public opinion pleading for the newsletter to be spared an untimely death. But alas, no such thing occurred. I'm afraid my suspicions were confirmed and very few if any do read much of the contents in the Patriot Press. Armed with this knowledge I feel emboldened to leap upon my soapbox and begin a lecture designed to stir the souls of all who listen and move them to act appropriately. For those who agree will read on, while those who may be offended most likely have already stopped reading.

About a year ago I wrote in this spot how a 12 year old won the America's Got Talent million dollar prize. You might say that lightning struck twice because this year 12 year old ventriloquist Darci Lynne Farmer and her singing puppets took home the top prize! To have a mere child win once is amazing, for it to happen in consecutive years is just unbelievable! Yet it only underscores my contention that we are raising a generation with far greater potential than we can completely comprehend. It is not just a cliché to say, "our children are our greatest resource", they are quickly become a far greater resource than any generation's adults!

With that in mind we must stay in the mindset of protecting this treasure. This entails many, many things. One of them is to be sure they always have the capacity to discern right from wrong, good from evil, and truth from fiction. This is becoming increasingly more important and more difficult with each passing day in our society. We are rapidly becoming aware of just how much false information is equally available as factual information through the media. Today it is estimated that 64% of Americans receive their news from social media. A recent poll revealed that Facebook is the sole source of news for 50% of Americans. A very disturbing fact now that we are learning just how easy it is to "weaponized" social media to manipulate public opinion through false and misleading stories on Facebook and other social media sites.

When I was growing up there was no internet (groan) and we only had three TV stations (gasp). People weren't able to "Photoshop" images or doctor audio recordings. If you saw it on TV you could trust that it was the real deal. Still, my Dad's advice still resonates, "believe half of what you see and none of what you hear." I'm often glad that I had the good sense to remember this bit of wisdom. I often wish that this adage reached the ears of everyone as a child. I'm constantly reminded that my job would be so much easier if everyone practiced not believing everything they see and hear. So much of the hate and anger that people exhibit stems from falsehoods that get repeated and get mistaken to be "facts". Children, while extremely gifted and talented, are impressionable and easily misled. As adults we have an obligation to see that they develop the critical thinking skills to not only tell fact from opinion, but understand the danger of not knowing the difference.

One of the things you learn in research is the need to verify your conclusions with three sources of valid data. Mainstream news reporters know the importance of having more than one source verify a story. However, this is not the case with much of what you find on the internet that passes for "news". Our children need to be taught and to learn the difference between the "truth" and what is "blogged" or created as "fake" for the purpose of selling ads or simply to create controversy. Schools cannot do this alone. This is one of the areas where a true partnership must exist between the school and home. We need parents to support our efforts. Talk with your child about not believing everything they see or read. Let them know the dangers and pitfalls about jumping to conclusions about what they see on social media and other places on the internet.

While the World Wide Web is a wonderful tool that has brought the world to our fingertips, it requires users to be responsible and cautious in so many ways. Teaching children to be responsible "surfers" of the Internet is just as important as teaching them not to take candy from strangers!

"When you were growing up, your mom and dad told you to look both ways before crossing the street or not to get into a car with a stranger. It's the same with the Internet. We have a big responsibility and a huge role in bringing all the stakeholders to the table - users, parents, educators, law enforcement, government organisations."

Chris DeWolfe

"People live too much of their lives on email or the Internet or text messages these days. We're losing all of our communication skills."

Tracy Morgan

"With the Internet and social media being a huge part of today's culture, I think it's super important to promote staying smart online."

G. Hannelius

"A person who won't read has no advantage over one who can't read."

Mark Twain

"Everyone who remembers his own education remembers teachers, not methods and techniques. The teacher is the heart of the educational system."

Sidney Hook

"There is no end to education. It is not that you read a book, pass an examination, and finish with education. The whole of life, from the moment you are born to the moment you die, is a process of learning."

Jiddu Krishnamurti

Needed: Parent to help with 6-8 grade Robotics Team Competition. See Mrs. Fowler or call the school!

"The illiterate of the future will not be the person who cannot read. It will be the person who does not know how to learn."

Alvin Toffler

