MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

As another exciting calendar year draws to a close, my thoughts are on all of you for having contributed to the continual progress we make as a school system. Our teachers, support staff, volunteers, and administrators have selflessly given so much of their time and talents to ensure our students have the very best experiences and are prepared to leave our school ready and able to excel in middle school.

As I write this message I recall wonderful classroom activities and programs this past year; fun celebrations; many club meetings; and, of course, countless lessons prepared and delivered by our teachers in an effort to ready our students for life beyond South Harrison. Although each role we play contributes significantly to our organization, it’s the sum total of all our contributions that makes South Harrison a unique and wonderful place.

On behalf of our administrative team, we appreciate the work of all our teachers and Board of Education members and recognize everything you do to make South Harrison exceptional.

For 2017, I am encouraged by our success and your commitment to our students and I’m excited about the collaborative work that lies ahead.

I extend to you warmest wishes for a happy and healthy 2017 and wish you peace and happiness throughout the year!

Very truly yours,

Dr. James J. Lavender
Dear South Harrison Families,

I’m still in shock that the month of December is almost over! The beginning of the year has flown by! I hope that you were able to attend Parent Teacher Conferences and discuss your child’s academic progress with his or her teacher. May we continue to work as partners to ensure our children achieve their highest potential! We have so much to be proud of here!

As an update, South Harrison Elementary School’s Reading Incentive Program, “No Reader Left Behind,” is underway and so far we have read 2,938 books! Remember to return your child’s reading log by the last day of each month. December’s logs will be collected upon return from Winter Break on Tuesday, January 3rd. To help students set an achievable monthly goal, if your child reads 15 books per month, he or she will be able to meet the 100 book goal by the end of May. Ninety percent of our students must conquer the 100 book goal in order to reach our school-wide goal – 35,000. If the students reach this goal, I will sleep on the roof. Now there has been some speculation amongst the older students that I will not actually do it, but the Reading Incentive Committee members have prepared a special princess tent for me to sleep in! Of course they knew I would also need a robe, special book to read, and glittery slippers! As one student commented, “If you are going to do it you might as well do it in style!” My sentiments exactly!

Have a healthy, happy holiday and New Year! I look forward to seeing everyone in 2017!

Corinne Mesmer
BULLETIN BOARD

NOVEMBER
STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

First Grade
Raegan Stephan
Julie Caltabiano
Lupita Perez-Aguilera

Second Grade
Laurel Munning
Dominick Sicilia

Third Grade
Emily Magin
Wil Finnan
Gia Griscom

Fourth Grade
Amelia Morris
Lexa Bobadilla
Yael Hernandez

Fifth Grade
Nick Rosato
Nick Walton
Joe Leonardi

Sixth Grade
Carter Williams
Nick Viola
Michael McIntyre

Art
Michael Webster

Music
Joey DiFabritiis

Computers
Spencer Bair

Library
Julia Maden

Physical Education
Nicholas Wagner

World Language
Portia Cervantes

NOVEMBER
SPOTLIGHT STUDENTS

First Grade
Tegan McLeer

Second Grade
Ella Coladonato

Third Grade
Annie Reinerth

Fourth Grade
Danielle Hennessy

Fifth Grade
Ryland Mishura

Sixth Grade
Hasan Khan
NEWSPAPER CLUB ARTICLES

FIRE PREVENTION ASSEMBLY

by Isabella Cervantes & Madison Burt

On Friday, October 14th, the students of South Harrison Elementary assembled in the All-Purpose room for a fire prevention presentation. South Harrison firefighters visited the school to talk about fire safety rules and the job of a firefighter. The purpose of the assembly was to teach students what firefighters do and how they help our community.

Firefighting is a very important and dangerous profession. Captain Fry talked to us about the acronym PASS which are the steps for how to use a fire extinguisher:

1. Pull the lock pin
2. Aim the nozzle
3. Squeeze the handle
4. Sweep from side to side

He also reviewed what to do if you smell smoke, and hopefully, you all know how to Stop Drop and Roll if you are on fire. The short name for this is S.D.R!

The firefighters also taught us how to use some pieces of equipment, the names of some of the tools they use, and for what the different pieces are used.

FAMILY BINGO NIGHT

by Kevin Steckler, Brody Solomon, and Charlie Pino

Did you attend Family Bingo Night on October 7th? Here are some highlights straight from the event. It started at 7:00 pm. At that time, the seats were filled. Once participants got their bingo boards, they had the option to put their name in a raffle to become a bingo number announcer. Then, as you passed the registration desk, you came upon a boatload of prizes scattered across the stage and the excitement level for winning the toys lead families right to their seats to get ready to play the game!

There were a total of 10 rounds, and tons of different games, each harder and more frustrating than the next. As each round went by, players may or may not have won a prize, so if they didn’t and they were feeling down, their table was soon called to get the next best thing after toys...FOOD! The snack bar, which spanned from wall to wall in the back of the gymnasium, was filled with many savory foods from your favorite desserts like cookies, brownies, all the way to snacks like soft pretzels and chips. The only catch was that all were limited to two food choices to ensure that everyone received a snack.

As a result, this year’s South Harrison Elementary School Family Bingo Night was an obvious hit. With great hosts consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Menold and Mr. McShea, it couldn’t have been any better. A special thanks to the custodial staff for all their assistance during and after the event! If you are reading this because you didn’t go to Family Bingo Night, you’re probably feeling a little...or more like a lot...jealous because of the fun the attendees had. We would love to see you next year!
HALLOWEEN PARADE

by Anna Snyder, Emily Maden, and Lily Kinner

Are you new to South Harrison Elementary School? Every Halloween it is a tradition to have a Halloween parade. Students and staff dress up in their own Halloween costumes, and at 2:00 pm, everyone goes out to the track. On the track, students parade around while parents, grandparents, etc., line up around the track. The parents take lots of pictures, and you get to walk around the track with your class! Following the parade the students go back into school and have a class party! It is so much fun! There were quite a variety of costumes this year, from ghosts to nerds to mysterious purple people. The preschoolers also had their own parade. Everybody lined the walls of the school and watched them walk by with delight! Their costumes were amazing and very creative!

Behind the scenes, a lot went into preparing for the Halloween Parade. Ms. Mesmer had to make sure everything was properly communicated, make sure all the new staff knew what to do, and she sent out an email that had directions and a map of parking for the many visitors she was expecting.

You may think Ms. Mesmer did this by herself, but she had a lot of help. If it rained during the parade, Ms. Mesmer had a plan. Everybody would go in the multi-purpose room. If you were wondering if Ms. Mesmer wears a costume, well she does! This year she was Cinderella, and last year she was Tinkerbell. One thing that Ms. Mesmer said she was going to do differently was that she was going to look at dismissal procedures for that day, meaning that dismissal for students whose parents are helping out with parties who are taking their kids home will be more organized.

South Harrison has always had a parade. Prior to it being held on the track, the students used to parade down Main Street in Harrisonville. The problem with this was that it blocked off the whole road. In 2007 when the track was built, the Halloween Parade was moved to the new track. Overall, Ms. Mesmer said that this year’s parade went very smoothly and everyone seemed to have a wonderful time!

TRUNK OR TREAT

by Kirsten Nelson and Ava Valderrama

Trunk or Treat has been a family favorite in our community for several years. Hopefully it will continue to be a favorite for many years to come. It’s a great event and a great fundraiser for the 6th grade STOKES trip. Trunk or Treat is usually scheduled a few days before Halloween. This event is a much safer option for small children than going out in the streets by themselves. This year Trunk or Treat took place on Friday, October 28, 2016 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm.

At Trunk or Treat, participants creatively decked out their car trunks and handed out candy as children trick-or-treated from car to car. This year the South Harrison Education Association’s PRIDE committee sponsored lots of fun games and a pumpkin carving/painting contest.

There were many great pumpkins but there could only be three winners. The first place winner was Emily and Molly Downey’s family, 2nd was Ava Valderrama, and the 3rd place winner was Samantha Kline. Speaking of these contests, the winner of the best decorated trunk was A.J. Brennan’s family.

Families were also able to purchase food at the “Creepy Concessions Stand” and enjoyed such foods as hoagies, hot dogs, and slices of pizza. Also available at the stand were coffee, hot chocolate, soft pretzels, and other drinks and sweets. There were definitely some great treats to help everyone get through the night!

Overall this was a great night at South Harrison Elementary School. The 315 participants received lots of candy, played games, and most of all had bunches and bunches of fun. We can’t wait for next year!
STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTION

by Emily Maden, Anna Snyder, & Lily Kinner

On Thursday, October 13th, elections were held to select our new Student Council officers. Sixth grader A.J. Brennan was elected as our new president. A.J. plans to have several “fun days,” at least one fundraiser, and he wants to get a suggestion box into every single classroom, including grades K-3. He said that he ran for president because he knew he could make this school a better place to be every day. He wants to hear all of the suggestions from the student body. A.J. stated “I am honored to be elected as your president, and I will do my best to make this a great year.”

Sixth grader Kevin Steckler was elected our new vice president. Kevin said he ran for vice president because he thinks that he will have an opportunity to make this school better. He wants to try his best for others and make their suggestions possible. Kevin will try to reach out to Ms. Mesmer personally to make our opinions possible. This sixth grader is hardworking, trustworthy, and you can rely on him.

STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR 2016-2017

President: A.J. Brennan
Vice President: Kevin Steckler
Secretary: Sean Steckler
Treasurer: Andrew Altmann

CLASSROOM REPRESENTATIVES

6M: Tristan McLeer
6P: Charlie Pino
6L: Aubrey Menold
5O: Dylan Fretz
5S: Angelina Corridori
5M: Hunter Acevedo
4T: Joey DiFabritiis
4D: Isabella Gular
4C: Danielle Hennessy

WEEK OF RESPECT

by Abby Bender, Camryn Snyder, and Vanessa Kline

Respect. A very powerful word, but what does it mean? Respect is how you feel about others and how you treat others. The Week of Respect is a very important event, and is a law that every school must hold this event the first week of October. This year it started on October 3rd and ended on October 7th.

Who runs this event for our school? Well, it is the wonderful Mrs. Haslam, our School Psychologist. This year she planned many different themes for each day:

Monday - Wear your favorite team jersey
Tuesday - Wear red, white, and blue to show respect and pride for our country
Wednesday - Wear a silly or favorite hat
Thursday - Wear gold and blue to show your respect and pride for our school
Friday - Mix it up (picture day)

One of Mrs. Haslam’s ideas is instead of having just one week of respect, it should be the whole school year. She would accomplish this idea by going into classrooms and teaching about important subjects like respect.

Other ideas she had were “stomp out bullying,” where you would have to wear boots. She also observed that many people weren’t participating in wearing a silly or favorite hat on Wednesday. She said she would take away hat day and do a different theme next year. Mrs. Haslam was nervous for mix-it-up day because it was also picture day. She worried that some people might think “mix-it-up” meant mix up your clothes. Luckily, nobody did this.

One of the many reasons we do the Week of Respect is for students to learn how to act respectfully and make good decisions. Mrs. Haslam wants everybody to learn how to start a conversation, how to treat people the way you want to be treated, and how you should never stop being respectful to everybody and everything around you.

In conclusion, the Week of Respect is very important. According to Mrs. Haslam, “Throughout the year, students and staff can add pictures, comments, or quotes to our RESPECT bulletin board display across from the cafeteria.” Respect is very important in the world we live in. Even though somebody may be mean to you, you still should be respectful to them.
Board of Education
Deborah Cunningham, President
Janet Brown, Vice President
Michael Brennan
Dr. Laura Bruno
Toni Buckley
Janice Huggins
James McShea
Ron Reilly
Joseph Talbot

Administration
Dr. James J. Lavender, Superintendent
Mr. Jason Schimpf, School Business Administrator
Mrs. Patricia Calandro, Chief Academic Officer
Mrs. Corinne Mesmer, Principal