

# NORTH HALEDON LEARNING COMMUNITY

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## Upcoming Events

**December 19<sup>th</sup>**- Winter Show  
9:15am @ Memorial School

**January 26<sup>th</sup>** Student Council  
Dance 7:00pm

**January 29<sup>th</sup>** Geography Bee  
9:00am

Dear Learning Community Member:

Three months in and heading into the new year already! We continue to make progress in many areas while at the same time preparing for the 18-19 school year. We have been in the process of preparing our budget keeping in mind what's best for our students. We continue to progress during this school year being fiscally prudent as well. Again, staff development, curriculum advances, and beautification continue to be at the forefront. Have a wonderful holiday season...

Warm Regards,

Nicholas S. Coffaro, Superintendent of Schools

*"Any person can know. The point is to understand..." A. Einstein*



During our February BOE Meeting, our administrative team will present to our BOE and community an update as to our curriculum... current progress, as well as a look ahead to not only 18-19 school year, but a "long-term" vision as to programming. As indicated in previous BOE meetings, curriculum is on-going and work in progress, as is our testing analysis. Data collected does provide accuracy as to curriculum needs, as well as areas of strength. Instruction and PD (professional development) are included in curriculum realm. Gentle reminder as to curriculum and PD updates: at all BOE meetings (preferably work sessions), our team does provide monthly updates. Hoping all are able to attend these particular meetings.

## Important Dates

**December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Single Session Day

**December 25<sup>th</sup> to January 1<sup>st</sup>**

Winter Break (return to school on January 2<sup>nd</sup>)

**January 15<sup>th</sup>**

PD for Staff (NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS)

**January 26<sup>th</sup>**

End of Marking Period 2

**February 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>**

President's Recess (No School)



## Student and Personnel Services

We continue our diligence as to documentation. Our partnership and relation with the DOE and County have been instrumental as to this endeavor. Compliance is at the forefront whether IEP creation or services/programming. Even though our budget presentation does not occur until April, our department has been working feverishly all school year as to the needs for 18-19 school year. Again, the process is on-going with emphasis on meeting needs of all learners. January or February will bring a parent forum. Please look for date and time.

### QSAC Update:

**As discussed during BOE Meetings beginning in the summer of 17-18 school year, this state process monitors & evaluates school districts in 5-areas: Fiscal, Governance, Operations, Personnel, and Instruction/Programming.**

**Based upon information we have provided to the DOE, they have granted us an Equivalency Application. This wonderful news could provide us with a 3-Year Waiver since our district is compliant in the eyes of the DOE. QSAC is an opportunity for the State to measure effectiveness in any school district. Once the DOE receives our application, we are hopeful for an official waiver, with our classification as an effective school district. Great work by all!!**

## Police Department

Twice per month, and with the help of our police department, we continue to execute emergency drills. As a family, do communicate with your child as to practice and procedure. Our goal is to perform exercises without creating stress on all. Again, a thank you to Chief Bracco and members of his department.

For road accessibility, please do not park on Squaw Brook prior to 2:30. Enter MS lot at dismissal for 2:45. Not before. Thank you.

## Mayor and Town Council

We thank Mayor George and the Town Council for their assistance with our schools. Special thanks to our DPW for their collaboration with our school custodial and maintenance staff.

Recent weather activity has deployed our DPW in the plowing of our school lots. Once again, we thank our DPW for their time and efforts.

This partnership will continue since our collaboration is a part of QSAC in terms of facilities. Again, we thank you all!



*“What's happening in our schools...”*

#### **HIGH MOUNTAIN SCHOOL – Mrs. Mazzola**

*“Our 5<sup>th</sup> Grade collected pajamas to the **Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive**, helping children living in shelters and foster care. A total of 172 pajamas were collected! Each pajama collected, a child receives a brand new book from Scholastic to help make better bedtime especially during the holiday season. Once again our **Grade 8 Thanksgiving Feast** was a success. Thank you to Mrs. Koyan & all students involved. Student Council ran its **Food Drive with Grade 7** collecting 172 cans. We thank the **Manchester HS Choir** for their concert at HMS. **TREPS Marketplace** was again a hit! We thank all young entrepreneurs on their business endeavors. **Deck the Halls with Positive Thoughts** has been a staple during this holiday season. Great work by our students. **Progress Reports** go live on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.”*

#### **MEMORIAL SCHOOL – Mrs. Tait**

*“**One School, One Book** is a new program @ MS. This program unites our school community through reading. Students were given an opportunity to create a **Spirit Day**, as **Cozy Up and Read Day** was the winner! All of our students have explored and learned via **Makerspace** during their Enrichment Class. Great job by Grade 1 as to the **Thanksgiving Show**. Grade 2 continues to prepare for their grade level celebration of learning **Holidays Around The World**. Thank you to all with regard to **American Education Week**, and to the feedback from our families regarding conferences. Kudos to all who helped with another successful **Book Fair and Holiday Shop**. We continue to celebrate student birthdays each month.”*

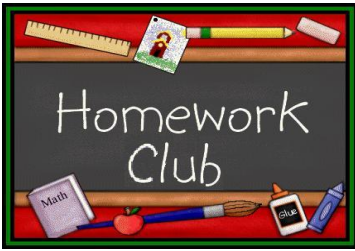


**Our commitment to excellence begins with a healthy partnership with home and family. We are about “community.” Here’s a perfect example:**

While there have been many events of the course of the school year, a very special event took place with many Memorial School students. Grade 4 students are taking part in the reading and discussion of the novel, **Wonder**. Our students were fortunate enough to have parents reserve a theater to view the movie...together!

Seeing both current and former students, coming together to experience this extraordinary movie was simply amazing. Also involved and in attendance were Mrs. Tait and some staff members as all will cherish this experience.

Truly about community...



We continue to bring this valuable resource to our district. Currently we have 19 students attending at HMS, and 12 at Memorial School. We thank our staff and administration team for their supervision and leadership. As of now, we will continue to meet once per week. We are hoping to add another day for the 18-19 school year. Again, referral is needed from CST, I&RS, and 504. A teacher may recommend all other students, but administration would need evidence and data as to participation.



We are in preparation for our first Green Fair as a school district. Earth Day is Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> and during this day, our school will participate with the Town as to North Haledon Green Fair. We continue to apply for multiple grants through Sustainable Jersey. Grants could provide us with hand dryers in bathrooms to reduce the use & cost of paper. Our district continues to utilize new green cleaning products in both schools.

As part of Sustainable New Jersey, we do ask our community to adhere to North Haledon Anti-Idling Ordinance during pick-up and drop-off. While our PD has right to enforce, maintaining a healthy environment is our priority. Thank you.

<https://www.ecode360.com/search/NO1017?query=anti%3Didling>



## TOWN LIBRARY

The library will be closed on December 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Gifted**, will be shown on Tuesday, Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:30. The movie runs 101 minutes and is rated PG-13.

On January 2<sup>nd</sup>, Melissa Canter will present **Introduction to Qigong** at 1:30. Pronounced "chee-gong," this is a Chinese health care system that integrates posture, breathing techniques and focused attention.

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### **Board of Education**

Meeting Dates (7:00)

@ Memorial School:

December 20th – Regular Mtg. \*\*\*

January 3<sup>rd</sup> – Re-ORG \*\*\***6:30 start.**

At our Re-ORG meeting, we will approve the BOE Meeting Calendar.





## Gifted and Talented Program

Some upcoming events you should be aware of...

January 5<sup>th</sup> – Scratch Day for Grade 6 in Haskell.

January 24<sup>th</sup> – Quiz Bowl for Grade 8 in Haledon.

January 30<sup>th</sup> – Mystery Challenge for Grade 5 in Little Falls.

February 2<sup>nd</sup> – Geography Bee for Grade 7 at HMS.

February 8<sup>th</sup> – STEM Challenge for Grade 8 in Pompton Lakes.



As we continue our emphasis on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning, our BOE, PTO, and NHEF will partner and collaborate in bringing the most effective resources and materials to our students. Some updates:

1:1 at HMS continues and has been a very effective and valuable resource for our students.

PD in January is PARCC based, but moving forward, our PD will continue to expand tech-based classroom strategies and methodologies.

Our Tech Department will provide PD for staff as to a system called, Big Brother. This system will monitor the appropriateness of internet usage. Here, teachers will receive alerts when inappropriate sites are trying to be activated. Also, teachers will be review not only history for individual users, and track lost devices, but this system can also assist teachers in other realms of classroom management.

As for PARCC, we are looking to schedule 6 days, as opposed to 12 (as in the past). This action would help minimize disruptions to schedule.

STEM continues to be infused into particular classroom Science Lab lessons. While we have the Little Ivy Academy after school, we continue to do our best by bringing to our students a variety of strategies that promote discovery and explorations. Robotics has been infused at HMS during Woodshop and Makerspace blended with Enrichment Curriculum at Memorial. Looking ahead, we want to bring our students a true classroom environment for STEM Curriculum, such as a Discovery Education Room. We have toured a Discovery Room in a neighboring district to get ideas as to this wonderful amenity for our students and staff.



## Update as to Facilities and Grounds...

As indicated, an area of emphasis is to provide a true setting for our students as to STEM and Discovery Education. While any new initiative is a process, we do continue to maintain what we currently have in district as far as repairs and beautification. An update:

All summer jobs and projects have now been completed. All indoor railings at HMS have been replaced. We now have railings that are not painted and do not show dirt or stain marks. If so, they can now be easily cleaned and sanitized.

The front steps at Memorial School had much needed repair work completed recently. All steps were replaced with the retaining wall supporting the stairs being rebuilt and reinforced. The stair railings have been sanded down, repainted, and reinforced with concrete.

Our building access system (entering building) has been completely updated. Soon, our key fobs will be collected from all staff members in district. Our goal is to provide all with ID Cards for swiping and, obviously, identification as part of our safety and security plan. And speaking of...



In the coming New Year, we will update our emergency security and safety guide/packet. There are new mandates that district will need to include in our EMS packet. Our plan is from 2011-2012 and while this is sound, we do need to include these new mandates. Part of our planning and process is to have a security coordinator from state level to meet with our district administrative team as to these new mandates, and to review what we have currently in place as well. Our partnership with not only the state and county, but with our local Police Department, is critical and vital to our emergency management system. An MOA (Memorandum of Agreement) is enforced and shared with our Police Department. Again, I thank Chief Bracco and our North Haledon Police Department for their leadership and collaboration as to the safety and security throughout our community.

## “Let’s meet some staff members!”

**For this issue, we will meet our new Business Administrator... Mrs. Debra Andreniuk.**

- Started in district August 29, 2017;
- BS in Business Administration/Accounting (Ramapo College);
- CPA and PSA Licenses;
- Married with children...two boys: Kyle (2<sup>nd</sup> year at Quinnipiac University) and Chad (HS Senior);
- Started career as an HR Assistant/Accountant at Crown Royal Leaf, Inc. in 1992 and left company as an Assistant Controller in June of 2016; and
- Business Administrator/Board Secretary at Riverdale Public School District, July 2016-August 2017.

STATEMENT: *“I am very excited to be a part of the North Haledon School District. I look forward to working with the staff, administration, and community to achieve the educational goals of the district. I sense there is great eagerness to keep things moving in a positive direction and my goal is to keep that momentum going.”*

FAVORITE QUOTE: *“Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world...”*  
Harriet Tubman

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### **Policy Reminder:**

- *Vaping* is now on the minds of all school leaders and community stakeholders in many district. While there has been alleged actions brought to the attention of our administrative team, we have been proactive with our approach. Some measures have included random locker and back-pack checks, bathroom sign-out sheets, educational dialog between staff, admins, and students, increased staff supervision especially near bathrooms, and the assistance of our Police Department as to supervision of the playground area near HMS. We will schedule a forum night for parents, as well as school assembly, as to an informational event in the new year. Some NJ District have gone as far as bringing in Narcotic Dogs to “sniff” out any other type of foreign substance that may be on an individual or housed within a school. Our policy does include “Electronic Devices,” with Code of Conduct listing appropriate dispositions as to violation. Any individual caught, we will strongly enforce our policy as to possession and usage.
  
- *Policy 7434: Smoking in school buildings and on school grounds.*
  - *Policy 5533: Pupil Smoking.*

