

**ALEXANDER HAMILTON
HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION MEETING
PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
Tuesday, September 13, 2011**

- Thank you to Dr. Ficarra, the Central Office Staff, AH Staff, and our parents for helping us to achieve a smooth and successful opening week. We were not about to let Hurricane Irene keep us from having a great first week of school!
- Thank you to Mrs. Della Peruti, Mrs. Barilla-Kay, Mrs. Boucher, Mrs. Heher, Mrs. Broseker, Mrs. Minehan, and Mrs. Lawlor for volunteering to help greet students on our opening day.
- Thank you to Mrs. Livingston for volunteering to help our Main Office staff get ready for the opening of school.
- Thank you to Mrs. Nourbakhsh, Mrs. Ezell, and Mrs. Weintraub for organizing our Staff breakfast. It was greatly appreciated!
- Thank you to Mrs. Boucher (and family) for caring for the plants and flowers in front of our school and in the Ecology Center.
- Thank you to Mrs. Broseker and Mrs. Familo for planning our Cultural Arts programs for the 2011-2012 school year.
- Thank you to the HSA for purchasing rugs for our 4th and 5th grade classrooms. We hope to have a very successful Walkathon so that we can purchase rugs for 3rd grade classrooms next year.
- Thank you to the HSA Minigrant Committee for approving the following generous grants to our school:
 - Experiencing Social Studies Using 21st Century Technology, Linda Murphy and 4th Grade Teachers
 - Shindig 2011, Petra Wiehe and 4th Grade Teachers
 - Health and Nutrition, Meg Goss and Lisa Camelotto
 - Students Step Up! Anti-Bullying Program, Randy Sconiers, School Counselor
- Please continue to send in forms that were sent home on the first day of school.
- The Morris School District will no longer send home flyers. Go to the MSD or AH websites and click on Digital Backpack to view all flyers. AH is also going paperless. We will be posting all information on our website and sending it out via eblast this year. Please be sure to give us your email address. If you do not have access to email, we will send home hard copies of important information.
- **We welcome our excellent new staff at Alexander Hamilton School:**
 - Mercy Ferrer—Basic Skills Teacher
 - Elka Kessler—Resource Room Teacher
 - Jeremy Miragliotta—Basic Skills Teacher
 - Robert Pellechio—5th Grade Teacher
 - Jomari Bati - CABAS Assistant (Hill)
 - Emilia Clancy - CABAS Assistant (Neu)
 - Colleen Cumiskey - CABAS Assistant (Neu)
 - Christopher Miller - CABAS Assistant (Wiehe)
 - Elizabeth Snell - CABAS Assistant (Wiehe)
 - **I would also like to welcome back:**
 - Vanessa Kelly—ESL
 - Stephanie Little—Grade 5
 - Pam Marmora—Resource Room
 - Anne Long--.5 Teacher Assistant (Galvin)
 - **Staff who have retired, moved to a different school, or changed classrooms/grade levels:**
 - We wish Mrs. Friedman, Mrs. Pietersen, and Ms. Trezza a wonderful retirement!
 - Mary Beth Bonkoski now teaches Resource Room at Sussex Avenue School.
 - Kim Smith is now an ABS at Lafayette Learning Center.

- Jermaine McElwee is now a .5 Teacher Assistant (Galvin).
 - Linda Baker—Teacher Assistant (Lori Murphy)
 - Gloria Weiss-Allen—Teacher Assistant (Little)
 - Trudy Specht—Teacher Assistant (Skrod)
 - Susann Femia—Teacher Assistant (Yorston)
- **Staff who have changed their names:**
 - Lori Monetti, one of our 4th grade teachers, is now Lori Murphy.
 - Jessica VanDerhoef, one of our 5th grade teachers, is now Jessica Neu.
 - Mary Vogt, our choral and general music teacher, is now Mary Worts.
- Please review the Parent Handbook which is on our website.
- Harrassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Prevention Policy: Please see our Parent Handbook and the MSD website for information pertaining to this new policy based on NJ State Law, which went into effect September 2011.
- Cell phones: Students who bring cell phones to school must keep them turned off or on vibrate in their backpacks. Phones may not be used in school without the permission of the classroom teacher in case of an emergency. Please call the main office if you need to contact your child during the school day. Alexander Hamilton School cannot be responsible for any personal electronic devices that students bring to school.
- We will mail home NJ ASK Individual Student Reports on September 28th. In order to better prepare students for taking the NJ ASK test, we will be selecting students for Academic After School, which will begin in November. We will also have one period of test preparation for all students every D-day beginning in February.
- **Flood Recovery Updates:**

Renovations and repairs to our school are continuing. Air Testing results indicated that our air quality is safe and have enabled us to use our first and second floors, which were not damaged by the flooding. Currently, we are not using the lower level of AH due to repairs and renovations. Air quality on the lower level will be tested again before we allow students to use classrooms in that area of the building. The wooden parts of the gym floor and stage need to be replaced. The kitchen is being renovated with new appliances. When all repairs and renovations are complete our lower level will look better than it did before!

 - All specials, except for Library, are in the classrooms.
 - PE and recess are outside, weather permitting. Otherwise, they are in the classrooms.
 - Parents picking up students right after school should come to the hallway outside the main office. Please enter and exit through Door 1 (center doors).
 - Sunrise/Sunset is in the Library. Please use Door 2 to drop off and pick up students.
 - 5th Grade Band & Orchestra Rehearsals will begin the week of September 19th and will be in the Library. Instrumental lessons will begin on September 16th—a schedule will be going home soon.
 - While our kitchen is under repair, cold lunches are being sent over from Sussex Avenue School daily. We are requesting that students in Allergy Aware classes (a letter was sent home to parents of students in those classes) do not bring any products containing nuts, especially peanuts, for lunch or snack.
 - School Store will be set up in the first and second floor hallways.
- **Curriculum Updates:**
 - The Morris School District purchased new technology for every elementary school. We have:
 - **Desk tops in Computer Lab: 12 iMacs, 10 eMacs, and 2 Dells**
 - **7 iBooks on cart housed in Computer Lab**
 - **30 iPads (10 per grade level) and 3 iBooks to synch apps on carts housed in Computer Lab**
 - **3 Smartboards**
 - **8 Document Cameras**
 - **1 Polyvision Interactive Whiteboard**
 - **2 Dells, laptop, and projector cart in every homeroom class**

- **1 new Savin high-speed copier in Main Office with scanning capability**
- **10 digital cameras**
- **3 pocket camcorders**
- **3 digital audio recorders**
- We will continue to use Rosetta Stone for Spanish Language instruction. Students have online access to the program in school and at home. The program is completely individualized so that students progress at their own pace.
- Reading and Writing Continuums will be shared at November and April conferences. All students will receive the new Progress Reports in February and June.
- Professional Development for teachers for Language Arts Literacy this year (presenter: Olivia Wahl)
- Professional Development for teachers for Keeping Learning on Track (best practices in using assessment to support learning) (presenters: Josephine Noone and Irene Giuliano)
- Updated Science Curriculum and Bayer Making Science Make Sense Grant—Bayer is providing funds to purchase *Engineering Is Elementary* Design Kits for all 3-5 schools.
- PISA² (Partnership to Improve Achievement in Physical Science) Grant—Mrs. McLain will continue to receive professional development at Stevens Institute of Technology through the National Science Foundation funded PISA² Grant. Teachers in the program take 5 graduate courses at Stevens Institute to keep current with best practices in teaching science. Mrs. McLain received training on how to implement the *Engineering is Elementary* Units for all 5th Grade classes. She is currently taking courses on *Global Climate Change* and *Energy Consumption and Production*, which will then be taught to 4th Grade students.
- We will continue our Environmental Programs and make improvements to our Ecology Center during this school year. Thank you to Sonu Razdan and Lynn Boucher, who will be coordinating these programs.
- Honeywell-Remember to update your contact information. Please press 1 to acknowledge receipt of Honeywell messages.
- Back to School Night and Math Night Schedules will be sent home via eblast and backpack. These programs will take place in the classrooms due to continuing renovations to our lower level.
- We will combine our Emergency Evacuation Drill to Morristown High School with the Freestyle Repertory Theatre performance so that we can use their auditorium.
- **Upcoming Events in September:**
 - Room Parents Tea 9/19 9:30 am in Room 10
 - School Pictures 9/20 Retakes 11/16
 - Back to School Night 9/22 6:30 pm-8:00 pm
 - Walkathon Kickoff Assembly-canceled
- **Upcoming Events in October:**
 - Walkathon 10/7 (Gr. 3 1:20-1:50, Gr. 4 2:00-2:30, Gr. 5 2:40-3:10) Raindate 10/10
 - HSA Meeting 10/12 7:00pm (CABAS/AIL Presentation)
 - 10/13--Emergency Evacuation Drill to MHS begins 1:20/Freestyle Repertory Theatre Performance at MHS 1:45-2:45/walk back to school for dismissal
 - Book Fair 10/18-20
 - Math Night/Book Fair 10/19 6:30pm-8:00pm
 - Halloween Parade 10/31 2:30pm
- **Please add to your calendars:**
 - Science and Technology Night-March 7th 6-8 pm