

Principal's Weekly Journal

Principal's Note

The Obstacle In Our Path

In ancient times, a King had a boulder placed on a roadway. Then he hid himself and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock. Some of the king's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it. Many loudly blamed the King for not keeping the roads clear, but none did anything about getting the stone out of the way.

Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded. After the peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the King indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway.

The peasant learned what many of us never understand! Every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve our condition.

May the New Year bring strength and opportunity for you and the chance to move your rock for a prosperous and joyous New Year!

Upcoming Events

December 23
Single Session

January 14
PTA Meeting 7:30pm

January 17
Family Game Night

January 23
Winter Concert

Good News. Good News.

5th & 6th grade chorus and band students performed at Maple Glen Center on Monday, Dec. 16 and were very well received by the audience of residents. They presented holiday cards to the residents and also received a hand drawn thank you note from one of the male residents, showing a picture of the students singing in appreciation of their performance.

Reminders

After break, school reopens on Thursday, January 2, 2014.

If your child is going to be absent from school, please call the absentee line (201-796-6650 x1)

Follow us on



@hiselementary

Telephone 201.796.6650
Helen I Smith School
30Cambridge Avenue

"Tell me a fact and I'll learn. Tell me a truth and I'll believe. But tell me a story and it will live in my heart forever."

Native American proverb

www.saddlebrookschools.org/sbsd/Smith/

Classroom Close-up



Mrs. Margolis's 5th and 6th grade students just finished the condensed version of Jack London's Call of the Wild in Language Arts. They loved the genre so much, they are about to begin London's second book, White Fang, after vacation. A compare and contrast to the movie is soon to follow.

Mrs. Donofrio's second grade students are learning about the story of the Nutcracker Ballet created by composer Peter Tchaikovsky. They are currently watching the performance by the New York City Ballet Company accompanied by a character study of the ballet.

Mrs. Martin's class has been busy researching how Christmas is celebrated around the world. The students have researched their chosen countries and developed Power Points about their country's traditions. The students presented their research project to the class, as well as, bringing in a traditional holiday food for the class to sample. The whole class decorated individual gingerbread houses, opened British Crackers, and learned about the Legend of the Christmas Spider!



Don't forget to scroll down for
notices!!!

Congratulations to our 2013-2014 Annual H.I.S. Calendar

Contest winners!

Boris Borisov.
Qassam Mohammad
Brianna Scorzetti
Brianna Manzo
Shakira Zheng
Ashley Torres
Natalie Escobar
Brianna DeBari
Gianna Gargurevich
Caelen Mahoney
Mackenzie Juliano
Caroline Poskrobko.

PTO TODAY
HELPING PARENT LEADERS MAKE SCHOOLS GREAT

**Happy Healthy
School Kids**

Congratulations to H.I.S. PTA! They have been selected to participate in the 2014 Happy Healthy School Kids program!

Families who participate in *Family Fitness Night* on March 14th will receive a copy of *Thrive*, a publication for parents featuring health and wellness articles, tips and high value coupons.

Runaway Gingerbread Man

After a week long search, local spotting's and the assistance of Captain Laurentino, the Gingerbread Man was found in Mrs. Martins class.



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Helen L Smith School PTA is getting ready for our 2014 Talent Show.

We are now asking that all interested participants fill out the attached form and return it to your teacher not later than January 3, 2014. *Every interested child must hand in a signed permission form.* We will be having practices shortly after all forms are received. All interested parties should be prepared to perform a rough draft of their act at that time. Music and content will be reviewed for school suitability. *Parents please review your child's music content and performance prior to the first practice. This will help prevent any unnecessary delays due to inappropriate material.* Each act should be 2-3 minutes long. Please provide all music, props, etc. you will be using if needed. *We will need a CD of the music your child will use the Monday prior to the first practice.*

DUE TO THE LIMITED NUMBER OF ACTS ALLOWED, CHILDREN CAN ONLY PERFORM IN ONE ACT! NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE FOR ANY REASON!

A schedule of rehearsals will be made available as soon as possible.

We are asking 6th grade boys and girls to MC the show and assist backstage. Please fill out the form for those positions.

We are also in need of parent volunteers. Please fill out the form if you are interested in helping out.

Feel free to contact Debi D'Alessandro at 201-797-2464 or Sandy McVeigh at 201-773-4177 if you have any questions.

Thank you for your cooperation.

The Talent Show Committee

Talent Show

Name: _____ Grade/Teacher _____

1) Who will be performing in your act? (Include names and grades of each person.)

2) What is the nature of your act? (Comedy, dance, singing, etc.)

3) Does your act have a name? If so, what is it?

4) What music, if any will you be using?

5) What props do you intend to use in your act?

6) Are you interested in helping out - MC, backstage, making backgrounds, handing out programs, etc? Sixth Grade Only

7) Are you a parent interested in helping out? (Please check below)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

My child _____ has my permission to participate in the PTA Talent Show.

_____ I can help out

Parent's signature _____

EVERY CHILD MUST HAND IN A SIGNED PERMISSION FORM.