

**HANOVER TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Office of the Superintendent**

**PTA Advisory Notes**  
**June 4, 2014**

**1. Update on Staffing**

There have been quite a few openings for teaching positions brought about by the retirement of a number of faculty members, several announced maternity leaves, the scheduling of additional sections, and resignations. Members of the administrative team have spent countless hours screening resumes, conducting interviews, and scheduling demonstration lessons in an effort to find the best candidates to fill these open positions. There has also been quite a few re-assignments of existing faculty to accommodate shifts in student enrollment. We are well on our way to being fully staffed for September and are hoping to finalize these decisions shortly after the close of school in June.

**2. District Goal Setting**

As in the past, the Board of Education and district administration will be meeting next week to review the progress made toward the attainment of district goals for the current school year and establish goals for the 2014-2015 school year. Parents and faculty members are asked to contribute to the process by participating in the Goal Setting Survey that was distributed via email earlier this week. The results of this survey will be shared with the Management Team and assist with the development of district goals. The survey will be open to parents and faculty until Monday, June 9th at 4:00 p.m. Once the goals have been established district administration will develop an action plan with specific indicators of success and timelines which will be implemented throughout the upcoming school year.

**3. The Walking School Bus**

As you already know, the "Walking School Bus" event initiated by township's Schools and Parks Traffic Safety Committee has been a huge success. Hundreds of children participated by walking and biking to school. The local police and PTAs played an important role in the success of this program. The township committee is hoping to make this a weekly event beginning in May and continuing through the end of October each year.

**4. Film Project (excerpts from press release)**

On Wednesday, students in the PACT program at Memorial Junior School were invited to attend a presentation coordinated by the Whippany River Watershed Action Committee (WRWAC) who selected two-time Academy Award nominated filmmaker Glenn Silber to produce and direct a documentary on the reclamation of the Whippany River. The 16-mile long Whippany River serves as a critical source of drinking water for millions of people in North Jersey.

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The documentary is funded by a \$45,000 grant from The Bayer USA Foundation. Bayer HealthCare's US Headquarters is located in Hanover Township and straddles the Whippany River. The WRWAC is partnering with Hanover Township, whose officials spearheaded a major clean-up of the river back in the 80s. Filming will begin immediately and wrap-up in September.

Glenn Silber has been a staff producer for nearly 20 years with ABC News and CBS News and has worked with Barbara Walters, Scott Pelley, Steve Kroft, Connie Chung and Elizabeth Vargas. "It's an honor to be involved with this project." says Glenn Silber. "Over the next few months I will be filming and interviewing residents, students, business and civic leaders, to focus on the community's efforts to restore and protect the Whippany River."

The documentary will be crafted to engage students, civic groups, municipalities and anyone interested in learning about the compelling environmental history and the urgency of sustaining the Whippany River. It will showcase clean-up and protection efforts to preserve and save this precious natural resource for generations to come.

"The WRWAC's mission is to preserve, protect and maintain the land and water of the Whippany River Watershed." states WRWAC Facilitator Art Vespignani. "The documentary will focus on the threats to and solutions for the Whippany River during the past 50 years."

**5. End of Year Events**

The Eighth Grade Awards Day Assembly is scheduled for Wednesday, June 18th at 9:45 a.m. in the Memorial Junior School Auditorium. The program recognizes students for their academic, athletic, and other accomplishments from throughout the school year. The Eighth Grade Graduation Ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, June 24th at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium of Memorial Junior School. We are expecting to graduate 190 students which is one of the largest classes at Memorial in quite some time.

The last day of school is scheduled for Wednesday, June 25th. Monday, June 23rd, Tuesday, June 24th and Wednesday, June 25th will all be early dismissal days for the students.

**6. School Calendar for 2014-2015**

The school calendar for the 2014-2015 school year has been distributed to parents and is available on the district website. There will be two additional half days scheduled for students during the 2014-2015 school year. Parents will be notified of the exact dates at the beginning of the school year. These days will be utilized for professional development activities for faculty.

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**7. New Emergency School Closing Notification System**

The school district is in the process of contracting with a company for a new emergency school closing notification system for the 2014-2015 school year. This system will be embedded within PowerSchool which is the new student data management software program. Once parents are enrolled in PowerSchool, they will automatically be enrolled in the notification system. The new system also has the capability of sending flyers and other important school information home to parents via email.

**8. Rotary Duck Race**

The annual Whippany Rotary Duck Race will be held this Saturday, June 7th at Malapardis Park beginning at 1:00 p.m. There will be free hot dogs and ice cream for the children as well as a number of fun events prior to the duck launch which is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. A flyer will be sent home with the students this Friday to remind them of the event.

**9. Closing Remarks**

On behalf of the Board of Education, district administration, faculty, staff, and students we want to extend a heartfelt appreciation to the PTAs, and our parents, for your support throughout the 2013-2014 school year. We are grateful for your assistance in making many of our school programs possible and for providing a number of enrichment activities for students and enhancements to our educational programs.

Enjoy the summer recess period and we look forward to seeing all of you in September as we continue to strive to be ***"A Community That Inspires Excellence."***