

HARMONY HERALD

A Publication of the Harmony Elementary School PTA

November/December 2006

FROM THE LEAD DOG

Laura Karaglanis, PTA President

Can you believe it is already December? We will soon be celebrating our first anniversary in our new building. Seeing the students and staff make the school such a warm environment has been wonderful.

In last month's newsletter, I focused on conferences (one part of the application of the PTA School of Excellence award.) While we did show improvement with participation in the last round of parent/teacher conference, we still need to make this a priority in the spring. This month's focus is the volunteer portion of the application. Harmony will build a case showing excellence in this area. Make sure that you use the office sign-in sheets correctly because they are tallied each year for the PTA awards and for the Harmony report card. If you are assisting the school in any way (working in the class, attending a meeting, helping with a party, etc.) be sure to check the [volunteer] box. Also included in volunteer hours are the PTA events. We would like to be in a position where we have to turn down volunteers, but realistically, we are a long way off. Harmony Harvest needed about 50 more helpers than we had. Please consider giving an hour of your time. Attending the holiday parties on December 15 is a great way to help out and add volunteer hours. The room parents will provide more details in how you can help.

Every family has a different way of celebrating this month. We celebrate Christmas. It is a fun time of shopping, wrapping, and spending time with friends. My hope and prayer for all of you this Christmas, is that you are able to focus on the truly important parts of the season and that you are happy, healthy and blessed.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Why MegaSkills?

When I ask adults what characteristics we hope to foster in our children, the answer would sound just like this: self-confidence, responsibility, dependability, curiosity, eagerness to learn, independence, self-discipline, sensitivity to others, kindness, consideration, hard working. The interesting fact is that this answer is the same no matter where we live. These are the true basics and this is the main reason that we teach MegaSkills to our Huskies.

MegaSkills are skills for living that grow incrementally...and most importantly they grow through a partnership between home and school. One of the key points of the MegaSkills Program is the integration of academics and character development so that the power and responsibility for learning transfers to the student for the classroom and beyond.

Every month the children are taught a different MegaSkill. October's MegaSkill was [common sense] which tied in nicely to Red Ribbon Week. Common sense means [using good judgement.] We talked about using common sense to keep our bodies healthy by staying away from drugs and alcohol. Our Red Ribbon Week theme was [Being Drug Free...Priceless!] Every day we wore different colors to show a united front to keep our hands off drugs. We even used our hands to plant red tulips and will watch them grow in the spring as a reminder to stay drug free! We hope that you will enjoy their beauty as they bloom later this year and talk to your children about the significance. A huge thank you goes out to Wendy Lovelace-Morris, Kim Gilbert and Reva Campbell for their help in planning and implementing our Red Ribbon Week!

I invite each of you to check out my website at www.harmonyhuskies.com. From there click the classroom websites link and finally my website. When you click on MegaSkills you will learn that month's skill so that you can reinforce it at home. If you have questions or want more information, contact Kerri Hammons, our school counselor.

DOUGHNUTS with SANTA!

Join in the fun this Saturday, December 9 from 9:30 until 11:30 at Harmony for Doughnuts with Santa. This is a great opportunity to visit during the holiday season, have a Krispy Kreme Doughnut or two, and a warm cup of Java-Brewing Company coffee. Plus, Santa will make an appearance and kids (or adults) can have their picture taken with him. A cake and cookie walk will add to the fun, as will holiday crafts and festive music. Each child (even children that aren't Harmony students) will be given 5 free tickets upon entrance. This is a community wide event so spread the cheer and bring a friend or neighbor. What a fun way to spend a December morning!

PAW PAW PAW UPDATES PAW PAW PAW

Congratulations to Ms. Howard's classroom and Ms. Hackler's classroom! They both had 64% participation from their students in our catalog fundraiser. Ms. Howard's class was also the high sales leader with \$1,437.00 in total sales. They both win a pizza party from the PTA in appreciation for their hard work. In total, we sold over \$15,000 in candy, magazines, and wrapping paper raising approximately \$7,850 for the climbing wall and computer lab. Way to go Huskies! Thank you Beth Scherer for coordinating this effort.

The Campbell's Soup label collection was a great success. We collected 4,492 labels this semester and we are almost halfway to this year's goal of 10,000 labels. Collection should be easier now that we only have to save UPCs, so send them in. Front labels are no longer being accepted as the deadline has passed.

The Box Top collection brought in over 6,500 tops, well over last year's first collection total. Please do your best to cut the tops as close to the line as possible so a volunteer doesn't have to spend time trimming. Send in your box tops weekly as they have to be counted and bundled. With the soup labels and box tops, watch for bonus labels and bonus certificates on your grocery receipts. Thank you to Laurie Stuart our Box Top Coordinator and to Jane Luzzio for coordinating our Campbell's soup label collection. We are doing a super job with these ongoing projects. It's great when we can turn time into money!

