

# Holland Hill Update

Molly Farrell, Principal

4/17/2018

Edition 1, Volume 8

## Happy Spring!

Dear Holland Hill Families,

Well, we are officially in the home stretch of the school year! I hope that everyone enjoyed some time off from the school schedule last week.

In case you missed it, I am including a link to the story that WTNH did about the Alternate Routes' visit to our school. The story focused on the message of kindness in the adopted school song, *Nothing More*. My favorite part of the story is seeing the happy and loving faces of the children throughout!

As you know, at the time of the piece, we were culminating our work for Kindness Week, and I want to thank Mrs. Olson, our school social worker, as well as two of her Kindness Ambassadors, Ryan Sullivan and Scarlett Robbins, for agreeing to be interviewed on camera! Here is the link:

<http://wtnh.com/2018/03/26/ct-grown-song-becomes-a-kindness-anthem-for-schools-across-the-nation/>

A security change we recently made is that our classroom doors are all remaining locked at all times. The teachers can leave the doors slightly open when they are occupied, but when rooms are empty they must close the doors and keep them locked. It is an inconvenience, but it is an important safety change.

If you haven't been on the HH campus lately, wait until you see the work that has begun for our construction project! It is very exciting. More information on that on the next page! The biggest hurdle for us is the loss of the soccer field and half of our blacktop space for recess. Thanks for reminding your children that it will all be worth it in the end!

Warmly,

Molly Farrell

## Upcoming Events

Monday 4/16	Spring SOE classes begin
Week of 4/16	Grade 4 SBA- ELA
Thursday 4/19	Cultural Enrichment Assembly 8:30 (K-2) & 9:45 (3-5)
Thursday 4/19	FWMS Concert for Grade 5 in Gym 9-9:30
Friday 4/20	Pasta Night
Thursday 4/26	School Store
Week of 4/23	Grade 3 SBA- ELA
Friday 4/27	Town Meeting 1:30 & School Spirit Day
Saturday 4/28	Talent Show 2:00 @ Tomlinson
Week of 4/30	Grade 3 SBA Math
Thursday 5/3	Art Show 7pm
Wednesday 5/9	Kindergarten Visitation (8:30 & 1:00)
Tuesday 5/15	Spring Concert 7 pm
Friday 5/25	Patriot's Day 9:00 am

## Staff News

We are excited to welcome Ms. Ashly Anziano to our staff for the remainder of the year. Mrs. Herron, one of our amazing paras, is out for the remainder of the year after having surgery! We will miss her and wish her a speedy recovery!



Smarter Balanced testing (SBA) is officially here! Grade 5 has already completed their ELA testing, and will get back into it for Math in May! Please see the schedule below! The most healthy approach to standardized testing is to see it as an opportunity to “show what you know,” rather than thinking of it as a high pressure situation! We want students to be proud of their hard work and growth more than anything else. Please be cognizant of testing dates for your child when scheduling doctors’ appointments or even days out of school.

Also, there is a wealth of information available to parents at the **Smarter Balanced Website**: <https://ct.portal.airast.org> Once there, click on Students and Families!

#### Test Dates~

##### Grade 5

April 2-April 6 (ELA); May 14-May 18 (Math)

##### Grade 4

April 16-April 20 (ELA); May 7- May 11 (Math)

##### Grade 3

April 23-April 27 (ELA); April 30-May 4 (Math)

## SBA Math Word of the Day!

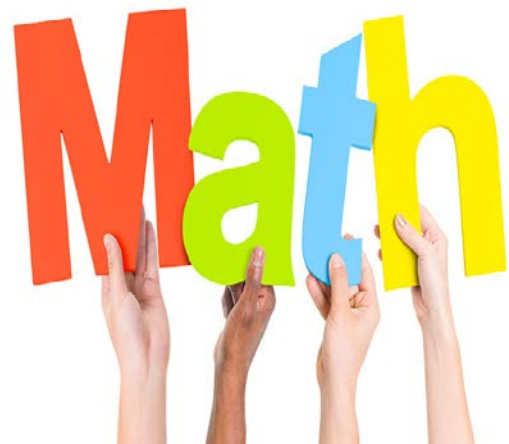
We are continuing to work on our SBA Math Words of the Day in the morning announcements! Below are the *remaining* words in the order they will be announced. This would be a great opportunity for you, as a parent, to have a conversation with your child about math. Ask your child if they know what the word means and what they can tell you about the word. Some words may be more challenging than others, depending on the age of your child, so use your judgement as to which words you would like to discuss!

**Week 5:** angle, parallel lines, quotient, area, perimeter

**Week 6:** right angle, acute angle, obtuse angle, liter, line of symmetry

**Week 7:** decimal, mixed number, minute, hour, centimeter

**Week 8:** octagon, gram, kilogram, improper fraction, ordered pairs





## Holland Hill Construction...next steps!

Well, things are really starting to happen now. Here are some highlights of what is going on right now~

- Red fencing is up for the “laydown area.” This area encompasses the site for the new addition, construction trailers and equipment.
- An access way has been set up with a gate from Milandale Road so that all construction vehicles can access HH without disruption to our normal procedures.
- Excavation in the front by the flagpole is almost complete. This fencing will remain, at least in part, for the time being.
- The old music portable is completely gone.
- Steps toward building the foundation of the new addition will begin.
- I am working on plans for an official groundbreaking ceremony in May! More info to come on that!

## Recess Concerns

Recess is one of the most enjoyable and important parts of your child’s day, but preserving everyone’s safety and enjoyment is paramount. We have recently had to end football at recess due to the loss of flat field space- and the increased danger of playing football on blacktop. There were just too many injuries! The construction team is relocating the basketball hoop from the unavailable blacktop over to the K-2 blacktop in order to help us continue to provide varied activities.

Also, please support us in reminding your children about safe and appropriate play when playing imaginary games. Many of our students have been engaging in a pretend game of “Fortnite,” based on the very popular, but very violent video game. This game is also not allowed at school as it often involves violence and language which is confusing and scary to many children. Thank you for your support of that as well.



Don't forget to follow me on Twitter for lots of school photos, videos and updates!  
**Mrs. Farrell @HollandHillElem**