Welcome to the first joint HMS/MSS Summer Elementary Schools Newsletter! One of our district goals this year is to unify our two elementary schools more than ever and as such, I am honored to be the Principal of both schools, Grades PK-6. I am also happy to introduce our new Assistant Principal for the Elementary Schools, Amy Doyle. Amy comes to us from Bow where she worked for 18 years as a classroom teacher and leader, special educator, and most recently as a Middle School Math Teacher. She was our selection after a rigorous process which began with 44 candidates. Amy has been a wonderful partner for me already this summer, and I know that you will find her of great support to your family.

We have many new faces coming to our schools this year. Here are their names and brief descriptions:

**Ben Levergood** is not new to the district as he has been HMS’s music teacher but now he will be the general music teacher throughout our elementary schools and he will be directing our new MSS Chorus as well which is a new program.

**Jamie Boccia** is our new Instrumental Music Teacher for MSS as well as the Middle School Jazz Band Director. Jamie earned his Bachelor of Music and Master of Arts in Teaching degree from UNH and is an accomplished multi-instrumentalist.

**Heidi Vibert** is our new Preschool Teacher. She has experience teaching first grade and preschool in Maine and has been a Reading Interventionist as well. Heidi earned her BA and Masters from University of Maine.

**Melissa Walsh** is our new Speech-Language Pathologist for the elementary schools. She has experience in both the clinical and school settings and for the last five years Melissa worked with a diverse population in the Manchester, NH School District. She received her BA from Bridgewater State College and her Masters from Nova Southeastern University.
Nancy Earley will be joining Melissa as the new Speech Assistant, transferring from the High School in her previous role as IA. Nancy is a former Speech Path herself and is a parent and resident of Hopkinton.

Crystal O’Brien is our new 1/2 time Library Media Specialist at Maple Street School. Crystal and her family are in the process of moving to New Hampshire from Florida where she was an LMS in both the elementary and secondary worlds. She earned her BA at Syracuse University and her Masters at the University of Albany.

Kim Sink is our new MSS Library Assistant, working hand in hand with Crystal. Kim is a resident and parent in Hopkinton and was recently an IA at MSS.

Marie Wilson is our new special educator at HMS. She taught most recently at Crotched Mountain School in Greenfield as well as public schools in Massachusetts. Marie earned her Bachelors at Saint Anselm College and her Masters at Lesley University.

Jordan Whitaker is our new Wellness Teacher at Maple Street School. She taught Physical Education K-8 at the Cornish Elementary School and was the Assistant Athletic Director in SAU 6. Jordan was also the director this summer of the Recreation Department’s Summer Program housed at HMS. Jordan graduated from Keene State.

Joe Mantano is our new P-6 Behavioral Specialist. He worked at Wediko Children’s Services in Windsor, as a consultant for William White Consulting, and most recently as a special educator at Con-Val High School. He earned his Bachelor’s Degree from the University of Connecticut and his Masters from Plymouth State.

Jennifer Robinson has been nominated to our School Board as the new 6th grade math teacher replacing Sue Roberts who is moving back to the Middle School. Jen is a new classroom teacher who completed her student teaching in her home town of Bedford. She has also worked as a Title 1 tutor in Bedford and Raymond.

Roy Moffatt is our new 6th Grade Science Teacher. He had a previous career as a Software Engineer and Database Manager and dived into teaching a few years ago. Roy taught middle school science last year in Vermont and earned two BA Degrees from Lyndon State College and a Masters from Antioch.

Caite Linehan will be our new part-time School Psychologist. She has had a diverse career as School Psych and Special Educator and administrator throughout NH, New York, and Vermont. Caite earned her BA and Masters Degrees from St. Michael’s College.
COMMUNICATION

The easiest way to access updated information for both schools are the HMS/MSS Email Lists. They are separate for each school but you can join one or both.
Head to our websites [http://www.hopkinton-schools.org](http://www.hopkinton-schools.org) or to these URL’s:
HMS Email List: [http://bit.ly/1F0ZV1o](http://bit.ly/1F0ZV1o)
The Email Lists publish our Friday newsletters and present early morning announcements of delay or cancellations, emergency updates, and timely reminders of meetings. If you have trouble signing up, just email me. This year we will be combining the HMS Parent Flash and the MSS Branching Out into one elementary newsletter which will be published every Friday.
In addition, we will have a new [web site](http://www.hopkinton-schools.org) for the schools in the district which will “go live” before school begins.

HMS ICE CREAM SOCIALS

It is our tradition at HMS to welcome back families to the new school year with an informal Ice Cream Social right here at HMS, sponsored by PTA. It’s a time for families to meet each other and to chat with Principal Carozza and Assistant Principal Doyle.
Here are the dates and times for this year:
August 23 – 5 PM for K and 6 PM for Grade 1
August 24 – 5 PM for Grade 2 and 6 PM for Grade 3

4TH GRADE WELCOME BACK

We have a specific event for 4th graders and their families before school starts. It’s called our 4th Grade Welcome Back and it’s happening at Maple Street School on August 31, from 5-6 PM. We’ll gather for a quick hello and introductions from Bill and Amy in the cafeteria and then you can meet the 4th grade teachers and other school staff.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

September 1 – Kindergarten Visitation, 9-9:45 AM
September 6 – First Day for Students
September 14 – HMS Open House, 6-7 PM
September 15 – MSS Open House, 5th grade, 6-7 PM, 6th grade, 7-8 PM
September 23 – Professional Development Day-No School
You can access the Elementary Calendar at [http://bit.ly/2aHDjub](http://bit.ly/2aHDjub) or by heading to the HMS website and clicking on the “Calendar” tab.

**FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL AT HMS**

School starts at 8:00 AM and students are dismissed at 2:35 PM. If you bring your child to school, please have them wait on the playground for the bell. Teachers will come out to the playground to meet their students on the first few days of school. We welcome parents to arrive with their children on the first day.

**FIRST DAY AT MSS**

School starts at 8:00 and students are dismissed at 2:45 PM. When students arrive they will head to the playground in the back of the school and teachers are there to greet them. If you are dropping your child off in the morning, drive to the back of Maple Street and follow the perimeter traffic patterns, letting your child out after passing the basketball court on the right.

**HEADING HOME**

It’s very important that notes come in to the teacher if a child’s destination after school is changing from the norm. If plans change during the day, call the offices, HMS at 746-3473 and MSS at 746-4195. Parent Pick up is in the Preschool Room as usual at HMS and in the back of the building at MSS. The expectation at MSS for parent pick up is that parents do not leave their cars, but they pull up and pick up their kiddos.

**WHAT ARE SOME WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED?**

- Sign up for our Email List. Details above.
- Look for our school-wide newsletter to families every Friday afternoon. We are moving to an all digital version. You can find our newsletters on our web site as well.
- Attend our monthly PTA meeting, which meets the first Wednesday of the month, 6:30 PM, in the preschool room at HMS. More information on PTA below.
- Check out our regular Podcasts which will be embedded on our web site.
- Check out our website - more on that below.
VISITORS

All visitors to our schools are required to use the front door by the main office and sign in on the sheet for visitors. This includes all times of the day, even first thing in the morning. All other doors are kept locked for security purposes except at the end of the day for student pick-up and for preschool drop off and pick-up.

LUNCH PROGRAM

We encourage you to use the My School Bucks program at: https://www.myschoolbucks.com to pay online for all food service purchases.

Breakfast is served every morning at school, including the first day of school, and all children may participate. The September Lunch Menu for HMS/MSS will be on our web site soon.

Prices: (same as last year)
Breakfast: $1.00
Lunch: $2.50
Juice and Milk: 40 cents

At MSS, there is a small window of time for snack (like at HMS) but there is also a school store where students can buy a snack.

BUSES

Bus routes will be posted soon on our district web site, http://www.hopkintonschools.org, and an email will be sent to the Email Lists when the routes on published.

HMS families only: To make the first day of school go smoothly, fill out the enclosed school bus form and attach it securely to your child’s lunchbox, backpack, or jacket. Please use the route number for the bus number. They are the same. This “bus” is a great aid in helping students remember their bus number and find the right bus home especially for our younger students.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

If you are dropping your child off at HMS, please drive around counter-clockwise in the main parking lot, head to the front of the school, pull up to the stop line, and then drop your child off at the front of the school. We ask that you have your child ready to go when you stop so that the car line moves promptly. Students then walk down the sidewalk to the playground. There is an HMS staff outside monitoring drop off by 7:35.
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

We are fortunate to have a vibrant Volunteer Program at in our schools averaging thousands of hours of volunteer service yearly. Look for more information on the program to be coming home the first week of school. Our Volunteer Coordinator this year at HMS is Julie Zapton and Erin Crawford will be handling those duties at MSS.

PTA

The mission of the Hopkinton PTA is--
To support and speak on behalf of children and youth in schools, to assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children, and to encourage parent and public involvement in schools.

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30. Our first meeting of the year will be September 7 in the Preschool Room at HMS. We’ll begin our first PTA meeting with an informal welcoming of our new Elementary Assistant Principal, Amy Doyle. Come and meet both of us!

What do we do?
Each year the PTA raises and distributes funds to support programs that enrich the school experience for children in our community. The Hopkinton PTA supports activities for kindergarten through 12th Grade. Last year, over $10,000 was distributed to a variety of programs such as:

- Honors and awards nights
- Scholarships
- Teacher Appreciation Day
- Artist and Author-in-Residence
- Ladybug and Great Stone Face books
- High School Science Fiction books
- 6th Grade Epic Event
- Raptor Rapture
- Many field trips including Boston, Washington D.C.

The PTA organizes many events:

- Annual Fun Fair
- Halloween Parade and Social
- Bike and ski helmet sales with significantly reduced prices
- The Clay Works workshop
- Family night & movie events
- Back-to-School class events held for Harold Martin students
- Parenting Seminars

The PTA also donated approximately $2,000 that helped defray the cost of field trips district wide. All members of the community are invited and encouraged to join our organization and to attend the PTA meetings.
Our web site is: http://www.hopkinton.my-pta.org/ and our Facebook page is located at www.facebook.com/hopkintonnhpta

**IN CLOSING**

As I read over this newsletter many times, I realize that there is so much for a new family to digest and not all questions are going to be answered through print. You will be able to access our Student Handbooks on our web site soon which may answer more questions. However, I encourage you to email me anytime at wcarozza@hopkintonschools.org or call and leave a message at HMS at 746-3473 x1222 or at MSS at 746-4195 x2222. Don’t be afraid to ask any question at all.

I hope the rest of the summer goes well for your family. I look forward to seeing many of you on September 6.

All the best,

Bill Carozza, Elementary Principal