

# Howard Newsletter

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## Principal News

We are finally nicely settled into the 2016-2017 school year! This month has been very busy! We recently recognized students who participated in summer learning experiences during our first celebration assembly. We also had a peace assembly, picture day, lunch with the principal, coffee with the principal, and several special visitors from city departments. If you haven't done so, please sign up for the Howard Elementary School blog and your child's teacher's blog. New this year, the PTA has a blog that can be found on our homepage. Sign up for that as well!

There are a few reminders that are very important:

- When you visit the building, you must sign in to the office. YOU MUST be buzzed into the front doors, and are not permitted to enter the building anywhere else. Our job is to keep every child safe. We need to know who is in the building at all times.
- Please do NOT park in front of the school, on York, when you are dropping off or picking up. That space is for pull up and drop-off/pick-up. You should never leave your car unattended during the school day in front of the school. You will be ticketed.
- Homework is for practice. Not every teacher gives homework every night. The students work hard for 8 hours, each day. Most are involved in after school activities. There are just a few hours between the end of the school day and bedtime. Turn the TV and I pads off, and read as a family for a half hour. Talk at the grocery store, the park, on the drive home, while you're running errands. These interactions are just as valuable as extra work from school. You are your child's first teacher- and best! Help them understand the world through reading, discussing and experiencing!

## Half Day

There will be a half day of school on Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. Dismissal will be at 11:45 a.m.

## Kindergarten

We would like to welcome Ms. Stefanie Shepler to the team!!! The school was lucky to find, interview and hire Ms. Shepler in such a short amount of time. She is ecstatic to have the chance to join Howard Elementary! She is a graduate of Madonna University with a double major in both Elementary and Early Childhood Education. All of her work experiences have dealt directly with helping children grow into the best version of themselves. She is also a dance teacher and has taught pre-school. Welcome again, Ms. Shepler!

## 1<sup>st</sup> grade

Our first grade emerging readers are taking off!!! Their teachers promote their love of reading daily, and the students are excited to expand their vocabulary and discover new learning through the written word. Our homework focus in first grade is to read with a family member each day, and to talk about the day! This interaction is more valuable than you might imagine!

## 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

Mrs. Turk just received her Project Lead the Way kits!!! This project-based learning initiative will be piloted in her class, as well as Ms. Martin's  $\frac{4}{5}$  PBL classroom. It is a way for students to engage in learning, every day, by using hands-on, high interest modules and materials. There will be more to come about this, but please look up the PLTW program if you have a moment.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

Fire house visits were October 3<sup>rd</sup> and October 4<sup>th</sup>. Firefighter Jen also came to speak to the students about fire safety!

## 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade

Ms. Martin's class will be going on a field trip on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>.

## 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Please sign up for our blogs if you haven't already done so. It is a good way to keep track of upcoming events.

Ms. Albertson:

<http://iblog.dearbornschools.org/alberta/>

Mrs. Dearth:

<http://iblog.dearbornschools.org/dearthm/>

Ms. Martin:

<http://iblog.dearbornschools.org/martink/>

## Cafeteria

The cost of a school lunch this year is \$2.75. Breakfast costs \$1.25. Just a reminder, if your child receives a free lunch, he/she can also receive a free breakfast. Breakfast is available in the cafeteria beginning at 8:10 AM.

## Student Council

Student Council elections are taking place in the classrooms. Each classroom in Grades 1-5 will have 2 representatives. Student Council members will be selling pencils and erasers.

## Art

We showed off our peaceful pinwheels in September at the Peace Pole. Our next unit of study is Vincent VanGogh. In the next couple of weeks, ask your students what they have learned about him!

Looking for additional art experiences for your child? You are in luck! We live in the same county as one of the world's most respected art museums; the Detroit Institute of Arts! Wayne County residents receive free standard admission to the museum (excluding special exhibits which have a fee) including the free drop-in workshops. Check the DIA website for more information on drop-in workshops and special classes that are offered (these have a fee).

## Physical Education

### **5th Annual Robert Cipriano Memorial Cross Country Meet**

The meet will be Saturday, October 15th at Ford Field Park in Dearborn. Any 4th/5th grade student that qualifies can decide to participate in the annual cross country meet. The 4th grade girls/boys have to run a mile in 13 minutes or less to qualify and the 5th grade girls/boys have to run a mile in 12 minutes or less to qualify. The students will qualify for the race during their physical education class. If you would like more information about the race, it can be found on Mr. Haliburda's iblog: <http://iblog.dearbornschools.org/halibuf/> or on the Dearborn Athletic Blog: <http://athletics.dearbornschools.org>. **Race Times**

#### **1 Mile Run**

<b>4<sup>th</sup> grade boys</b>	<b>9:50</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> grade girls</b>	<b>10:10</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> grade boys</b>	<b>10:30</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> grade girls</b>	<b>10:50</b>



## PTA

Next meeting is on October 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.

Halloween Party will be in the evening on October 28<sup>th</sup>. More details to come. Make sure you sign up for the PTA blog to get the latest updates! It's on our website.

## Donations

If you would like to donate school or office supplies such as bandages, tissue, paper towel, Ziploc bags, water, cups, plates, wipes, pencils, pens, glue sticks or any other school or office essentials, please drop it off at the office. Thank You!

## Save the Date

### **October 14<sup>th</sup>**

Half-Day

### **October 28<sup>th</sup>**

Ms. Martin Field Trip