



Everyone is
Different.
Everyone
Belongs.



Recycle Mania!

A Message from Grade 6

We are writing on behalf of the sixth grade to inform you about our recycling program. Because of global warming and pollution, we, the Haggerty sixth graders, have decided to GO GREEN!!!

Many sixth graders need more than one milk/juice.

By earning money for recycling cans and bottles, we can buy more than one drink.

Hence, we are collecting plastic, aluminum, and glass bottles and cans. We need your help to succeed.

On each floor, you will notice two boxes in front of the classrooms. If you or your child could donate your bottles and cans, it will be greatly appreciated.

We will make trips to Star Market every week, throughout the entire year, with those bottles and cans.

In exchange, we will be getting five cents for every bottle and can, and every bit counts. Also, if you have any loose change, we have set up a box in front of the main office.

Any donations will be accepted. Our program begins **October 13!** Thank you for your support!
Sincerely, The Haggerty Sixth Grade

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Issue 2

October 8, 2009



2009

The Writers' Express at the Haggerty School

By Erika Wentworth

Maybe your child has talked to you about "WEX writing," or perhaps you first heard about The Writers' Express (WEX) at Back to School Night last week. If you have not yet heard about WEX, here is your introduction to this innovative writing program.

First, let me introduce myself: I'm a Haggerty parent (mother to Alix, a Haggerty alum, and Jacinda, 4th grade) and I also work at WEX, helping to develop the curriculum. I decided to write this article to inform the wider Haggerty community about the WEX Method and what makes it so effective.

What is the WEX Method, and how does it work?

Funny you should ask! The WEX Method is a skill-building approach to teaching writing. Students write frequently (several times a week) to practice working on essential writing skills, focusing on just one skill at a time. They get

regular verbal and written feedback from teachers on how they are progressing with these skills.

Dave Meyers, President of Writers' Express, often uses a baseball analogy to explain what skill-building means.

"Imagine that a child is struggling to learn how to hit a baseball. Hitting a baseball is a good example of a complex, multi-faceted skill. She could think about where her hands are, how high to hold the bat, when to begin the swing, which part of her body initiates the swing, what kind of spin to put on the ball, whether to inhale or exhale at the point of contact, and a variety of other details that only the most practiced and accomplished hitters would even consider. She cannot possibly learn all of those details at the same time. The coach's job is to prioritize the skills necessary to hit a baseball and give feedback when progress is made on just one or two of them. At WEX, we focus on one writing skill at a time, and



train teachers to be coaches."

What is an example of a writing skill that students are practicing?

Focus is the first skill that students start practicing, because it is the most important. Focus is the student's ability to stick to one topic or one idea long enough to fully develop that topic or idea. Writing that lacks focus is scattered and meandering, touching on the surface of many ideas but never fully exploring any one idea. Focus is a skill that takes practice and requires discipline. That is what the WEX Method provides.

How has WEX impacted students' writing at the Haggerty?

Haggerty teacher Ashley Warlick describes the impact of WEX this way: "What amazes me is how enthusiastic the kids are about writing now. Before, with a lot of students, trying to get them to sit down and write was like pulling teeth.

Haggerty School Art Calenders 2009-2010 are now on sale!

If you buy a Haggerty Art Calendar, you will have so many important dates at your finger tips: street cleaning, School Council and PTO/Arts Council meetings, potlucks, parent coffees, early release days, and days off.

We only have 30 calendars left so please don't delay.

You can return the form sent home in backpacks with a check to the Haggerty PTO, and we will send one back home to you. The calendars are \$15 and any profits will benefit the Haggerty PTO Sunshine fund, which is used to help families in the Haggerty School Community during difficult or trying times.

We extend our gratitude to a small group of parents and teachers who make this useful and beautiful project happen: **Mara Levine, Ulrika Brand, Diane Norris, Tammy Thibault, and the art teachers from 2008-2009-Amy Grady and Lolly Lincoln.**

Now they can't wait to write. They write a lot more, and they really enjoy it."

According to WEX trainer Patrick Sheridan, Haggerty teachers are excited about WEX because it fits so well with the theoretical model of the Literacy Collaborative, reader's/writer's workshop, yet provides a clear roadmap for making sure students make steady progress in essential writing skills.

Several Haggerty teachers report that students who struggled with writing before are getting more practice, and gaining more confidence in the process. All students look forward to and enjoy reading the written comments they receive from teachers—and are more motivated to write because they get that feedback regularly.

Last year, Haggerty gained district-wide attention for the quality of writing that students exhibited in their science notebooks, showing the wide-ranging impact of disciplined writing in every subject area.

To find out more about WEX, and to see videos of WEX in action in a classroom, visit the WEX website, www.wex.org.

Harvest Fest 2009!





We Want to Hear from You!

Rachael Cobb
Miles Mazotta (grade 1) &
Dashiell Mazotta, (grade K).

Lissa Gallucio
Louie Pardo, (grade 2) & Nathan
Pardo, (grade K).

Michelle Ferrari
Parent of Lulu (grade 3) & Jack
(grade 5)

Erika Wentworth
Parent of Jacinda Kalaher (grade
4) & Alix Kalaher (alum)

Kathleen Moore
Parent of Jackson Moore-Otto
(grade 4)

Kathy Sampson, Family Liaison

Send newsletter submissions to:
haggertynewsletter@gmail.com

Ways to help

Haggerty Parent Corps: The Toughest Job You'll Ever Love

If you have not yet visited the teacher's room on the lower level, we encourage you to do so.

You will see a work in progress (three walls are done) and you will notice how much a difference a couple of coats of paint plus the energy, commitment and enthusiasm of a group of

parents can make! It looks beautiful!

When this project has reached completion, parents will work on making the outside bulletin board more user-friendly and on reorganizing/downsizing Mr. McCann's closets to make space for the music instruments that need to be moved into the multipurpose room.

If you would like to add your name to a list of folks who are willing to help in various ways, please speak with Kathy



Sampson as she will help coordinate the projects with John Lodge, our new Room Parent Coordinator.

Jobs can be done in the evening or on the weekend. And you do not need to be an expert in order to lend a hand. Join us!

What's For Dinner?

Here's a recipe from Jana Odette to start this year's cooking column off to a refreshingly delicious start.



LEMONY COUSCOUS SALAD WITH MINT & FETA

Summer is over but the harvest continues. Use locally grown produce for this one. Tip: cook the couscous enough in advance to let it cool (or pop it onto a plate in the freezer while you're chopping away...).

- 2 C water
- 1 T extra virgin olive oil
- 1 tsp salt
- 1-2 large garlic cloves, minced
- 1 (10 oz.) box couscous (or 1.75 C)
- 1 2/3 C diced tomatoes (2 medium sized tomatoes or about 1 pint grape or cherry, halved)
- 1.5 C diced English cucumber (about 1 large)
- 1/3 C fresh lemon juice (about 1-2 large)
- 2 T chopped fresh mint
- 4 oz crumbled feta cheese

Combine water, olive oil, salt and garlic in a saucepan; bring to a boil. Gradually stir in couscous. Remove from heat. Cover; let stand 5 minutes. Fluff with a fork. Cool.

Combine everything in a large bowl, adding couscous and lemon juice last (and to taste... you don't need to use all the couscous, or all of the lemon if the salad is too wet); toss well.

Note: original recipe calls for 1 T chopped dill, and 1/3C chopped scallions.





coming up at Haggerty ...

School Potlucks

October is a busy month! Last year, parents expressed interest in organizing smaller potlucks in the fall for parents and families to get to know each other better. Many parents felt as though the spring and fall potlucks were too big to get to know anyone new in a meaningful way. We have had two very fun gatherings, thus far.

On October 1, grades K & 1 met at the Glacken Field playground on a chilly and beautiful evening. Fall was definitely in the air! Although the evening was lovely and numerous families attended the potluck, we felt that due to the diminished light by 6:30 PM, we would have the other potlucks at Haggerty.

On October 8, grades 2-3 gathered in the cafeteria to eat, and the children played in the gym and

decorated pumpkins. It was another well-attended and fun community event.

Our final grade-level potluck will take place on **Thursday, October 15 for grades 4-6 (in the cafeteria as well.)**

Next year, we plan to move the potlucks to September and back to Glacken Field, thereby taking advantage of the last warm, light nights.

Music Coffee

Come meet our new music teacher, Solomon Cross, at our next **Parent Coffee** on **Friday, October 23**, from 8:00-9:00 AM in the music room (in the back of the multi-purpose room next to the gym).

Math Workshops

Last year our Haggerty Parent Coffee on Math was well attended by a number of parents who expressed an interest in learning more about the math their child/ren are learning. To respond to that request, Haggerty is offering a four-part parent workshop about computational fluency.

Please join Lucy Wittenberg, our Math Coach, to talk about what "fluency" means in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division across the grades. We will see some video, look at student work, and do some math for ourselves. We will talk about:

- ★ How do students solve computation problems?
- ★ How do teachers help their students become fluent, efficient and confident math learners?
- ★ How can I help my child at home in a way that supports their work at school?

If you love math, hate math, or are just curious about your child's experience, please come and think with us!

While we ask that you commit to all 4 sessions, we also welcome anyone who can come to any or all sessions.

Dates: Wednesdays – November 4, 18, December 9 and 16

Time: 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Place: Conference Room

Community Notes



Cambridge Flu Clinics for Families

The Cambridge Public Health Department will be operating family friendly flu clinics on **October 17th** (Tobin School) and **November 7th** (King Open School) from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

These clinics offer free seasonal flu vaccine to Cambridge residents age 24 months and older, and will have clinic areas specially dedicated to families, in addition to "adult express" areas. Regular flu clinics are offered throughout the city starting October 8, and will offer vaccine to individuals age 3 years and older.

Remember, the 4 ways to prevent flu are: **get flu vaccine, cover coughs and sneezes, wash hands frequently, and stay home when sick.** For the most current information about clinics, seasonal flu, and H1N1 (swine) flu, visit www.cambridgepublichealth.org or call 617-665-3855.

A link to the clinic schedule is: <http://www.cambridgepublichealth.org/services/diseases-conditions/flu/cambridge-flu-clinics.php>

Family Opera

Family Opera is casting **SPRINGTIME FOR HAMAN**, an opera based on the biblical story of Esther. Adults and children (7 and up) wanted for solo roles of all sizes, chorus and dance.

Auditions at Deborah Mason School of Dance
32 Cottage Park Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02140

Sat., Sun., Mon., Oct. 10-12; and Sat., Sun., Oct. 17-18

1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Call 617-492-4095 or e-mail Auditions10@FamilyOpera.org

Details at <http://www.FamilyOpera.org>