



HILLVIEW Happenings

New Administrators take the Helm

Two new administrators have taken the helm of HVM as the school nears its third 5-year charter term. Ruthann Goguen is HVM's new Executive Director and Lori Klucznik is the new Educational Program Director.

Mrs. Goguen started her tenure at HVM in August. She is excited to be leading a public Montessori school that she says "feels like home" to her. Specifically, HVM appealed to her because she is a strong proponent of individualized teaching and learning. Mrs. Goguen stated that HVM that is "the most peaceful school she has ever been in".

HVM is fortunate to have a leader with her depth of knowledge and experience. She has more than 12 years of work experience in elementary and middle schools in Massachusetts where she has worked in the role of principal, assistant principal, counselor, special



Executive Director Ruthann Goguen and Educational Program Director Lori McCrevan-Klucznik

education assistant and parent volunteer. She most recently left Groton Durable Regional Schools where she was the District Administrator of Curriculum and Accountability. Prior to that she served as the principal of a Groton Elementary school. As a principal, Mrs. Goguen worked extensively with her staff in the areas of reading and to develop personalized intervention strategies for all students. She has been successful writing grants and working with parents and the community to obtain resources and materials to enhance the learning environment for students. HVM is excited to benefit from her vast experience .

HVM is also privileged to have Lori McCrevan Klucznik as its new Educational Program Director. Lori possesses a wealth of experience having worked as a special education teacher, special education director and most recently as an administrator at a public Montessori charter school in Newburyport. She is a certified grade K-6 principal and has a Master's Degree in Educational Administration, Special Education. Lori's commitment to Montessori extends to her own children who also attend Montessori schools.

Montessori in the Media

Maria Montessori was way ahead of her time! Her educational method, The Montessori Method, continues to get national recognition as a preeminent method to educate children.

Montessori was quoted in the July issue of the Harvard Business Review, "Montessori Builds Innovators" and in an April 2011 issue of the Wall Street Journal. The Journal cited a 2006 study published in Science magazine that compared the achievement of low income Milwaukee children who attended Montessori schools versus children who attended a variety of other schools. Montessori students "tested better on executive functioning, the ability to adapt to changing and more complex problems, an indicator of future school and life success."

Finally, recent articles are popping up everywhere to ask an important question...

"What did the Google, Amazon and SimCity video founders have that contributed to their success?" Their answer- "Montessori!" Google founders Page and Brin credit their early Montessori education, rather than having college professors as parents, behind their success. Sims inventor Wright states "Montessori taught me the joy of discovery. "

As political pundits and others continue to dispute what educational programs will best develop the skills children will need to help us advance in the 21st century, perhaps they should start with a "Google" search.



District to District Collaboration

HVM works with the Haverhill Public School District, not against it.

Hill View and Pentucket Lake Elementary School presented a summary of last year's collaborative efforts to the Haverhill Public School Committee at their September 2011 meeting. Janet Begin, former HVM Executive Director, and the principal from Pentucket Lake began the presentation by recognizing that this work was made possible by a dissemination grant funded by the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

The highly successful dissemination project allowed HVM teachers to collaborate with Haverhill Public School teachers at the Pentucket Lake Elementary School. Pentucket Lake teachers learned how to use some of the Montessori math materials and learned how to incorporate them into their traditional classrooms. In hand with with materials use, the teachers spent time learning about the way HVM teachers individualize instruction, especially as they are teaching to multiple academic levels in addition to three different grade levels.

The two schools collaborative success was featured in the article "District-Charter Collaborations on the Rise", in the *District Administration* magazine. The article described the yearlong training which included two 3-hour training sessions, informal coaching and mentoring and production of a training video and handbook.

Feedback from both Pentucket Lake teachers and HVM staff was overwhelmingly positive regarding of the work of the two districts— work that was conducted *in collaboration rather than in consternation*.

One Success, Two Success, Three Success, Four...

Look at all our Accomplishments so far this Year!

- Delivered boxes and boxes of food in a Food Drive in partnership with the business park.
- Donated gifts to less privileged children via school wide mitten tree program
- Sent hand made holiday cards and caroled to patients at Whittier Rehabilitation Facility.
- Volunteered at local homeless shelters, a food bank, and at Head Start.
- Raised nearly \$30,000 in annual appeal funds to date.
- Received \$15,000 grant from Cabot Corporation for science materials.
- Received \$45,000 grant from the Amelia Peabody Foundation for literacy.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

you will want to attend!

HVM's Annual Auction, March 24, 2012 at Michael's Function Hall in Haverhill. Don't miss out! HVM is hosting its 4th annual auction and tickets sell out fast! For tickets, to donate or volunteer, contact HVMCPSAuction@aol.com.

HVM's Second Annual Talent Show, Saturday, April 28, 2012, 3:00– 6:00 pm, in the HVM auditorium. Come watch and listen to an amazing array of performances by HVM students. You are sure to be impressed!

The HVM Art Fair, Wednesday May 9, 2012 from 5:00-7:00 pm. Incredibly beautiful and artistic masterpieces adorn the halls during the annual art fair. Be sure to make it to this free event!

What can be gross but make you smart too?

Dissecting a rat at Nature's Classroom

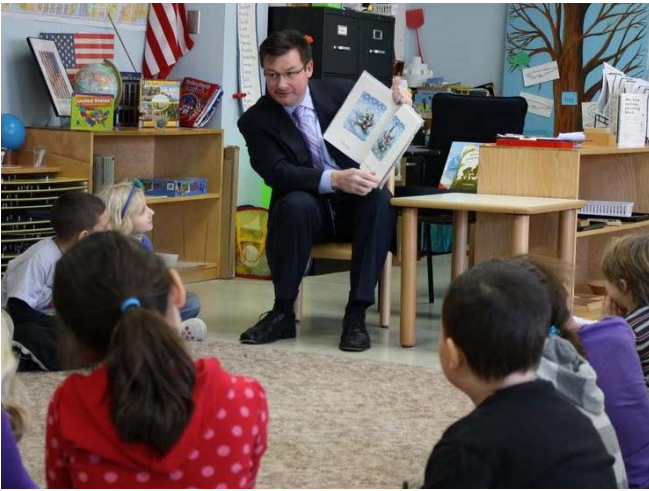
This was the second year grade 4-6 students made the trek to Nature's Classroom and this trip was even better than the last! Students had a week loaded with both fun and learning. For many HVM students, this type of trip is like none other they have ever experienced. They are provided with hands-on activities that make their learning real. Next year's trip is sure to be met with the same enthusiasm as this year's.



Though new to HVM this fall, Upper Elementary student Mark P. had no problem cutting to the chase... Well, cutting into the guts... of a rat! He was one of approximately 100 grade 4-6 students who attended the weeklong trip at Nature's Classroom this past fall.



State Representative Brian Dempsey Tours HVM, Meets with Parents and Students



State Representative Brian Dempsey takes time to read to some of HVM's kindergarten students (above left) and to talk politics with middle school students (above right). He also met with a group of parents heard passionate stories about their children's positive experiences at Hill View Montessori Charter Public School.

How do Montessori Students Celebrate the Winter Holidays?

Learning about Multiplication & Fractions of course!

Lower Elementary Students in the Juniper Tree Room used the Thanksgiving and winter holidays to beef up on their math and reading skills. Through hands-on activities and student involvement, grade 1-3 children deepened their understanding about the real world application of their learning.

After reading some holiday books, the classroom decided to follow the actions of the story's character and cook themselves.

First they read "Amelia Bedelia's First Apple Pie". Students went to a local orchard to pick apples and then made mini apple pies from the recipe in the book. They talked about the origin of ingredients and learned first hand that butter really does come from cream- they shook their own containers of butter and watched the transformative process. Later in the winter season, the children made latkes after reading "Latkes, Latkes Good to Eat".

All of the projects involved practical life skills, reading skills, math skills as well as the ability to work in a team and collaborate. Students obtained the ingredients, worked on math story problems to double the recipes and then cooked and cleaned up after themselves. It was an ideal way for students to see that everything they are learning has practical, real life application.

We are thankful for all of the support we receive from our friends and parents.

They support HVM in so many different ways....

By collecting Box Tops for Education (from General Mills food items), purchasing "Scrip" gift cards from HVM, using Target's Take Charge of Education Visa (or RedCard charge card), dropping off recyclable paper in our Paper Retriever bin, volunteering their time in the classroom and helping with administrative tasks.

We are equally thankful for the ongoing financial support we receive from generous donors within our school and from the greater Haverhill community.

If you would like to support HVM, please use the enclosed remittance envelope or visit our website at www.hillviewmontessori.org for more information.



making a difference... one student at a time



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*Happy New Year from
Hill View Montessori Charter Public School*



Students from two lower elementary classrooms provided holiday entertainment to patients at the Whittier Rehabilitation facility. Whittier Rehab is one of our neighbors in the Ward Hill Business Park. This year we have made great connections with our corporate neighbors.