



Doreen Kramer Superintendent
Anders Hill, Principal

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Houghton Elementary School will hold our Parent/Teacher Conferences for all our students on Thursday, November 7th and on Friday, November 8th. Please make every effort to attend this conference. If you do not have an appointment, please contact your child's teacher to schedule.

Parent involvement is a key to your child's education. If for some reason you must reschedule this meeting, please contact your

child's classroom teacher as soon as possible. Scheduling can be very difficult.

If you would like to meet with any of our essentials teachers, their schedule and location is as follows: Mr. Lawson will be here in the gym, Mrs. Hronkin will be in the art room, Mrs. Mechlin will be in the library, Ms. Rutz will be in the computer room and Mrs. Fontaine and Mrs. Arundell will have a sign up sheet if parents would like to talk to them.



Coats, Hats and Mittens

Please make sure that your child is dressed for the weather each day. Children who are appropriately dressed in warm coats, hats, and mittens have a much better time at recess. We will also send students inside from recess to get coats on.

If there is snow on the ground, please send children to school with boots and snow pants.

Please let the school know if your child has a need for winter clothes and we will do our best to help.

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

- November 1—First Marking Period Ends
- November 3—Turn Back Clocks 1 Hour, Daylight Savings Time Begins
- November 4—8 - PTO Book Fair
- November 7— Students Dismissed at 12:20 pm, Parent Teacher Conf. 1- 3 pm & 5—7 pm
- November 8—Students Dismissed at 12:20 pm, Parent Teacher Conf. 1-3 pm
- November 27—Students Dismissed at 12:20 pm
- November 28 & 29— Thanksgiving Break

OCTOBER TEAM STUDENTS

Every month we are recognizing a student in each class that exemplifies our schools TEAM goals:

Take Responsibility

Earn Respect

Act Positively

Make it Safe

These students will enjoy a snack with the principal and receive a certificate. Our October honorees are:

Young 5's: Adeline Fiala

K: Gabriel Brueggeman, Danae Juntunen, Anja Chopp, Avery Kyllonen & Mason Johnson

1st : Mason Becker, Jari Stoll-Pietila, Kinsley Kunnen & Adelle D'Luge

2nd: Sophia Armbruster, Jacey Zhou, Johanna Rauch, Emmett Hainault & Morgan Vandiver

3rd: Rounak Chatterjee, Gavin Ross, Payton Reynolds, Trevor Scullion & Simas Lebeliunas

4th: Everett Matteson, Rylan Lahti, Brooke Sintkowski & Chad Halonen

5th: Sophia Blake, Leah Johnson, Evelyn LaTendresse, Nori Klein & Madelyn Geborkoff

Congratulations!!!



Arctic Adventure Book Fair 11/4-11/8

Students and families will discover “snow much to read” at the **Arctic Adventure Book Fair** presented by PTO. Students may shop during their designated library time or with their families before or after school. Adults may shop anytime. Every student will have a \$4 “certificate” to spend on a book (or receive \$4 off of a book), thanks to PTO. They may bring in their paper certificate, but it’s not required as we will maintain a list of students. Funds raised enable the Library and teachers to select exciting new books for our students. While you’re shopping, be sure to check the Teacher Wish List Bins to purchase books for your child’s classroom.

Book Fair Hours:

Monday, 11/4	7:45am-4:00pm
Tuesday, 11/5	7:45am-8:00pm (Open during Title I Night)
Wednesday, 11/6	7:45am-4:00pm
Thursday, 11/7	7:45am-8:00pm (Open during P/T Conferences)
Friday, 11/8	7:45am-4:00pm (Open during P/T Conferences)



To be consistent with local preschools and help get our students outside more during the winter months, students will go outside for recess unless it is below 0 degrees (with wind chill accounted).



Preparing for Winter Weather— Cancellations and Delays

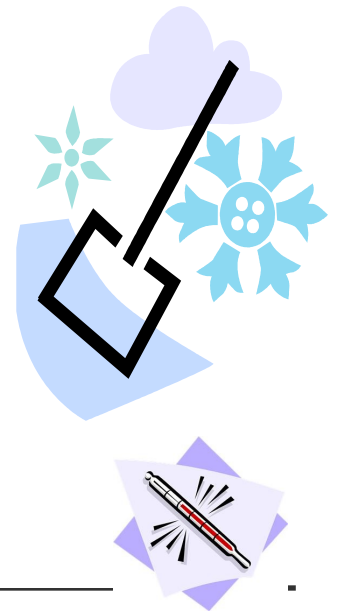
When inclement weather causes the closing of school, the following procedures will be followed:

School Closing: Announcements will be made via the Parent Listserv, the school website, the television station (Channel 6) and local radio stations by 7:00 a.m. that school will not be in session.

Late Starts: When weather conditions warrant, the start of school may be delayed. Such an announcement will be

made as soon as possible. Buses will run two hours late.

Early Dismissal: Our office will be notified of early dismissals due to bad weather as early as possible. Dismissal time from classes and bus schedules to transport children will be determined by the Superintendent. Parents, please review your plan with your student and please contact the office ASAP if your initial plans have changed.



Flu Season and Houghton Elementary Students

We would like to emphasize an important piece of information to all our parents—children should stay home if they are sick (fever, cough etc.) Students should then stay home until the fever

goes down and stays down for 24 hours without medication. We will continue to talk to our students about proper habits (coughing into their elbow, washing hands, sanitizing class-

rooms etc.). If you have further questions please contact the school.

Students should then stay home until the fever goes down and stays down for 24 hours without medication.

PTO Corner

You Support PTO. PTO Supports Our School.

PTO Helps! At the October meeting, PTO voted to fund \$156 to support Youth Lego-league Robotics in our community.

PTO Thanks: Thanks to everyone who dined at Joey's Seafood! Joey's generously donated \$525 to PTO. Also thanks for purchasing over \$4,000 of Gremlins Gear from the Spirit Wear Sale.

Giving Trees: There are still many leaves on the Giving Trees in the lobby. Please pick out a leaf when you drop in for the Book Fair or P/T Conferences and fulfill a need for your teacher's classroom.

Coming Up: Scholastic Book Fair November 4-8. It's a great opportunity for students to pick out their own books, or begin your holiday shopping. **Thirty-one Gifts Sale November 13-25.** Independent Director Jessica Lawson will donate 25% of all sales to PTO. Personalized items make great gifts! The shopping link will be shared via List Serve and on Facebook. **PTO Meeting Tuesday, November 19 at 5:30 p.m.** in the School Library.

Support PTO: Choose **Houghton Elementary School PTO** as your designated charity when you shop online at smile.amazon.com.



Thank you to the Houghton Fire Department for their work presenting Fire Safety to students.

Navigating Parent- Teacher Conferences: Tips for Parents

Parent-Teacher Conferences are just around the corner. Here are four quick tips about how to successfully navigate this important meeting with your child's teacher.

Please come! We understand you are busy, but we encourage you to make time in your schedule to attend conferences. Your child will see how much you value education and he/she will also benefit knowing you have open communication lines with the school.

Be prepared. The scheduled time goes quickly, so it is helpful to make notes prior to the conference concerning topics you wish to discuss, such as your child's progress in a particular subject area.

Ask important questions. Engage in a candid conversation with your child's teacher. Your questions may include: What are my child's strengths and weaknesses?
How does my child get along with classmates?
Is my child working up to ability?
Where could he/she improve?
What can we do at home to support what you are doing in the classroom?

Initiate the action plan. The conference time might be used to develop an action plan to better support your child's academics or behavior. Start

immediately on the action plan you and the teacher put together. Discuss the plan with your child at home and regularly track progress toward the intended goal(s). Stay in touch with your child's teacher about your child's growth via email, phone, or other scheduled meetings.

We value the role of families within the Houghton Elementary TEAM. When parents and teachers work together, we can ensure children will have a successful school year.

Submitted by:

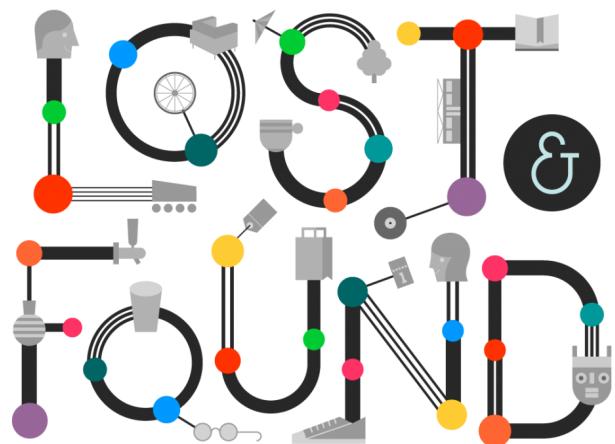
Mollie Trewartha, 5th Grade Teacher

*Adapted from Parent Partnership Resources,
www.nea.org*



Lost & Found

Parents, please stop by our lost and found by the fish tank during Parent-Teacher conferences. We are overflowing with sweatshirts, jackets and hats. We are planning on donating the clothes left at Holiday break to a charitable organization.





Improving Attendance Matters Because It Reflects:

Exposure to language: Starting in Pre-K, attendance equals exposure to language-rich environments especially for low-income children.

Time on Task in Class: Students only benefit from classroom instruction if they are in class.

On Track for Success: Chronic absence is a proven early warning sign that a student is behind in reading by 3rd grade, failing courses middle and high school, and likely to drop-out.

College Readiness: Attendance patterns predicts college enrollment and persistence.

Engagement : Attendance reflects engagement in learning.

Effective Practice: Schools, communities and families can improve attendance when they work together.

(For research, see: <http://www.attendanceworks.org/research/>)

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Yearbook order forms are due Friday, November 8th. Yearbooks cost \$15.00 and will be in full color. Yearbooks will be distributed in mid-May.

Counselor's Corner

**Micah
Stipech**

Thank You!!!

I would like to take this opportunity to let all parents, students and staff know how thankful I am to work with all of you in providing a great education for all students. I feel very lucky to be working at Houghton Elementary!

- Mr. Hill



One definition of character is *the intentions and actions that benefit both the individual and others*. There are many character strengths and virtues that cultures around the world unanimously agree upon. The Character Strength of Gratitude is one of them. When you feel gratitude, you feel a sense of abundance. When you express gratitude—especially when it's heartfelt—you strengthen your relationships with others. Grateful people are happier and more fulfilled. And gratitude leads you to be nicer to other people: more cooperative, patient, and trusting. How can I help cultivate the character strength of gratitude in children?

Model it. Talk about the good things that happen to you: *"I love this gorgeous spring day!"* Reframe difficulties by highlighting positive aspects: *"Work has been stressful lately, but I'm grateful that my boss trusts me with important responsibilities."*

Another way is to use what Character Lab calls "Three Good Things."

How do I do it?

In this daily reflection, you list three things that went well for you, and why they went well. Dinner or bedtime is a great chance to do this!

How does it work?

This brief exercise helps you reflect on the many things that happen every day. Over time, you begin to look for things in your day to add to your list!

Inspired by: Seligman, M. E. P., Steen, T. A., Park, N., & Peterson, C. (2005). Positive psychology progress: Empirical validation of interventions. *American Psychologist*, 60(5), 410-421.