



May 2020 Houghton Elementary School

**Doreen Kramer, Superintendent
Anders Hill, Principal**

Big Picture Before Small Picture

If your family's experience with online school resembles battle scenes from the movies, you are not alone. If anyone tells you everything is going smoothly in their house they are either lying or it is coming. The struggle is real.

Let's face it. This is tough on everyone and so far, we have it relatively good. Unfortunately, we don't get to choose when adversity hits, it chooses us. It may seem like we have no control, but we do. As Victor Frankl said, "between stimulus and response there is a space. In that space is our power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and our freedom." Frankl knew about adversity. A survivor of Auschwitz, he referred to this choice as the last of human freedoms. The path to getting through this adversity with your family must begin with perspective.

"Focus on the big picture before we go small picture" Veteran Educator Brendan Ma-

han advises. "First off, be forgiving. This is a rough draft... It is a marathon, it's not a sprint." "Your child is likely not going to get as much work done, neither are you, or your boss, or anyone really. So take a breath and think about the big picture" he said.

Academically speaking this is first about preventing slippage, loss and regression. Prioritize working on any subjects that may be your child's weakest. We need to assume everyone is doing the best they can. We need to be forgiving. Now is a time to consider priorities. Then make a plan. What are you going to spend your leadership capital on? Whatever your plan is, put relationships first.

To help gain perspective try some time travel. Victor Frankl used time travel to picture himself speaking to students about his lessons while in the concentration camp. He was able to cre-

ate meaning and perspective that later became reality. Someday your children may be telling their children about the pandemic of 2020. Maybe they will be leading others through tough times. What will they say they learned about dealing with our current adversity? Will your children talk about their parents' strength of character and timeless truths? Will they relate the lessons learned, or how their family became stronger, closer? Or will they recall parents countless hours of social media and vehement criticism of others?

It is going to be some time before they realize how hard it must have been for their parents. As coach Herb Brooks once said in the face of an overwhelming challenge "great moments are born from great opportunity." The chapter in your house is still unwritten.

**-Micah Stipech
Counselor**



Upcoming Events:

- **May 4th to May 8th**—Teacher Appreciation Week
- **May 25th**—No School Memorial Day
- **June 10th**—Last Day for Students

Teacher Appreciation Week

Teacher appreciation week is May 4th—8th. We are very lucky to have outstanding teachers and educators at Houghton Elementary School. Please take time to say thank you. The staff at

HES cares deeply about the success and well being of every child. I am so proud to be working with such a dedicated group.

Mr. Hill



April 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 cookies and milk with the principal and receive a certificate. Our April honorees are:

Young 5's: Carter Aho

K: Sebastian Fiss, Eva Bradfish, Robert

Eggart, Allie Mettlach & Atreyee Mukherjee

1st : Maria Mack, Hursh Tiwari, Tess Scullion & Elena Marin

2nd: Gage Suvanto, Aaron Blake, Tuula Moilanen, Jonathan Christensen & Corinne Rubin

3rd: Jonah Boersma, Joey Niedzwiecki, Sheayla Sundstrom, AJ Fay & Samantha Scott

4th: Keedin Roberts, Jackson Williams, Bryton Bergstrom & Landon Stein

5th: Lezley Heldt, Karly Matson, Katia Rudak, Ben Waite & Alyssa Northey

TEAM Students



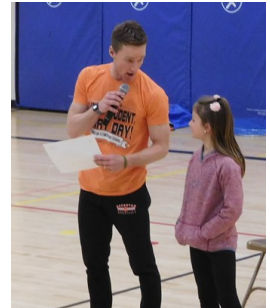
Kindergarten Registration 2020-2021

Houghton-Portage Township Schools has begun registering kindergarten-aged children for the 2020-2021 school year. Children who will be five years of age by December 1st, 2020, are eligible to enter kindergarten or Young 5's. Please call Houghton Elementary School at 482-0456 ext. 3040 with

questions. Children currently attending Young 5's are automatically registered for kindergarten.

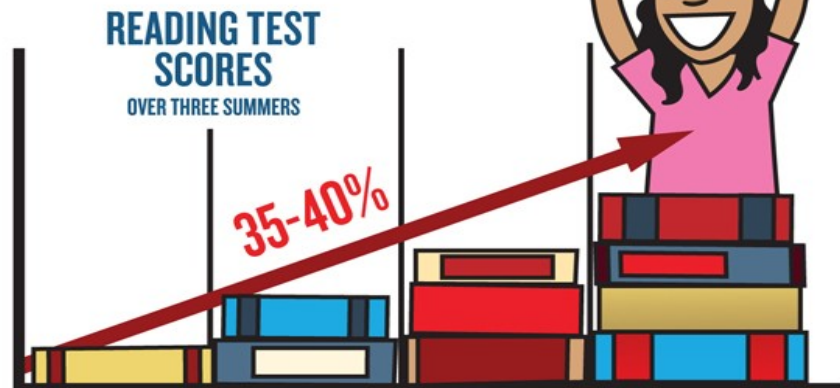


We would like to thank all students and parents who helped raise money for the American Heart Association. Special thanks to Mr. Lawson for all his work! We will get students prizes they earned when we return in the fall.



BOOKS BEAT SUMMER SLIDE

Children who are given access to books over the summer perform 35-40% better on reading achievement tests than those without access to books.





PTO Corner

PTO is hosting a VIRTUAL Teacher & Staff Appreciation Celebration!

Let's Taco 'bout what Fantastic Teachers & Staff we have at HES! Since we can't celebrate Teacher & Staff Appreciation together, PTO invites families to add personal posts in the Discussion Section of our HES Teacher & Staff Appreciation Event set up on the Houghton Elementary School PTO Facebook page (facebook.com/HPTSPTO)



From May 1-May 15, add your expressions of gratitude to our staff. Suggestions for posts include photos of your students, their handwritten messages and artwork. Your post can be directed at individuals or just general messages of thanks. Let's show them how much we appreciate everything they have done and continue to do for our kids!

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Fundraiser Events postponed until Fall 2020:

- 1) Baby E's BBQ Give Back
- 2) Spring Fling will be revamped into Fall Fest

Get Involved: Several officer positions remain VACANT on the HES PTO Executive Board for the 20/21 School Year. Contact Nancy Verive at nn_verive@yahoo.com to learn more about contributing your time and talents to help our students!

2020–21 PTO Board: President or 2 Co-Presidents: NEEDED, Vice President: NEEDED, Secretary: Vicki Locatelli, Publicity: NEEDED, Treasurer: Kathryn Goth-LaTendresse

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

Coming Up:

PTO Meeting Tuesday, September 15 at 5:30 p.m. in the School Library

Information, Updates, and Teacher Appreciation Posts:

Like PTO on Facebook: facebook.com/HPTSPTO

