

Har-Bur Happenings

Two Great Towns. One Awesome School. Endless Opportunities...

Good Morning HBMS Community,

March is "Rainbow  Connections - Acceptance and Inclusion" month here at Har-Bur!

The Media Center, Diversity Club, Counseling Office, and Student Council have all collaborated to find ways to celebrate gender diversity and the importance of accepting and appreciating who we are on the inside and out. This month is about truly seeing each member of our community and the beauty in our differences. It's about validating every voice and encouraging our unique, amazing, valued students to be proud of who they are.

For the rest of March, students will hear relevant morning announcements and quotes; they will see rainbows, colored doves, book recommendations, bulletin board displays, and posters around the school. The Media Center has acquired a large collection of books and resources for students featuring many gender-diverse characters and non-fiction books on diverse historical figures. 5th and 6th graders will enjoy a virtual presentation later this month by Jonathan Siebert, "A real-life Auggie Pullman" who will talk about kindness and inclusion. We will also have scavenger hunts and spirit days!

We greatly appreciate your continued support as the year moves forward. 

Warm Regards,

Joe and Peter

Please follow us on [Instagram ...@Harburhuskies](#)

Information and Reminders:

- **Meeting a "Real Life Auggie Pullman"** In February, Har-Bur celebrated Random Acts of Kindness Week with a focus on how to spread kindness and caring throughout the school community. During the month of March, our focus is on acceptance and inclusion - celebrating our unique differences, accepting and embracing those differences in one another, and encouraging students to be proud of who they are inside and out. To help us do this we have invited Jonathan Siebert, who calls himself the "real-life Auggie Pullman" to virtually present to our 5th and 6th grade teams on Friday, March 26th to reinforce the key concepts of acceptance, kindness and resilience. Like Auggie Pullman from the popular book Wonder, Jonathan was born with a facial disease called Apert Syndrome. Jonathan's message of "Choosing Kind" is a way for students to learn how to respect others who are different. Jonathan will be sharing his personal experiences of being bullied throughout his school year, the social isolation he endured, and how he overcame those struggles. Students will then have the opportunity to ask questions. Jonathan

has spread his message of kindness to classrooms in all 50 states and in several countries around the globe. We expect that his visit will be an impactful experience and hope they will enjoy it and share all about it with you.

- **Temporary Distance Learning Plan:** The following is for students that need to be out of school for a short period of time. Students should access their teachers' TEAMS pages at the normally scheduled time. Teachers have the choice of asynchronous assignments posted daily with consistent check-ins during the time out, live streaming from class to the students at home or a combination of the two depending on the lesson and day. The tasks that are assigned would need to be completed in the timeline the teacher gives to determine attendance/engagement.
- The **Technology Assistance** page for the district is live and can be accessed at the following link: www.region10ct.org/technology. To submit a Help Desk Ticket, do the following:
 - Go to www.region10ct.org.
 - Go to "Parents" and scroll down to the last entry "technology assistance".
 - Go to Other Resources:
 - Submit a Help Desk ticket
 - Fill out the Help Desk ticket and one of our tech people should get back to you. Please make sure to put in the student's full name, grade, and a description of the problem.
- **Relay for Life:** Relay for Life of Farmington Valley Involves Har-Bur Middle School Students. Relay for Life is the major fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. The Relay for Life of Farmington Valley has been very successful. Students from Har-Bur Middle School have been a big part of that success. In the past 4 years, 445 Har-Bur students joined fundraising teams joined together at the Relay to celebrate cancer survivors, caregivers and remember those who have passed from the disease. Last year with the need to reprioritize our lives, Relay for Life and other fundraisers needed to be reduced however we still raised an amazing \$155,000. With a "light at the end of the tunnel" the Relay's Event Leadership Team is planning a Relay for July 31 when, if safe, we will have a festive and successful Relay. Recruiting for the Relay will begin towards the end of March. If you would like further information contact, Dr. Harvey Dutil, Team Recruitment Chair at dutilrelay@gmail.co
- The Spanish students in our National Foreign Language Honor Society have been busy planning for our next session of our enrichment classes! These classes will be offered on Wednesdays, 4:00-4:30 on Zoom. Sign-ups end on 3/17 to give us time to organize our materials. If you have any questions, please contact me! Thank you for your support. Laura Faga
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=6u2498L1lk2E8FhKiZE5Yjoz-rZ14hdFsMsbJUPLKkdUMTRCWTJTRFdMVjk2QVoyMVU0UVhWTEszUC4u>
- All 5th and 6th grade students are invited to attend our next 5th and 6th Grade Book Club of this school year! The Book Club will be held after school via Zoom so that participants can participate from home. Our Zoom will be on Thursday, April 21st at 3:30 to discuss *Double Identity* by Margaret Peterson Haddix. We will play a book-themed game of Kahoot and virtual Pictionary while discussing the book together. Multiple copies of the book are available and can be delivered to a student's homeroom if requested. Please email Mrs. Bohan or Mrs. O'Connor if you are interested in joining us at bohana@region10ct.org or oconnorr@region10ct.org

- Happy Almost-Spring from HarBur's Reading Center! Here is a very informative and helpful link that explains how to use two amazing tools available to students through Microsoft: Immersive Reader and Office Lens. Immersive Reader helps students navigate challenging text by allowing them to adjust text and even hear it read to them. Office Lens is an app that allows students to take a picture of text that they may only have in print form and upload it so that the Immersive Reader features can then be utilized. [All about the Immersive Reader - Microsoft Educator Center](#)
- **Schedule:** Our school has a four-day rotating schedule. If we miss a day of school for weather, we no longer skip that day in the rotation. Instead, we are "Pushing" the days. For instance, if there is no school (including no DL) on March 16th and it is a day 1, March 17th would become a day 1.

March	15	16	17	18	19
Day	4	1	2	3	4
March	22	23	24	25	26
	1	2	3	4	1

Some simple reminders?

- Charge Laptops - Please remind your child to charge their laptop every evening.
- Pencils needed – Students need to come to school with several pencils every day.
- Power School - Please check your child's Power School account frequently to monitor his/her progress with assessments and work completion.
- Teams - Students should visit their teachers' Teams pages for specific Assignment directions. Please ask them to share these pages with you.
- Masks - Students should have an extra mask in their backpacks.
- School Lunch - If your child is ordering lunch, don't forget to pre-order school lunch here: <http://region10.ss7.sharpschool.com/cms/One.aspx?portalId=466518&pageId=2323290>

COVID ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES:

We appreciate everyone's adherence to the guidelines below. It is essential that students do not come to school if:

- They have had close contact (at least 15 minutes, within 6 feet) with a person that has tested positive for COVID-19.

- **They, or a member of your household, has been tested for COVID-19 because of symptoms and/or potential exposure and you are awaiting results.**
- Your family has traveled to any of the states on the CT Travel Advisory list (<https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/travel>)
- You screen them before school, and they have any of the symptoms below:
 - fever of 100.4 or higher
 - chills
 - a new uncontrolled cough
 - difficulty breathing
 - a sudden loss of taste or smell

If your child is ill and will not be attending school (this includes students that are attending school remotely), please call our school nurses, Beth Niedmann for Grades 7-8, and Kristen Belmonte for Grades 5-6, to report their absence and the reason for the absence.

Important Dates:

March 14	Daylight Savings Time – Spring forward
March 22	Board of Education Meeting 7:00 pm
April 2	Good Friday- No School
April 5	Board of Education Meeting 7:00 pm
April 8	Third Quarter Report Card available 3:00 pm
April 10	Begin Spring Break
April 19	Return to school
April 20	State Assessment Day- SBA ELA Grades 5-8
April 21	State Assessment Day- NGSS (Science) Grades 5&8 only
April 27	State Assessment Day- SBA Math Grades 5-8
April 28	State Assessment Day- SBA Math Grades 5-8
April 30	Teacher Professional Development Early Dismissal 12:15 pm

Contact Information:

Have questions for us? Here are some quick contacts:

Information for all teachers and staff is available on the Region 10 website: www.region10ct.org

Principal – Joe Masi: extension 17558 – masij@region10ct.org

Associate Principal – Peter Bogen: extension 17512 – BogenP@region10ct.org

Counseling Office – Karol Nicoletti: extension 17506 – NicolettiK@region10ct.org

Nurse’s Office Grades 5 and 6 – Mrs. Kristin Belmonte: extension 17310 - belmontek@region10ct.org

Nurse’s Office Grades 7 and 8 – Mrs. Beth Niedmann: extension 17507 - niedmanne@region10ct.org
