



Harper Herald

December 2010

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Message from Principal Zena Ingles

On behalf of the entire staff at Harper Junior High School, I wish you and your loved ones a happy holiday season! This has been such a challenging year for many of us; it is important to take a moment to stop, reflect, and even celebrate a bit.

The holidays are also an excellent time to teach our children a couple important lessons. The first of these lessons is to truly appreciate the great diversity that exists in our community. Harper is blessed with a population of students and families that represents a multitude of races, ethnicities, languages, and religions. Our diversity is most apparent during the holiday season. Not only do our families celebrate a variety of different holidays during the next thirty to forty-five

days, many of us will celebrate our holidays in unique and interesting ways. Our celebrations will differ according to the traditions we practice, the foods we eat, the music we sing, and the recognition or gifts we give and receive.

What a wonderful time to talk with your family and friends about their holidays and celebrations, and what a perfect time to encourage your children to study about a religion or culture that is different from their own! Talk openly with your family about the differences you observe in the next few weeks, and rather than shying away from wishing others good will or taking offense by others' comments, take the plunge and wish everyone the happiest and most joyous of days! We

want our children to appreciate the richness of our world, and they can do this best when we model it for them.

Another important lesson of the holidays is the one that teaches children it really is better to give than to receive. This is an excellent time to put the needs of others above our own wishes. While the Davis community has been somewhat sheltered from the current economic recession, we are not completely isolated from it. The Harper free and reduced lunch rate has risen to 25 % this school year. This factor alone is an indication that many of our children and families have extensive basic needs that are not being met.

(Continued on page 3)

Counselor's Corner

Counseling Team

7th grade and 8th grade L-Z:
Cara Leppington
cleppington@djsd.k12.ca.us,
ext. 260

8th grade A-K and 9th grade:
Natalie Trigilio
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Vi Nickerson
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2010-2011 Programming

The programming dates for 2010-11 will be listed in the January newsletter and students will also be receiving a letter in the mail with more information concerning their placement and schedules for the 2010-11 school year.

HEALTH 7 Requirements

All students who have attended school in Davis during 7th grade are required to take Health 7. This class is usually completed in 7th grade; however, students who take a world language and music classes in 7th grade have

the option of making up the Health 7 requirement. Marie Rundle, the Health 7 teacher met with all of the 7th and 8th grade students to who did not take Health 7 in 7th on November 17th to explain to them what their options are for satisfying the Health 7 requirement.

In case you didn't know....

Biology Prerequisites: 8th Grade students who are interested in taking Biology in 9th grade need to have a B grade or better in both their Algebra class AND their Science 8 class.

Math/Foreign Language Progression:

In order to move on to the next level in math or a foreign language, students need to have a C grade or better in their current class, as these classes build on previous knowledge of the subject. Most colleges have a minimum 2 year requirement for a Foreign Language (2 years in the same language), but 3 years are recommended. If students take a level 2 Foreign Language in 9th - 12th grade, it satisfies the requirement.

The grades used to determine eligibility for classes are the semester grades.

Homework Club

Homework club is open on Mondays-Thursday after school in the Library. Each day a certificated teacher oversees the program and 1-2 U.C. Davis tutors are available to help students with math assignments. If you would like to make an appointment with one of the tutors, please contact Mr. Duffy to set up a one-time or regular tutoring session with one of the tutors. Students who attend for more



than ½ hour will receive a nutritious snack. Attendance "tickets" are available from the teacher-coordinators if you would like documentation of and feedback on your student's attendance at Homework Club. If your student is struggling in ANY academic area, please explore this opportunity to help him/her improve and achieve success.

Yearbook News

Yearbooks are still available for purchase: \$30. Purchase in front office, and make checks payable to Harper Yearbook.

Also, if you have hard copies of FUN photos of Harper Students, I am always looking for additional photos to use in our Yearbook:

- Summertime Photos
- Sports teams
- Extra Curricular activities
- news-paper article cut-outs...



If you would like to contribute, simply bring the photo (or whatever you have) to the front office and have it placed in my teacher box. Please make note of who the students are that are in the photo!

Thanks so much! Julie Crawford

Don't Miss Harper Winter Concerts

Harper Concerts

Orchestra—Dec 8

Coming up on Wednesday, December 8th, is the Emerson-Harper Orchestra Program Winter Concert. This Winter's concert will take place at Harper JHS, in the MPR. It starts at 7:00 PM and is free to the public. Please come out and support your Harper Orchestra students and join us for an evening of great orchestral music!

Questions? Contact Mr. Brucker at gbrucker@djsd.net

Choir & Band—Dec 7

On Tuesday, December 7 at 7pm at the Performing Arts Building at Davis High School, the Harper Band Program, along with the Harper Junior High Mixed Choir, will present their winter concert.



"Home for the Holidays" Benefit for DSAF

Tickets on sale for the seventh annual **"Home for the Holidays" community concert to be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 21 at the Veterans Memorial Theatre.**

This year's lineup includes "Little Charlie" Baty with his jazz combo, the Joe Craven trio, Gardenia Azul with Chris Webster, Rita Hosking with Cousin Jack, the Davis High School Jazz Choir, and special guests.

Tickets are available at Armadillo Music, 205 F Street. The cost is \$20 for adults and \$8 for children under 18.

The concert, produced by Bill Fairfield, is a **benefit for the Davis School Arts Foundation**, which supports music and arts education in Davis public schools. The show is designed to showcase nationally recognized local musicians, many of whom attended Davis public schools, and allow

some younger local performers the chance to share the stage. For more information, visit www.billyfairfield.com.

BRIDGE News

7th period Study Skills and the after-school BRIDGE program provide students with an opportunity to work one-on-one with UCD Tutors. Every day, 15-20 UCD students come to Harper to work with out students. They help our students track their assignments, look at their recorded grades using Zangle, discuss math problems, outline essay topics, choose books for outside reading and generally help individual students achieve as much as possible. We are deeply grateful to have this program at Harper and are especially grateful to have Celina Rodriquez and Janet Boulware coordinating these efforts as the directors

for the Bridge Foundation in Davis. And we are especially thankful for the dedication and commitment of these college students, and their willingness to mentor and work with young people. We believe they are truly making a difference with this work.



Harper Library Needs Magazines

The news that there will be no magazine sales this year was not good news for the library. Over the past few years the library has depended on discounted staff rates in the magazine sale to replenish our subscriptions to magazines for our students to use here in the library. Our current subscriptions are about to run out, and given the state of our budget and the lack of magazine sales, we would like to make a request. If you are planning on purchasing the fundraising package this year, and do not need the magazine subscription voucher, or if you are simply feeling generous and would like to donate an entire year long magazine subscription to the library, we would be eternally grateful! Any of the magazines that the library cur-

rently subscribes to, or any similar titles that are appropriate for Junior High School aged children, would be welcomed. We currently subscribe to, or have in the past subscribed to:

Transworld Skateboarding
Smithsonian Air and Space
Smithsonian
Dirt Rag Mountain Bike Forum
Sports Illustrated
American Cheerleader
Bike
Disney Family Fun
Game Informer
Discover
Teen Vogue

If you are willing to donate either a voucher or a subscription, please contact me, Amanda Sharpe, at asharpe@djusd.net

Principal's Message (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

At Harper, we are again participating in an "Adopt a Family" program. With the help of the Harper Builder's Club, a student service organization, the Harper 5th period classes and a few of our clubs are hoping to brighten the holidays for as many as 23 different families. This is a very challenging project, but one we know is extremely

important. If you would like to contribute food or personal items, or if your family and friends are interested in adopting one of our families, please contact me. We will be continuing to assign families and collect needed items through Wednesday, December 15.

On behalf of Vice Principal Matt Duffy and myself, I would also like to seize

the moment to say thank you and extend to you our very sincere appreciation for all you do to support your children and our school. We are constantly reminded of how fortunate we are to work at Harper, and we have so much to be thankful for. We truly appreciate your support and wish you a very happy holiday season!

Zena Ingles

ZAP (Zeroes Aren't Permitted)

Roughly ten teachers are piloting a new academic intervention program called **ZAP (Zeroes Aren't Permitted)**. The goals of the program are to reinforce the skills of being responsible for completing homework and class work assignments, as well as eliminate the number of zeroes students receive for not completing work.

Each semester as we evaluate stu-

dents earning D's and F's on their report cards, the number one reason for the low grades is missing or incomplete assignments.

The program takes place on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at lunch in room J-56 and is overseen by a teacher each day. Students are assigned to attend until work is completed – this is not a detention room

for students to "serve" time – the goal is to get work done! If a student finishes the assignment before the assigned ZAP time, s/he simply turns in the work and does not need to attend.

If students fail to attend without a valid reason, they are assigned additional time in the ZAP room and 15 minutes of campus clean-up the following day as a consequence.

In the first two weeks we've begun the program the feedback from teachers has been overwhelmingly positive.

They have noted a decrease in missing assignments and an increase in student grades. We will keep the Harper community posted on the progress of the program and a timeline for potentially rolling out the program school-wide.

GATE Testing

We will be offering GATE testing to students in 7th and 9th grades on Dec. 8th, 15th or Jan. 26th, at 4:00pm. If a student is already qualified they do not need to re-qualify. All testing will take place at the DJUSD District Office at 526 B Street. To register, parents should contact Cindy Hoffart, GATE Secretary at choffart@djusd.k12.ca.us or phone 530-757-5300 x146.

Harper Science Department

GATE 7th has just completed a study of cells and cell processes. These students threw themselves into the creation of cell system analogies, and made 3D models of some kind of system where the parts could be seen as analogous to cell organelles and their functions. Some example of cell systems include: Charlie Wonka and his chocolate factor, Candyland, Santa's Workshop, a sport stadium, a military battle, a mall, our science classroom,

Earth Science with Ms. Salim:

Earth Science has just concluded a series of study on Plate Tectonics. Students can articulate the evidence indicating that there ARE plates on the Earth and that they've been moving around since the beginning. They can also explain how the movement of plates creates events like earthquakes and volcanoes, and also geologic features such as mountains and new sea-floor. They can also explain how seismic waves move



Donation Appreciation:

Thank you to all our wonderful donors! We have been the lucky recipients of unsolicited donations of lab equipment as well as monetary donations via the PTO's HarPer Kid Fund-raising efforts. All 5 science teachers continue to feel well-supported by our wonderful Davis community. In addition to the many

costly consumables we must purchase each year (litmus paper, hydrogen peroxide, liver, masking tape, Anachris waterplants, dissection materials, etc.), and yearly maintenance of equipment (microscope cleaning), we will also be able to expand our model collection and other resources for 9th

grade Biology. We may also be able to improve our technology resources by purchasing a projector and some speakers for our in-class computers. Some history: last year's donations were largely directed to outfit the 9th grade Earth Science class. 7th and 8th grade curricula were covered in years prior.

Science 7 GATE with Ms. Salim:

and a number of others. Some of these will be on display at our Spring Open House!

We are now finishing up understanding photosynthesis, by doing paper chromatography to separate the green chlorophyll pigment from the other brown and yellow pigments, which appear in the Fall as chlorophyll is

produced less as some plants enter a dormant, winter phase. These students did an incredible job of reasoning their way to the mechanism for chromatography, that particles of pigment must be separated based on the size, mass or density of individual particles.



through the Earth and tell us what the Earth is made of, all the way to the core. Finally, they can discuss four possible factors contributing to the heat generating inside the Earth, creating convection currents in the mantle and so moving the plates on the surface. The students have done a spectacular job of thinking about how all of these phenomena actually work inside the Earth. We will now be studying our oceans,

specifically the global, deep currents that move energy around the planet and create the mild climate we still enjoy. Students will apply their recent learning of density currents to understand these ocean currents, and will be challenged to continue to think in terms of particles as the basic stuff of matter, and of changes to those particles in the form of energy transfers. Students will use all these ideas to trace the Earth's Climate history.

New Web-based Tech program:

Which Harper science teachers took advantage of the school district's recent training for a new cloud-based science curriculum titled Adaptive Curriculum? All 5! We are integrating this net-based platform into all science grade levels via teacher presentations to students. We also hope to schedule days for students to use it as individuals or with a partner within upcoming units of study. Students may even be able to access it at home soon. We'll be nicknaming it AC. Ask your intrepid and curious teen about it!

Science 8 with Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Dimond, and Mr. McKim:

The second quarter finds us deep into chemistry – learning to think abstractly, visualizing subatomic particles, dropping sodium and potassium into water, burning magnesium wire, etc. Imagine your son or daughter capable of answering the following question using only a periodic table: "Predict the resulting compound when

potassium bonds with oxygen. Draw an electron dot diagram to justify your prediction." Yes, we've been able to go to that depth! Late December and January finds us learning about acids, bases, and all sorts of chemical reactions! Quarter 3 begins in late January and involves basic Newtonian physics.

We're continuing with our science

notebooks with greater and greater success. These notebooks serve as references on tests, teach Cornell Notes formatting, guide students to summarize lessons, practice higher levels on questioning strategies, and reinforce the need for organization and planning. Thank you to all parents for supporting all our efforts!

PTO Meeting —Dec 14 & Update

Although December is a very busy month, we hope you will make a plan to come to the **December 14th PTO Meeting (7pm in the Harper Library)**. We will be discussing upcoming community building events and parent ed plans. We will be hearing from our counselors and we want to hear how the year is going for your student so far in 2010-11. ...and much more.

THANKS TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS

Harper PTO thanks all the parents who have spent time this year so far helping with fundraising, directory, the Harper Herald, the website, membership, hospitality and in so many other ways at Harper! We also want to thank the Harper staff who make that extra effort to make our student's years at Harper filled with memorable moments!



HarPER KID Fund

Please take a minute to read the insert in this newsletter about the HarPER KID fund. We raised a total of \$9,373 to date. Thank you to those who donated. The PerKid Donations are not only the "extras" for the classrooms, but they are items used each year that add depth to your students school experience. Please remember **if you are looking to make an end of the year donation** or you made a donation to the Frances Fund in the past & would like to again **—this is the place to donate!**

Upcoming PTO Meetings

December 14, January 11, February 1,
March 1, April 12, May 3, June Social TBA

Nugget Scrip Card

Nugget Market has changed their Scrip program to an easier way for us to support Harper!

If you still have credit on your current (previous) Nugget Scrip card, you will need to cash it in. Any Nugget Market can help you.

If you received new Scrip cards in the mail, you will need to register it on the Nugget

website in order to make it active. You will need to go online to register your card and search for Harper Junior High as your beneficiary.

If you did not receive a new Nugget Card in the mail, PTO is in the process of obtaining new cards and we will have them available in the Harper Office when they arrive.

Parent Education—Upcoming Events

Let's continue our conversation from **"Race To Nowhere"** with the Parent University Lecture Series 2011, a FREE EVENT featuring two best selling authors and nationally renowned speakers:

Friday Jan. 28th, 7pm at Freeborn Hall, UC Davis with Madeline Levine, PhD, author of "The Price of Privilege"

Saturday Feb. 12th, 9am at Brunelle Theater, with Ashley Merryman, JD, Co-author of "NurtureShock" – followed by a panel discussion with Director of Student Services, Pam Mari and 4 other distinguished

panelists to discuss how the district, community, parents and leaders can implement the ideas presented during the lectures series.

Presented by Davis K-6 Community Wide Parent Education Committee and funded by Davis K-12 PTA/D's, District Climate Committee, Institute of Restorative Health of Davis, and Hyatt Place UC Davis

For questions: Harper Parent Ed: Jodi-Jliederman@cs.com.

eScrip Mall

Shop Online and Help Harper

If you have online shopping to do, check first to see if the shop you are looking for is connected to the eScrip Online Mall. Go to the Harper Website at <http://www.djUSD.k12.ca.us/harper/> and the click on the picture:

There are a few things you should know:



- When you use the Online Mall, we earn up to 16% of your purchases from over 1,000 name brand merchants
- You shop from the same websites you know and trust and pay exactly the same price
- The specific items you buy are not recorded in any way, just the total you spent from each merchant to calculate your earnings
- Be sure to visit the Online Mall first whenever you shop so we can earn every time!

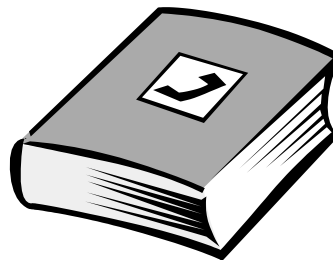
Remember—

Money for Harper Can Grow on Trees—You Just Have to "Pick" It

**Nugget Cards
eScrip
Box Tops**

Box Tops

We all shop for groceries, sometimes two or three times a week -- or more. Now turn those shopping trip into easy cash for Harper, and encourage friends to do the same! Just look for the Box Tops logo on hundreds of products like Cheerios®, Hamburger Helper® and Kleenex®, in almost every aisle of the store. All you need to do is clip and send them to Harper - there is a Box in the Harper Office and Library.



Harper Directories Are HERE

Harper Directories will be distributed the week of December 6. One Directory will be given to each family without charge. If you ordered more than one directory, they will be delivered to you shortly. Should you have any questions, contact Harper PTO at harperpto@gmail.com.

Davis Parents Do

Where will your kids be on upcoming furlough days and holidays?

With the addition of five extra days during the school year when DJUSD students will not be in class, parents who work away from home may be challenged to find something constructive for their kids to do, or to provide them with the supervision teens need.

Even Davis teens get into trouble without supervision, although many parents have no idea of the extent that kids are using alcohol and pot in particular when adults aren't around. You may think your child wouldn't use, but do you know what they really do when you aren't around on these days off?

There are several resources in Davis for students during times school is not in session. Some of these are listed below. In addition to having your teen participate in a structured alternative to staying alone unsupervised, you can do the following to minimize the risk of substance use when you are not around. Each idea requires the involvement of an adult in coming up with constructive alternatives to hanging out and possibly using.

Form an informal parent cooperative to share being at home during furlough days: Have parents take turns taking days off to host teen friends at one house during an early release, furlough day, or the Thanksgiving holidays.

Have your child enroll in doing volunteer work for the day(s) off: Examples include tutoring younger kids, food bank, working at the SPCA, migrant center, or the senior center. This contributes positively to kids' self esteem, helps the community, and develops competencies that are a deterrent to substance use.

Enroll your child in a structured activity: There aren't enough of these options but there are a few things in Davis that might work for your family, including City of Davis Teen Center programs at Harper and Holmes during late start and articulation days, or the UC Davis Craft Studio.

If your child already has too many activities and more structure is not an option when you are absent:

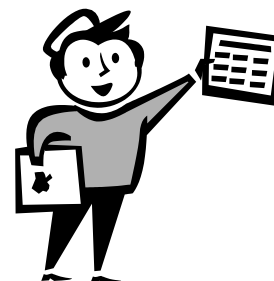
- Make a plan together for how your child will spend the time off;
- Leave your child with very clear expectations, such as not allowing other kids in the home when adults are not present;
- Know where s/he will spend his time;
- Get to know other parents and what they will allow if your child spends time with theirs.

Discussion Topic With Your Teen: Ask your teen what other kids do on these days off, and how s/he feels about their choices. Does s/he feel pressure to do the same things? Does s/he feel s/he is missing out or falling behind the social scene by not participating? Ask your teen if s/he needs any help from you in handling the situation.

DavisPARENTSDDO is a parent education committee of secondary schools PTAs that promotes increasing awareness of teen alcohol and other substance use in Davis. For more information, see our website at davisparentsdo.org

Do you need the Harper Herald by mail? If not—let us know...

The Harper Herald, this monthly PTO newsletter, is sent out monthly on Harper grade level listserves, available online and mailed home. If you received this newsletter by mail and no longer wish to receive a paper copy, please email us at HARPERPTO@GMAIL.COM. This decision will help us save printing and mailing costs.



Do you get the Harper Grade Level Listserve Emails?

Do you know what is happening at Harper? The best way to get that information is to read the "Harper Daily Bulletin" and "Harper PTO E-Newsletter" sent out on the listserve. The Daily Bulletin contains the daily announcements the students hear over the Harper intercom every day. So you know what they know. The Harper PTO E-Newsletter lists additional announcements that relate to the Harper Community. Other occasional announcements are also sent out by the PTO, Harper Administration, and Counseling Office. You can sign up on the Harper PTO website at <http://groups.dcn.org/harperpto>.

Keeping our Children Healthy

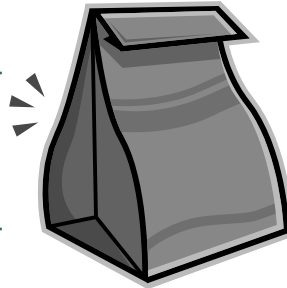
In the past few weeks, we have experienced a significant increase in student absences from school due to illness. Many of these students have contacted a virus or infection of some sort and are experiencing a variety of flu-like symptoms. Headaches, sore throats, sniffing, intestinal pain and even vomiting are among the common complaints. As we think about this high rate of absenteeism, we must consider the many factors that affect an adolescent's health and think about how a young person's decisions or lifestyle choices often affect a student's overall wellness. As parents and staff, we have the potential to assist our students in making healthy choices. We can affect their attitudes, beliefs and behaviors, and with a little extra attention and a unified effort, we might influence their daily routines in a way that could lead to healthier, happier lives.

Sleep deprivation affects many aspects of a person's physical and mental performance.

Sleep deprivation affects many aspects of a person's physical and mental performance. According to research, teenagers should sleep 8.5 to 10 hours per night, and one cannot make up for lost sleep during the week by sleeping extra time on week-ends. It is not like the body can store the extra rest from one day to be used as a reserve for the next. It is important that your student goes to bed and actually goes to sleep by 9:30 or 10 PM. Going to the bedroom and texting, talking on the phone, playing video games, or working on the computer do not count as sleeping. Insist that your child actually turn off all lights and electronic devices, so she/he may get adequate amounts of uninterrupted sleep each night.

Proper nutrition plays a major role in our children's overall health status.

Proper nutrition plays a major role in our children's overall health status. Obesity, diabetes and anemia are just a few of the serious side effects for adolescents who fail to eat properly. We tell students that one of the most important steps they can take to prepare for a test is to eat a high protein breakfast and drink lots of water. That same advice can be applied to every school day, not just test days. Expect your son or daughter to eat breakfast or take breakfast along when she/he leaves the house in the morning. Also ensure she/he is eating a healthy lunch and has a nutritious snack in the afternoon.



Harper has a nutrition break at the beginning of 3rd period and a 45 minute lunch period each day. Please be sure your child is eating!

Stress management is also key to maintaining good health.

Stress management is also key to maintaining good health. Too many of our kids take on too many commitments and are not able to manage all the tasks or responsibilities given them. They try to balance sports and socializing with school activities and homework. If you can see that your student is getting over-extended, stressed or appears to have a hard time saying no to the many opportunities avail-

able, assist him or her in making choices. Sometimes young people just need an excuse to say no to others, and you can provide that excuse.

If your student becomes ill, insist she/he stay home, get plenty of rest and drink lots of fluids

If your student becomes ill, insist she/he stay home, get plenty of rest and drink lots of fluids. Allow him/her to stay home if needed, and if the illness continues for more than 2 or 3 days, consult a physician. Although your child may get behind in school and will have make-up work to complete, we do not want students exposing others to their illnesses. Also, please do not allow your child to take someone else's medication, no matter how innocent it may seem. Many students do not understand that medications can be just as dangerous as street drugs and should only be used under careful supervision.

Young people often need our help in taking care of themselves in developing quality life-long health habits.

Young people often need our help in taking care of themselves and in developing quality life-long health habits. We stopped to care for our children when they became ill in elementary school; it is important we give them the same attention in junior high school. Help your child stay healthy by insisting she/he eats well, gets plenty of rest and takes care of themselves.

Frances Harper Junior High School
4000 East Covell Blvd
Davis, California 95618

**NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA 95618
PERMIT NO.5**

TIME DATED MATERIAL

ATTENDANCE

If your student is going to be absent or needs an early dismissal, please contact our attendance office or call 757-5330 Ext. 112 and leave a message prior to 9AM.

Students have just 24 hours to clear an absence or that absence will be considered unexcused.

OFFICE HOURS

Due to recent budget reductions, Harper has experienced a reduction in our office staff.

Our main office hours for 2010-11 are:

**8AM – 4PM on most days, and
9:15AM – 4PM on Late Start Wednesdays**

GRADE LEVEL ADVISORIES

Do you ever wonder what the teachers are doing on Wednesday mornings during the late start time for students? At Harper, our staff is busy collaborating on how to better instruct our students and how to achieve our school-wide mission... "Inspiring everyone to learn, achieve and thrive in a caring community." Each week of the month is dedicated to a different collaboration group, including whole staff, departments, grade level teams and others.

The grade level teams have been working in Professional Learning Communities and will begin implementing grade level activities this month. An example of one of the grade

level activities is the Freshman Showcase. In order to conduct these grade level activities, Harper will operate on a special schedule. Please note that on

one Wednesday a month, from now through May, our schedule will be adjusted slightly to allow for these grade level activities to occur. The

schedule and the dates affected are shown below. More information about the grade level activities will be included in future newsletters.

Late Start Wednesday December 15, January 19, February 16, March 16, April 13, May 18		
PERIOD	BEGIN	END
1	9:38	10:15
2	10:19	10:56
Advisory	11:00	11:35
3	11:39	12:16
4	12:20	12:57
Lunch	12:57	1:27
5	1:31	2:08
6	2:12	2:49
7	2:53	3:30

