

January 16, 2018

Dear Hiawatha Families,

Welcome to 2018! We are very busy getting the New Year underway. I can't believe we are at this point! The students came back from break energized and excited. They had many stories to share with their teachers and classmates. We hope to capture this excitement and carry it through the second half of the school year.

This year, we made some modifications to our school's website to enhance our students' educational experiences. Please visit us **weekly** at:

<http://www.sachem.edu/schools/hiawatha>

Due to snow days our **new district calendar** can be accessed at:

<http://www.sachem.edu/Assets/Calendar Documents/011118 Calendar Vertical17-18rev1-10-18.pdf?v=639>

Social media (e.g. Twitter, Facebook, Snap Chat, Instagram ...) and technology should be used to **celebrate our programs** and **make our lives easier**. Please be aware of the negative ways social media can affect individuals' mental health and well-being. **It is very important to know what your children are viewing and posting.**

We will be hosting a program for all students regarding **Megan's Law** on January 22nd and 23rd. **Please review the content** in the following attachments.

Grades K-3 will see YOU'RE IN CHARGE:

<http://www.sachem.edu/Assets/Hiawatha Links/011118 Megans Law Assembly Information Grades K - 3.pdf?t=636512676304130000>

Grades 4-5 will see WHEN SHOULD YOU TELL:

<http://www.sachem.edu/Assets/Hiawatha Links/011118 Megans Law Assembly Information Grades 4 and 5.pdf?t=636512676304000000>

Our **BLT Building Leadership Team** has put together an outstanding monthly **character education program** which includes Character Ed Comics Contest, **Character Grams**, and **Certificates of Character Achievement**. Students are recognized via morning announcements, awarded their certificates, and have their photos taken for the Hunter the Husky's Blog. Please visit: <https://hiawathahusky.wordpress.com>

**FAVORITE BOOK CHARACTER DAY** is **JANUARY 26<sup>th</sup>**. Please encourage your child to come to school dressed as their favorite book character. Examples of favorite characters include: Madeline, Winnie the Pooh, Judy Moody, animals from fables ... Talk to your children's teachers and Ms. Walker, our librarian, or Ms. Healy, our Art teacher, for additional suggestions.

Please continue to send in your **Box Tops**. Class 5-1 was the recent winner of our monthly contest. We have earned **\$996.50** so far. All proceeds go directly to the students' classroom libraries. Special thanks to Ms. Hope for inspiring and continually supporting this program.

If you have not already accessed your child's progress reports and report cards, please do so at your earliest convenience. We are hosting **PARENT TRAINING SESSIONS** for user friendly instruction on using and accessing Websites, ESchool Parent Portal, and other helpful digital parent resources on **Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>** by appointment during the day or in the evening. Please call the office to **make an appointment (631) 471-1830**. TRANSLATORS ARE AVAILABLE.

Hiawatha Elementary School collected 605 pounds of candy and won the Halloween Candy Buy Back Contest and recently received a check from Dr. Funt, orthodontist, for \$500.00 which will go to students' classroom libraries and STEM materials.

Our PTA committees have been extremely busy putting together viable trips and programs. **Grade 5 parents** are reminded to **check the flyers** section of our website and due dates (e.g. Trip to School of Rock, baby pictures for Yearbook).

Following are some upcoming calendar highlights:

01/19 Grade 5 Geography Bee                      01/23 Megan's Law K-5 presentations  
01/23 Suffolk County Water Presentation   01/24 Spelling Bee Grade 5  
02/05 Cyberbullying workshop in school, Grade 5

**SAVE THE DATE:**

01/26 PTA Chinese Auction 7:30 pm (\$5.00 tickets sold at the door)  
02/08 PTA Blood Drive  
02/09 Father/Special Person & Daughter Dance 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

All students should read at home each night, and be sure to show your Hiawatha Spirit and take advantage of our Friday book swaps. We encourage all Sachem families to take advantage of the wonderful, free public library programs. For more information visit: <https://www.sachemlibrary.org/>

Hiawatha students engage in project based learning opportunities where our special area teachers integrate their expertise in core instruction, and we have increased opportunities for children to engage in STEM and coding activities.

Please check the calendar at [www.sachem.edu](http://www.sachem.edu) to find a list of [all district activities & times](#). Be sure to sign up for Remind texts to stay updated on any events via Twitter.

It is our privilege to serve your child. Please contact the school if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Kathleen O'Farrell  
Principal