



# Hastings-on-Hudson Public Schools

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Dear Hastings Community,

Into October we roll. The work has been intense, especially for our Juniors and Seniors, and many of our faculty and staff, yet I am witnessing spirit and engagement on my walkabouts. Beyond an opening reminder of a request for your input, let me focus today on two lead examples of early October spirit and engagement.

## **Portrait of a Hastings Learner – Surveys Are Out – Please Respond**

On Monday, we distributed the surveys for the *Portrait of a Hastings Learner* via several email blasts. The surveys are designed to gather information for the development of the *Portrait* and associated strategic goals, which will guide the district's work over the next three to five years. We are surveying students (grades 5-12), district personnel, parents/families and community members.

To encourage participation, below are links to the role-specific surveys for district personnel, parents/families and community members. These are the same links shared via email blasts on Monday. If you have not yet completed your role-specific survey, please click on the link below and follow the path to your survey.

- [POHL Personnel Letter](#) (Link for all district employees.)
- [POHL Family Letter](#) (Link for all Hastings parents.)
- [POHL Community Letter](#) (Link for Hastings residents, without children in schools.)

Surveys of students (grades 5-12) will be distributed through classes. Faculty and students are being informed directly about the plan. (We will not survey students in grades K-4.)

The deadline for survey completion is October 20th. Your thoughtful, anonymous responses will be essential. Thank you.

## **SEPTA Carnival – Success, Meaning & Joy**

Last Saturday's SEPTA Carnival was a smashing success despite rain showers that moved the event indoors. There was representation from SEPTA, the Hastings faculty and staff, volunteer

parents—matched by an impressive level of student involvement. High schoolers, middle schoolers, and a couple of our young Hillside students partnered, side by side, to create a joyous and engaging atmosphere for the Hastings community. Booths were staffed mostly by high school students, who patiently explained the rules, even to the youngest players, cheering them on with a show of leadership and mentorship. Our middle schoolers helped with set up and stepped in whenever needed. “One of the students came as an attendee and jumped in to help sell 50/50s and run one of the carnival games,” explained Jennifer Destin, a SEPTA leader.

Thank you to all the caring individuals who made the carnival a success. [Click here](#) to read a special note of appreciation for the community and volunteers from SEPTA.

### **Hastings *Under the Lights* – Athletics for a Cause**

Hastings scholar-athletes are stepping up this week to raise \$10,000 for the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Outdoor contests from October 6-8 are “Under the Lights,” and, whether indoors or outdoors, are signified by match-day uniforms in pink and sideline t-shirt, trinket and bake-sales. Day one was completed yesterday in grand fashion, with victories by Field Hockey and Tennis, and a strong effort by Varsity Volleyball. I wandered the sidelines at each contest, and heard many compliments from parents for the purpose, initiative and impact. Varsity Girls Tennis opened with a boisterous celebration of their seniors—each 12th grader was the subject of stories (humorous, for sure) from their younger teammates.

Tonight, Varsity Football picks up the challenge at 6:00 p.m., followed on Saturday by Varsity Girls Soccer (6:00 p.m.) and Varsity Boys Soccer (7:30 p.m.). Details for the contests can be found [here](#).

Many hands and hearts went into helping Athletic Director Drew Wendol organize and deliver *Under the Lights*. The Hastings Yellow Jacket Booster Club and PTSA were instrumental. Coaches guided their teams to participate with the larger cause as their purpose. Terry Franck, Nick Frascione and Geoff Terilli kicked into extra high gear to prepare the fields and gyms, and set up and manage the lights (which had to be moved several times). They were assisted at key points with the lights by Hastings DPW. In short, help came from all corners of Hastings to ensure that *Under the Lights* epitomizes “success, meaning and joy.”

### **On the Horizon**

As October moves toward November, the High School Fall Play will be mounted. *The Outsiders* will be performed on Friday, October 21 and Saturday, October 22. I am told that the production is not to be missed. Please plan ahead.

Be well.

*Bill*

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