



Bulletin submissions are due on Fridays by 5:00 pm and should be made [online](#). Visit the [Hastings PTA website](#) to find more information and helpful resources.

December 10, 2014

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As the natural light dims in the winter months, many cultures and religions celebrate holidays that focus on light as a central symbol. Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Diwali, Ramadan, Loy Krathong, Luciadagen, Chinese New Year: all holidays that feature candles, lanterns, and lights that fill the darkness as people commemorate historical events and annual festivals. In Japan, many people get up at sunrise on January 1 to see the first light of the New Year.

Our library has several excellent texts that describe the international holidays with light and peace at their center. Among the many books included in the collection are the following titles: *Celebrations of Light*, by Nancy Luenn, *Kwanzaa*, by Deborah M. Newton Chocolate, *The Winter Solstice*, by Ellen Jackson, *Floating Lanterns and Golden Shrines*, by Rena Krasno, *Feliz Nochebuena*, *Feliz Navidad*, by Maricel E. Presilla, and *Hanukkah, Shmanukkah!*, by Esme Raji Codell.

I welcome information about holidays or traditions that your family celebrates throughout the year if you would like us to share them with our school community. I hope your family enjoys this time of festivities and special occasions.

Louise Lipsitz

NEWS

Walking Wednesday moved to December 17

Date: Wednesday, December 17

Time: 8:15 am

Location: Basketball Court

Due to the heavy rain and slippery sidewalks, December's "Crazy Hat" Walking Wednesday has been rescheduled to December 17. Join us on the basketball court and wear your favorite (or "crazy") winter hat to celebrate the start of winter.

PTA Café with Principal Louise Lipsitz ~ December 11

Date: Thursday, December 11

Time: 8:30-9:30 am

Location: Hastings Library

Please join us for an informal morning with Principal Louise Lipsitz. This is a great opportunity to spend some time with other Hastings parents and to ask questions in a relaxed, informal setting. We hope to see you there!

ASM rescheduled to December 23

Due to a 5th Grade field trip, the All School Meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 18 has been rescheduled to Tuesday, December 23. All are welcome!

Student-Sponsored Donation Boxes are in the Lobby

Date: Tuesday, December 2 - Tuesday, December 23

Time: during school open hours

Location: left side of the Hastings front entryway

When you walk into the front door of Hastings, to the left of the entryway you will see two donation boxes sponsored by Hastings students.

MSPCA Gaia (2nd grade) and Ella (5th grade) Taibi are collecting donations for the MSPCA (Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals <http://www.mspca.org>).

Possible donations could be unopened cans or bags of pet food, blankets or towels, pet toys, leashes and collars, or anything you think any kind of animal would like. We will deliver the items to the MSPCA Nevins Farm in Methuen for the holidays! Thank you!

Cradles to Crayons Fifth graders Jessica Laman and Sophia Clausen are collecting donations for [Cradles to Crayons](#). Please drop off donations of new or like-new clothing, books, baby items, and new school supplies. For a complete list of acceptable donation items click [here](#). Thank you for your help!

Shop Local, Save, and Support Hastings with the Main Street Stack Coupon Book!

A perfect gift for neighbors or local holiday hosts, the 2015 Main Street Stack includes offers from nearly 30 Lexington businesses. (More information and a complete list of businesses is available [here](#).) This unique coupon book lets you save while supporting local businesses and the school—half of the \$20 purchase price will go to mini-grants for Hastings teachers and staff! You can purchase the Main Street Stack on the [PTA website](#) through January 31, but purchases made by December 18 will be sent home with students before the holiday break.

Looking to Make End-of-Year Donations?

Please consider making a tax-exempt donation to the Hastings PTA. The PTA spends more than \$40,000 (about \$100 per student) each year on educational programs, visual and performing arts programs, mini-grants and discretionary checks to teachers and staff, community-oriented events, library purchases, and scholarship funds that ensure all community

members can take part in school activities. Please help guarantee the future of these wonderful programs for the Hastings community by clicking on the "Donate" button on the [PTA Website](#).

Thank you Hastings Stop and Shoppers!

With several months remaining in the Stop & Shop A+ Program, Hastings supporters have already earned more than \$600 for the school just by using their Stop & Shop cards! Every dollar spent with your card earns more points for Hastings, so remember to use it every time you shop. Not sure if you're enrolled? Look at the bottom of your receipt for an A+ Rewards total. If a total doesn't appear, you're not enrolled. There's still plenty of time to sign up, but the sooner you do, the more we can earn! Sign up now on the [PTA website](#) to support up to two participating schools.

Hastings Staff Appreciated at Luncheon

Thanks to organizers **Christie Keebaugh**, **Lisa Mazerall**, **Cheryl Sullivan**, and all who made generous donations to the Hastings Staff Luncheon on Thursday, December 4. The entire Hastings staff enjoyed delicious home made food, beautiful floral decorations by **Melissa Stewart** of Primrose Floral, and scrumptious desserts by **Jenn Marcin**. The never-ending generosity of the Hastings community was greatly appreciated!

Thank you, Steve Cooper!

Many thanks to **Steve Cooper** who has graciously taken on the responsibility of preparing and filing the tax returns for our PTA. In doing so, Steve saved us hundreds of dollars which we can now use to benefit our school and children. Thank you so much, Steve!

SCHOOL COMMITTEE NEWS

Superintendent Search Update

On Wednesday, December 10, at its meeting scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in the Board of Selectmen's Meeting Room, the Lexington School Committee will announce the finalists for the Superintendent of Schools position.

The finalists will be touring Lexington individually during the week of December 15-18. An informal community reception open to the public with each of the finalists will be held in the Library Media Center, first floor of the main building, at Lexington High School from 2:30-3:30 PM on Monday, December 15; Wednesday, December 17; and Thursday, December 18. This will be an opportunity for community members to meet the finalists.

Following a day-long visit to the district, each of the finalist candidates will be interviewed by the School Committee in open session at 7:00 PM in the Central Office, 146 Maple Street, on December 15, 17, and 18. These meetings will be recorded by LexMedia for future broadcast.

The School Committee will meet in open session on Friday, December 19, at 4:00 PM in the Board of Selectmen's Meeting Room to select its preferred candidate for Superintendent. This meeting will be broadcast live.

School Committee Meeting Notes

December 2

This School Committee meeting was held in Roxbury and focused on the Superintendent's Presentation of METCO Achievement Data. For more information, please see the presentation available [here](#).

Upcoming School Committee Meeting Dates:

December 10,15,16,17,18, & 19

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

View all upcoming events [online](#) and save to your Google Calendar.

12/10 Wednesday	7:30 pm	School Committee Meeting , Lexington Town Office Building, Selectman's Meeting Room
12/11 Thursday	8:30-9:30 am	PTA Café with Principal Louise Lipsitz Topic: Open for questions and discussion, Library
12/15 Monday	2:30-3:30 pm	Community Reception with Superintendent Finalist , Library Media Center, Lexington High School
	7:30 pm	School Committee Meeting , School Administration Building
12/16 Tuesday	7:30 pm	School Committee Meeting , Lexington Town Office Building, Selectman's Meeting Room
12/17 Wednesday	8:10-8:30 am	Walking Wednesday
	2:30-3:30 pm	Community Reception with Superintendent Finalist , Library Media Center, Lexington High School
	7:30 pm	School Committee Meeting , School Administration Building
12/18 Thursday	12:15-3:15 pm	Family Friends
	2:30-3:30 pm	Community Reception with Superintendent Finalist , Library Media Center, Lexington High School
	7:30 pm	School Committee Meeting , School Administration Building
12/19 Friday	4:00 pm	School Committee Meeting , Lexington Town Office Building, Selectman's Meeting Room
12/23 Tuesday	8:55-9:30 am	All School Meeting
12/24/14-1/2/15		Schools Closed