



HERONFIELD ACADEMY

February 16, 2021

Dear Heronfield Families,

My family celebrated Chinese New Year this weekend by ordering in from one of our favorite places, and I was reminded of a time a year ago when we joined our neighbors for a feast at the restaurant itself last year (remember those days?). The many entrees were arrayed on the table, and as we all leaned in to fill our plates, seven year-old Allie asked me about an unknown vegetable in a certain dish. When I said I didn't know what it was, she sort of shrugged and replied, "I don't know either. So I guess we'll just have to 'not know' together." With that, she grabbed the serving spoon and added a portion to her plate, more than willing to try something new, something unknown.

Even at her young age, Allie is a bit of a philosopher, so it's not surprising that she might say something that would sit softly on the mind, and I've been thinking a bit about the idea of 'not knowing together' since then. Schools are too often places where a teacher knows the information and shares it out with the students in a pre-planned way, certain exactly what the students will learn and how they will show their learning today, tomorrow and the day after that. The more exciting - and wonderfully less predictable - experiences happen when we treat learning with a spirit of adventure, when we are comfortable with 'not knowing together' and remain open to whatever might happen. We see this around the Harkness table as a student might find a new angle to a novel that a teacher has taught several years before. We see this as students squint into a microscope and discover the multitude of organisms in a drop of pond water. A new solution in a math class, an appreciation for a new-found connection to another culture, an interesting way to connect an event from history to something from the morning's news report. As with much of life, both teaching and learning occur best when they are truly authentic, when we leave ourselves open to what we might discover, what ideas might come in just the right moments, and how we will share and build on what we know with others.

It's a time of celebration these days, with Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day, and even Mardi Gras falling in a short span, and while the ways we celebrate holidays might be different, I hope we can continue to truly celebrate the many ways that we approach the days we share, the many ways that we revel in 'not knowing together' and then put our minds together to figure things out, develop new ideas, and let life unfold in interesting ways. This year has emphasized the importance of being flexible and adapting to whatever might occur. It's not always easy, but we sure learn a lot in the process, together, which is indeed worth celebrating.

Warmly, John

HERONFIELD GAME TIME

It's Game Time! Heronfield is doing something a little different for the winter sports season: on Thursdays and Fridays from 2:15-3:15pm, Mr. Jordan will host a variety of team games and activities for participants in the Fieldhouse. Players will revisit some Heronfield classics like Squallyball and Coneball, and be introduced to some new games along the way. 'Game Time' starts this Thursday, February 18th and runs through April 15th.

Date	Activity
2/18	Coneball
2/19	Tic Tac Toe/Bowling
2/25	3x3 Basketball/ knockout
2/26	Squallyball
3/4	Open Gym
3/5	Goalball
3/25	Coneball
3/26	3x3 Basketball/ knockout
4/1	Squallyball
4/8	Open Gym
4/9	TBD
4/15	TBD

SPIRIT WEEK

Monday, Feb. 22-Friday, Feb. 26

Each day will involve a color from the Olympic rings along with a theme of dress.

Monday - Red. Crazy Hair/Hat Day

Tuesday - Yellow. Neon Day

Wednesday - Black. Pajama Day

Thursday - Green. Clash Day

Friday - Blue. Heronfield Spirit Day-wear that HA gear!

All-School Skate!

Join us for an all school skating party at Puddle Dock Pond in Portsmouth on Monday, February 22, from 7-9pm. Due to limited capacity at the rink, parents will not be able to stay to observe or socialize. Please plan on a speedy drop off and pick up.

- Bring \$3 to rent skates if you need them.
- Masks and social distancing will be required on and off the ice.

Skating night theme: **Winter Olympics**

RSVP that your child **WILL** attend here: [All School Skate - RSVP](#)

No need to print out tickets

ENROLLMENT

All returning students need to submit their signed enrollment contracts and deposits by Friday, **February 19** to secure a spot for the school year 2021-2022.

SPRING BREAK AND THE WEEK OF MARCH 22

Heronfield will be on Spring Break for the weeks of March 8 and March 15, and school will resume on March 22 with on-campus learning. Families who choose to travel outside of New England during break should make plans to do so during the week of March 8 and must follow New Hampshire guidelines regarding quarantine and testing so that their children will be ready to be on campus when school resumes.

Hot Water

Some of our water dispensers on campus have a HOT water option if your student wants to bring tea or hot chocolate from home to ward off the winter chill.

Important Dates:

Thurs, Feb. 18: Game Time 3:15-4:15pm

Fri, Feb. 19: Game Time 3:15-4:15pm

Mon, Feb. 22-Fri, Feb. 26: Spirit WEEK

Mon, Feb. 22: Skating Party 7-9:00pm