

September 2021

FALCON FOCUS NEWSLETTER



From the Principal

Growth Mindset Quote of the Month

Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed no hope at all. (Dale Carnegie)

Dear Forest Avenue Families,

Welcome to the first edition of the Falcon Focus for the 2021 – 2022 School Year. Though we normally publish this newsletter at the start of each month and are running a little behind, that does not take away from the excitement that we have in welcoming everyone back into the building for the start of the school year! It is wonderful to have all of our students and staff returning from Cohort D and to have everyone participating in full in-person learning. The safety and wellbeing of our students and staff continues to be our number one priority. As a result, masks are worn in the building; our custodians continue to follow a strict regimen for cleaning and sanitization, and social distancing is practiced in classrooms and the cafeteria.

This summer we were very busy hiring new staff members here at Forest Ave. Please join me in welcoming the following: Maureen Bonetti (Kindergarten Teacher), Maureen Austin (School Adjustment Counselor), Mary Anne Kennedy (ELL Teacher), Leya Messier (Occupational Therapist), Karissa Medeiros (Para Educator), Emily Colonna (Para Educator), Hannah Rose Sullivan (Building Substitute), and Melissa Caissie (Lunch Monitor). Melissa Cherry, from Quinn Middle School, will also be teaching Drama to our fourth grade students. Filling in as long-term substitutes at the start of the year are Laura Jeffrey (TSP Special Educator) and Maia Proujanski-Bell (Reading Specialist).

As I shared with families in an email last week, we have changed our plans for Open House this year to a virtual format to provide increased safety for students, parents, and staff. As a result, our staff will be creating videos, which will be available for viewing by our school community on Thursday, September 30th. The videos will provide all of the information that is presented during a typical in-person open house such as a view of the classroom, the class schedule and structure of the school day, classroom expectations, and information about the curriculum. More information on how you will access these videos will be coming soon. All of our teachers will be sharing videos so I hope you will take this opportunity to get introduced to all of the staff that your son/daughter interacts with including Specials Teachers, Reading & Math Specialists, ELL Teachers, and Special Educators. Be sure to check out our Library Teacher's (Mary Kate Leidal) video so you can explore our newly renovated Library, compliments of our Home & School Association and the funds raised during the 2019 Fun Run.

I encourage all of you to become active and informed members of our school community. With both in-person and virtual options available for parents and families we welcome your participation during Home & School Meetings, School Improvement Council, Open House, Parent / Teacher Conferences, and family fun events that Home & School will be sponsoring throughout the school year. I wish you and your children a safe and enjoyable school year!

Sincerely, David Champigny
Principal, Forest Avenue School

From the Nurse

September



Welcome back returning Forest Ave students. We would like to welcome our Kindergarten classes and new students to Forest Ave.

The following list are COVID symptoms that parents/guardians should monitor their children for daily:

- Fever (100.0 degree Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Muscle aches or body aches
- Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Sore throat, when in combination with other symptoms
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea when in combination with other symptoms
- Headache when in combination with other symptoms
- Fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms
- Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) when in combination with other symptoms

If you are in need of a backpack for your child, please contact the health office at the number or email below. Also, if you are experiencing food insecurities please contact the health office as we have a program that can assist with this.

A Confidential Student Health Information form (green sheet) was sent home with your child, please fill this out and return with your child. This form will give me updated medical information on your child and phone numbers for notification. Kindergarten families filled this form out during registration. If any numbers have changed please let me know.

Please remember to bring in doctors' orders for inhalers and EpiPens along with the supplies to the health office as soon as possible for those students that require them at school. **For students on daily medication, per Hudson Public School policy the medication will need to be brought in by a parent or guardian** along with the doctor's order. **Please call ahead when bringing in medication.** Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Thank you and we look forward to working with you and your child throughout the school year.

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Show What You Know at Forest Avenue School

This year the Forest Avenue Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) has been hard at work with our instructional focus of “show what you know.” The ILT’s role is to work collaboratively with the school community to enhance student learning. This work is supported by research, feedback, student data, the school’s instructional focus, and identified teaching practices. Over the last year, our identified teaching practice has been focused on the importance of classroom discussion.

Education research conducted by John Hattie has shown a strong correlation between classroom discussion and student learning. Using this teaching practice, the Instructional Leadership Team is hard at work planning for our professional learning during the school year. Stay tuned to find out more!

New Adjustment Counselor at Forest Ave

Maureen Austin is joining Forest Ave. Elementary School as the new School Adjustment Counselor, splitting time between Forest Ave. Elementary and Mulready Elementary School. Mrs. Austin comes to Hudson Public Schools with twenty-five years of counseling experience, having worked primarily in a special education school as a school counselor and a short time at Wayside Youth and Family Support Network as a day treatment clinician. Mrs. Austin holds an undergraduate degree from Assumption College in social work and a graduate degree from Fairfield University in counseling. Mrs. Austin will be working with teachers and school administrators to support all students who may need a little extra attention socially and emotionally.

Personally, Mrs. Austin enjoys hanging out with her family, including her husband, three daughters (ages 16, 14 and 11) and two rescue dogs.

Mrs. Austin will be working Tuesday and Thursdays at Forest Ave., Wednesday, and Fridays at Mulready, and splitting Monday between the two schools. Mrs. Austin is very excited about joining Hudson Public School and can be seen at drop off and pick up times at each school. Please stop by and say hello!

September Calendar

9/15	Dot Day Celebration
9/17	Nominations for School Improvement Council Due
9/20	September Birthday Lunch
9/21	School Council Ballots Emailed to Families
9/22	Half Day – Teacher In-Service
9/23	Virtual Home & School Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
9/24	School Council Ballots Due
	Freaky Friday – Fall Sports Day
9/27	School Council Election Results Announced

Twitter

Are you looking to stay up to date on all that is happening here at Forest Avenue School? Then why not follow us on Twitter at **HPSForestAve**.

NOTICE

****In compliance with the Education Reform Act of 1993, the Forest Avenue Elementary School establishes a yearly School Council. The purpose of this Council is to assist in the identification of the educational needs of the students attending the school, in the review of the school budget, and in the formulation of a School Improvement Plan.****



Here is your chance to collaborate with Forest Avenue!

The Council will be made up of **two staff members, two parents of students who attend the school** (who shall be elected by the parents of the Forest Avenue School), **one community representative** (not a parent or teacher of a child attending the school), and **the school principal**. Parent and teacher representatives are elected to a two year term.

This year we have one open parent seat on the Council. The parents to serve on the Council will be elected by secret ballot. Ballots will be sent home to parents via email on Tuesday, September 21st and must be returned to Forest Avenue School by the end of the school day on Friday, September 24th. The students and staff of Forest Avenue School count on your participation in our school, so please consider running for School Council.

If you wish your name to be included on the ballot for this election, please complete the form below, write a few lines about yourself, and submit this to the Forest Avenue Main Office by ***the end of the school day on Friday, September 17th***. Forms may also be emailed to the building principal at dchampigny@hudson.k12.ma.us.

The School Council will meet once a month, beginning in October and ending in May. Our first meeting will be on Monday, October 4th from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. This meeting will take place virtually via Google Meet.

I, _____, wish to have my name entered on the ballot for the election of the parent representatives on the Forest Avenue School Council.

Signature and Date

Autobiographical Information

(Attach another sheet, if necessary)

From the Home & School

Virtual Home & School meeting — Thursday 9/23 @ 6:30pm, Google Meet

Forest Avenue School will be holding its next virtual Home & School Meeting on Thursday, September 23rd starting at 6:30pm. The meeting will take place via Google Meet. **Parents who wish to join the meeting must email Mr. Champigny by noon on Monday the 19th sending him their name and email address. His email address is dchapingy@hudson.k12.ma.us.** The invitation to join the meeting will be sent approximately 5 minutes before the meeting, so please make sure we have the correct information for you.

We hope to see you then!

Fundraising at Forest Ave & Where Your Fundraising Dollars Go

Your Forest Ave Home & School Association works hard every year to provide much needed resources for our school. Since March 15, 2017, and our partnership with the Boosterthon Fun Run, our H&S has brought in over \$100,000 which has supported our school in many ways from the upgrade to the playground to the renovation of the school library which will be completed for the opening of the school year. This has been so successful that we have voted as a group to drop all the additional fundraisers for the year and make this our primary fundraiser. We would like to thank the Forest Ave community. We could not do this without the support of the parents, teachers, and staff, but most of all the students who drive us to make the best choices each day.

SAVE THE DATE October 27, 2021- November 5, 2021

The Fun Run incorporates a two-week character program that introduces social emotional learning through live presentation and videos. For example, it teaches about kindness, teamwork, being truthful, curiosity and many other positive traits. The highlight of the program is the Fun Day event, where students will have the chance to run laps with their friends while learning and gaining a positive attitude toward both the physical and emotional health.

