

The Hawk Eye



Harrison Elementary School's Newsletter

Editors in Chief: Mrs. Herrera and Mrs. Szelingowski

2016 Will Be Awesome!

By Drew Gassman and Phenol Morlan

A new year represents a new you. At midnight on January 1st, fireworks go off and people start celebrating a new year. There are many ways to celebrate New Year's around the world. In Japan, people release balloons with their wishes in them. In Scotland, people don't start their parties until after midnight. In some countries, kids even receive gifts!

At Harrison, we have parties in our classrooms, and then we all go downstairs to the gym. We dance to songs like "The Cha- Cha Slide", "Cotton Eyed Joe", and "The Hokey Pokey". We also sing winter songs like "Jingle Bell Rock" and "Frosty the Snowman". The fifth graders get to sit with their kindergarten buddies to show them how to celebrate New Year's at Harrison. Then at the end, the whole school counts down from 10 to 1 and we all jump up and yell, "Happy New Year!"

A New Year's resolution is when people write down something that they will try to improve on in their life for the next year. We asked four teachers about their resolutions. Mrs. Fischer plans on enjoying life more and being grateful for all life's gifts. Mrs. Matienzo says, "Each member of my family is keeping a happiness jar. Each day, we will write one thing that made us happy that day." Mrs. Latino's resolution is to keep in touch with her sister more frequently, and Mrs. West wants to make sure she walks 5 miles a day at least 5 times a week!

As you can see, different countries have different traditions for celebrating New Year's, but Harrison's tradition is special because everyone in the school celebrates together.



Mix It Up Day

By Anna Giambattista and Soleil Thomas

Every year here at Harrison we have a special day called Mix It Up Day. But what is it and why do we do it?

What is Mix It Up Day?

Mix It Up Day is a day when you get to meet new people in the school from all different grades. We are all assigned a color, even teachers! We all go to a teacher in the school and they each have an activity to do with us. At lunch, we sit with people that had the same color as us.

Why do we do it?

This year during Mix It Up Day, our school helped a non-profit organization called Color a Smile. Color a Smile collects cheerful drawings from volunteers of all ages. Once the drawings are made, they are delivered to senior citizens and mailed to troops overseas, or anyone else who needs a smile!

Talking with Mrs. Siti

Since Mrs. Siti runs this special day, we asked her some questions about her involvement.

What is your favorite part of mix it up day?

"Seeing all of the children smiling, talking, meeting new friends, and working together."

Why do you like organizing it so much?

"Because I love connecting people with each other, and helping students make new friends. It makes Harrison feel like such a special place."

Why is it important for us to meet new people?

"Because people are happiest when we are with others. It also creates a friendlier place to be when you know each other."

Keep it going!



Keep reading this edition of the Hawk Eye to find ways that you can use kindness to Mix It Up any day of the year!

Good Bye Mrs. Spaltro, Hello Mrs. Piegari

By Gelina Liu and Rachel Zhilitsky

The whole school was very sad when we heard that Mrs. Spaltro was retiring. She had been a teacher at Harrison for 18 years and was able to work with so many children since she taught in so many classrooms. But, she was looking forward to retirement so she could spend more time with her granddaughter Lucia, and her new grandson who will be born around Valentine's Day.

After Mrs. Spaltro left, a new teacher came in. Her name is Mrs. Piegari. In an interview with Mrs. Piegari, we asked several questions about her new role at Harrison.

Gelina/Rachel: Were you nervous to start your job?

Mrs. Piegari: I was nervous to work in a place where I didn't know anyone, but was excited to meet new people.

Gelina/Rachel: Why did you choose to be a teacher?"

Mrs. Piegari: She thought a moment and said, "Well, I always worked with kids and I love helping people learn new things."

Gelina/Rachel: "What did you do when you heard that you got the job?"

Mrs. Piegari: As she smiled she replied, "When I went to the Central Office and met the Superintendent, he told me I got the job, so I just smiled. When I walked out of the building to my car, I started jumping up and down and clapping my hands."



The Hour Of Code

By Joseph Reyes and Timmy Kelly

Have you ever wanted to be a game creator? Well if you did, you would need the important skill of coding.

Jobs Where Coding is Important

There are certain jobs where coding is a necessary skill. These include:

- Game Creator
- Animator
- Machine Programmer
- Computer\Phone Programmer
- Network Designer
- Hardware Engineer

As you can see, coding is important! If you want to create the best game or device ever, you'll need to know how to code.

How Coding Got Started

In 2013, the site www.code.org launched as a non profit (free) online website dedicated to teaching kids how to code. It was started by a man named Hadi Partovi. He did a study and found out that more people were successful if they knew how to code.

How Harrison Got Involved

Harrison got involved with the Hour of Code to raise awareness about the wildly growing field of code. Harrison also got involved to teach kids a skill that might be useful or make them successful later in their life. For a hands on experience, kindergarteners got to use Bee-Bot. Bee -Bot is a robot that can be programmed to move in certain direction. Older grades spent time in their classrooms and computer labs trying out Coding activities that included characters from "Frozen" and Angry Birds.

What Kids Enjoyed About Coding

Kindness Corner

Here are some suggestions for new ways to be kind!

Top 10 Ways to Mix it Up

1. Smile to everyone around you

2. Give compliments

3. Find a common interest with other people

4. Play with new people at recess besides just your friends

5. Sit next to someone who you are not too familiar with at lunch

6. Make jokes to make someone laugh

7. Introduce yourself to someone who looks sad or bored

8. Find a common *dislike* (a least favorite subject, etc.)

9. Say thank you to aids and lunch aids for everything they do for you

10. Help someone in the hallway who seems to have trouble carrying things