**C.W. Henry Family Newsletter**

**February 2020**

Charles W. Henry School

*Katharine Davis, Principal*

[www.henry.philasd.org](http://www.henry.philasd.org)

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| ***Dates to Remember*** | |
| **3/2** | Read Across America Day |
| **3/2** | Art Museum Sherlock trip (6th grade) |
| **3/3** | Pretzel Sales (lunchtime, all grades) |
| **3/10** | PTA Family Fun Night |
| **3/12** | Upper School Oratorical Presentations |
| **3/12** | Interim Reports sent home |
| **3/17** | Upper School School Tour (6-8th grade) |
| **3/17** | Spring Title 1 meeting, 8:45am |
| **3/17** | SAC meeting, 4:30pm |
| **3/17** | Community budget meeting, 5pm |
| **3/19** | School-wide School tour (all grades) |
| **3/24 - 3/25** | Benchmark #3 exams, 3rd - 8th grades |
| **3/27** | Schoolwide Dress Down Day $1 |

**Principal’s Message**

Dear Families,

Spring is right around the corner here at C.W. Henry! We are so excited to welcome so many families to this year’s musical production of Aladdin, Jr.! If you haven’t snagged your tickets yet, please do so as soon as possible. Our Friday show is almost sold out but there are many seats remaining for the Saturday shows.

Amazing work is ongoing in our Room 214’s Digital Literacy Lab, a space that we fondly call “The Launchpad”. Check out below for more information on this exciting transformation.

I would like to send a huge **thank you** to all members of the school community who pitched in to raise funds for the American Heart Association. As a school we donated over $2,100. This is an incredible accomplishment and we are thankful to everyone who contributed.

I hope as many families as possible will join us for our upcoming Title 1 and 20-21 budget meetings. These important events are included on the schoolwide calendar.

Thank you all for your partnership. Please reach out to the main office if you have any questions.

* Ms. Davis

**Important Reminders**

Make sure your student is in line on time! Our school hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 3:09 p.m. **Students who come to school after 8:35am are marked late at the front desk.** If your child is in 6th - 8th grade, please remind them to check in with their teachers before going to their lockers. Thank you for your support in helping us meet our school-wide attendance goals.

Students are expected to line up with their class or homeroom teacher at 8:30am in the upper school yard for morning announcements all year long. If your child arrives in the yard after their class has gone inside, they must pick up a late slip at the front desk. Please resist the urge to squeeze your student in with another grade/class; this practice does not align with our admission procedures. When the temperature is below 32 degrees F, students will enter through the main entrance on Carpenter Lane. Principal Davis always sends out a school-wide Remind message letting everyone know if we will have indoor admission.

Breakfast is served at no charge from 8:10 am to 8:25 am in the school cafeteria every morning. Students will

then go out to the school yard to line up with their class.

Be sure to check your child’s backpack every Wednesday for their Communication Folder. Important notices, trip slips, calendars, and more come home each week via Communication Folders.

Please remind your student that there is no playing on

playground equipment or riding around on scooters, bikes, and skateboards in the lower school yard until after 3:15pm. It is important that all students have a grown-up with them. There are no dogs allowed on school property at any time.

There are no early dismissals granted after 2:30 pm.

**The Many Ways to Stay Connected**

* Find out what’s happening at Henry by joining the school’s Instagram page @c.w.henry or the official Facebook page by searching for C.W. Henry
* Make sure you’re receiving important text alerts from both your child’s teacher and Principal Davis via Remind.
* The school’s PTA also has a Facebook page, an Instagram page, and a Twitter account, plus a weekly e-newsletter that is super informative and delivered right to your inbox on Mondays all year long. You can find all the information on the Henry PTA website.
* Additionally, every grade from K-5th has its own private Facebook page just for parents of that grade- ask a teacher or parent for the official name of the group.
* The Upper School has its own Facebook page and one Remind account for the whole Upper School for important information.

These private Facebook groups are a great way to ask about that assignment your kid brought home or find out when gym day is, so you’ll never be left wondering again!

**Lower School Updates (K-5th Grade):**

**Welcome to the Year of the Rat!**

Many grades in the lower school celebrated the arrival of Lunar New Year either in their classroom or with a musical parade through the school while in music class. Our wonderful school secretary, Ms. Liew, visited Ms. Schecter’s 1st grade classroom where she told the students how she celebrates Lunar New Year!

**100 Days of School**

Some of the lower grades had fun celebrating the 100th day of school on February 11th, including the most adorable activity in 1st grade, “Dress Like You’re 100 Years Old.” Pictures of the cutest 100 year olds you’ll ever see can be found on Henry’s Instagram and Facebook pages.

**Valentine’s Day**

The school was filled with lots of love on Friday, the 14th as classes celebrated Valentine’s Day with activities, festivities, and lots of cards.

The Upper School had a Dress Up Day and a student council sponsored Valentine-Gram sale.

**Dancing Classrooms**

Our 5th grade classes began their partnership with the Dancing Classrooms program in mid-February. Each 5th grade class receives two dancing lessons each week with a teaching artist. The program is awesome and our students are already excited to perform at the end of the school year! Check out their website if you’d like to learn more about this program: <https://dancingclassroomsphilly.org/>

**Upper School Updates(6th-8th Grade):**

You may have noticed a lot of Upper School students dressed up like it was back in the day recently! The Student Council held a 70’s, 80’s, and 90’s themed dress down day that was a lot of fun because so many kids came to school giving it their all! Next up, Dress Like Your Favorite Meme Day!

**Congrats 8th Graders!**

Congratulations to our 8th grade class on the many awesome high schools that you applied to and were accepted to for high school! Some of the special placement schools that our students were accepted to are:

* CAPA
* Girls High
* Lankenau Environmental Science
* Carver HS for Engineering & Science
* Saul Agricultural
* Science Leadership Academy (SLA)
* Parkway Northwest

**Track Team:**

Mr. Munter (Phys Ed and Health teacher) is forming Henry’s annual track team now. Practices are from 3:15 - 4:15pm on Mon, Tue, Wed and Friday at Henry.

Practice is to begin next week, hopefully, so reach out and get those physicals completed ASAP! Competitions begin in late March, with the Penn Relays in April!

Students can pick up the official physical forms at anytime from Mr. Munter. (pages 5 and 6 must be signed and stamped by a registered physician), so don’t delay!

**Upper School Cont’d**

**Happenings:**

Recently, the 7th grade enjoyed a Roman feast in Social Studies with Ms. Cantarini at the conclusion of their study of ancient Rome.

The 6th grade is in the middle of a year long intensive partnership with the Philadelphia Museum of Art’s Education Dept. This partnership was first created for local medical schools to teach med students to look deeply and question widely in order to be better doctors, and it proved so successful that their staff created a version for middle school students, called Sherlock. Henry’s 6th grade was selected to be a part of this much sought after program! Students have visits in the Museum and in their classrooms.

The 7th grade just finished a small partnership with the Barnes Museum.

**School-Wide:**

**The Launchpad**

Have you heard the buzz about “The Launchpad” and aren’t quite sure what this means? The Launchpad is what we call Room 214, the Digital Literacy lab. This is the classroom of Mrs. Pownall. Many years ago, this classroom was a science lab. It contained an abundance of outdated, non-functional equipment such as old sinks and lab tables built in to the floor. During the 2017 and 2018 school years, members of our school community raised an impressive amount of money to transform this space. The completed version of this classroom will serve as a computer lab as well as a library space. It will also include a Makerspace area, mobile bookshelves, and comfortable seating for students. Everyone will be invited when we are ready to unveil this new learning space. We hope you are just excited as we are!

**Upper School Tour**

On March 17th at 9:00am there will be an Upper School only school tour for current parents who want to know more about the amazing Upper School.

This is a SAC committee event and will include a tour and question session with staff and

student council members. Please meet outside of the school office.

**Playworks**

Has your child mentioned Coach Eli? Coach Eli is our wonderful Playworks coach that visits the school for several days two weeks of the month. While at Henry he is on the playground at recess and also visits classrooms to play games, build bonds among classmates, and teach crucial life skills like conflict resolution.

He was recently spotted in a 2nd grade classroom playing a game with the kids that made everyone laugh!

**Dragon Boating:**

Do you know a kid who’ll be 12 years old by March 27th that is interested in learning how to paddle a 20 person boat and compete against other teams? Henry’s award winning Dragon Boating team, under the phenomenal leadership of Ms. McNeal (formerly Heberley), 4th grade teacher, will begin practice on March 25th with a two day course on swimming and water safety after school. Practice starts on the 27th and happens every Monday and Wednesday until 5:30pm (they practice on the Schuylkill, bus provided) and culminates in a regatta on June 6th to end the

season. If interested, please let Mrs. McNeal know ASAP.

**News From the Gym:**

Mr. Munter, our wonderful Physical Education and Health teacher would like everyone to know…

The Penn Relays are coming up on April 24th. Henry will have a 4th and 5th grade Shuttle Run team competing, as well as students from the Upper School competing in the Penn Relay 4x100 times trials to try to qualify for the big event down at Franklin Field.

The Kids Heart Challenge raised $2,100! We are grateful to all those who donated to help fight against heart disease. We had 80 students participate in the challenge this year!

**PTA Update:**

BINGO! The next PTA family fun night, Bingo Night, will take place March 10th at 6:30pm in the cafeteria.

Mark your calendars, this event needs lots of people! The annual Spring clean-up of the school yards, playground, and garden space will take place on Saturday, April 4th, in the morning. More details to follow.

April 17th will be the date of the Lower School dance! This event always sells out because there are a limited number of tickets due to fire code rules. Be on the lookout for ticket sales information and ways you can volunteer.

The Scholastic Book Fair will take place from April 13-17th and volunteers are greatly needed. When you volunteer,even for a few hours, you get to meet the great students, parents, and teachers of Henry, and you get a discount on purchases!

PTA board elections will take place at the April PTA meeting. If you are interested in joining the board or a committee, or know someone who would be great, please reach out to the PTA or get in touch with the Nominating Committee parents (Amy Ignatow and Sara Brown) ASAP.

Want to know what’s going on with the Henry community, what events are coming up, what concerns have been raised by parents, or what is happening in the near future for the school, but just can’t make a PTA meeting?

Well, you’re in luck because you can now find all meeting minutes right on the Henry PTA website.

Go to cwhenrypta.org and right under the “About Us” tab on the homepage you will find a link to every meeting’s minutes.