



PawPrints

November 2024

Advisor: Mr. Dalesandro



About this Publication

Your monthly access to all things HARRINGTON! For Students. BY Students.

Harrington's Hidden Secret: Time Capsule Unveiled

By Shawn H. and Catherine A.

1970: The Beatles, wildly popular British band, just split up. Americans celebrated the first Earth Day. Meanwhile, right here in Mount Laurel, in our very own Harrington Middle School, history was made...

Fifty-four years later, a resident by the name of Susan Riddell rang the doorbell of Harrington. Mr. Besler happened to be present to receive this mysterious guest. To his surprise, Ms. Riddell brought with her some exciting news: *there was a time capsule under the 1969 cornerstone of the school!*

Mr. Besler, though intrigued, said that he needed proof before he might proceed in digging up a piece of the building. In Ms. Riddell's hand was a school newspaper from 1970 – documenting the placement of the time capsule. She stated that the time capsule had been placed in 1970 to celebrate the school's first year – having opened in 1969. With the proof in hand, Mr. Besler and staff began plans to unearth the hidden Harrington history.



Image: Several Harrington alumni were on hand to witness the time capsule's unveiling. It was just months earlier when its existence was revealed to Mr. Besler.

On September 27, 2024, Mr. Besler, alongside Mr. Wagner's fifth-period social studies class and a few members of the class of 1970 revealed the contents of this 53-year hidden treasure.

When the time capsule was opened, they found that almost everything was damaged by water and moisture, a huge loss for our school's history. Luckily, one of the 1970 editions of the school newspaper (written by

Betsy Lynch) gave us some answers as to the contents of the time capsule.

As documented by the 1970 student newspaper, the capsule contained:

- A roster with the names of the enrolled students and faculty/staff
- A note reading "Best School, Best Staff"
- A copy of the school's handbook

- A copy of the school's diploma
- A copy of The Constitution of the United States
- A copy of The Declaration of Independence

There were other items that were found in the time capsule. These items were donated by an anonymous individual (or individuals). You can see these items – currently on display in the glass case near the main office. Check them out!

New Time Capsule Planned

While the discovery of the capsule was incredible on its own, there's another chapter to this story: Mr. Besler is committed to place another time capsule!

As of now, here's what he's planning to place:

- A picture of Harrington's current administrators
- A roster of all students enrolled in 2024-25
- A list of the students and teachers who attended the capsule's opening
- The October edition of *PawPrints*
- A walkie talkie

In 1970, history was made. We're about to make history again.



Pictured: Mr. Beyer (left) and Dr. Mortimer (right) view the historic 1969 cornerstone.

Around the Halls



What is happening, Harrington?
'Around the Halls' wants to know!
Reach out to one of our reporters with
events and happenings.

Students in 7-C Learn about Diwali

By Cammy L.

Do you know why we celebrate Diwali? Thanks to Mrs. Langford, many students no longer have to ask that question!

Mrs. Langford, an ELA teacher on team 7-C, celebrates this sacred Hindu holiday. This year, in observance of the holiday, Mrs. Langford invited her students, and those in Mr. Dalesandro's classes, to learn about Diwali together. She explained the meaning of Diwali and how it is celebrated - while reading a version of the story behind the holiday.

Students learned the history of the holiday through a colorful retelling of the story of a prince who was banished to the forest for fourteen years by one of the three queens. It is said that after fourteen years of living in the forest, the banished prince was finally returning home, but it was too dark to see due to the

darkness of the new moon. To help guide the prince home, the people of the villages lit fireworks, candles, and decorated the town in bright colors.

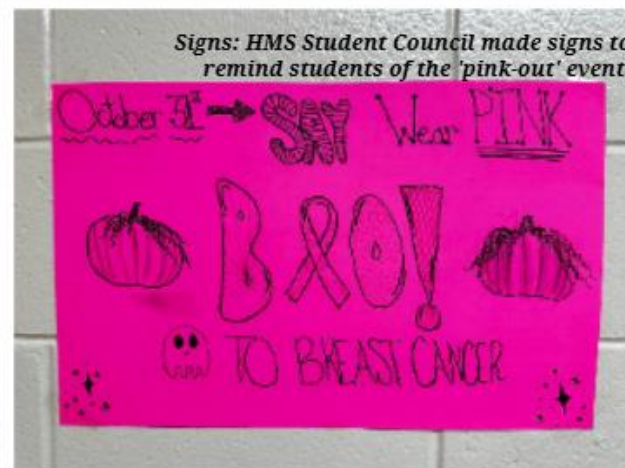
It is important to note that there are MANY different versions of the story, and not all of the story was included in this summary.

Due to the story's taking place on a new moon, Dawali is celebrated on the first new moon in October or November. People celebrate by wearing bright colors, lighting candles, setting off fireworks, and having a feast. This holiday represents light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance.

Thanks to Mrs. Langford, we now know all about Diwali. It was a great experience - one that exposed students to new cultures and traditions.



Picture:
Students in
Mrs. Langford's
and Mr.
Dalesandro's
classes listen to
the story of
Diwali.



Signs: HMS Student Council made signs to remind students of the 'pink-out' event.

Harrington Says 'BOO' to Cancer

Event Brings Halloween Spirit and Breast Cancer Awareness Together

By Manasi H.

Harrington Middle School students "went pink" on Halloween in a powerful show of support for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Every October, people across the world come together to raise awareness, support research, and show solidarity for those impacted by breast cancer. This year, our school's annual "Say Boo to Cancer" event was an opportunity to make a difference and to show our commitment to this cause, making it both festive and meaningful.

Since dressing up in costumes wasn't an option this Halloween, the pink-out gave students and

staff an exciting way to celebrate together. From pink shirts and hats to beads and accessories, everyone put their own creative spin on their pink attire, filling the hallways with bright color and community spirit. The festive energy was contagious, and it was heartwarming to see students fully embrace the day—not just for fun, but to support an important cause.

Thanks to the sale of pink beads, t-shirts, and other merchandise, Harrington Middle School raised more funds than ever before! This year, the school raised a total of \$800.60. All proceeds from the sales go to the Susan G. Komen Foundation. The foundation uses donations for cancer research, directly supporting the efforts to improve treatments and find cures.

This year's success is a testament to our school community's generosity and dedication. Each purchase made a real difference, showing that students are committed to making a positive impact.

"Say Boo to Cancer" was a huge success, reminding us that when we work together, we can spread awareness, contribute to a worthy cause, and still have a great time. Thank you to everyone who participated, dressed up in pink, and helped us make this event special. Together, we're making a difference and proving that at Harrington Middle School, we know how to say "Boo to Cancer" with pride and purpose. Let's keep fighting until we no longer need to!

Around the Halls, Too!

Another look at some of the exciting people and events around the halls of Harrington.

New Teacher Spotlight: Meet Ms. Leite!

By Catherine A.

Ms. Leite is the new math teacher for Harrington's Team 7-C. Ms. Leite enjoys spending time with family and friends, reading, and traveling. One of Ms. Leite's favorite places to travel to is Brazil. This is because Ms. Leite grew up there! She lived in Brazil until she was 13, before moving to Riverside.

Ms. Leite has been a teacher for ten years. This is her first time teaching seventh grade, having taught second grade and kindergarten prior. Ms. Leite was inspired to become a teacher from her time working as a teacher's assistant.



One of Ms. Leite's favorite memories as a teacher was when she realized that she had taught a student to read. Ms. Leite said that the thing she loves best about the students is that they are very independent and driven.

Welcome, Ms. Leite!

Council Collects Candy



Candy: HMS Student Council set out boxes to collect any unwanted/extra Halloween candy. All donations will be sent to Sonshine and Smiles, an organization that donates to troops, seniors, and those in need.

Red Ribbon Week Brings Door Décor Challenge

By: Staff Reporters

Red Ribbon Week takes place across the US every October. It is an anti drug and violence campaign created to honor the life of Enrique Camarena, DEA Special Agent.

In honor of 'Red Ribbon Week' this year, HMS homerooms were challenged to decorate their doors in a way that represented the organization's choice of this year's theme: *Life if a movie. Film Drug Free.*

Students designed and created their doors with the assistance of the staff during Advisory. Materials were also provided by the HMS guidance department, sponsors of the event.

Upon completion, all participating homerooms had their doors viewed and voted on by the HMS faculty and staff. A winner from each hallway was chosen, but ALL of the doors showed an amazing effort!



Images (clockwise) Winning doors from top left: A-03 Cunningham, C-16 Leite/Poehls, D-01 Dewey/Sides, E-03 Mangla/Grundel



Opinions



From Policies to Politics, what are YOUR thoughts, Harrington?

The US Presidential Election 2024

By: Nischal V. & Anuja G.

It's Election season! How does it work? The first thing to note is that the requirements to run for president are: candidates must be a natural-born citizen, be 35 years of age or older, and have been a resident of the United States for at least fourteen years.

While the US often identifies as a two-party system, there are other political parties that have emerged throughout our history. The two main parties are the Republicans and Democrats. Both major parties have to nominate a candidate for president. These two parties face off on Election Day in November. This year, Donald Trump represented the Republicans, and Kamala Harris represented the Democrats.

How do citizens vote? Citizens of the United States must be 18 years of age or older to vote. Election day usually occurs on the first Tuesday of November. Votes are counted state by state, with each state having a different number of electoral votes towards the final results. The number of electoral votes given to each

state depends on its population and size. The bigger the state, the more points they have.

Citizens vote on specified days that are designated to their state. The party with the majority of votes earns the electoral votes for their party. For example, if the Democrats win in New Jersey, they earn 14 electoral votes; however, if the Republicans win in New Jersey, they will receive the 14. The states with the most electoral votes are California, Texas, New York, and Florida. Candidates typically focus on the states with the most points.

Democrats typically prioritize social concerns and equal opportunities for the people, including citizen rights. Republicans trend in the direction of equal trade, fiscal responsibility, and government conservatism - which means they focus on staying with traditional values and ideas.

Resulting from the popular vote, our home state of New Jersey has voted Democratic in the last eight elections since 1992. Other popular Democratic states are New York and Pennsylvania. Some popular Republican states are Texas and South Carolina.



2024 Election Results

Election day was held on November 5th, 2024, with Donald Trump of the Republican Party winning the election by 53 electoral votes. This is a big moment in United States history.

When will Biden leave office, and what does that mean? With Donald Trump replacing him as president, Biden will leave office on January 20th, 2025. Most likely Trump will appoint a new cabinet, new committee members, and other advisory positions. As is true with any presidential change, there will likely be change in the United States' involvement with other countries, military and trade as well.



HMS Policies

By Grace C.

Harrington is a great school, but there are some rules/policies that might be open for some "tweaking."

Passing/Locker Times: There is no question that Harrington is a VERY large school. That having been said, why is that students are limited to three minutes in between classes? While most "core classes" (math, ELA, etc.) are typically grouped together by team, some classes require students to travel all the way across the school! Long travel distances aside, the three minutes does not allow for things like locker jams or late dismissal from classes. Of course, safety concerns ban running in the halls. Many students feel five minutes would be better. We understand that the time has to come from somewhere! One possible solution is to use some of our homeroom time. It may mean less time for Advisory, but the trade-off is that kids won't be running in the hallways, and people can get to their classes on time.

Smartpass: Unlike the simpler version in Hartford, Smartpass requires HMS students to search their location, choose where

they will be going, write or skip the message box, and then click to request a passcode from the teacher. This can be very time-consuming for both students AND teachers. It would be much simpler keeping a paper sign-out sheet (like in the cafeteria). This would be great in combination with the useful colored passes we already use!

Blocked Websites Clearly, there are some websites that should automatically be blocked in school. Students can easily find themselves on sites that not appropriate - even when they are not trying. However, students are often blocked from websites for research purposes. While they understand that it is important to have filters for specific content and language, many students feel using sites, such as GoGuardian, would help put the control back into the teacher's hands. That way, teachers can click to block and unblock sites for his or her classes anytime, anywhere.

Overall, these are just a few of the policies that should be looked at by the school advisers. It is important to have the discussion so that everyone, students and staff, can be happy and safe.



Featured News

*Celebrating Culture,
Creativity, and Commonality.*

Diwali and Its Importance

By Aayush S.

Do you know why we had no school on November 1st? It was because of Diwali - an important holiday celebrated by over 800 million Hindus every year, making it the most ubiquitous and popular Indian holiday. It takes place every year - usually during October or November. Hindus calculate the Diwali date based on the Hindu lunar calendar. It's as important to Hindus as Christmas is to Christians.

Have you ever thought about how Diwali is celebrated? Different cultures celebrate it in their own unique ways. In the Gujarati culture, it is celebrated for five days. On one of the days, people do Lakshmi puja, where they worship Lakshmi the goddess of wealth, so that she blesses them with affluence and prosperity.

Another important day is the New Year according to the Hindu calendar. Before Diwali, people clean their house, as they believe the goddess Lakshmi visits clean homes. People light numerous diyas (small clay lamps), and kandils (paper lanterns), and put them in houses, shops, etc. Diyas represent light over darkness or good over evil. That is why Diwali is also known as the festival of lights.

People make Rangoli, a type of art, as they believe it's good luck. They then put it at the entrance of their homes. It can be made with flowers, colored rice, and colored powders. People wake up early and visit the temple wearing special clothes. They also take food and sweets to the temple as an offering to the gods. People also get together with their families for a big meal. Fireworks are also very popular, and some towns/cities will put them on display. Sweets are the main food people eat on Diwali, and they come in all different flavors and colors.

To understand the importance of Diwali, we need to know Ramayana, a popular Hindu epic. In the city of

Ayodhya thousands of years ago, King Dasharatha ruled with his three queens and four princes. The eldest prince Rama and his wife Sita were living happily.

Rama and Lakshman were supposed to be the future king, as they were the eldest sons of the first wife. Because of this reason, the servant of the third wife, Kaikeyi, convinced her that her own son Bharat would never become the king of Ayodhya. This led her to be jealous and demanded the king to banish them for fourteen years to a forest, so her son Bharat could be king. The king had promised to fulfill any wish from her, so he was forced to banish them.

Rama, Sita, and his brother Lakshman all left for the forest. One day, in the forest they saw a demoness named Surpanakha. She wanted to marry Rama or Lakshman but they both refused. She got angry, and Lakshman cut off her nose and ears. Ravana, the demon king who was Surpanakha's brother, abducted Sita to take revenge. When Rama and Lakshman realized she was gone, they set out on a quest to find her.

On their way, they came across a magical monkey named Hanuman. Hanuman was no ordinary monkey. He was super strong, could grow and shrink, and could also fly. Hanuman found Sita in one of Ravana's gardens. There was a giant battle, and Rama and Ravana had a showdown. Rama killed Ravana, and, after fourteen years, they all returned to the city of Ayodhya.

When Rama returned, the people were so overwhelmed with joy that they lit up the whole kingdom with lamps to celebrate. In the end, Rama took his place as the righteous king of Ayodhya.

This is why we light lamps during Diwali in modern times. This epic teaches us that good always prevails over evil - a teaching that Diwali strongly embodies.

Happy Diwali!

Some of the Staples of Celebrating Diwali



*Images: (Top) Rangoli ancient Indian art form that involves drawing colorful patterns on the floor or outside of a home
(Bottom) Diyas are small lamps that are lit during Diwali to celebrate the triumph of good over evil*

SPORTS



Harrington Fall Sports Update

By Lela C.

Boys and Girls Soccer

The HMS soccer season has just ended, and both teams celebrated their end-of-season party on November 5th. Their first game of the season was on September 23rd at Medford. Soccer is a fall sport, so it will not be back in the spring. Great job everyone this season!

Field Hockey

The field hockey season has recently ended. Their first game of the season was on September 20th at Riverside. Their party was on October 30th. Field hockey is also a fall sport, which means it will not be back in the Spring. Great job everyone this season!

Cross Country

The Cross-country season has ended, and the team celebrated their party last week. Their races, each approximately 1.25 miles long, consisted of courses that were all very different. Some went through woods, some were flat, others went around schools, and some were on big hills. All athletes

improved during the season, with several students taking several seconds off their race time from the season start. The girls cross country team was often led by seventh-graders Abrie W. and Jolene R. and by eighth-grader Emma Fisher. The boys team was led by eighth-grader Aadhavan R., seventh-graders Kai S., Greyson S., and Ben W. Congratulations to the cross-country team!

Boys basketball

The forms for boys basketball are out now. Tryouts for boys basketball are no longer being accepted. At the time this article was written, tryouts were on their way! We look forward to a GREAT season!

Girls basketball

At the time of this article, the forms for girls basketball were not yet available. Tryouts for girls basketball are upcoming. You will need a completed permission form and a physical in order to try out for this club.

Nittany Lions Drop to #4 in the Conference

By Brandon J.

On Saturday, November 2, the 4th-ranked Ohio State Buckeyes faced the 3rd-ranked Penn State Nittany Lions, in a game that was tilted in Ohio State's favor from the beginning. You see, instead of allowing Penn State to hold their annual White Out game against the Buckeyes, Big Ten broadcaster Fox decided, instead, to take the game for their Big Noon Kickoff show, which moved the game to noon.

This proved to be quite disadvantageous, as, after securing a 10-point lead at the end of the first quarter, Penn State gave up 13 points before the end of the game. They were only able to answer with a single field goal in the third quarter, as Ohio State won 20-13.

The loss has degraded Penn State's record against top-five teams since 2000 to 1-23. While Penn State may be good, this record is alarming and serves as a grim warning for how a potential playoff run could end. This loss also plunges them down to 4th in the Big Ten and 6th in the polls.

At the time this article was written, Penn State is due to play Washington next week, and it will actually be a White Out. Meanwhile, Ohio State will play Purdue on Big Noon for some completely insane reason.

National Days of November

By Dhanshika S.

Nov. 01 / 2024: National Fountain Pen Day
Nov. 02 / 2024: National Ohio Day
Nov. 03 / 2024: National Sandwich Day
Nov. 04 / 2024: National Candy Day
Nov. 05 / 2024: National Love Your Red Hair Day
Nov. 06 / 2024: National Saxophone Day
Nov. 07 / 2024: National Retinol Day
Nov. 08 / 2024: National STEM/STEAM Day
Nov. 09 / 2024: National Scrapple Day
Nov. 10 / 2024: National Vanilla Cupcake Day
Nov. 11 / 2024: National Sundae Day
Nov. 12 / 2024: National French Day
Nov. 13 / 2024: National Indian Pudding Day
Nov. 14 / 2024: National Pickle Day
Nov. 15 / 2024: National Spicy Hermit Cookie Day
Nov. 16 / 2024: National Button Day
Nov. 17 / 2024: National Homemade Bread Day
Nov. 18 / 2024: National Princess Day
Nov. 19 / 2024: National Play Monopoly Day
Nov. 20 / 2024: National Peanut Butter Fudge Day
Nov. 21 / 2024: National Gingerbread Cookie Day
Nov. 22 / 2024: National Cranberry Relish Day
Nov. 23 / 2024: National Espresso Day
Nov. 24 / 2024: National Sardines Day
Nov. 25 / 2024: National Play Day with Dad
Nov. 26 / 2024: National Cake Day
Nov. 27 / 2024: National Craft Jerky Day
Nov. 28 / 2024: National French Toast Day
Nov. 29 / 2024: National Electronic Greetings Day
Nov. 30 / 2024: National Mousse Day



Fun Facts about the Country of the Month: Brazil

- Around 60% of the Amazon Rainforest is in Brazil.
- Brazil has the most animal and plant species in the world.
- Brazil is the largest producer of coffee.
- Brazil's Iguazu Falls, which is almost 2 miles long, is the largest waterfall in the world.
- Brazil holds the Guinness World Record for the largest Carnival in the world.

New This Month

Kirby's Corner: Giving Thanks

By: Shawn H.



Welcome!

November. A slow month for school, the start of the holiday season for many, and, most importantly, a time of *giving thanks*.

Even though it may not always feel like it, we have a LOT to be thankful for. So, if you're ever feeling like the whole world is working against you, use the space below to "Check In" with yourself:

How are you feeling right now?

Why are you feeling that way?

Stop, take a deep breath in. Then release it slowly as you read these words:

I am unique.
I am important.
I am a good person.
I can do anything.

Now, name one thing that you are thankful for:

Once again, you can use this space any time you're feeling frustrated, sad, alone, or just want to get back in touch with your life.

Be well!

November: National Gratitude Month

By Cammy L.

Gratitude: to be grateful and to show appreciation for a kindness; returning kindness to others.

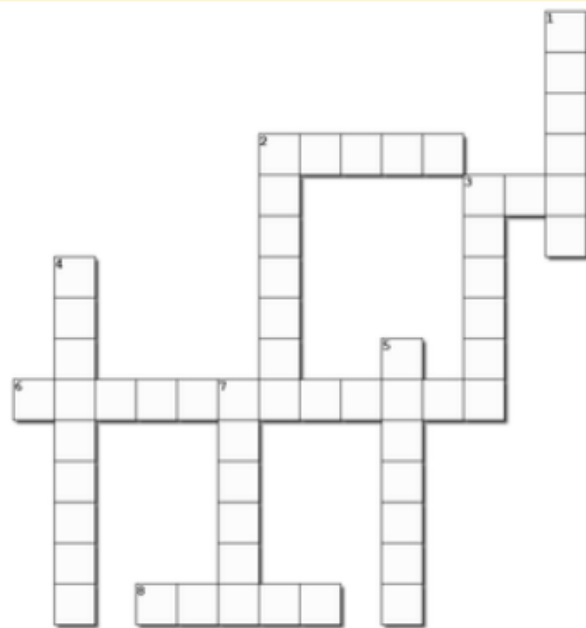
To some, *gratitude* is just another word in the dictionary, but to others who may be having a bad time, it could mean the world! Simply saying something like, "Wow! Thank you; I really appreciate it!" can go a long way to make someone's day

Gratitude isn't something we just show in school; try practicing gratitude at home! Try thanking your parents or guardians for all the work they are doing. You might even *show* them gratitude by taking action - like doing a chore or making them a card. At least once a day, try showing the special people in your life how grateful you are for them being in your life and for the impact they have on you.

As you may know, Thanksgiving is on November 28th this year. This is the perfect opportunity to be extra grateful in its celebration. Make sure you make November the month you show others how much you really care.

November Crossword

The clues are all related to articles in THIS edition of *PawPrints*. Good Luck!



Vertical

1. Red _____ Week
2. Found buried in a wall in Harrington
3. Featured country of the month
4. HMS Policy
5. Penn State _____ Lions
7. Celebrated on November 1 this year

Horizontal

2. Sonshine and Smiles donation
3. Say _____ to cancer
6. Elections
8. Our new teacher spotlight!