



PawPrints

October 2024



About this publication

Your monthly access to all things Harrington!

Assembly Series: Internet Safety and Vaping, with Mr. Timothy Shoemaker



Pictured: Mr. Timothy Shoemaker (left); Mr. Shoemaker explores the dangers of social media (right).

By Cammy L.

On October 16, Harrington students were honored to meet Mr. Timothy Shoemaker, former police officer and current public speaker, as he presented the consequences of social media use. Mr. Shoemaker used humor, music, and crowd participation to teach students about the

dangers of a life online.

During the morning assembly, seventh-grade students learned about how tech companies use your data and keep your photo. Students also learned about how social media can be addictive and impact our mental and physical health.

In the afternoon, having already been treated to the internet

safety assembly last year, eighth-grade students learned about the dangers of vaping!

While presenting students with this important information, Mr. Shoemaker made learning fun and engaging by tossing around a squishy microphone, asking questions, using artificial intelligence (AI), and giving participants gummy bears and

other treats!

Though this information is certainly scary, it is crucial to know! I can personally say that the seventh-grade group had such a fun time listening and learning about social media use, and I am sure that the eighth graders felt the same. Thank you, Mr. Shoemaker!

Rethink Bullying

By Catherine A.
Research by Shawn H.

The world can be a difficult place. Unfortunately, one of the things that can make it particularly hard to navigate is existence of *bullying*. According to the National Center for Educational Statistics, 19% of students get bullied at school. Bullying can take on many different shapes and forms, but it is ALL hurtful.

First, we must remember that not ALL conflicts or negative interactions with others is bullying. It is important to know the difference. True bullying is when individuals try to force power over another. When faced with a bully, many people's first instinct is to retaliate, but that can be just as wrong! We recently had the opportunity to attend a *virtual assembly* on bullying where we were offered many different ways of dealing with bullying. For example, what you should do if someone says something mean to you? Well, one way is to show them that he or she is not going to intimidate you! Take away their power: "I heard you got a 40% on your quiz!" Just say, "So?" Remember: The goal isn't to be everybody's friend but just to be friendly.

If you feel like you are being bullied, or you witness something that you believe to be bullying, tell a trusted adult. Parents, counselors, teachers, and our principals are great resources!

Around the Halls

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

Let's Welcome NEW and Returning Staff!

By Natalie B.

Mandarin.

Harrington has welcomed many new things this school year: new clubs, new electives, and new staff.

One of the teachers joining the Harrington staff is Ms. Leite, a 7th grade math teacher. We also welcomed Ms. Massey. Ms. Massey joins us as an eighth-grade English/language arts teacher. Ms. Reilly and Ms. Case, both special education teachers, joined us as well! Last (but not least) is Ms. Barry. As you might have read in the interview "New Class/New Teacher! Ms. Barry teaches the new eighth-grade elective,

Coming to Harrington from Hartford is Ms. Naticchione (seventh-grade math).

There are also some teachers who were here last year who changed positions. Ms. Cunningham is back in grade-eight math, and Mr. Dalesandro, former long-term substitute, is back as a seventh-grade ELA teacher. Ms. Moule, former seventh-grade math teacher, is now the 7th grade math specialist.

Welcome to all the new staff, and welcome back to all of those who returned!



Caption

Left: Ms. Barry Greets students outside her A-Wing Classroom.
Right: Ms. Barry shares a few "fun facts" about China. Did you know it is one of the biggest countries in the world?



Ms. Barry and Mandarin: Two Amazing Additions to Harrington

By Natalie B.

Harrington welcomed a new world language elective and teacher this year! Ms. Barry joined the Harrington staff and has brought with her an exciting new class: Mandarin! Mandarin is offered to eighth-graders and replaces the French elective.

Pawprints had the opportunity to sit down and chat with Ms. Barry about her Mandarin class and her first year at Harrington Middle School.

Me: So, how long have you been teaching?

Ms. Barry: I have been teaching for five years in the United States; I have also taught in China!

Me: That is amazing! Have you taught any other subjects?

Ms. Barry: I have also taught ESL

(English as a second language).

Me: Wow, that is really interesting! Is this school different from your old school? Ms. Barry: It is very different from my old school - mostly because I typically teach high school.

Me: That must have been a big adjustment for you. Have the students been open to learning Mandarin? Since Elementary school we have only had Spanish classes.

Ms. Barry: I think they seem to enjoy it! Mandarin is a symbolic, tonal language, so it is learned differently than other languages.

Me: That's good! Last question: What do you hope to bring to Harrington?

Ms. Barry: Definitely a new and different language and culture. I

would also like to bring new and unique experiences for students!

Me: I think Harrington needs more diverse languages, culture, and experiences. I believe you are going to be one of many who brings that! Thank you so much for taking the time to talk with me!

It is clear that Mandarin is going to be a wonderful new experience for the students who are fortunate enough to be in Ms. Barry's class. Be sure to say hello if you happen to be in A-Wing, where Ms. Barry's classroom can be found.

I can already see that Ms. Barry is going to make a great addition to Harrington!

Around the Halls

The Truth About BCIT

By Shawn H.

The Future. It can mean a lot of things. New experiences. New people. New thoughts and ideas. The possibilities are literally endless! We could be here all day talking about them, but let's be real - you won't be in Harrington forever. How do we prepare for *what's next*?

From kindergarten all the way to 12th grade, you have about 12-13 years of schooling before college. The two or-so years you'll spend at Harrington make up exactly a **FOURTH** of that. Let that sink in for a second. So, while you're sitting in class trying to prepare for your future, why not have some fun with your learning? Mount. Laurel provides not just one, but **TWO** public high school options: Lenape Regional and the Burlington County Institute of Technology, or BCIT for short. This is precisely why BCIT's public relations expert Colin Smith visited the 8th Grade students, hoping to inspire the citizens of tomorrow. Here are some of the things you can expect if you choose to go to BCIT.

BCIT offers thirty-one career majors from which to choose -

from criminal justice to video game design. And yes, they do offer performing arts (AKA theater) classes, though an audition will be required. Pick your top four, and you'll spend ten days getting a feel for each. After this period, you'll list these classes out from least favorite to most. BCIT will place you in an engaging and inclusive learning environment. There are not one, but **TWO** BCIT campuses: one in Medford and one in Westhampton. Coming from Harrington, you are automatically assigned to the Medford location, but you can switch if one of your selected career majors is only offered in the Westhampton location.

Within your four years at BCIT, you will get access to every class you need to succeed in your career major. Classes run from 8:12 AM to 2:42 PM, and busing is provided as well. In addition, many sports and extracurricular activities are offered at both campuses. However, if your preferred sport isn't at BCIT, they will provide a bus to take you to Lenape where you can participate in the sport or club of your choice. BCIT is in full support of your passions!



Qualifying for BCIT

Now, you're probably wondering, "*How do I even get in?*" Well, as with most schools, BCIT runs on an application based formula. The school will run some basic background checks. Before you get scared, the school only reviews **THREE** items:

- Attendance at/Promotion from Harrington
- Your report cards/grades
- Your disciplinary and attendance records

From there, you'll take an admissions exam - one that will partially determine if BCIT is right for you.

No matter where you find yourself in the not-so-distant future, it's important to keep in mind that every decision you make now will matter in the future, so it's important to be the best version of yourself that you can be. Your future self will thank you!



Image from Shutterstock

National Learning and Development Month

By Cammy L.

Though most of us see October as the month we celebrate Halloween (and eat two tons of candy), it is also a time to reflect on our development. October celebrates National Learning and Development Month (NLDM). *What exactly is that?*

NLDM is intended to be a time for individuals (in our case, students) to *grow*. It is a time to set an academic goal for themselves and to put their mind to achieving it. Maybe you have a math test coming up, and you want to get *at least* a B. October is the month to set that goal and achieve it. Maybe form a study group? Create an action plan? Request additional help, or seek out new resources?

Whatever it is, keep that goals in mind and *go for them!* Make this October the month you accomplish something big in school (while also eating a lot of candy)!

Arts & Entertainment

From music to movies; from art to literature, what are Harrington students enjoying these days?

The Most Popular Books This Month at HMS

By Manasi H.

What are Harrington students reading? I sat down with Mrs. Gallagher to find out what some of the most popular books are at Harrington. After speaking with Ms. Gallagher, we have compiled a list of the most frequently checked-out books. Here are the top picks:

Good Girl's Guide to Murder, by Holly Jackson

This gripping mystery follows Pippa, a high school student, as she reopens the case of Andie Bell, a girl who was murdered five years ago. Pippa suspects the case may not be as straightforward as it seems and makes it the focus of her final-year project.

The Outsiders, by S.E. Hinton

This classic novel tells the story of Ponyboy Curtis, a fourteen-year-old Greaser, and his struggles with identity, belonging, and the rivalry between his gang and the more privileged Socs.

Ground Zero, by Alan Gratz

Set against the backdrop of September 11 and the ongoing war in Afghanistan, this emotional realistic fiction takes readers through two harrowing stories one from a boy in New York, and another from a girl in Afghanistan.

Percy Jackson and the Olympians, by Rick Riordan

The adventures of twelve-year-old Percy Jackson, a demigod, continue to capture readers' imaginations as he embarks on a dangerous quest to recover Zeus' stolen master bolt.

The Hunger Games, by Suzanne Collins

In a dystopian world, Katniss Everdeen becomes a symbol of hope and rebellion as she fights for

her life in the deadly Hunger Games.

Flowers for Algernon, by Daniel Keyes

This story follows a man named Charlie. Charlie has an intellectual disability, and he undergoes an experimental surgery to increase his intelligence. This completely changes his life and personality. The story explores themes of human emotion and ethics.

Crash, by Jerry Spinelli

Crash is a story of friendship, bullying, and self-discovery. It follows the journey of a tough, athletic kid as he begins to understand what truly matters in life.

Flipped, by Wendelin Van Draanen

A sweet and humorous story of young love told from alternating perspectives of two eighth-graders, exploring how their views of each other change over time.

Tangerine, by Edward Bloor

Paul Fisher moves to Tangerine, Florida, where he uncovers dark secrets about his family and community while finding strength in his own unique vision.

The Crossover, by Kwame Alexander

Told in poetic verse, this book centers on basketball loving twins Josh and Jordan as they navigate the ups and downs of family, school, and sports.

These books have captivated students at HMS, offering a mix of mystery, adventure, and heartfelt stories. Whether you're into action-packed quests or reflective reads, there's something for everyone on this list!

Make sure to stay tuned for next month's picks!

What to Read!

By Natalie B.

Are you in a reading slump? Not sure what to read next? Look no further! Here are some books that hook you from the first line!

"I've been locked up for 264 days. I have nothing but a small notebook and a broken pen and the numbers in my head to keep me company."

- *Shatter Me*, by Tahereh Mafi

"In a hole in the ground, there lived a hobbit."

- *The Hobbit*, By J.R.R. Tolkien

"We must, by law, keep a record of the innocents we kill."

- *Scythe*, By Neal Shusterman

"I've never given much thought to how I would die. But dying in the place of someone I love seems like a good way to go."

- *Twilight*, by Stephanie Myers

"When I was a kid, my mom constantly invented games."

- *The Inheritance Games*, Jennifer Lynn Barnes

"I was born with water on the brain."

- *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, by Sherman Alexie

"He began his new life standing up, surrounded by cold darkness and stale, dusty air."

- *The Maze Runner*, by James Dashner

"My name is Percy Jackson. I'm twelve years old. Until a few months ago, I was a boarding student at Yancy Academy, a private school for troubled kids in upstate New York. Am I a troubled kid?"

- *Percy Jackson*, by Rick Riordan

"It is my first morning of high school. I have seven new notebooks, a skirt I hate, and a stomachache."

- *Speak*, by Laurie Halse Anderson

"YOU, You've chosen and chosen well. Maybe this one will be the one who stops you. Maybe she'll be different."

- *The Natural*, by Jennifer Lynn Barnes



Opinions

Pawprints reporters offer their take on policies, pop culture, and more!

Should Websites and Online Games be Restricted?



By Yashvi R.

We all enjoy playing games, don't we? Whether it's during our free time or after completing our work, games provide a welcome escape.

However, there are times when the temptation to play games distracts us from our responsibilities. Playing video games in class when it's prohibited isn't just a minor issue, it impacts the entire school. I, too, have succumbed to the temptation of playing games and visiting unauthorized sites. I'm not implying that I'm the only one who has done this, nor am I implying that *everyone* HAS done it. However, what is clear, is that engaging in these activities makes it challenging to exercise self-control, leading to the misuse of precious time.

Constant temptation to visit certain websites can derail our focus and detract from more important tasks. This issue extends beyond playing games; it encompasses accessing inappropriate content and wasting time on unproductive sites.

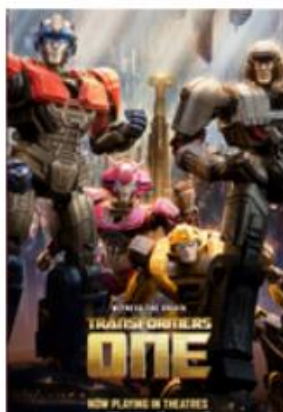
As a student, I recognize the importance of responsible internet usage, and I advocate for the restriction or banning of specific websites in educational environments to foster a more conducive and purposeful learning atmosphere.

By identifying and limiting access to distracting or unsuitable websites, we can support students in maintaining their focus and minimize the allure of activities that do not align with learning objectives.

This approach can contribute to a more positive and disciplined academic setting, enabling students to maximize their educational journey without unnecessary diversions.

New Movie Ratings & Reviews

By Nischal V,
Aayush S, &
Shikar K.



Transformers 1: Released
September 20, 2024

Transformers 1 is the prequel to all the Transformer movies that came before. The film explores the origin story of Optimus Prime and Megatron, detailing how they went from brothers to enemies. The movie also explains how Cybertron went from a peaceful planet to a war zone. Optimus Prime is voiced by Chris Hemsworth, known for his portrayal of Thor (Marvel), while Megatron is voiced by Brian Tyree Henry. As of October 9th, the movie has produced \$98,093,975 in the box office. The movie is animated (unlike its live action predecessors). The movie is rated 7.8/10 on IMDb, and 89% on Rotten Tomatoes. Online reviews overwhelmingly find that the movie is a must-watch.

Images: [transformersmovie.com](https://www.transformersmovie.com), [thewildrobotmovie.com](https://www.thewildrobotmovie.com), [sonicthehedgehogmovie.com](https://www.sonicthehedgehogmovie.com)



The Wild Robot: Released
September 27, 2024

The Wild Robot is a New York Times best-seller book for middle schoolers. *The Wild Robot* trailer appears to depict the story in a way that is similar to the book. *The Wild Robot* made \$100,000,000 in the box office as of October 8th. A lot of people have already watched the movie. **Shawn Hooks**, an 8th grader at Harrington Middle School, says, "The movie was amazing, and the visuals and the messaging were beautiful. I don't want to spoil any of the plot, so you'll have to go out and see it for yourself!" *The Wild Robot* is rated 8.5/10 and rated 98% on Rotten Tomatoes. A lot of reviews say the movie is very emotional, and its animation is beautiful.



Sonic the Hedgehog 3: Coming to
Theaters December 20, 2024

Sonic the Hedgehog is a popular character franchise originated from video games. *Sonic the Hedgehog 3* is the third movie in the Sonic franchise. The main villain is Shadow. Shadow can manipulate time and space using his power "Chaos Control" and fire/release bolts of energy. Sonic, Tails, and Knuckles team up and are trying to stop Shadow. A theory about Shadow's motive is to take revenge for the death of her friend Maria Robotnik. Not much is known about the movie, but many more theories are going around. People suspect the movie is based on the *Sonic Adventure 2* video game, where Sonic, Tails, and Knuckles attempt to save the world from Shadow, Doctor Eggman, and Rouge. The movie is a bit different, however. Dr. Eggman is working with Sonic and his team, and Rouge is nowhere to be found in the trailer.

Sports



Quickwrite Corner

Philly Sports in October

By Lela C.

Phillies: The Phillies played the New York Mets in the National League Division Series (NLDS) earlier this month. The first game of this series was on Saturday the 5th. Sadly, they lost this series 3-1 - which means Red October was short-lived this year.

76ers: The 76ers start playing this month. Their first pre season game was against the New Zealand Breakers, which is a different team from who they've played before. The first regular game of the season is on October 23rd when they play the Milwaukee Bucks at home. On October 11th Paul George made his Sixers pre-season debut with 23 points in 26 minutes. Having just been acquired in the offseason, he is a very important addition to the team. He shows every sign of being a great benefit to the team this year.

Eagles: The Eagles went into the month with a 2-2 record. The first week of October, which was week five, they had a bye. Their first game of the month was on October 13th, and they played the Cleveland Browns. On October 13th A.J. Brown, DeVonta Smith, and Lane Johnson returned. A.J. Brown's last game was on September 6th, and DeVonta Smith's last game was on September 22nd. They are all very important players in the game. At the time of this article, the Eagles *destroyed* the NY Giants with a 28-3 victory on October 20. They are now 4 - 2.

Flyers: The Flyers ended their pre-season this month. They also started their regular season. The first game was on October 11th, and they played the Vancouver Canucks. The Flyers won 3-2. At the time this article was written, their first home game of the season is scheduled for October 19th. They will be playing the Canucks again.



*Check back in the next edition for
Harrington Sports Standings!*

Kirby's Check-in Corner

By Shawn H.

Welcome!

So, it's a brand-new school year. New people, new classes, and most of all, new stress. There's so much to learn and sometimes you get overwhelmed! This is natural. Sometimes, though, writing down your thoughts can help you deal with the stresses of everyday life. Use the prompts 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 take a deep breath out, and read these words:

I am unique.

I am important.

I am a good person.

I can do anything.

Once again, you can use this space anytime you're feeling frustrated, sad, or just want to jot down your feelings.

Be well!

School-Themed WORD Search

Do you think you can find all TWELVE words? Give it a try! Words can be vertical, horizontal, diagonal, AND backwards.

A C A S D T O V I L K W S K K
H H H L N G E D S Z M F T Z E
O K X G M U Y P U X I D R R W
W L P Y E J O N T K Y C E V X
B F H A R R I N G T O N B D Y
E W T B T R E D E E T T O Q D
C T A S P H D S G I Z K R K J
N O R V O G S Q W P V U E R F
X E U O E X B G A A L A K M D
B O X G M S S N T W M A Y E M
F D N M A A H G C P H T S N P
H Q G X U R L V H R E T L L D
B T J R E L S E B I I W P M I
S M A R T P A S S S N S B U L C
W K O X A O K S Y T Y V T I R

besler	cougars	clubs
destiny	lamorte	harrington
pawprint	smartpass	roberts
sports	waves	watch