

It is an honor to submit the Annual Report as the Principal of the Hildreth Elementary School. I'd like to begin by thanking the school's faculty, district administration, the parents and community of Harvard for their continued support and commitment to the education of the wonderful students of Hildreth.

Hildreth Elementary School continues to provide high quality learning for students in a safe and nurturing environment. Evidence of this comes from many sources. Our most recent MCAS results indicate that an overwhelming majority of students in 3rd-5th grade continue to place in the advanced and proficient categories for English Language Arts, Math, and Science. We are in the second year of the technology 1: World Pilot Program in 5th grade. All students in 5th grade received iPads, and teachers are integrating technology in order to enhance the students' ability to access knowledge, think creatively, and collaborate. With the support of the Parent Teacher Organization and the Harvard Schools Trust, students continue to participate in enrichment programs that enhance their learning. The following is only a small sample of the unique type of programs that our students experience: Blandings Turtle Project (5th grade), Wolf Hollow (4th grade), Cartography (3rd grade), Native American Perspectives (2nd grade), Butterfly Museum (1st grade), and The Acton Discovery Museum (Kindergarten).

More intangible to measure, but equally important, is the sense of community we try to instill in our students. 5th grade peer leaders, Husky patrol, and fitness leaders support a variety of activities within the school. Events such as the whole school sing-a-long, assemblies, and spirit days bring us together for some fun and community building. This year we have begun to implement our Hildreth Husky Pawsitive Behavior Expectations. This program focuses on reinforcing safe, respectful, and responsible behavior. This is the first year for a 5th grade Enrichment Program. Students in 5th grade have the opportunity to sign up for enrichment experiences in the areas of art, music, health, and P.E. during their recess time.

In addition to instilling a sense of community within our school walls, is the practice of partnering with the community at-large. We have a whole school recycling program that all students are involved in. The 5th grade Peer Leaders sponsor a pajama drive, and we support the Bromfield Cares coat drive and The Giving Tree. Each year we take time to honor our Veterans at a school wide assembly. This October we supported a group of parents and students in their efforts to collect money for UNICEF. Parent Volunteers help provide support for activities during the year such as 3rd grade bread making, Mystery Readers, field trips, and Field Day. We have updated our website and created a Twitter account (@HildrethHarvard) as ways to further enhance communication.

We continue to implement the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education initiatives, such as District Determined Measures, MCAS 2.0, and Sheltered English Immersion {SEI} education. The Hildreth School Council has created a School Improvement Plan based on both state and district initiatives. A copy of this plan can be found on our school website. Included in this plan is a focus area of maintaining and increasing parent and community involvement. We utilize the scheduled early release days to provide time for collaboration and planning for all of the initiatives.

Due to the retirements of several of our veteran faculty last year, we welcomed several new teachers and staff to the Hildreth Elementary School. This included welcoming our new Associate Principal, Josh Myler. This mix of new and veteran educators has served to strengthen our school community as we share our knowledge and learn from each other.

As we look ahead to the coming years, the School Committee will continue to explore the possibility of a building project that would involve the construction of a new kindergarten wing. We are committed to implementing and expanding the use of technology as well as supporting the school improvement plan and state initiatives. Working collaboratively with Superintendent Dr. Linda Dwight, we will continue to move forward to ensure Hildreth Elementary School maintains its commitment to foster a positive and nurturing learning environment for all of our students.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Frederick
Principal, Hildreth Elementary School