“HAPpenings “ NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2017

Welcome HAP Families and Friends. We are off to a great start for the 2017-18 schoolyear at HAP-South. By now you’ve received information about the policies and “business” side of HAP and the Vernon Hills Park District. This newsletter is to inform you about the “Happenings” going on after school. Each month a newsletter will be posted to let you know about the cool activities we participated in and to let you know what’s coming up for the next month. There will be reminders to let you know about important dates and events.

WHAT’S HAPpening IN SEPTEMBER?-

8/28-9/1: “GETTING TO KNOW YOU!”

9/5-9/8: “IT TAKES TWO!” NO SCHOOL 9/4 HAP CLOSED

9/11-9/15: “HOORAY FOR THE RED WHITE AND BLUE”

9/18-9/22: “APPLES TO APPLES TO APPLESAUCE” NO SCHOOL 9/21 HAP SCHOOL DAYS OUT PROGRAM AT NORTH (SPECIAL SIGN UP REQUIRED)

9/25-9/29: “WE MISS SUMMER CAMP!”

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT HAP:

“HOW DOES THE HAP PROGRAM RUN IN THE AFTERNOON?”

The HAP program at South is structured with an element of free choice built in. We have a theme each week and plan activities around that theme. Students may choose from a variety of planned activities and move about from activity to activity. Once students have been dismissed from school and have been accounted for in our attendance they are given a light snack and a 30 minute recess period (playground or gym games). Then the group is given choices for the day. Our main gym area has games and toys for free play and socializing, the middle gym has age appropriate gym games for younger grades and the far gym has gym games for the upper grades. Our café is used for arts and crafts, providing a quiet place to be creative. The library is available to us during our program. Students who have homework, reading or just need a quiet place may use the library. Around 5:20 P.M. we end our regular program and gather in the gym as a group, playing cooperative games. Some students stay in the library to finish homework.

Please let us know if you would like your child to work on homework while at HAP. We will encourage them to complete their work while at HAP.

“WHAT TYPES OF SNACK DOES HAP SERVE? IS MY CHILD ABLE TO BRING A SNACK FROM HOME?”

HAP serves a variety of peanut and nut free snacks (goldfish, granola bars, pretzels, pita chips, animal crackers to name a few). We have a limited selection of gluten free snacks (popcorn, smart puffs, fruit cups and fruit snacks.) Children may bring their own snacks or finish lunches brought from home. Staff will check the snacks to see if they contain nut products. Proper precautions are taken to protect our students with allergies. We also serve a breakfast snack of cereal bars or Nutrigrain bars for the morning session. We ask that students not bring soda to HAP. Please let us know if your child has any dietary considerations or food allergies.

“WHAT DO I DO IF MY CHILD IS ABSENT FROM SCHOOL OR WILL NOT BE ATTENDING HAP FOR THE AFTERNOON?”

At dismissal, during HAP attendance procedure, we must account for every student scheduled for the day. We check the absence list at each school, notes to school and change of transportation list in the schools’ offices. However there may be an occasional communication error. We ask that you call, email or text HAP as well as school. 847-406-8318 [maureenh@vhparkdistrict.org](mailto:maureenh@vhparkdistrict.org). The schools do not release the busses until ALL HAP students are accounted for. If you decide to pick your child up from school or have alternate plans for your student, please let HAP know as soon as possible. It is not necessary for morning session students to call in if they are not attending the morning session.

“WHAT DO I NEED TO DO IF SOMEONE OTHER THAN PARENTS OR EMERGENCY CONTACTS ARE PICKING UP MY CHILD FROM HAP?”

If your child is being picked up from HAP by any persons other than who is listed on your DATA FORM, please let us know in writing, email or phone call. We do check for identification. Please let your alternate pick up know that we need ID.

“ARE CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES ALLOWED AT HAP?”

We do not allow cell phones and electronics at HAP. If a student feels the need to contact a parent, please have them come see me.

However, students may use electronics at the end of the day when we gather for 5:20 P.M. activities. Tablets and Kindles may be used by all students at anytime, provided they are being used for reading e-books (no games). If you have a student who has special considerations and you feel the use of devices would be helpful please let me know and we will discuss the situation.

“WHERE DO I PICK MY CHILD UP DURING HAP?”

HAP is located at Hawthorn Elementary South (430 Aspen). The entrance to HAP is through the north doors which face the playground (not the main entrance). The doors are always locked. If a staff member is not in the vestibule to answer the door, ring the WHITE (not the silver) doorbell in the upper left corner of the doors. We will radio for your student or you are free to go to the area where they are playing. We close at 6:00 P.M. sharp. Please make alternate arrangements if you are unable to pick your child up on time. Late fees may apply.

“IS THERE A LOST AND FOUND?”

Please label everything. We keep a corner with HAP lost and found for the week. At the end of the day on Friday, all unclaimed items are moved to Elementary South School’s lost and found located near the café. The school will display lost and found periodically throughout the school year.Items not claimed are donated.

We have many new students and families this year, so I would like to introduce myself to all of you. My name is Maureen Hilliard and I am the site supervisor for HAP South. This will be my third school year with the Vernon Hills Park District. Before coming to VHPD I directed programs in several school districts for the Afterschool Club for 18 years. I am a graduate of Loyola University of Chicago and I have certifications in outdoor education, orienteering, children’s literacy programs as well as being DCFS qualified as a school age site director. When I am not working, I enjoy exploring the many Forest Preserves in Lake County, traveling with my daughter Mallory, and playing with my big orange cat, Bubba.

My goal is to provide a safe, enriching and nurturing environment for your child. Please contact me at anytime if you have any questions or concerns. I’m looking forward to a terrific school year! –Peace, Maureen

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