

Hosmer Elementary School
By Anne Hardiman and William McCarthy

The Hosmer School community is led by co-Principals Anne Hardiman and William McCarthy. The school motto defines the expectations for Hosmer students, staff and parents: “Hosmer is a place where we are: respectful of ourselves, others and our school; responsible for what we say, do and learn; hardworking by doing our best with determination; and, successful by showing what we know and learn every day.”

The Hosmer School has established the theme of “A Caring Community” for the 2009-2010 school year. School assemblies will be planned to encourage and celebrate actions we take to care for ourselves, each other, and our community. So far this year, 5th grade students have organized a food drive for the Watertown Food Pantry and the Roots and Shoots Club has started a bottle collection to raise funds for the victims of the earthquake in Haiti.

The Hosmer School cares about student achievement and works collaboratively with Hosmer staff and district teams to define and implement best practices for standards based curriculum instruction and assess and analyze student performance data to develop differentiated instruction plans and programs to meet the needs of all students. A Building Based Data Team has been developed this year to support teachers in using data to inform instruction, which includes a reading intervention program for 1st and 2nd grade students.

In 2006, the Hosmer School was identified as a School in need of improvement in English Language Arts according to MCAS results. Over the past 3 years we have made consistent improvement in this area. This year we achieved our adequate yearly progress goal for our aggregate; however, we did not achieve this status for our English Language Learners. Our Math MCAS results indicated consistent performance; however, we did not achieve our adequate yearly progress goal for all students.

The early childhood programs across the district completed accreditation requirements for the National Association for the Education of Young Children and were awarded accreditation in May 2009. We are proud of the work our teachers have accomplished to achieve this status.

Technology resources continued to increase at the Hosmer School in 2009. Laptop computers were distributed to classroom teachers. Availability of computers in classrooms for students has been enriched with additional mobile laptop carts for students. Most of the Hosmer School has wireless access, and we anticipate full wireless capacity before the end of this school year.

Teachers are using technologies to support instruction in all academic areas. Focused professional development enhances our teachers’ ability to use these tools to improve teaching, learning, and communication. Teachers are using Measures of Academic Performance (MAP) to assess reading and math skills, FASTT Math, Reading A-Z,

RazKids, and Rain Forest Math. Our faculty continues to identify and employ new digital tools for instruction.

Building stronger home-school-community partnerships is a district and school-based goal. Hosmer had addressed this by instituting “Co-Principal Coffees” featuring a focused topic such as enrichment opportunities, progress reports, parent conferences, and school safety. The PTO has also implemented a weekly newsletter on the school website.

With support of the PTO and Site Council, the Hosmer school parents collaborate with the school to enrich school life for all members of our community, providing enrichment clubs for students beyond the school day. The PTO has been generous in their financial support to classrooms, providing digital “flip” cameras to the school, materials for a 3rd grade “Picturing Writing” program, and books for the library.

The Hosmer School is committed to the health, safety and well being of our members and our environment. We recycle paper and plastic, and make every effort to use digital resources for communication to reduce our carbon footprint. We work closely with Safe Routes to School Committee to promote the Walking Wednesday Program. Our physical education teacher provides a Jump Rope Club and Fit Club before school weekly with parental assistance.

Each member of the Hosmer Community strives to demonstrate respect for learning in our diverse community and to be responsible for achieving success every day.