



Harper Terms Translator

A helpful decoder for the terms Harper families, faculty and students use when referring to the fun and important Harper programs and events!



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Advance To Go (ATG)

Harper handles its PTO fundraising primarily through Advance to Go instead of running a slew of fundraisers such as a benefit, gift wrap or candle sales. The ATG campaign is the primary driver of funds for the many unique PTO programs that enrich our students' learning experience. The campaign kicks off in Fall.

Afterschool Programs (ASP)

Harper offers a fabulous array of afterschool programs during an 8-week period starting in January. In the past, students have enjoyed activities such as fencing, yoga, cooking, newspaper, cartooning, basketball and more. It is a great way to do something different once a week during the long winter months. Registration occurs in November and space fills up quickly!

Bike Safety Training

In 2nd and 4th grades, students are given hands-on bike safety instruction so they can safely ride to Harper (2nd graders) and to Highcrest (4th graders).

Birthday Books

Commemorate your child's birthday by purchasing a book for the Harper Library. The average cost of a new library book is \$20. A form will be sent home to you the month prior to your child's birthday. After your check has been received, your child will be able to select his/her book during Library time. A personalized bookplate placed inside will show everyone that your child has added this special book to the Harper library.

Book Fair

The book fair offers parents a great selection of Scholastic books and gifts conveniently ready for purchase at school. Children create their own wish lists for parents to reference while shopping. This is an important school fundraiser each November. Funds raised are used for the Harper library.

Box Tops for Education

This easy fundraiser provides Harper with 10 cents/label. Parents simply clip the "Box Tops For Education" from a wide variety of household products (General Mills, Betty Crocker, Kleenex, Pillsbury, etc.) and drop them in the school lobby Box Tops container.

Cafeteria Duty

Here's a great way to volunteer at Harper while seeing your child/ren and all of their friends. You serve lunch to 1st - 4th grade students. Shifts are for a specific day every week for a selected month from 11:05 - 1:05. First chance to sign up is at the Opening Day Coffee.

Civics and Safety

This critical committee oversees the driving and walking procedures that keep Harper students safe. Parents volunteer for carpool duty and are in charge of keeping the carpool line moving smoothly. Sign up for one day/week for a month. Arrive at 3:05 and leave at 3:25. It's such a simple time commitment that makes an incredible difference in the lives of Harper families.

Communications

Harper strives to be "paperless" so school-wide communication will be provided through the weekly Harper Happenings, emails from Dr. Kick, teachers and room parents. You can also check out www.HarperPTO.com for the most current Harper news.

District 39 Education Foundation

The D39 Foundation is a non-profit organization run by volunteers that acquires and grants resources to expand, enrich, and complement educational opportunities for the students, staff and D39 community. The group administers Gripp Grants. For more information, visit <http://www.wilmette39.org/d39foundation/index.html>

Chess Club

Chess club is a popular after-school activity for beginners and experts to learn chess rules and strategy. The club meets after school during Fall, Winter and Spring sessions.

Chorus

If your child likes to sing and wants to join other 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade students on Tuesday mornings at 8:10 before school, then Harper Chorus is the place to be. The Chorus performs a Winter and a Spring concert.

Class Picnics

The end of the year brings class picnic time so students and teachers can enjoy a lunch/snack together outside.

Community Service Committee (CSC)

The CSC is focused on making community service part of our children's educational experience. Various fun service opportunities are provided throughout the year within the community and with our sister school, Andrew Cooke Magnet School.

Curriculum Night

This parent-only evening is a prime opportunity to hear directly from your child's teacher about the class course of study, expectations and objectives. Have your questions answered before the year gets going. It is also your chance to sign up to be a classroom volunteer.

Early Release Days

Throughout the year there are several early release days that enable teachers and staff to meet together and with others within the district for discussions and training. Parent/Teacher conferences also create a need for early release days. The typical early dismissal schedule is: Grades 1 - 4 at 12:15PM, Kindergarten at 10:20 with an AM rotation for AM/PM kindergarten.

Earth Week/Environmental Week

Each Spring Harper does more than acknowledge Earth Day. We have an entire week celebrating the earth and ways to protect and care for it. Fun daily activities get kids involved and educate them all at once.

Enrichment

Harper students enjoy a broad array of enrichment programs that augment their classroom learning. These range from field trips to unique learning experiences in-class, to school-wide assemblies. The Harper PTO funds all of these programs.

Family-to-Family

The PTO sponsored Family-to-Family committee is here to support those in the Harper community who are experiencing medical or other types of crises. Meals, errands, driving, etc. are provided by other Harper families.

Family Awareness Network (FAN)

FAN is a 30-year old all-parent, volunteer non-profit organization that helps parents by connecting them with other parents, their children and the school-wide community. FAN sponsors a variety of well-regarded parent education programs featuring top researchers and professionals from around the country. The organization also is a conduit for parent networks and other parenting resources. More info is available at <http://fan-ntts.ntnow.org/>

Field Day/Olympic Day

Each May/June brings the traditional Harper Field Day with an afternoon of running around and outdoor games for 3rd and 4th graders and the Tug-of-War competitions among each class in all five grades. Olympic Day takes place every four years and is a school-wide event. Everyone is a winner when the PTO distributes popsicles to all.

Fourth Grade Bike to Highcrest

This annual after school event typically occurs at the end of May. The purpose of the event is to review the preferred bike route to Highcrest, to encourage helmet use and teach proper fitting technique, and to teach important bike safety information.

Fun Fair

The Harper Fun Fair is held in May/June on the North Field. The Fun Fair is sponsored by the Student Council and all proceeds typically benefitting Andrew Cooke Magnet School, Harper's sister school in Waukegan. The entrance fee gives students unlimited game playing at various games of chance and skill.

Garden Club

Harper is very lucky to have wonderful gardens at the school. The Garden Club has Fall and Spring after school sessions that meet in the spectacular gardens to enjoy lessons about gardening and nature.

3rd Grade Illinois History Day

3rd graders at Harper have a study unit about Chicago and the State of Illinois. This fun family event celebrating Chicago and Illinois combines storytelling, music and folk dancing. At the end of the event, everyone has learned a lot and had loads of fun.

Great Books Program

This reading program is for 1st - 4th graders at all reading levels. The program's goal is to make literature fun and to provide children the opportunity to share their unique perspectives and interpretations of stories with their peers. Parent volunteers lead the groups that meet during lunch/recess once per week for 6 - 8 weeks. It is typically held in January and February -- a great time of year to hunker down with a great book!

Grocery Dollars

These are gift cards that you purchase dollar-for-dollar and use like cash at the grocery store. Profits generated through this program are funneled back into the Harper enrichment program budgets. Current stores participating include Jewel/Osco,

Dominick's, SuperH Mart and The Fresh Market. Sign up to participate at www.HarperPTO.com.

Halloween Parade

Harper's Halloween festivities include a costume parade out the front of the school and around the playgrounds to the blacktop area. Families and friends line the parade route for memorable photos and a chance to "ooh" and "ahh" at clever and cute costumes. In rainy weather, the parade weaves through the school hallways.

Harper Happenings

This weekly electronic newsletter is emailed to Harper families on Thursday/Friday. It includes the following week's school events, important information and lunch menu as well as a short list of other upcoming events.

Harper Herald Summer Edition

This Summer online newspaper features everything you need to know about fundraisers, PTO committees, events, and general information about school happenings. The Herald comes out in August. It is a great idea to keep this as a handy reference when school starts.

Harper Hoedown

In September Harper families kick off the new school year at the Hoedown. There are rides, games, prizes, live music and food to entertain everyone. This is a great chance to see old friends and meet new ones.

Harper Logo Merchandise

A variety of really great Harper logo apparel is available for sale at the Opening Day Coffee and other school-wide events in the Fall. After that there aren't typically opportunities to purchase gear again until next school year. So make sure to order some cool gear as soon as you can! Your kids will love it!

Holiday Sing

The Holiday Sing is during the school day and is a time when students gather in the auditorium to sing holiday songs together. It is not a performance, just for fun.

Kids Care Fair

This annual volunteer event is sponsored by the CSC intended to show our children they can make a difference and have fun while fulfilling needs within our community. Participants pay a small fee to cover the cost of materials. Children create or assemble items needed by a variety of local charities.

Meet & Greet

The day before classes from 9:30 - 10:45, parents and students (grades 1 - 4) can pop into school to see their new classrooms, meet their teachers and check out their lockers. It's a great way to get comfortable before the first day of school.

Movie Night

In the beginning of the school year The Garden Committee hosts a movie night at Harper, Ravinia style. Families bring a picnic dinner and enjoy a movie in the beautiful Harper Gardens.

Multi-Cultural Heritage Fair

It is amazing to see how many cultures there are within the Harper family. Typically, in mid-winter, the Multi-Cultural Heritage Fair, held in the cafeteria, features many Harper family volunteers who share their cultures through the traditions and foods of their homelands. Students, families and friends are able to explore our global community right in Harper.

Open Gym

This is the place for Harper students to burn off some of their energy while the bleak winter months keep them inside more than we'd like. Open Gym is supervised by District 39 staff, however, parents are required to stay with their children. The session runs on Monday nights at 6:30PM from early January until Spring Break.

Open House

In Spring Harper is a bustle of activity when students escort their families to Open House. This evening is a chance for your child to give you a personal tour through his/her classroom, "specials" rooms and other areas of school. You will have a chance to see classwork, say hello to your child's teachers and mingle with other families.

Opening Day Coffee

Don't miss out on this busy morning event typically held in the cafeteria on the first half-day of school. It is your chance to learn about PTO committees and find the ones you want to help. Come with your calendar so you can check your schedule for open times to volunteer and your checkbook so you can order yearbooks and logo wear, buy Grocery Dollars, and donate to Advance to Go.

Outdoor Ed

4th grade students have an amazing experience over three days and two nights spent in cabins and outdoor classrooms. Teachers and staff chaperone the event,

which covers 4th grade science curriculum and is a memorable way to cap off the 4th grade year and students' time together at Harper.

Parent Education Consortium

This is a consortium of a wide array of parenting programs presented throughout New Trier Township. For more info go to: www.peccalendar.org.

Parent Social

This low-key Fall event is a unique way for Harper parents to connect with old friends and make new ones. No silent auction pressure -- this is just a party and not a fundraiser. Enjoy!

PASS 39

This District 39 program provides support and resources to families whose children have learning disabilities and/or special needs. Email them at pass39@wilmette39.org to be added to the PASS39 group e-mail. All addresses are blind copied for confidentiality.

PTO

The Harper PTO's goal is to enhance every Harper student's educational experience. This is accomplished by offering an array of enrichment programs, supporting the faculty and staff, ensuring that the building and grounds are as beautiful, safe and well-equipped as necessary to make Harper a wonderful place for learning and growing. Please try to attend one of the PTO meetings held during the year to learn more.

PTO Luncheon

The annual luncheon is held at a Harper parent's house in May where wonderful conversation and delicious food are shared. Also, the PTO thanks all outgoing 4th grade parents for their years of service.

PTO Volunteers

There are countless ways to get involved at Harper from PTO-sponsored events, to in-class participation, to carpool and cafeteria duties. The PTO is always looking for energetic people to help out in any way!

PTO Website

Go to www.HarperPTO.com for up-to-date information on all things Harper from calendars to PTO Volunteer information to signing up for programs/events/clubs/etc.

School Kits

This annual fundraiser is a great opportunity to purchase the following year's school supplies and have them waiting for your child in his/her classroom on the first day of school.

Spirit Days

Throughout the year, the Student Council sponsors a variety of spirit days intended to be fun, voluntary events. Pajama day, crazy hair day, favorite sport team day, etc. are some favorites.

Student Council

Student Council is comprised of 3rd and 4th grade volunteers who meet two times per month to work on spirit day organization, school service projects (food drive, Giving Village Winter gear collection, Fun Fair, etc), and team-building activities. Students also help with displays, posters, and making announcements to classes about upcoming events.

Students Who Care

This is a month-long event that educates students about different types of disabilities through hands-on activities and other educational instruction.

Teacher Appreciation Week

Through this special week of activities (flowers, food, special class gifts), Harper families show staff and teachers how much they really care about them.

Welcoming Night

PTO hosts a new family orientation for all incoming student's grades 1st - 4th before the beginning of school. Families are given a personal tour of the school from a Harper parent. The principal and Harper PTO President also attend.

Yearbook

Fun candid shots and formal class photos capture memories of the year at Harper. Not just a 4th grade keepsake. Yearbooks are great for children in all grades! Buy yours online at www.harperPTO.com. They are ONLY offered for purchase at the beginning of the school year!!