



POFF PAPERS

October 15, 2026

The Book Fair is Coming

Hello Team Poff,

Scholastic Book Fair

The Fall Scholastic Book Fair is right around the corner! Shopping times for each grade level will be taking place on October 19th through the 23rd. More information on how to volunteer and how to set up the e-wallet payment system for your child can be found on the PTO page of this issue of Poff Papers. This event provides students with the opportunity to buy high interest books, while also helping raise funds for our school. Thank you to our PTO for keeping the tradition of the book fair alive!

Halloween Parade and Parties

It seems like the month of October is flying by! We will be holding our Halloween parade and class parties on October 30th. Please see the next page of Poff Papers for the schedule and important information regarding costumes.

Teacher Conferences

Teacher conferences are scheduled November 5th and 6th. November 5th is an early dismissal day for students. Please be on the lookout for communication from your child's teacher on how to schedule a conference time if you have not done so already.

Boots, bricks, and Boogie!

Please save the date for our first ever Lego and line dancing experience! On November 12th from 5:30 to 6:30 students and their families are invited to come build and dance with us. Please see Poff Flyers for more details.

-Dr. Cable

Poff School/Community Flyers

Click the Poff Flyers link on the Poff Webpage to see the flyers

Madia Picture Order Form
Lego & Line Dancing
Save the Date - Snow Ball
Thankful Luncheon
Intermediate Chess
Hampton Basketball
Hampton Wrestling
1st & 2nd grade Basketball
Hampton Is Hiring!
Hampton Lacrosse
HHS Cheerleading Clinic
HAEE Alliance Cup
Cub Scouts

Red Ribbon Week

Red Ribbon Week is October 26 to October 30. Red Ribbon Week is used to raise awareness and nurture the full potential of healthy, drug free youth. Each day, we'll use a different theme to spark conversation about making good choices. Join us in dressing up each day from October 26 to October 30 as we celebrate Red Ribbon Week! Look for the details next week!

Honorary Talbot Dog

A big thank you to all the families who helped make the 2026 Honorary Talbot Dog contest such a fantastic success! Your support helped raise hundreds of dollars for the Poff PTO. These funds will directly benefit our students and school programs.



School Nurse Information

Please keep in mind the following guidance when sending your child to school:

Fever- Student is required to be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication. A fever is considered a temperature of 100.4 or above.

Vomiting/Diarrhea - Student is required to stay home for 24 hours from the last time they vomit or have diarrhea.

Sore throat - If the child has strep throat they are required to stay home for 24 hours after the initiation of antibiotics. *A minor sore throat is usually not a problem, but a severe sore throat could be strep throat even if there is no fever. Other symptoms of strep throat in children are headache and stomach upset. Contact your pediatrician as your child needs a special test to determine if he/she has strep throat.*

If your child is experiencing severe cold symptoms, please keep your child home to aid in their recovery and prevent viral transmission.

Prevention - Encourage your child to:

Wash their hands frequently

Avoid touching their eyes, nose or mouth

Cough and sneeze into their elbow and use a tissue

Avoid close contact with people who are sick

Please follow this link to [When should I Keep My Child Home?](#) on the district website for more information.



Halloween Parade and Parties

Families are invited to join us for a **Halloween Parade on October 30th!**



Parade Route: Students will exit through the Poff main doors and turn right to walk around the front circle. They will turn right again to walk up the sidewalk to the playground blacktop. They will then walk around the edge of the blacktop and re-enter the building through the playground doors. Families are encouraged to space themselves out along this extended route.

AM Kdg: Parade, 10:15 am
Party, 10:25–11:10 am

PM Kdg & 1st–5th: Parade, 2:15 pm (full route)
Parties, 2:30–3:15 pm

The parade will be cancelled via Infinite Campus e-blast if it is raining.

When choosing Halloween costumes, please be sure they are **school appropriate and are simple enough for the child to put on with minimal assistance**. Costumes may not include weapons or look-alike weapons. Please also be reminded that students may not distribute candy during the Halloween party.

Party parents may begin arriving at Poff 15 minutes prior to the parade in order to check-in and drop off party materials before the parade begins.

Counselors Corner

October

SMALL-GROUP EXPERIENCE

Would your child benefit from a small-group experience?

Help shape this year's counseling groups!

This year, I hope to offer additional short-term counseling groups for students in Grades 1–5 during the second and third quarters. Groups will typically meet weekly during Workshop unless otherwise noted. With the exception of drop-in groups, the sessions build upon one another, and participating students will be expected to attend the full series.

Completing this survey simply helps me gauge parent interest; it does not guarantee that a group will be offered or commit your child to participating. **If there is sufficient interest in a group, only families who express interest in that group will receive additional information and a formal permission form before making a decision.**

The potential small groups are described below. **To indicate interest, please follow this link to a brief Google Form.** The deadline to respond is Friday, October 16th. *Please share the link with other Poff families who may be interested!*

First Grade

- **School Skills Games** - Students will play card, board, and movement games that exercise important school-success skills, including focus, memory, impulse control, flexible thinking, and following directions. The emphasis will be on learning and practicing these skills through structured play.

Second Grade

- **Managing Big Feelings** - This active, hands-on group will help students identify, express, and manage emotions such as anger, worry, and frustration. Students will practice age-appropriate coping and self-regulation strategies through movement, games, and play-based activities.
- **Social Skills in Action** - Students will participate in games and interactive activities that strengthen foundational social skills, including listening, following group expectations, joining conversations, cooperating, and treating others with kindness and respect.

Third Grade

- **Healthy Friendships: Girls Group** - This group will help girls build healthy friendship and social problem-solving skills. Activities will address common friendship challenges while emphasizing communication, perspective-taking, boundaries, conflict resolution, and positive ways to respond.
- **Healthy Friendships: Boys Group** - This active, hands-on group will help boys strengthen self-control, emotional regulation, communication, and positive relationship skills. Students will work through relatable peer situations using games, movement, discussion, and cooperative activities.

Fourth Grade

- **Chill Skills** - This brief morning bus room group will give students an opportunity to start their day on a calm, positive note. Students may drop in to participate in a mindfulness-based exercise or craft activity focused on skills such as breathing, grounding, gratitude, mindful movement, and letting go of unhelpful thoughts.
- **Thoughts, Feelings, and Actions** - This group will help students understand how their thoughts, emotions, and actions influence one another. Students will learn practical strategies for managing anger, worry, sadness, frustration, and other strong emotions.
- **Goal Getters** - This group will help students strengthen motivation, goal-setting, planning, time management, and follow-through. Students will set meaningful goals and learn practical strategies for taking action and monitoring their progress.

Fifth Grade

- **Chill Skills** - This brief morning bus room group will give students an opportunity to start their day on a calm, positive note. Students may drop in to participate in a mindfulness-based exercise or craft activity focused on skills such as breathing, grounding, gratitude, mindful movement, and letting go of unhelpful thoughts.
- **Connections & Conversation Lunch Bunch** - This relaxed drop-in lunch group will provide students with repeated, low-pressure opportunities to connect with peers. Structured games, conversation, and shared-interest activities will help students become more comfortable initiating conversations and developing reliable peer connections.

Thank you in advance for your valuable input!

Very Best,

Mrs. Giarrusso
Poff School Counselor
ellen.giarrusso@ht-sd.org



POFF PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

Talbot Tailgate Fun!

What a fun day at the 23rd Annual Talbot Tailgate! Thank you to everyone who came out to enjoy the games, activities, and school spirit, and a special thank you to all of our Poff volunteers who helped make the event a success!

Congratulations again to Poff's Honorary Talbot Dog, Dolores! We were proud to have her represent Poff at the Tailgate.

A special shout-out goes to our dunk tank volunteers, **Christina Carlin** and **Dr. Cable**, who spent the afternoon getting dunked again, and again, and again! Thank you both for being such good sports and helping make the Tailgate so much fun!

Thank you to everyone who helped make it a great day for the Hampton community!

Scholastic Book Fair

The first Scholastic Book Fair of the year will take place October 19-23, 2026. Each class will have a designated shopping time. If you are interested in volunteering, visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044CA9AD28A64-66422141-poff> You must have clearances on file at the office to volunteer.

To set up an e-wallet for your child to use while shopping, please visit this link: <https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bf/poffelementaryschool>. We also accept cash, check (to Poff PTO), and credit cards.

To speed up and simplify the check-out process, this book fair will operate as a no change (coins) fair for cash transactions. For example, if your child buys a book that costs \$19.99, after adding 7% sales tax your cost will be \$21.39. We will then round this amount up to \$22.

STAY CONNECTED WITH POFF PTO

Stay Connected with Poff PTO!

Get Poff PTO announcements, event reminders, volunteer opportunities, and more through Remind!

Text @poffpto to 81010 or visit remind.com/join/poffpto to join.



Poff PTO: Did You Know?

We know that during busy Poff events, finding a parking spot can sometimes feel like a little adventure! If the lot is full, families can park along Marie Drive, but **please park on one side of the road only** so emergency vehicles can get through.

And if you're not sure where you can park in the lot? When in doubt, follow the crowd!

Thanks for helping us keep things moving! 💙💛

PTO Executive Board

President: Alyssa Pater, president.poffpto@gmail.com

Vice President: Katie Arvay, vpresident.poffpto@gmail.com

Co-Secretaries: Natalie Ruffa and Courtney Young, secretaries.poffpto@gmail.com

Co-Treasurers: Kayla Swarmer, 1 Open Position, treasurers.poffpto@gmail.com

Event Coordinators: Natalie Ganoë and Heather Shurina,
eventcoordinators.poffpto@gmail.com

Fundraising Chair: Christina Carlin, fundraising.poffpto@gmail.com

Key Communicators: Sarah Kuhn and Jen Slezak,
keycommunicator.poffpto@gmail.com



POFF ELEMENTARY

2026-2027 Dates and Information



Regular School Day Schedule

8:15 – 8:45am	School Doors Open
8:45 – 9:00am	Homeroom
3:30pm	Students Dismissed

8:45 – 11:25am	AM Kindergarten
12:50 – 3:30pm	PM Kindergarten

2-Hour Delay Schedule

10:15 – 10:45am	Doors Open
10:45 – 11:00am	Homeroom
3:30pm	Dismissal Begins

10:45 – 12:40pm	AM Kindergarten
1:30 – 3:30pm	PM Kindergarten

School Holidays

No school will be held on these dates.

September 7th

October 12th

November 2nd

November 6th

November 26th & November 27th

December 23rd - January 1st

January 18th

February 15th

March 22nd-March 29th

May 31st

Early Dismissal Schedule

8:15 – 8:45am	School Doors Open
8:45 – 9:00am	Homeroom
1:45pm	Students Dismissed

8:45 – 10:45am	AM Kindergarten
11:45am – 1:45pm	PM Kindergarten

Early Dismissal Dates

Early dismissal begins at 1:45pm. If a 2-hour delay is called on an early dismissal day, the early dismissal will be cancelled and students will dismiss at 3:30.

September 11th (F)	February 12th (F)
October 9th (F)	March 19th (F)
November 25th (W)	April 16th (f)
December 22rd (T)	May 7th (F)
January 15th (F)	

Additional early dismissal dates:

November 5th – 12:45pm-Conferences
 June 3rd – 11:45am
 June 4th – 11:45am – Last Day

Contact Information

Office phone numbers begin (412) 492 - XXXX

Principal	Josh Cable	cable@ht-sd.org	x6336
Administrative Assistant	Renee Neal	nealr@ht-sd.org	x6335
Nurse	Dawn Gunnett	dawn.gunnett@ht-sd.org	x6337
Counselor	Ellen Giarrusso	ellen.giarrusso@ht-sd.org	x6332
Attendance Line	(412) 486 - 6000, Press 2, then Press 4		