

Dear Hopkins Parents:

Many of you already know that the School Committee approved a FY 2009 budget of \$32,270,000 on January 24, 2008. This represents a 3.7% increase over the current budget, and at best, maintains our current educational programs. With 80% of this budget just covering payroll costs, the remaining dollars have been carefully targeted to curriculum expenses and reorganization of personnel.

For Hopkins School the budget provides for the following personnel and programs:

- A reduction in number of classrooms from 25 to 24 and average class sizes of 22 in Grade 4 and 23 in Grade 5.
- A Remedial Math Teacher to respond to the identification of students requiring intervention to access the curriculum and to perform on MCAS.
- A full-time librarian to provide instruction to both grades in research skills and media resources.
- The elimination of classroom guidance to provide for full-time guidance services to students and families.
- A technology assistant to service and maintain building hardware and software while the Technology Department reorganizes to establish one Curriculum Integration Coordinator across the three elementary schools.
- The replenishment of curriculum materials to preserve the math program, science kits, and literature-based reading curriculum.
- The continuation of the Instrumental Music Program at Grade 5.
- The special education Co-Teaching model in both fourth and fifth grade, under the supervision of .5 Special Education Team Chairperson.

As the greatest advocates for our school personnel and programs, please continue to inform yourselves to the budget process as we move toward Town Meeting in May. If we are forced to move toward a level-funded budget, the possibility of more dramatic cuts is real.

Thank you for your support.

Martha Starr, Principal