

H M P T O

The Horace Mann School PTO Newsletter



NEWSNOTES

Care & Respect ~ Effort & Hard Work ~ Critical Thinking ~ Risk Taking

January 15, 2010

Upcoming

Every Tuesday

Pretzel Sales
\$1.00
After school
Front/Back
Lobbies
Ongoing



Martin Luther King Day
No School
January 18th

Horace Mann School
Dance
January 22, 2010

PTO Meeting
February 3, 2010

Early Release
February 4, 2010

Next Edition:
January 29, 2010

From Greg's Desk

Dear Horace Mann Families,

It has been a very busy few weeks. Just before the holiday break, we celebrated our first-ever **All School Pajama Day** in honor of the PTO achieving its stated goal of at least 50% of families paying their PTO dues. This was actually a joyous day. Children in every room seemed to love coming to school in their pj's, and quite a few teachers did, too. Even one normally well-dressed administrator wore his Homer Simpsons and a bathrobe, and, word has it, seemed to be enjoying himself!

As I mentioned in an earlier letter, assemblies and creative arts presentations are an important part of our community-building effort. Just before the holiday break we had the very good fortune to hear grade 5 student **Marcel Oliart** play the marimba. Marcel is truly a gifted musician, and the entire student body was literally in thrall to his musicianship. Accompanied by his mother, **Stephanie Rogers**, who is also our school accompanist, Marcel gave a stunning performance. As part of that same assembly, the entire third grade gave a rockin' rendition of the tree song, complete with finger-snapping, elbow-pumping movements. A lot of fourth- and fifth-grade heads were swaying and bopping along with them!



Third graders were also treated to a very special performance by two opera singers from Wheelock College who performed excerpts from the **Barber of Seville**, by Gioachino Rossini. This was an interactive presentation that included a lot of singing and a lot of discussion. I don't think it's an exaggeration to say that students really loved it!

Last Friday, as part of the PTO's light bulb fundraising event, students learned about energy-saving strategies to reduce greenhouse gases, especially as they pertain to the use of new light bulb technology. While the separate presentations for grades K and 1 received mixed reviews, students in grades 2-5 genuinely seemed to enjoy the clever combination of comedy and science incorporated in the **Nstar presentation** in the auditorium.

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We're on the Web!
www.horacemannpto.com

From Greg's Desk (Continued)



Last week was also the final round of Horace Mann's participation in the **National Geographic Geography Bee**. This surprisingly challenging event was held in the auditorium in front of the entire fourth and fifth grades. The finalists -- **Joey Amatucci, Gabe Gekas, Liam McCarthy, Marcel Oliart, Jacob Kolodney, Tiffany Luong, Emily Hogan, Kyle Mulvaney, Michael Yip, and Aaron Slocum** -- all did a great job answering extremely difficult questions (for example: *Name the body of water that separates Oklahoma from Texas*) and analyzing and interpreting maps they had not seen before. I am happy to announce that the

Amatucci Geography Dynasty has remained intact for another year!

Speaking of winners, congratulations to 5th grader **Alexandra Nugent**. Alexandra's design was one of four winning entries in the Adidas/Modell's "Draw the Ball" contest to raise awareness of this year's soccer World Cup to be held in South Africa this summer. **Thanks to Alexandra, Horace Mann will receive a \$1,000 gift certificate for Mr. Tynes to use at Modell's Sporting Goods.** The 5th graders will also have a visit from a player for the **New England Revolution** soccer team, and *each student in her class will receive an official World Cup ball.* Way to go, Alexandra!!!!

Finally, this week the entire school has joined **Mr. Tynes** in celebrating what has become one of Horace Mann's best traditions: **Peek Week!** All week long parents and teachers have been visiting the gymnasium to view their students participate in a truly outstanding gymnastics demonstration. This is a non-competitive event in which every student has an opportunity to



display a variety of gymnastics skills that he or she has honed through weeks of hard work. The emphasis in this music-enhanced demonstration is on personal growth, cooperative effort, support for one's classmates, inclusion, experimentation, and self-discipline. Students demonstrate their skills in a variety of ways: tumbling, rope climbing, rings, uneven parallel bars, balancing on the beam, vaulting, and, perhaps most importantly, synchronized movement. ***Every student is included, and every student shines.*** As much as anything, this program embodies the Horace Mann spirit and philosophy!

So I think you can see why I say this has been a busy few weeks! At Horace Mann, learning and engagement extend beyond the walls of the classroom every day. Thus, don't be surprised to hear your son or daughter singing *Largo Al Factotum* while performing somersaults in your living room or convincing you of the ecological merits of installing energy-efficient light bulbs or explaining to you, very patiently, that the Red River, a major tributary of the Mississippi, serves as the border between Texas and Oklahoma!

Best wishes for a happy, healthy and productive New Year,

Greg

From the PTO

Happy 2010!

Our coin drive is doing well. Don't forget to drop your spare change into your kid's hands. They love watching their classroom jar increase as they look forward to the bowling tournament in PE with Mr. Tynes. Thank you to Sharon Russo and David Tynes for coordinating this event.

The Coin Drive is
Going Well!

Calling All Cooks!



**PTO Meeting
February 3rd**

**Nintendo DSi
Raffle
February 8th**

**Science Night:
February 26th**

**See
Elmo Technology
In action**

**Ice Cream Sundae
Event**

Please contribute your favorite family recipes to our first version the Horace Mann Cookbook, "A Taste to Remember". All proceeds from the sale of the book will help support our Horace Mann Community. Please submit all recipes to: horacemanncooks@gmail.com Submit recipes from the following categories: breakfast, appetizers, soups, salads, breads, entrees, side dishes, desserts. Hurry - deadline to submit recipes is January 31st.

Please mark your calendars for the next PTO meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 3rd at 7:30 in the Library. Craig Murphy, our School Psychologist will be presenting an informational evening about Bullying. If your child has been a victim of bullying, or has witnessed bullying and does not know what to do, or maybe has bullied a classmate, you may want to attend the meeting. It's our job as parents to empower our kids to not tolerate bullying. Craig will help us generate a dialogue so that we, as parents and teachers, all share the same message with our kids.

Beginning the week of February 8th we will also be selling raffle tickets for a Nintendo DSi to help facilitate the purchasing of new technology for the school. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25. The winning entry will be drawn at the conclusion of Science Night. You do not need to be present to win.

Science Night is coming February 26th. Mark this important date on your calendar for you and your family. This is a "don't miss" event and this year we're adding a "Technology" component! You will see some uses of technology that Horace Mann and the rest of the Newton Schools are or will be using as we move toward the 21st century classroom. Stop in and see how technology is transforming learning for our children.

<http://northeastschoollibrary-technology.wikispaces.com/Mrs.+Malec>
password - ELMO

Lastly, thank you to HALF of the Horace Mann families (you know who you are!) who have made their Dues payment. Our next goal is to reach 75%. If you have not made your dues donation (Suggested \$50 per child or whatever you would like to contribute) now is the time. Once we reach 75% participation the PTO will sponsor an Ice Cream Sundae party for the kids as they are dismissed from school. We are hoping to reach this goal by April school vacation. Please help us.

Also From the PTO

**Annual HM Talent
Show
April 10, 2010**

The annual Horace Mann Talent Show will be held at F.A. Day Middle School on Saturday, April 10, 2010 at 2:00pm. **Anyone interested in performing needs a parent or guardian to email Mary Beth DeNucci with the following information: Student name, grade, teacher; description of act and contact phone number and email for the adult. Children may participate in one act only. Please email this information to denuccifam@rcn.com. Deadline for registrations is Friday, January 29, 2010.**

**Compact
Fluorescent Bulb
Sale**



The Social Action Committee is again sponsoring the sale of compact fluorescent bulbs through NStar. Students will be bringing home sheets on Friday, January 8 to sell the bulbs. Sales will continue through Friday, January 22. **100% of the money goes to the Horace Mann PTO.** NStar does not take any percentage of the sales. **CFLs use 75% less energy than traditional bulbs - lowering your electric bill and helping the environment.** Please buy some bulbs for your own home and sell to family and friends. Any questions contact Mary Beth DeNucci denuccifam@rcn.com or Stephanie Rogers Stephanie_rogers@comcast.net

Book Drive



Mr. Feldstein's fifth grade class, along with the Social Action Committee, is having a book drive to benefit a Boston school. A recent student teacher from Mr. Feldstein's class is now working at a school in Boston and they are organizing a read-a-thon for February. They are in need of gently used books to support the read-a-thon. Please donate any books from home that you are not using. Collection boxes will be in the front and back lobbies starting January 19 through January 29. Thank you! Any questions contact Mary Beth DeNucci denuccifam@rcn.com

From the Newton Public Schools

Massachusetts Champions of Arts Education 2010 Advocacy Awards A Call for Nominations

Is there an arts teacher (dance, music, theatre, visual art) you would like to nominate? A parent advocate? Check out the nomination materials on the ArtsLearning website. NOMINATION PACKETS AVAILABLE AT: www.artslearning.org

Call for Nominations - March 1, 2010 Postmark; or Delivered by March 4, 2010

The Arts Learning Champions of Arts Education Awards honor individuals and organizations that have made exceptional contributions to arts education advocacy and continue to make strides toward the goal of high quality arts education for every student in Massachusetts.

All Awards will be presented at the Massachusetts Statehouse, May 26, 2010.

For more info contact: Richard P. King, Fine Arts Coordinator K-8, Newton Public Schools @ 617-559-9090.

From the Community

Host Family Needed

A family (mother and 20 year old son) is visiting from Peru in order for the son to receive much needed medical care not available in Peru. They are here in the Boston area so that the son can receive burn care at Shriners Hospital.

The family is currently in Chelsea but is looking for a local family to host them full time from now until the end of March. If you have an extra bedroom and can open up your home and hearts to this family, please contact Julia Arnett at 617-965-8359 or jularnett@verizon.net for more information. The family would be willing to help their host family with cooking, cleaning, etc. Shriners Hospital takes care of all rides to and from the hospital so the host family will not need to provide transportation.

Historic Newton Saturday, January 23, 2010

Celebrate Historic Newton at this unique evening of dining, drinks, and dancing to Newton's own band, Backburner, and meet special guest auctioneer Matt Siegel of KISS 108 FM.

The Gala will be held at the Harry Parker Boathouse, headquarters of Community Rowing on the Charles River. Tickets are \$140 each. To purchase tickets, call 617-796-1450 or buy online, <http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/jackson/gala-2010-2.asp>

Summer Weight Loss Camp UMass-Amherst

University Summer **Residential** Weight Loss Camp at UMASS-AMHERST for **boys and girls ages 8-16 years**. Contact: Mel Aurbach at the University Summer Residential Weight Loss Camp, 732-762-9232, Email: info@usrwlc.com

JCC ALL-CAMP FAIR Sunday,

Meet the Jewish Community Centers' day, overnight and specialty camp directors and explore the summer 2010 options for boys and girls from preschool through high school! Programs include Circus Camp, iCamp, JCC Grossman Day Camp, JCC Kaleidoscope Creative Arts & Science Camp, Maccabi Kingswood Overnight Camp, Zohar Special Needs Program, Sports Camps and more. There will be face-painting, arts & crafts, and light refreshments for all to enjoy. For more information about JCC summer camps and programs, visit us on the web at www.jccgb.org/summer

February 7, 2010,
2-4pm

Parenting Workshop

Co-sponsored by
the Elementary
Counseling Grant
and The Newton
Partnership

Leventhal-Sidman JCC, 333 Nahanton Street, Newton, MA 02459

Collaborative Problem Solving (CPS)- An Effective Approach to Understanding and Supporting Your Child presented by Dr. Ross Greene. Dr. Greene is Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and author of the acclaimed books *The Explosive Child* and *Lost at School*.

Thursday February 4th, 2010 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Williams School Auditorium, 141 Grove St, Aurbundale, MA 02466.

This free program for parents is. Call Nancy [Holczer @ 617.559.9063](mailto:Nancy.Holczer@617.559.9063) with questions. No registration required.

Parenting Workshop for Preschool Parents

Parenting Your Preschooler: Coping with Challenging Behaviors, Reducing Stress and Creating More Peace at Home. Wednesday, February 3rd, 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Mason Rice Elementary School Auditorium, 149 Pleasant St, Newton, MA 02459.

Led by Laura Perkins, LICSW, Early Childhood Mental Health Specialist and Mary Gartland, LICSW, Early Childhood Behavior Specialist for The Newton Partnership. Parents will learn simple techniques to encourage positive behaviors, set limits, avoid power struggles and reduce stress at home.

For more information contact Beverly Mobilia, 617.559.6065 or email Beverly_Mobilia@newton.k12.ma.us Free admission. No registration required.

Open House at
NCSC Early
Education & Child
Care
January 30th
9:30-11:30am

Tour our facilities, meet the teachers and let your children explore the classrooms through activities. We offer full day, year round childcare and preschool for infants through 5 years, and after school care for K-6th grade (transportation available from select schools). Space is available now for 3-5 year olds. Enrollment for fall is open now. Located at 492 Waltham Street, West Newton, behind the CVS. For more information, please visit www.NCSCweb.org or call Judy at 617-969-5906 x121.

Newton North
Little League
spring registration
online now at
www.newtonnorthll.org

NNLL serves boys and girls, from ages 4 to 12, who attend, or reside in the school districts of Horace Mann, Lincoln Eliot and Underwood. Middle school and private school students, from these districts, are also welcome and eligible to play.

Registration and additional information is available at www.newtonnorthll.org

For 2010 NNLL has added a city-wide tee-ball division for 4 year olds. Please spread the word to families you know with younger children.

NNLL is an all-volunteer organization. If you are interested in coaching at the Tball, Farm or Minor League level in 2010, contact our coaching coordinator, Stephen Mastromattei at stephenandlisa@verizon.net

NNLL is now accepting applications for Major League coaches. Deadline for applications is January 21, 2010. Please contact Bill Corrigan for more information at whcorrigan@yahoo.com

If you are interested in helping out with any other area: joining our board of directors, fundraising, league administration, concessions, umpiring, field maintenance, etc., contact Chris Banks at chrisjbanks@verizon.net

Walk-in registration will be held at the Albemarle Field House on Saturday, January 23rd from 9am -12 noon and Saturday, February 27th 9am- 12 noon at the Albemarle Field House.

Newton Girls Soccer

Newton Girls Soccer provides a wonderful learning and playing opportunity to girls in grades



Spring 2010
Registration Open



K-12 (in the Kindergarten-8th grade Intramural program and in the U9-U18 Travel program) on over 100 teams. The Spring session runs from April 10th - June 12th. Registration deadline is Jan. 31st. Please go to www.newtongirlssoccer.org/regs/ for more information, and to register.

Baseball skill
development
including hitting,
fielding,
throwing,
catching and base
running

Early registration fees (prior to Feb 15): Per clinic: \$50/member or \$65/nonmember. All five sessions: \$225/member or \$295/nonmember.

Late registration fees (after Feb 15): Per clinic: \$60/member or \$75/nonmember. All five sessions: \$270/member or \$340/nonmember.

Please register early. This clinic will sell out. Sign up for one or all 5! Register online at jccgb.org/gedman Contact sports@jccgb.org or 617-558-6456 for more information.

NCSC Summer Day
Camp at Hale
Reservation

Registration Open
Now!

(Grades 1 - 8)

Registration opened January 1st for the Newton Community Service Center Summer Day Camp at the beautiful Hale Reservation in Westwood. Join us for fun-filled days of boating, Red Cross swim lessons and free swim, arts and crafts, fishing, boating, archery, a ropes challenge course, nature activities, sports, cookouts, special events, overnights and more at our ACA-accredited camp. Our season is from June 28th through August 27th. Join us for two, four, six, eight weeks - or the entire summer! Transportation from our West Newton location to Hale Reservation is included. For more information or to register, check our web site at www.NCSCweb.org. If you have questions, please contact Megan Cap-Renzi, NCSC Out-of-School Time Programs Director at mcap-renzi@ncscweb.org or (617) 969-5906, ext. 224.

February School
Vacation
Programs

Newton Parks and Recreation is offering a variety of **February School Vacation Programs** February 16, 17, 18, & 19 2010. For more information go to our website at www.ci.newton.ma.us/parks and click on camps, then school vacation programs, or call us at 617-796-1500.

One-Stop
Shopping for
Newton Camps

The Planned Out-of-School-Time (POST) database is a single, centralized place to get free online listings of over 160 summer day camp programs in Newton, serving kids age 3-17. This database is searchable by location, age of child, type of camp and specific camp activities. Additional information is provided, including hours of operation, cost, financial aid, availability of transportation and availability of programs for children with special needs. The website also has tip sheets and other resources for parents on specific camp and out-of-school-time topics. For more info or to search, go to: www.projectinterface.org/post. This is a program of The Newton Partnership and Project INTERFACE. Questions? Contact Jenny Gamson at jenny_gamson@newton.k12.ma.us or 617-559-9064.

Newton
Community
Preservation
Committee

The CPC will hold a public meeting on **January 20, 2010** starting at 7 pm in the City Hall Cafeteria (basement). The agenda includes planning for the fiscal 2011 budget and working sessions on the following current proposals: Angino Farm Barn and City Archives-Combined. All proposals are online from www.ci.newton.ma.us/cpa/projects.htm. For details, contact Alice Ingerson at aingerson@newtonma.gov, 617.796.1144.

Classifieds

LICE AUNTIES is an in-home, non toxic, all mom, lice removal business based in Newton. Thousands of heads checked with affection and a sense of humor. www.liceaunties.com.

CHILD CARE: Contact Genine Reid at itsybitsyplay@yahoo.com or 857-234-2383 or 617-467-4491

KEYS FOR KIDS Innovative Piano Instruction. Winter registration. **Free Demo Class Jan. 28.** Age 4 years old and up. Convenient Newton location. Contact Marina Gorny: mdgorny@comcast.net 617-527-4942. www.NewtonKidsLoveMusic.com

PIANO INSTRUCTION: Berklee & New England Conservatory graduate with 30 years teaching experience has several openings in studio. Beginners Welcome. Learn Jazz/Blues/Classical, theory, sightreading from a patient, caring teacher. Gloria Jasinski, phone: 617.566.9704, email: piano566@comcast.net

Newsnotes Information

Editors: Melissa Dilworth, Gina Mulvaney, Maura Harrington, Adriana Powderly Bauza, Susanti Sugianto, Deb Randall.

Newsnotes is the main vehicle of communication at Horace Mann School. *Newsnotes* is published by the PTO bi-weekly. Please email items of interest to hmnewsnotes@lists.neighborhood.net.

Deadline for submissions is 11:00am on Tuesday the week you want the items to appear. Classifieds from the Horace Mann community are free. Classifieds from non-community members may be charged a nominal fee.

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