



NEWSNOTES

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

April 1, 2011

Every Tuesday
Pretzel Sales \$1.00
After school
Front/Back Lobbies

Saturday, April 9
Talent Show

April 18-22
Spring Break

April 28-29
Spring Scholastic Book Fair

May 2-6
Barnes & Noble Book Fair

May 6
International Potluck
Dinner

May 12
PTO Sponsored Meeting

May 15
Newton Serves

May 25
Choral Concert, 10 a.m.
and 7:45 p.m.

Next Edition: April 15

NewsNotes Editor:
Susannah Wardly

Website Manager:
Brock Dilworth
www.horacemannpto.org

From Mark's Desk

Dear Horace Mann Families,

School Auction/Casino Night: The Live Auction and Casino Night was a huge success. We had a strong showing both online and at the Post 440, and in total we raised approximately **\$19,000**. Thanks to all the families who contributed in some way, either by purchasing raffle tickets, gambling at the tables, or bidding online. Based on the dance floor alone, people certainly seemed to enjoy themselves at the live event. The good news is that all of the proceeds will be re-invested in the school to enrich the educational experience of the children here at Horace Mann. My sincere appreciation goes out to Jenn Conley for taking the reins in organizing much of this event. She invested a tremendous amount of time and energy into making this year a success. Thank you! Several other parents also contributed to the event and deserve to be acknowledged: Thank you to Lisa DiFelice, Nancy Landry, Jeanette Leone, Sandy Malec, Stefania Maloney, Patti McCabe, Lizzy Mansfield, Sharon Russo, Christine Schaefer, Karen Solari, Vicki Symonds, Marcia Tabenken, Susan Tuozzolo, and Susannah Wardly. Finally, it seems that we have several staff members who have more than just a penchant for teaching, and may soon be pursuing a career out in Vegas. Thanks to Lisa Moore, Heather Dias, Jenny McGowan, Karen Sandison, Maureen Berardi, and Liz Rosen for learning the games and running the tables for several hours. Thanks also to Melissa Lewis, Marita Rosen, and Nancy Hamill for attending and supporting the auction.

Week 3 - Include Everyone: For our final week of introducing HM Values to the student community, we are focusing on the concept of inclusion. People at Horace Mann come to us from all over the world, with special qualities and unique challenges. Therefore, it is essential that we foster an environment where people believe that everyone has something important to contribute. Whether the challenges are social or academic, musical or athletic, please help your children this week be open to inviting others into the fold. This could mean asking your child to reach out to create a new friendship, or to include a sibling in a game. It could also mean encouraging a friend to succeed at something that doesn't come easily. By recognizing our unique talents and gifts, yet still embracing our shortcomings, we hope to be able to say that we expect success from everyone...in whatever forms that may take.

Cyberbullying: Patti Karam, in conjunction with the classroom teachers, spent the last several weeks presenting lessons with each of the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade classes on the topics of cyberbullying and online safety. Although the focus is slightly different for each grade, students were first asked about their current exposure to online communication (like texting and social networking), and then were presented with several realistic scenarios to review. In small groups, the students read the scenarios and offered advice and alternative choices to each of the characters in the scenario. Finally, groups came back together to share their advice and their conclusions about what safe online behavior looks like. The importance of parent involvement cannot be overstated on this issue, particularly for those of you with children moving on to middle school. Please find some time to educate yourself and talk to your children about the promises and perils of the online world. Here's a good place to start: <http://www.ncpc.org/topics/cyberbullying>.

Spelling Bee: Several members of the Horace Mann community participated in this year's city-wide spelling bee. The following is a list of students who were mentioned in some way: Grade 1, 2nd prize: Lilly Renneker; Grade 3, 2nd prize: Brianna Speigel; and Grade 4, 1st prize: Connor Daley and Amita Santosh. Congratulations to all who participated! For more info, check out the following article: <http://www.wickedlocal.com/newton/features/x1161128608/All-Newton-Spelling-Bee-winners#axzz1Hw27tvAB>.

CPR/AED Training: As part of our annual requirements around safety procedures, several staff members were trained or re-certified in CPR and use of the AED last week. We spent several hours practicing CPR and simulated emergency procedures in the event that an actual emergency takes place in the future. It feels good to be prepared!

Sincerely,
Mark Nardelli

From the PTO Officers

A great big thank you to all those who planned, bid, bought, gambled or attended the HM PTO Spring Auction--over \$19,000 was raised and will be used to purchase new technology for the children of Horace Mann.

Sincere thanks to all the people who contributed funds and/or baked goods to the Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Relief Fund. Overall, \$1809.00 was collected and will be used directly towards the relief efforts in Japan. Your generosity is much appreciated.

The Horace Mann Talent Show will take place on Saturday, April 9th at 1:30pm in the Day auditorium. The event will be MC'd by our own Mr. Nardelli who may bring along his guitar! Come see all the talent at Horace Mann--tickets are \$5 and available for sale at the door.

Our **Spring Scholastic Book Fair** is fast approaching: Thursday, April 28th & Friday, April 29th. A family event night will be held in the Gym on the 29th from 7-9pm: "Reading with Sundaes!" JP Licks is donating the ice cream, there will be Mystery Readers, a raffle for a "Kindle" and some great giveaways! **BRING THE FAMILY....KIDS ARE ENCOURAGED TO COME IN PAJAMAS, LISTEN TO STORIES AND EAT SOME ICE CREAM!** The Book Fair will be held in the downstairs Music Room. The Fair will be open before and after school for sales as well as Friday night during our event.

As you know, this Fair directly supports books within your child's classroom. Teachers will provide Wish Lists for each class. We are looking for your support to contribute to the Fair and possibly volunteer your time to help make this event great! Please contact Sharon Russo or Helen Rousseau for more information: ssrusso@comcast.net or hmrousseau@gmail.com.

Your PTO dollars at work--the PTO recently purchased a new laptop cart consisting of five laptops for use by HM students. Look for more laptops to come with the funds raised by the spring auction.

Cartridges-4-kids Fundraiser

Did you know that over 300,000,000 cartridges in North America alone are casually tossed into our landfills every year? If stacked end to end, there would be enough cartridges to circle our planet three times annually! Cartridges-4-Kids offers a way for us to make money for HM and recycle at the same time. Look for bins coming soon where you can donate used ink and toner cartridges, cell phones, laptops, PDAs and more. For more information on this, please visit: <http://www.cartridgesforkids.com/#> or contact Michelle Ottaviano at ottaviano@idi.harvard.edu.



Book Fair



READ NEWSNOTES, COMMUNITY NEWS AND CLASSIFIEDS ON THE NEWLY LAUNCHED & REDESIGNED PTO WEBSITE:

<http://horacemannpto.org/newsnotes.html>, <http://horacemannpto.org/community-news.html>, <http://horacemannpto.org/community-classifieds.html>.
NewsNotes, Community News and Classifieds are published by the PTO bi-weekly. Please email items of interest to hmnewsnotes@lists.neighborhood.net.

The next deadline for submissions is 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12.