



# NEWSNOTES

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

February 11, 2011

## From Mark's Desk



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

Winter Break  
February 21-25

School Auction  
Saturday, March 19

Talent Show  
Saturday, April 9

Dear Horace Mann Families,

**Science Night:** Over 60 experiments and 90 children took part this past Friday in the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Science Night. This enthusiastic turnout is a testament to the creativity and curiosity of our students; they truly thrive when they are given the freedom to explore things they are curious about. In preparation for this evening, all of the children chose a topic or concept and created a display or experiment to demonstrate what they knew. The range of experiments was impressive. I saw a Lego gumball machine, bacteria cultures, circuit boards, musical crystalware, volcanoes, and oobleck, among many other exciting projects. The children were able to talk about their projects and defend their thinking; they clearly put lots of effort into getting ready for this event. Thanks so much to Sheryl Bauer, Michele Ciurea, Kari Jensen, and Rachel Viscomi for handling all of the registrations, the food, and the event logistics. Thanks also to the PTO for supporting the evening. We had several teachers attend the event, some of who were official science interviewers: Thanks to Patti Karam, Lisa Mikus, Carol Oldmixon, Anne Baseggio, David Tynes, and Karen Sandison for their very fashionable appearance in their lab coats and goggles. I look forward to continuing this great event in the years to come.

**Geography Bee:** In January, we held the finals for the National Geography Bee Competition. In the first round, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students competed for one of 10 finalist spots. The finalists then answered questions in front of their peers in a double elimination tournament. Congratulations to Ryan Grady, who outlasted the other nine finalists and emerged as this year's winner. He will move on to take a written exam as part of the national competition.

### Snow Concerns

- **Rooftops:** Over the course of the past week, the city has been inspecting rooftops with regard to the weight of the snow, and has been removing it in all areas where there may have been concerns. On Tuesday of this week, snow was removed from the modulars as well.
- **Traffic and pickup:** Several parents have expressed concerns over the safety of the pickup process, and rightly so. In particular, the high snow banks in surrounding neighborhoods and in the front of the school have been problematic. I have contacted Mike Cronin, head of building operations, to request additional snow removal. For the time being: Please do not park on the opposite side of Watertown St. and do not stay in ANY spot for an extended period. Thanks for your cooperation.

**School Safety:** As a faculty we met at Tuesday's staff meeting to formulate our expectations for student behavior. We hope that these expectations will help develop thoughtful, caring citizens who accept consequences for their actions, learn from mistakes, and develop empathy for others. We came up with the following as our guiding principles for behavior:

1. Be kind and respectful to everyone and everything
2. Make safe choices
3. Include everyone

This Friday (3-5) and next Friday (K-2) we will introduce these guidelines to the students at our monthly assembly, and we will begin to implement our plan for helping the children define what these concepts mean by providing examples of appropriate behavior, as well as modeling and practicing them with students.

**Technology Update:** A huge thank you to the PTO for the recent purchase of two new Mac Laptops for our aging computer carts. These new machines will replace some outdated

Next Edition: March 4

NewsNotes Editor:  
Susanti Sugianto

Website Manager:  
Brock Dilworth  
[www.horacemannpto.org](http://www.horacemannpto.org)

laptops and will be greatly appreciated in the classrooms! Thank You! Also in January, the remaining 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms were outfitted with SmartBoards. Lisa Moore and Mike Feldstein are beginning to explore the wide range of tools available for this new technology.

**Art Room Request:** In the coming days, art projects will be coming home! Please send your child into school with a brown bag (with handles) to make this process easier.

**Home/School Communication Survey:** Please set aside a few moments to take our short survey about how we can best maintain open lines of communication between home and school. You can access the paper copy (sent home today) or take the electronic version by clicking or pasting this link into your browser:

<http://www.surveymethods.com/EndUser.aspx?A286EAF0A7E9FEF0A2>

One week until February break! Enjoy!

Sincerely,  
Mark Nardelli

## From the PTO Officers

Thanks to all who worked tirelessly to make Science Night such a wonderful event. The gymnasium was filled with so many great science projects. Children spoke with confidence about their experiments to the staff who kindly offered to help make science night extra special. Each child earned a certificate of achievement and a ribbon for all their hard work. Special thanks to Michelle Cuiria, Sheryl Bauer, Kari Jensen and Rachel Viscomi, Mr. Nardelli, Mrs. Oldmixon, Mr. Tynes, Mrs. Mikus, Mrs. Karam, and Ms. Sandison. We must not forget Mr. Brady and Mr. Greene for their hard work setting up and cleaning up the big mess!

The Horace Mann School Auction will be held on March 19th. Please mark your calendar for an evening of gambling fun! The largest fundraiser of the year is a great opportunity to get out and mingle with other HM adults while helping to support our children. Prior to the auction be on the lookout for our silent auction. This year the silent auction will be held online. Many wonderful items are starting to trickle in. Hopefully each household received important paperwork regarding how you can help support the planning of our auction this year. If you have any questions please contact a member of our auction committee.

The Talent Show will be Saturday, April 9, 2011 at 1:30pm. The event is held at F.A. Day Middle School Auditorium. Last chance to Register **Friday, February the 11th** with the following information at [hmtalentshow@hotmail.com](mailto:hmtalentshow@hotmail.com): Your Child's name, Grade, Classroom teacher, Description of Act, Permission to videotape and photograph and the contact adult's name and email address. **Only one act per child - solo OR group.**

## Also From The PTO

Keep collecting those Box Tops! It's one of the easiest ways for our school to earn money by submitting the Box Tops coupon off items you purchase every day. A special thanks to our 5th grade helpers Kate and Kris Luce. They have been helping Diane Claflin check each Box Tops to make sure they have not expired.

Shop at Amazon.com and earn money for Horace Mann with just one click by ordering through the Amazon School Rewards Program. HM can only get credit for your purchases if you click the link on the PTO website <http://horacemannpto.org/> before ordering. Amazon will send between 4-15 percent of your purchase total back to the Horace Mann PTO.

This is your last chance to rummage through your car, house and pockets to collect any loose change. "Coin for Kids" drive ends this Friday, February the 11th. Last year we raised over \$800 which helped us update technology for our school. The class with the most coins collected will win a special pajama party day.

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

<http://horacemannpto.org/newsnotes.html> <http://horacemannpto.org/communitynews.html>, <http://horacemannpto.org/communityclassifieds.html>

NewsNotes, Community News and Classifieds are published by the PTO biweekly. Please email items of interest to [hmnewsnotes@lists.neighborhood.net](mailto:hmnewsnotes@lists.neighborhood.net).  
The next deadline for submissions is 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday March 1.

Horace Mann School 687 Watertown Street, Newton, MA 02460 [www.newton.k12.ma.us/horacemann/](http://www.newton.k12.ma.us/horacemann/)

Main Office  
(617) 559-9510  
Call Back Line  
(617) 559-9530

Mark's Email  
[Mark\\_nardelli@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:Mark_nardelli@newton.k12.ma.us)  
NewsNotes Submission Email  
[hmnewsnotes@lists.neighborhood.net](mailto:hmnewsnotes@lists.neighborhood.net)

We're on the Web!  
[horacemannpto.org](http://horacemannpto.org)