



NEWSNOTES

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

April 15, 2011



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

Spring Break
April 18-22

Spring Scholastic Book
Fair
April 28-29

Barnes & Noble Book Fair
May 2-6

School Council Meeting
May 4, 7:00p.m.

International Potluck
Dinner
May 6

PTO Sponsored Meeting
May 12

Newton Serves
May 15

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

Fitness For Life
May 27

Next Edition: April 29

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From Mark's Desk

Dear Horace Mann Families,

Talent Show: Congratulations to all of the students who participated in this year's talent show. We had over twenty acts of all shapes and sizes, and it was a wonderful opportunity for the children to showcase their hidden talents. There was singing, poetry, and instrumental performances, as well as skits, comedy, and various physical demonstrations; truly a wide range of acts! Thanks specifically to Mary Beth DeNucci for coordinating the planning for this event, as well as to several other parents who contributed their time: Dave Belson, Dave Brigham, Jenn Conley, Gloria Herrera, Heidi Nepf, and Sebastian DiFelice. Thanks also to the staff members who danced the Irish Jig for the faculty number: Sara McSwiggan and her daughter Caollin, Julie Ferland, and Lisa Moore. We had a great turnout and lots of fun!

Planning for Next Year: Several changes are planned for next year in terms of staffing and configuration at Horace Mann. We will no longer have a .5 teacher moving up with next year's 4th grade so this cohort of children will again be divided into 2 sections. For a variety of reasons (large class size, service delivery options, and budget constraints), I am trying to establish one of the 4th grade sections as a co-taught classroom. A co-taught classroom is designed to provide instructional flexibility and service delivery within the classroom, and will be staffed by a classroom teacher, a full time special educator, and a full time graduate intern. If all goes according to plan, LoriAnn Akdag will be the classroom teacher and Heather Dias will become the full time special educator. An intern will be hired this spring. Carol Oldmixon will remain as the other 4th grade classroom teacher.

While we are very excited about this opportunity, there are trade-offs that will impact our staff. First, in order to make the co-taught model financially viable, I must trade in three assistant positions currently slotted to be part of the inclusion program. This will have a direct impact on the number of assistants working at Horace Mann next year, and will affect the livelihood of people who work hard every day to do their best by our children.

Another component of this co-taught is the fact that there are only two classroom teacher slots available in 4th grade. After much discussion and soul seeking with 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade staff members this month, Lisa Mikus and I decided that our best move would be to have her join Ms. Rosen and Ms. Berardi as part of the 3rd grade team. Although Lisa's skills and hard work over the years in 4th grade will be missed, she has a lot to offer our incoming 3rd grade students; I know that she will display the same dedication and passion in this new endeavor.

In the lower grades, because Ms. Chatfield has decided to take next year off to be home with her children, and Ms. Akdag will be moving to 4th grade, we will have one opening each in our 1st and 2nd grade classrooms for next year. I have begun to assemble an interview team and screen applicants, and we will begin to interview during the first week of May.

Finally, another challenge facing us this spring will be to create a schedule for next year given the new budget constraints. The schedule will be impacted by decreased time in art and 3rd grade recorder, elimination of 4th grade chorus, and a reduction in library staffing citywide. We will do our best to preserve intervention time (RTI) and common planning time as we develop the schedule this spring. I will keep you posted.

April Assembly: At our school-wide assembly last week, we gathered and presented a plethora of colored links that we have been collecting all month. As we displayed the links, we talked about the importance of keeping our behavioral values in mind each day as we move into the spring. Be on the lookout for our links out in the lobby! We also were fortunate enough to have a special guest perform for us after our links ceremony. Dane Zanes, a close friend of Mr. Feldstein's, was gracious enough to sing a few songs with the children. He was great at engaging them and creating a fun way to celebrate as a school.

Technology Purchase - I am excited to share the news that the PTO this week agreed to allocate some of the funds from the auction to purchase 10 new laptops for our aging 3-5 laptop cart. If you get a chance, share your appreciation for this generous donation. I know we will put these computers to good use.

Have a wonderful break!
Mark Nardelli

From the PTO Officers

We hope you will have a wonderful spring break with lots of sunshine and warm temperatures so children can relax and play outside with friends and family.

Upon returning from vacation get ready for the Scholastic Book Fair, April 28th and 29th. Make sure to mark your calendars for our fun family night **"Reading with Sundaes"**, sponsored by JP Licks on **Friday, April 29th from 7-9pm**. Enjoy a special treat, snuggle up next to one of our mystery readers, or even win an Amazon Kindle in our raffle. Make sure to wear your pajamas to add to the fun! 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. This Fair directly supports books within your child's classroom. Teachers will provide Wish Lists for each class. Please contact Sharon Russo ssrusso@comcast.net or Helen Rousseau hmrousseau@gmail.com to help with book sales and the evening event.

Thanks to all who participated in this year's Talent Show. Who knew Horace Mann School had so many incredible singers, dancers, comedians, musicians and overall talent! A special thanks to Mary Beth DeNucci, Dave Brigham, Jenn Conley, Sebastian DiFelice, Gloria Herrera, Heidi Nepf, our MC Mr. Nardelli, sound technician David Belson, and the Irish Jig dancing teachers, Ms Moore, Ms Ferland, and Ms McSwiggan and Mr. Nardelli. We'd also like to thank all the Horace Mann Alumni who came back to help us out with stage crew and ticket sales.

The PTO has just approved the purchase of 10 Macs for our grade 3-5 cart! In addition, we are looking into four Flip Video cameras to enhance media interaction for students and teachers.

Make sure to mark your calendars for Fitness For Life. David Tynes has already started training our children for this wonderful all day event at the Auburndale Cove on May 27th. Please look for more information from teachers and room parents.

School Kits Orders for next year will be sent home with students in late May. Once your child's order is logged in he or she will be all set for supplies in the upcoming 2011/2012 school year.



Book Fair



Fitness For Life



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, March 1.

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