



NEWSNOTES

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

From Mark's Desk

January 27, 2012



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

Thursday, February 2
Early Release

Friday, February 10
Annual Science Night

February 20 -26
Winter Vacation

February 28 - March 9
Online Auction

Saturday, March 10
Casino Night - Live Auction

Saturday, March 31
HM Talent Show
1:00 p.m.

Next Edition:
February 10, 2012

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www.horacemannpto.org

Xīn Nián Kuài Lè or “Happy New Year” to the Horace Mann Community! Welcome to the Year of the Dragon. Here at school several grades geared activities toward learning more about this traditional Chinese celebration. In some classes, children were reading stories, making masks, and coloring dragons. I got a chance to visit Ms Seyferth’s class where students were paired up with 4th graders from Ms. Oldmixon’s class working on a craft. It was nice to see the patience and sense of fun as one older boy spoke both Russian and English to two Kindergartners as they made lanterns and red money envelopes.

Winter Concert: Last night, two performance groups shared selections of music that they have been working on over the past few months. The 5th grade chorus performed several songs, including one that was performed in both English and Latin, as well as some fun selections about the winter season. The band also performed, and at one point combined the theme song from the Olympics with music from Star Wars. Thanks to Mrs. Kate Ingram for her hard work directing the chorus, and to Mr. Geoff Wadsworth for conducting the band. It was a fun show!

Martin Luther King Jr: At assembly last Friday, we gathered together to try to identify the values that were important to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in his life and his work. Several students got up to read quotes from Dr. King, and we watched a short montage of important moments in his life and in the civil rights movement. First grade students then came up to share what they had written in class about their dreams for a better Horace Mann and a better world. My hope is that these conversations about equality, effort, justice, peace, and education continue at home and in classrooms. Feel free to follow up with your child.

High-Five Bulletin Board: In connection with our values here at Horace Mann, as well as our focus on courage and effort over the past two years, we will soon introduce a new bulletin board in the front lobby of the school. Staff members will be on the lookout for students who display kindness to one another, who make an extraordinary effort to be helpful or inclusive, or take a risk that goes beyond expectations, among other things. These efforts will be recorded, awarded to the student, and posted in the lobby for all to see. Eventually they will be sent home for families to see. We hope that these exemplars will place a greater emphasis on the positive things we do here every day, as well as model for children what we expect from everyone.

Progress Reports: Next Friday, February 3rd, progress reports will be sent home to families at the end of the school day. This report is designed to describe your child’s performance in relation to Newton’s mid-year expectations for each grade level. Specific skills, strategies, and knowledge in each of the major content areas are listed on the report. Teachers then assess whether your child has made the expected progress in that area. Each student’s achievement is rated according to his or her individual performance as compared to the expected standard. If a student is meeting grade level expectations for this time of year, a student will receive a rating of 3 on that standard. If a student is not at grade level in that particular area, the rating will be 1 or 2, depending upon the student’s level of performance. There is also a possible rating of 4, for achievement that is significantly above grade level for that area. Since the use of 4 is reserved for students whose achievement is well above grade level, 4’s will be very rare. Progress reports will also include a teacher written narrative coming at the end of the report, and will include comments about social development and work habits as well as the general academic performance of each child.

Progress reports are intended to be just one of the ways that we communicate with you about your child’s academic and social progress in school. Conferences with your child’s teacher are

scheduled for March and April, so that you will have the opportunity to discuss your child's continued progress at that time. There will then be a final progress report for the year sent home in June. Please contact me or your teacher if you have any questions or concerns about the progress report you receive on February 3rd.

Mark Nardelli
Principal

From the PTO Officers



Mark your calendars for the Fifth Annual Science Night on February 10th. Registration is now open on the Horace Mann PTO website. Go to www.horacemannpto.org and click on Science Night. You will find the link to the GoogleDocs signup where you can let us know the name(s) of the children participating, their class, a short description of their experiment and whether you would like to pre-order a pizza for your family for that night. Remember all experiments must fit on one table and no dry ice is permitted. We hope to see you there! Please contact sciencenight2012@hotmail.com with any questions.



It's that time of year—time to start planning for the Horace Mann Talent Show! The Talent Show will be held on March 31 at 1pm. Please register with the following information at hmtalentshow@hotmail.com : your child's name, grade, classroom teacher's name, a description of the act, permission to videotape and photograph and an adult contact's name, email and phone number for each child. **Only one act per child - solo OR group. Registration deadline is Friday, February 10, 2012.**



Plans for the Horace Mann Casino Night and Live Auction are well under way. The event will be held on March 10th at the Post 440. You should have received a notice in your child's backpack about the event and how to donate an item. The silent auction will be held online again prior to the event. We already have more than \$2000 in items donated. Please contact Jenn Conley at Jennifer@goddeedsllc.com for more information on how to donate.

Also From the PTO

Volunteers Needed

We all know that the kids (and some adults) look forward to pretzels on Tuesdays. However, we are having trouble finding volunteers to sell pretzels at the front of the school (parents of 3rd, 4th and 5th graders.) Please consider helping out. If we have enough volunteers, then each volunteer only has to sell pretzels 1x/month (or less). And it only takes about 20 minutes! Please help us. Contact Sheri Calcagni and let her know you can help. calcagnias@verizon.net.



Shop at Amazon.com and earn money for Horace Mann. Go to HM PTO website <http://horacemannpto.org>. Click the Amazon link, choose and pay for your products as usual. Amazon will send between 4-15 percent of your purchase total back to the Horace Mann PTO.



Don't forget to register for Stop & Shop A+ rewards. Signing up is easy and the program costs you nothing. There are 3 easy ways to sign up:

1. Log on to www.stopandshop.com/aplus to register online. The school ID code is 09257 and you will only need your Stop&Shop card number.
2. Or email Michelle Ottaviano at emelo2@verizon.net with your Stop&Stop card number and your last name.
3. Or sign up using the sheets available at both entrances to the school.

You can track the amount of points you earn for our school by checking your grocery receipt and online when you create an account at stopandshop.com.

From The Community

Simplicity Parenting Lecture

Mark your calendars for "Simplicity Parenting" Lecture on Monday, February 6, 2012 from 7 - 9pm at Mason-Rice Elementary School. Use the extraordinary power of less to raise calmer, happier and more secure kids.

This is a free event hosted by Angier, Mason-Rice and Zervas Elementary School PTO's.

At this presentation by educator and consultant Kim John Payne, you will learn ways to simplify your child's toys & books, clothes, meals & bedtimes, and schedules, as well as how to filter out the adult world and feel more connected to your children and family life. Parents who implement Simplicity Parenting strategies find that their children:

- Are calmer and happier

- Do better socially and emotionally
- Are more focused at school
- Find it easier to comply with family rules
- Become less picky eaters

Parents also find that they have more time and energy for connection, relaxation, and fun.

Kim John Payne will present an antidote for children who are over-scheduled and overwhelmed by too much information and a fast-paced consumer culture that threatens the pace and playful essence of childhood. To see a short preview clip of Kim's presentation and learn more about him, visit <http://www.simplicityparenting.com/>.

Kim John Payne, M.Ed is a consultant and trainer to over 110 North American independent and public schools. He has been a school counselor, adult educator, consultant, researcher and educator for nearly 30 years, and a private family counselor for more than 15 years.

Camp Fair

CAMP FAIR, SUNDAY JANUARY 29

The city is sponsoring its yearly camp fair this year on Sunday January 29 at Newton North from noon to 4pm. Camps run by Newton Parks & Recreation and the Newton Public Schools (including Newton Community Education and SPACE camp), will be represented at the fair. Come early to reserve your child's spot in the program of his or her choice for Summer 2012, or to learn more about the many varied options offered in our city.

5th Annual Newton Spelling Bee

Registration is now open for the **5th Annual Newton Spelling Bee** at the Newton Cultural Center. The dates are **April 2, 4, 9 & 11**. This fun and educational Spelling Bee is open to all Newton children in grades **K - 6**. Children compete within their own grade level only. Space is limited, so sign up quickly! For registration and more information, visit www.newtoncommunitypride.org or call 617-527-8283.

Theatre Ink

THEATRE INK PROUDLY PRESENTS: "BIG LOVE" by Charles Mee, directed by Caleb Bromberg and Katherine Norris. A play based on the tragedy by Aeschylus, which takes an ancient plot and updates it. In the process Mee forces us to reconsider our definitions of love, gender and happiness in an explosively theatrical hybrid. In this conflict between tradition and progression, honor and freedom, the characters struggle to make their voices heard on what it means to be a man or a woman.

NNHS- Little Theatre on February 1, 2, 3, 4 at 7:30PM. Tickets are \$7 at www.theatreink.net. For Mature Audiences

League of Women Voters Newton

Conversation About Newton's Election Commission

Join the League of Women Voters Newton for a conversation about a variety of election issues, including proposed voter ID laws and how the recent redistricting affects Newton Wards/Precincts, and polling locations. Thursday, February 9, 2012, 11:30am-1:30pm, Room 202, Newton City Hall. Brown bag lunches welcome, light refreshments will be served. Open to the public.

Presenter: Craig Manseau, Election Commission Executive Secretary, City of Newton.

Community Ice Rink

A new free community ice rink has opened at Albemarle Park in Newtonville. Bring your skates and join the fun! For details visit www.newtonvilleicerink.org.

Tanglewood Marionettes

Looking for a February vacation treat for the family? Don't miss the Tanglewood Marionettes' performance of "Cinderella" on Sunday February 19th at 10:30am. This beloved fairy tale is told with wit and a few surprises. All the favorite characters are here, from gentle Cinderella to the bumptious stepsisters and the charming Prince. Newton Cultural Center, 225 Nevada Street. Open Seating. Tickets are \$8 in advance at www.newtoncommunitypride.org, or \$10 at the door. Call 617-527-8283 for more information.

Garden City Kindergarten and Pre-K Soccer

Register Now for GCKS K and Pre-K Spring Soccer

Garden City Kindergarten and Pre-K Soccer is now accepting registrations for our 2012 Spring Session.

Children in Pre-K (4-5 years old) and students currently in Kindergarten are invited to participate. Pre-K children must be 4 years old by April 1, 2012. GCKS provides an introduction to the game of soccer; teaching a variety of basic skills in a fun, non-competitive environment. Team sizes are limited to 10 players in each group.

Registration is limited to 80 players per league. Spring session runs from April 7- June 2, 2012. Practice/games are held Saturdays from 9:30-10:30 am for the Kindergarten league and 10:45-11:45 am for the Pre-K league. Games are played on the field at Burr School, Pine Street in Auburndale. Volunteer parent coaches are needed. No experience is necessary and training will

be provided.

Cost is \$65 per child. GCKS is a joint venture of Lincoln-Eliot & Franklin School's Parent Teacher Organization. Proceeds benefit both schools PTO programs. To obtain a registration form, email gardencitysoccer@gmail.com. For more information, call L-E School parent Melanie Varady at 617-877-1738 or Franklin School parent Deb Rooney at (617) 630-8520. Registration deadline is March 12th. Space is limited.

Newton Girls Soccer

Newton Girls Soccer Spring registration deadline is Jan. 31st.

Fun, learning-oriented soccer is stressed. Girls who have not played soccer are always welcome to join. The intra-mural season for kindergarten to grade 8 is from April 7 to June 9.

Kindergartners and 1st graders play games once per week. Grade 2-8 teams practice once per week and have weekly games.

Sign up through the link at <http://www.newtongirlssoccer.org/registration>

Newton Girl Softball

Think Spring! Think Softball! Newton Girls Softball registration is underway for the 2012 spring season. This is a recreational league for over 500 Newton girls in grades 1-10. Players of all skill levels will have a fun and rewarding experience. Visit our website www.NewtonGirlsSoftball.org for more details, access to our on-line registration, and winter indoor clinic information.

Register before January 31, 2012 to avoid a late fee. February 29, 2012 is the last date you can register with guaranteed placement.

Newton Kindergarten Soccer

Newton Kindergarten Soccer Registration is open for Spring 2012!

Kindergarten Soccer is a fun and non-competitive soccer program for all Newton boys and girls of kindergarten age and has been a program of the Zervas Elementary PTO since 1993. Games are held on Saturday mornings at Richardson Field in Waban. Join us and meet other Kindergarten families in your neighborhood. Late Registrations are accepted on a space available basis. Register by March 1st for the Spring Season! www.KindergartenSoccer.org

The 12th Annual Midwinter Coffeehouse

This year the MidWinter Coffeehouse returns on February 11th, 2012 at the First Unitarian Society in Newton, to benefit the F.A. Day PTO. The MidWinter Coffeehouse is a fun evening of live folk (and other) music, featuring this year's headliner Sean Smith, event founders Rob Siegel and Cindy Mapes, emcee Eric Moore, and Day parents Barb Cassidy, Eric Chasalow, George Attisano, Pam McA'Nulty, and other Day community members and friends. Beer, wine, and soft drinks will be available for sale along with light refreshments. Tickets are \$15 in advance through the Day PTO website or \$20 at the door if available (Adults over 21 only, please). Doors open at 6:30, music starts at 7. For more information please visit the website www.mwch.org or email midwintercoffee@gmail.com.

New Art Center School Vacation Program

Escape to Madagascar, February School Vacation Week at the New Art Center, February 21-24, 9:00-3:30pm daily. Grades K-6. Join us during this exciting week filled with creative art and inspired learning. Escape with us to the island of Madagascar, off the coast of Africa! From lemurs, giant baobab trees, and cultural richness of the Malagasy people, to the amazing biodiversity of its wildlife; this vacation week will give us plenty of inspiration to paint, draw, sculpt and create rich, colorful pieces of art! **Register before January 31, and get 10% off tuition!** Tuition \$270 (4 days), siblings \$255. Early drop off and extended day options available.

Teen Day Program & Teen Afternoon Ceramics Program, February School Vacation Week at the New Art Center, February 21-24, 9:00-3:30pm & 3:30-5:30pm daily. Grades 7-10. Specially designed for teens who love art and want to move to the next level, our classes in Ceramics, Painting/Drawing, and Sculpture/Mixed Media, are taught by professional art educators who help teens develop and hone their skills. Small class sizes and highly individualized projects make this an excellent option for teens who want more out of their vacation week. All skill levels are welcome. **Register before January 31, and get 10% off tuition!** Tuition \$295 (4 days), siblings \$280. Early drop off and extended day options available.

Week-Long Summer Art Programs, at the New Art Center, June 25-Aug. 31, 9:00-3:30pm & 3:30-5:30pm. Grades 1-10. Join us during our fun and creative *week-long* sessions for children and teens this summer! Be inspired by exciting and educational themes in our **Children's Program for grades 1-6.** Daily classes in Visual Arts, Drama, Ceramics and Sculpture/3D, give children the opportunity to learn and grow with friends while being creative and having fun! Special presentations booked weekly with our favorite community partners! **Teens entering grades 7-10,** has the opportunity to explore their interests and develop skills with small classes and highly individualized projects in Ceramics, Painting/Drawing and Sculpture/Mixed Media. **Teen Afternoon Ceramics, for students entering grades 7-10,** also gives teens more opportunity to work on hand-building skills and on the Potter's Wheel. All skill levels are welcome. **Register before January 31, and get 10% off tuition!** Tuition: \$115-\$380/wk. Early

Drop-Off, Extended Day options available.

To register or for more information, visit www.NewArtCenter.org or call 617-964-3424.

Newton Parks & Recreation

February School Vacation Programs

Family Movie Day and Night at the West Newton Cinema Feb 21 & 22, 2012

Special \$6.00 price includes a MOVIE, POPCORN, and SODA. See The Muppets or Alvin & the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked. Tickets will be sold on the day of the event at the West Newton Cinema at 1296 Washington St. This is a very popular event and tickets may sell out. Ticket sales will begin at 10:00 AM for the Movie Day on Tuesday and Wednesday with movies starting at 11:00 AM. Ticket sales will begin at 4:15 PM for the Movie Night on Tuesday with movies starting at 6:15 PM.

For Children in Grades K - 6 at the Newton Centre Hut Feb 21 - 24, 2012

It's like summer camp in the winter. Participate in sports, arts and crafts, inside games and more. Each day features a special event including a Movie Day, Sports Party, Dance Party and Portable Planetarium. Sign up by day or for all 4 days. Standard Day 8:30-3:30 PM, extended day 8:15-5:30 PM. \$45.00 per day or \$160.00 for all 4 days (add \$12.50/day for extended day)

For Children in Grades K - 3 at Burr Park Feb 21 - 24, 2012

Enjoy an exciting field trip each day including Cosmic Bowling, Chuck E Cheese, CoCo Key, and Plaster Fun Time. Sports, arts and crafts, and inside games are offered before or after the field trips. Sign up by day or for all 4 days. Standard Day 8:30 AM-3:30 PM \$45.00* per day or \$175.00 for all 4 days *Thursdays cost is \$60.00

For Children in Grades 3 - 6 at the Lower Falls Community Center Feb 21 - 24, 2012

Enjoy an exciting field trip each day including Chunky's Cinema, Glow Golf, Amesbury Sports Park and Chuck E Cheese. Sports, arts and crafts, and inside games are offered before or after the field trips. Sign up by day or for all 4 days. Standard Day 8:30 - 3:30, extended day 8:15 - 5:30. \$45.00* per day or \$175.00 for all 4 days (add \$12.50/day for extended day) *Thursday is \$60.00

Thundercat Sports Clinic for Children Ages 7 - 12 Feb 21 - 24, 2012

Play a variety of sports including basketball, floor hockey, soccer and more all in a relaxed, fun atmosphere. Located at Pelligrini Park. Be sure to bring a snack and lunch. \$45.00 per day
Half Day program for ages 5 - 7 9:00 - 12:00noon \$120.00 (\$130.00 non residents)
Full Day program for ages 7 - 12 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM \$162.00 (\$170.00 non residents)

The Waban Library Center

The Waban Library Center Presents *Get Healthy and Like it!*, A Panel Discussion Thursday, February 2, 7:30-9pm, Waban Library Center, 1608 Beacon Street. The panel includes, Dave Becker is chef and owner of the wonderful Needham restaurant, Sweet Basil, where he serves healthy, delicious, local food. Linda Crowe, WLC Volunteer and notable vegetarian, will share how she crafted a diet that helped her lower her cholesterol 40 points without drugs. Ellen Cohen-Kaplan, occupational therapist and fitness and expert, will share some fitness and nutrition tips to keep you on track through the winter months and beyond. She'll also discuss the latest fitness guidelines and show you how to set up a home gym for under \$50. For more information contact us at www.wabanlibrarycenter.org or wabanlibrary@gmail.com 617-244-0700.

The Waban Library Presents *The Magic Flutes & Cello Friends*, Saturday, March 3, 11am. Join us for a morning of flute and Cello Music. A Musical Performance, under the Direction of Deborah Charness and Nancy Hair, assisted by Jennifer Baverstam at the piano.

Historic Newton

Monday, February 13, 7:00 PM

NEWTON'S REVOLUTIONARY ROOTS - THE 2012 NEWTON HISTORY SERIES

"Our United Sentiments": Boston, Newton, and the Cause of Liberty

Boston is famous as the vanguard of the American Revolution--but the Revolution would have been impossible without the men and women of rural Massachusetts. This talk explores the revolutionary network that linked Boston and its neighbors, including Newton. The leaders of the resistance against Great Britain made a massive effort to galvanize Massachusetts. The Durant family and their community offer a window into the inner workings of the Revolution. Benjamin L. Carp, Associate Professor of History at Tufts University, is the author of the recent book, *Defiance of the Patriots: The Boston Tea Party and the Making of America*. At the Newton Free Library, Homer Street, Newton. Free.

Thursday, February 16, 5:30 - 7:30 PM, EXHIBIT OPENING

"Confronting Our Legacy: Slavery and Anti-Slavery in the North"

Be the first to crawl inside our slave ship container, stand atop the legendary well, and learn

more about the enslaved people who used to live in Newton. Join us for the exciting unveiling of our completely renovated and expanded exhibition about slavery, abolition, and the Underground Railroad. Enjoy light refreshments and experience the exhibit's new hands-on interactive, audio elements, and content. Free.

Tuesday, February 21, 2:00 PM

THE MASSACHUSETTS 54TH: A BLACK REGIMENT IN THE CIVIL WAR

A Vacation Week Family Program

Did you know that Massachusetts raised one of the first black regiments of the Civil War, led by a man who grew up in Newton? Come learn about their stories, and make a popular Civil-War era toy: \$20 per family (\$15 for members) includes museum admission, snack, and materials. Prepaid registration is required, limit 25; call 617.796.1450 to register.

Thursday, February 23, 2:00 PM

FROM SLAVERY TO FREEDOM

A Vacation Week Family Program

Learn about slavery in New England and what people did to fight against it. Hear stories of escapes on the Underground Railroad, and then explore our brand new, hands-on exhibit, "Confronting Our Legacy: Slavery and Anti-Slavery in the North." Cost: \$20 per family (\$15 for members) includes museum admission, snack, and materials. Prepaid registration is required, limit 25; call 617.796.1450 to register.

Classifieds

PIANO LESSONS: Learn Jazz/Blues/Classical, theory, sight-reading from a Berklee & New England Conservatory graduate with 30+ years teaching experience. Build a high quality musical foundation with a patient, upbeat, and caring instructor. Beginners welcome. Gloria Jasinski, phone: 617.566.9704, email: piano566@comcast.net.

KIDS' KARATE: Trinity High School is closing in June, so after 8 years we are moving to Lasell College in March. There will be Free Trial Classes for Beginners in April. Girls and boys, entry ages 1st thru 5th grades. For more information, please see www.kids-karate.org or leave message at (617) 527-8052.

HIPSTITCH: Learn to sew. Hipstitch now has a new sewing lounge and fabric store located in West Newton (behind West Newton Cinema) next to Cafe Laroma. We offer after schools classes for kids, teens, adults and Saturday drop in. We have a one off day of sewing next Thursday Feb 3rd, 1-00pm-3pm. We're making Valentine's day Projects for our loved ones! Sign up Now. <http://www.hipstitchers.com/apps/webstore/products/show/276257.6>

DoReMi Family Day Care: Winter enrollment. Children 2-5. Full day, half day and after school options. DoReMi FDC offers enhanced music program throughout the day. Homemade meals and snacks provided. Fully fenced playground with organic mulch. Experienced, certified early education provider. Location: Newton Center, Rt9 and Parker Street. For more information contact Anna@doremi.fdc@gmail.com or 617-244-7012.

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, February 7, 2012.

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