



# NEWSNOTES

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

December 16, 2011

## From Mark's Desk



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

Dec 26 - Jan 2  
December Break

Tuesday, Jan 3  
School resumes

January 9-13  
Peek Week

Monday, January 16  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 17-20  
Horace Mann Spirit Week

The staff at Horace Mann would like to officially thank all of the parents who contributed to putting together the wonderful staff breakfast last week. There was a varied assortment of homemade hot and cold items (all delicious!), allowing us to start our day on the right foot and spend a little time together. Thank you!

**School Council Recap:** School Council met on December 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss a variety of topics. Each of the bulleted items below were part of that meeting:

- **K-2 Literacy Night sponsored by the Title 1 and the PTO:** With the help of the school council, we are moving forward with plans to offer a K-2 literacy night **Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30 pm**. The event will begin with a pizza dinner and then a movie for the children in either the gym or music space. Parents will go upstairs to classrooms and rotate through (3) twenty-minute stations designed to help them work with children at home around some simple literacy strategies. A save the date will be published to all K-2 classes prior to the break.
- **School Improvement Plan:** A draft of the new school improvement plan is in the works. We reviewed the new system goals outlined by Superintendent David Fleishman, and we began to review the action items listed under the first goal: Supporting High Academic Achievement. The items were taken directly from activities and initiatives that have been taking place all year at Horace Mann. Details will be published after we have had time to review each of the three sections of the plan, probably sometime in February.
- **Facilities Task Force:** Several community members have expressed interest in beginning the discussion about how to best plan for upcoming space needs. I hope to finalize the members this week. The group will be composed of 6-7 members, and will include a member of the PTO, school council, and representatives from the city. We also will have consultation from school staff. An update will follow after the first meeting in January.
- **New Lunch System:** This week, we successfully piloted a new lunch serving system to replace the long established classroom tray system. Service has shifted to the upstairs hallway, where a serving station is set up and taken down each day, and students purchase lunches one at a time. Service has been efficient and orderly, with minimal disruption to other classrooms. The average serving time for one lunch is about 8 minutes. Our hope is that this system will be safer (no kids going up and downstairs), and that we will be able to reduce errors in purchasing and billing. One added benefit has been that the children really seem to enjoy this. One 1<sup>st</sup> grader said to me: "This is so cool! I am going to buy lunch EVERY DAY!".

**Construction Update:** Hallway construction is well underway with new roofing going in this week to handle drainage. Work on the ventilation system will continue this week as we await the arrival of the modular itself (which is now set for the week of December 19<sup>th</sup>). Installation will continue over the break until everything is completed. As of now, I have no official word about the opening date, but we have begun to make preparations with regard to furniture, classroom materials, etc.

**Attendance Reminder:** Please remember to call the absence line each day that your child will be out (or if he or she will be late). Ms. Mariano spends lots of time making calls every day to make sure that everyone is ok. You can save her some of this effort by remembering to make this simple call. Absence line: 617-559-9530

Next Edition:  
January 13th, 2012

NewsNotes Editor:  
Michelle Ottaviano

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

## From the PTO Officers



Auction: Plans have begun for the Horace Mann Spring Auction. The Silent Auction will run February 27th - March 9th and – back by popular demand – this year's live event will include a Casino Night. Be sure to mark your calendar for a fun night out. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we need your support to be successful. To join the Auction committee or learn more about how you can help contact Jenn Conley at [jennifer@gooddeedsllc.com](mailto:jennifer@gooddeedsllc.com)



Plans are also underway for the first Horace Mann Spirit Week, January 17-20th. Members of the 5th grade leadership team are assisting with plans – each day will have a special theme. This is not a fundraising event, just a way to build some Horace Mann school spirit and bring a little fun during the cold winter. More details to follow after the break.



The PTO will sponsor a literacy night for parents in Grades K-2. Pizza and a movie will be provided, with childcare for students so parents can attend this workshop style event and learn some great strategies and techniques for helping their children in the area of literacy, including comprehension, speed and fluency. More details to come after the break – but mark your calendars for January 26th.



Please note that we return from break on Tuesday, January 3rd because of the observation of New Year's Day on January 2nd. We wish you all a great winter break and a very Happy New Year!

## From The Community

### New Year's Eve at Newton City Hall

Join Mayor Setti Warren to celebrate the New Year with a fun-filled afternoon of free entertainment. Newton City Hall is the place to be this New Year's Eve with four fabulous family entertainers: The American Chinese Art Society Dancers, popular singer Wayne Potash, The Newton Family Singers and Big Joe the Storyteller. There is also free face painting to add to the festivities! All the shows repeat, so visit them all! The entertainment and refreshments are free, but please bring a donation for our Newton Food Pantries. 1000 Commonwealth Ave., December 31st, 1:30-3:30pm. Call 617-527-8283 or visit [www.newtoncommunitypride](http://www.newtoncommunitypride) for more information.

### Free Ice Skating in Newton Centre

**Celebrate the Grand Opening of the Newton Centre Ice-Skating Rink!** Mayor Setti Warren partnered with Newton Community Pride, local businesses, residents and Alderman Vicki Danberg, to install a skating rink in Newton Centre. The Grand Opening on December 31st at 11:30am is part of the Mayor's New Year's Open House Celebrations. The Sheryl Franks Creative Skating Academy will perform at the Opening Ceremony. The rink is free and open to the public from 9am - 8pm all winter season. Skating is at your own risk, and hockey is prohibited. It is located at The Newton Center Green, between Centre Street and Langley Road. Call 617-527-8283 for more information.

### Free Parenting Group Series

**FREE Parenting Group Series: Navigating the Rocky Road of Adolescence**  
Join other parents of teens and a professional facilitator to explore the many changes that occur during adolescence, and how they affect relationships at home and school. Discuss relevant topics such as promoting healthy choices, setting realistic limits and appropriate consequences; understanding when and how to negotiate; dealing with changes and crises (e.g., divorce); identifying risk factors for anxiety and depression; handling experimentation with sex, alcohol, drugs, and learning to "let go" while maintaining family connections.

Led by Deborah Weinstock-Savoy, a licensed psychologist with a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, and over 20 years of professional experience working with families and educators. She specializes in leading workshops and support groups in both community and corporate settings. She is the mother of three.

Meeting for four sessions from 7:00-8:30 PM Wednesdays (February 8, 15, 29, and March 7)  
Location: The Freedman Center, 225 Nevada St., 02460 (Newton Cultural Center in Newtonville)  
Pre-registration required: <http://freedman.mspp.edu> or 617-244-INFO x 250

### The Waban Library Center

Join us for Yoga on Tuesday and/or Thursday mornings from 8:50am-10am for 10 Tuesdays/Thursdays. Enjoy a moment to challenge yourself and breath. Cost will be \$150 for a 10week session. Sign up for both, Tuesday and Thursday classes, you will receive a 10% discount. (\$270 for both Tues/Thurs) Drop ins are welcome at \$18 per class. Classes go for 10 Tues/Thurs starting January 3/5 - March 20/22

The Waban Library classes will be small, intimate and easily adapted to the particular interests of

the individuals participating. To sign up email us at [wabanlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:wabanlibrary@gmail.com).

## The Newton Partnership

### "Parents Helping Parents" Support Group

Are you a parent or guardian feeling stressed or overwhelmed? Could you use the support of peers to help? Come to an anonymous support group run by a trained facilitator. This group will meet weekly on Wednesdays beginning December 7 at Brigham House, 20 Hartford St., Newton Highlands. For more information, please call Meg at 617-926-5008 ex 108. Child care provided. FREE. <http://thenewtonpartnership.org/attend-an-event/>

### Connecting With Your Child in a Digital World

Parenting in the digital age can be challenging. Social media and technology have become such an important part of your child's daily life. Please join us for an interactive workshop where we will examine your child's use of technology, increase awareness of the potential challenges around technology use, and learn practical parenting strategies to maintain connections with your child. The workshop will be facilitated by Middle School Prevention/Intervention counselors Amy Comeau, M.Ed. and Rolanda Prophete, LICSW. This workshop will take place on Tuesday, December 13 from 6:30-8:00 p.m at Brown Middle School, FREE. <http://thenewtonpartnership.org/attend-an-event/>

### Save these dates for January/February 2012:

January 5 - **The Importance of Routines in Successfully Parenting Young Children** with Janet Lucey and Beverly Mobilia

January 11- **Sleep and Your Child** with Dennis Rosen

February 8 - **From Princesses to Pop Tarts: What the New Culture of Girlhood Means for Girls and the Grown-Ups Who Care About Them** - talk and book signing with NY Times best-selling author Peggy Orenstein.

### *A Classical Piano Concert with Franco Leon*

Brookline Music School (BMS) presents a Faculty Concert with pianist Franco Leon on Saturday, December 17, 2011 at 7:00pm for free. The performance is a solo piano concert by Franco Leon, featuring works by Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt, Albeniz and Piazzolla.

### EVERY CHILD CAN! Introduction to the Suzuki Method

Sunday, January 8th, 9:30am-4:30pm

An introduction to Dr. Suzuki's philosophy and its application to Suzuki education. For parents, teachers, prospective teachers and others, this new course provides an inspiring, in-depth look at the Suzuki approach to teaching and learning. This course is required for all new Suzuki teachers, but open to prospective teachers, parents, administrators and all others interested in learning about Suzuki approach to education. It is not instrument-specific. There are no instrument proficiency requirements. No audition is required. For a brochure [click here](#).

### 8TH ANNUAL SUZUKI FLUTE WORKSHOP

Sunday, January 15 & Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am-5:00pm

This two-day workshop features a master class, group class and ensemble or reading class each day, and ends with an informal concert. Non-Suzuki flute students are welcome to join in the fun but should be familiar with some of the repertoire from the Suzuki Method. For a brochure [click here](#).

### 2012 SUZUKI FLUTE TEACHER TRAINING:

Thursday, January 12 - Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am-5:00pm

Flute Book 2 (Kimberly Lorimier)

Flute Book 4 (Laurel Ann Maurer)

Over the course of five days, trainees will receive 15 hours of classroom time and eight hours of observation time, in conjunction with the 8th Annual Suzuki Flute Workshop. For a brochure [click here](#).

For more information, visit the [Suzuki page](#) or Contact Amy Poliakoff: [amyflute@comcast.net](mailto:amyflute@comcast.net) or contact Brookline Music School at [www.bmsmusic.org](http://www.bmsmusic.org), 617-277-4593

## Brookline Music School

International Pancake Film Festival (IPFF): Friday night, December 16, 7-10pm and the same screening again on Saturday night, December 17, 7-10pm at the New Art Center in Newton!

## International Pancake Festival at the New Art Center

The IPFF is a film and video celebration of all things pancake. As the world's only film festival dedicated to the pancake, all genres of short film and video are welcome. In addition to our traditional pancake programming, this year's festival will have a holiday spin. A Holiday Spirit Award will be given out to the film best exemplifying the spirit of winter or winter holidays!

PG 13! Free Admission!

Complimentary pancakes will be served (with butter and syrup, naturally). Beer and wine will be available for purchase, as will festival merchandise (posters, buttons, and DVDs).

## Newton North's Freshman Cabaret

Freshman Cabaret!!

Newton North's current Freshman showcase their amazing talent through a fun-filled evening of songs, sketches and dances in Freshman Cabaret. Performances are on December 15th and 16th at 7:30PM in The Performing Arts Center at Newton North High School . Tickets are \$7 and available at [www.theatreink.net](http://www.theatreink.net) or at the door.

**Wednesday, December 28th, 2:00pm**

### STORIES IN THE SNOW

Greet winter with open arms at this family program. We'll read *White Snow*, *Bright Snow* by Alvin Tresselt, and make snow globes to take home. Kids of all ages can enjoy the warmth of the Jackson Homestead, where we'll serve hot cider and snacks. Cost: \$15 per family (\$10 for members); includes museum admission, materials, and snack. Prepaid registration is required, limit 25; call 617.796.1450 to register.

**Thursday, December 29th, 2:00pm**

### CANDLES ARE WICK-ED COOL

Bring the whole family to this fun, hands-on workshop where you will learn how the Jacksons made candles in the 1800s, and then do it yourself! Bring your candles home and light up the dark nights of winter. Cost: \$20 per family (\$15 for members) includes museum admission and materials. Prepaid registration is required, limit 25; call 617.796.1450 to register.

**Saturday and Sunday, January 7th and 8<sup>th</sup>, noon-5:00pm**

### NEWTON COMMUNITY WEEKEND

Newton residents are invited to enjoy free admission to the museum. Start the New Year off with a visit to your city museum

**Thursday, January 19th, 7:30pm,**

### HISTORIC NEWTON BOOK CLUB MEETING

This month's book club selection is *A Country of Vast Designs: James K. Polk and the Conquest of the American Continent* by James Merry. In this thoughtful and entertaining history, Merry sheds light on Polk's presidency and the goals Polk set for himself - all of which he achieved. They included cementing the annexation of Texas, resolving the dispute with Great Britain over the Oregon Territory, and, most importantly, provoking the Mexican-American war to position the United States to dominate the continent. The book is a compelling and perceptive portrait of a complex and controversial president. The book club is free and open to the public. New members are always welcome.

## Historic Newton

## Science Blog

5th Grade Weather Science Unit Demystified through videos and fun experiments at <http://www.pragmaticmom.com/?p=22024>. Use this blog post to help your child study for the unit test and MCAS by reading the post and watching the multiple videos. Explains the relationship between Air Pressure and Heat, Air pressure and Weather, Climate versus Weather, How Clouds are Formed and more.

### Newton Community Ed classes at Horace Mann

Registration is now underway for Winter classes with Newton Community Education. Coming up at Horace Mann we have **Chess** and **Brainatomy** on Tuesdays, **Drama** and **Math Mania** on Wednesdays, **Intergalactic Investigators** and **Lego Engineering 2** on Thursdays, and **Art Odyssey** on Fridays. Check out our Saturday family programs this winter: cooking specials **The International Chocolate Chip** and **Two Continents Many Dumplings**, and enjoy the outdoors in our new **Winter Explorers**. Older elementary schoolers can join us for **The Stockmarket Game**, **Archery**, **Fencing**, **Robotics**, or **Babysitting**. We have some new sports offerings this winter including **Dodgeball**, **Basketball**, and **Sports Jam**, and for younger kids we have indoor Saturday **Sports Jams** (and **T-Ball** and **Flag Football** coming this spring). If you're looking for great winter and spring vacation programs, we have those too. As always, we have a wide variety of classes at schools throughout Newton, and we welcome kids from all schools at all of our classes. For more information or to register, call our office at **617-559-6999** or visit our website at [www.newtoncommunityed.org](http://www.newtoncommunityed.org). Be sure to look through our huge selection of adult classes too, and watch for our summer catalog, coming in January.

## Newton Community Ed Classes

## Earn \$\$\$ Shoveling Snow

Sign up on the City's website <http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/snowremove.htm> to be added to a list of snow shovelers for hire this winter. Or, do a good deed and volunteer to shovel for a low-income neighbor who is physically unable to shovel.

Sign up forms for both paid and volunteer shovelers are in the middle of the page under "Can you

help your neighbors shovel snow this winter?"

## Newton at Home Winter Buddy Program

### Be a Winter Buddy: Join Newton at Home's New Winter Buddy Program!

We all know our New England winters are long and there are storms aplenty. Newton at Home has designed a new Winter Buddy Program to encourage connections between seniors and other community members when the snow and wind are swirling outside. Being a buddy means that a volunteer or volunteer family would connect with a Newton at Home member to:

1. Advise that a storm is coming.
2. Assess the need for essential supplies (milk, bread, flashlights and batteries, etc).
3. Develop plans for snow removal.
4. Call your buddy every day of the storm.
5. Direct your buddy to appropriate help when necessary.

Volunteering as a Winter Buddy will require minimal time commitment, but would give Buddies a sense of connection and satisfaction from helping others. If you would like to participate, please contact Bonnie Katz at [bkatzdesign@gmail.com](mailto:bkatzdesign@gmail.com) or 617.244.0694.

Newton at Home is an organization dedicated to empowering Newton's seniors to age at home comfortably, independently, and with peace of mind through a membership-based organization that offers access to comprehensive practical services and fosters social supports and a sense of community.

We will hold a short Winter Buddy Training session on Wednesday, Dec 14, at 11:30, as well as several dates in January. Training sessions will be held at our office, 206 Waltham St, in the Scandinavian Living Center building. For more information about the Winter Buddy program and Newton at Home, please check our website at [www.newtonathome.org](http://www.newtonathome.org).

## Time for Partners Art and Music Classes

Registration is now open for the winter session of **Time for Partners**. A popular art and music class for children 18 months to 4 years accompanied by an adult. A great opportunity to meet new friends while building self-confidence and sharing successes. **Classes begin January 23rd**. Classes are held from 9:30 - 11:15 at the Newton Cultural Center, 225 Nevada Street. Pick one day, Monday through Friday. Visit [www.newtonculturalcenter.org](http://www.newtonculturalcenter.org) and click on 'Childrens Classes' for more information or to register. Or call 617-527-8283.

## Newton Girls 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](http://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<sup>th</sup> is the last date you can register with guaranteed placement.

## BC Lady Eagles Winter Clinic

The BC Lady Eagles Soccer School will be holding their Winter Clinic for girls ages 6-14 during December 27-30, 12:00noon-5:00pm at the 'Bubble' at Alumni Stadium on the BC main campus. Come join us for soccer fun and development. Cost is \$295. Registration may be found at: <http://www.bceagles.com/camps/bc-w-soccer-camps-winter.html> then click on 'Register Online Here'.

## Newton South Recreation Complex

Located at the Newton South High School, the Newton South Recreation Complex offers a variety of sports and educational classes on Sundays starting January 8, 2012 through February 12, 2012. Sign up for Karate, Tennis, Fencing, Badminton, Bollywood and Bhangra Dance, Engineering with Lego or a Babysitters Training Course. Online registration is available at [www.activityreg.com](http://www.activityreg.com). For more information go online to [www.newtonma.gov/parks](http://www.newtonma.gov/parks) or contact Channon Ames at [comes@newtonma.gov](mailto:comes@newtonma.gov) or at 617-796-1529.

---

## Classifieds

**PIANO LESSONS:** Learn Jazz/Blues/Classical, theory, sightreading 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](mailto:piano566@comcast.net)

**PIANO LESSONS:** Give the gift of music! Newtonville neighborhood piano teacher with 35 years of experience currently has openings for all ages and levels. Contact Rachel Adler-Golden at 617-527-8640 or [harpomom@comcast.net](mailto:harpomom@comcast.net) References available upon request.

**KIDS' KARATE—HOLIDAY SPECIAL** - Free Trial Class, Free Uniform for those who enroll.

Girls and boys, entry ages first thru fifth grades. Saturday, December 17, 10:00-11:00 a.m. Cost per 7-Week Session is \$79. Students may continue as long as they would like, White Belt thru Black Belt. Renting beautiful space at Trinity High School in Newton since 2002. (Formerly at Newton Y for 20 years.) For more information, please leave message at (617) 527-8052, or see [kids-karate.org](http://kids-karate.org)

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](mailto:hmnewsnotes@lists.neighborhood.net).  
The next deadline for submissions is 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 29.

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)