



NEWSNOTES

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

December 2, 2011

From Mark's Desk



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

Wednesday, Dec 7
7:00 p.m.
School Council Meeting

Thursday, Dec 8
7:30 a.m.
Staff Appreciation
Breakfast

Monday, Dec 26-
Monday, Jan 2
December Break

Tuesday, Jan 3
School resumes

January 9-13
Peek Week

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. At our last assembly, we took a moment to sing "What a Wonderful World" and I asked the children to think about something they have been thankful for this year. I would love to hear that you had a chance to talk about this at home as a follow up; it is important for families to occasionally slow down and take stock of the things that we can really be thankful for, even in the worst of times.

Facilities Planning Task Force: As you may or may not know, Horace Mann has been growing over the past several years, and the trend is expected to continue for at least the next two years. In thinking about space needs for Horace Mann, I want to be sure that we are planning appropriately for increases in enrollment, given our space crunch this year as well as future projections. To this end, I would like to establish a Facilities Task Force to do the following:

1. Brainstorm plans for use of the existing space, as well as make suggestions about additional new space that may be required.
2. Set up regular communication with city officials.
3. Represent the Horace Mann community at School Committee and other district meetings.

If you would like to be part of this group, please email me with a short explanation about why you would like to be included. Depending on the interest level, I will select parents based on the descriptions I receive. The first meeting will likely take place on an evening in early January. Members of the task force will then determine future meeting dates and times.

4th Grade class size update (Oldmixon): Internal discussions have begun about how we will use staffing and space once the modular has been installed. Although not finalized, we have a tentative plan for this transition, and I wanted to let families know that I will publish a detailed update this week in the form of a letter, and also invite parents to an evening meeting to give everyone an opportunity to discuss the plan and ask questions. The letter will go home by the end of this week, and the evening meeting will take place on **Wednesday, December 14th @ 7pm** in the school library.

Modular Update: The foundation has been installed for the modular and the work crews are here this week beginning to construct a hallway that will allow passage into the new classroom space from the main building. Some of the work is being done during school hours, but we are working with the crew to minimize the disruption to classroom instruction (taking advantage of Tuesday afternoons, shifting classes to another location, etc). Sometime next week, the modular itself is set to arrive and should be in place by mid-December. Work will then continue throughout December until the installation is complete. We remain hopeful that Ms. Berardi will be able to move in and begin teaching there in early January.

5th Grade Leadership Update: Teachers met with a large group of students eager to contribute to the school in some way. We have established several different committees, each of which will have a teacher leader and student leadership who will plan, recruit volunteers and carry out the goal specified by the committee. The committees are as follows

1. School Welcoming - give tours to new families, help students adjust to life at HM
2. Peer Tutoring - select older students to provide support to younger kids before school
3. School Spirit - create themes and identify spirit days at points/deliver am announcements
4. Friday Assemblies - help plan assemblies while encouraging school-wide participation
5. School Safety/Grounds - monitor lobbies in am and lunch, take care of school grounds

As these committees begin their work, we will keep you updated!

Next Edition:
December 16, 2011

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From the PTO Officers



In this season of thanksgiving, thank you to all of our volunteers who have helped make the PTO events this year such a success. In addition, thanks to all families who have made their contribution to our dues campaign. It's not too late for a tax deductible donation. We are just shy of our goal, so if you haven't already done so...help put us over the top!



Teacher Appreciation - We will be showing our gratitude to those who work with our children at our **Teacher and Staff Appreciation Breakfast**. Baked and purchased items for breakfast are needed on **Thursday, December 8th at 7:30am**. We need hot breakfast food, baked goodies, fruit or fruit salad, flowers, juice or bubbly water, boxes of joe. If you can provide any of these items or help in any way, please contact Caroline Morgan at 617-332-9325 or c@webewe.com.



Preparation has begun for our Spring Auction. Last year's Casino Night was such a success that we've decided to stick with the same theme. Our silent auction website will be up and running after the holidays. Please let us know if you can donate an item. It's never too early. If you've missed the first Auction Meeting and still want to get involved, don't worry...there's another meeting next month! Can't wait 'til then to share your enthusiasm and great ideas? Contact Jennifer Conley at Jennifer@gooddeedsllc.com.

Also From the PTO



Gearing up for Holiday Shopping? Don't forget the Amazon Rewards Program. Horace Mann earns cash for every purchase you make. All you need to do is go the PTO website <http://horacemannpto.org/index.html> click on the Amazon link, and then make your purchases as usual. We are currently earning over \$100 per month, with the potential to earn much more if everyone participates!



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&Shop 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 Mrs. Coffey

Dearest Horace Mann Families,

It may seem like a long time ago when we first connected. Perhaps we met on an informal 'walk-through' or perhaps it happened with the Kindergarten Parent Night...With the upmost sincerity, I have appreciated your joining our 'family'. The part of my job I loved the most was 'selling' Horace Mann to you. Although I am no longer visible, I have NOT dropped off the face of the earth; in hindsight, I have missed you and your child(ren) more than you have any idea. I am grateful for the numerous little 'friends' who checked-in every morning and again with every closing. That alone is a loss I will 'forever' carry. I miss your child(ren) greatly. I hope you will share this note with them. Twenty-three years ago, I came to Horace Mann as an 'unknown'. Twenty-three years later, I established a number of CLOSE relationships; hopefully, you were one... My goal was to 'leave an impressionable mark on this community' and I trust I've been successful. Having been a former Newton parent, I proudly saw my children through this same system. I am cognizant of your expectations. Proudly, my oldest pursued a doctorate in education. My second pursued her juris prudence doctorate and my son his project engineering degree. I feel in my heart, you have made the 'right choice when you chose HMS. You have joined the BEST community...Know that each and every staff member is dedicated to you and your child.. From the hierarchy down, they share your vision..

I have read and re-read your child's card/note several times over. They alone have 'touched' my heart beyond belief. I thank each and everyone who stopped-in to say "good-bye" and especially for the 'Coffey - woops - **Coffee Hour**' on my last day. Please know that the bound book of each class and their wishes holds a special place in my home. Their notes of departure were so touching. When I stop to recapture a lot of those moments, instantly, tears fill my eyes and 'that' infamous lump jumps into my throat. You, and your child, 'have touched' my heart beyond belief. I was thrilled to see the "**Coffey Message Board**". What a tremendous honor. I can only surmise the hours of planning that went into the unveiling of this dedication; I profusely thank all those involved in making this presentation a memorable one. For the one who designed it, to those who constructed, and those who erected, I am thankful. Thank-You, Thank-You, Thank-You for your love and the love of your child! I leave you with this thought..." ***Like branches on a tree, we will grow in different directions, but our roots will remain forever connected.***"

Hugs and Love of a Lifetime,
Mrs. Coffey

From The Nurses' Office

In the midst of cold and flu season, it's a good time to remind the whole family how important handwashing is. Frequent handwashing is one of the best ways to prevent the spread of disease, so soap up and remember these hand washing tips:

- Wash your hands when they are dirty, before eating, and after using the restroom
- Use soap and warm water and rub your hands together for at least 20 seconds before rising and drying
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are ok to use when your hands aren't visibly dirty
- Do not cough or sneeze into your hands - use a tissue or your elbow
- Don't put your hands into your nose or mouth

If you do get sick, it's important to stay home to keep others from getting sick. Please let your child's school know if you are keeping your child home because of illness. It is the policy at all Newton schools to keep a child at home if s/he has:

- a fever over 100 degrees Fahrenheit during the past 24 hours
- a cold in the active stages: coughing, running nose, sneezing
- a sore throat and/or swollen neck glands
- an undiagnosed rash or skin eruption
- vomiting or diarrhea during the past 24 hours

And finally, it's not too late to get a flu vaccine! More than 2,800 students and over 1,000 staff members received the flu vaccine at school. Many more were vaccinated by their primary health care provider.

Children under age 9 who did not receive the flu vaccine last year should receive two doses of the flu vaccine this year, spaced at least 4 weeks apart.

If someone in your family hasn't gotten a flu vaccine yet, or needs a second dose, call 617-796-1420 to make an appointment with a public health nurse.

If you have any questions about handwashing the illness policy, or the flu vaccine please contact your school nurse or the Health & Human Services Department at 617-796-1420.

From The Community

Exhibition Opening, "It's gone but you can still see it here": The Transformation of Newton North High School, Wednesday December 7, 6:00-8:30PM, New Art Center, 61 Washington Park, Newtonville. Photography of Sharon Schindler, FREE. 617-964-3424, www.newartcenter.org.

Faculty Holiday Show & Sale, Saturday December 3, 10am-5pm, New Art Center, 61 Washington Park, Newtonville. Meet and see the artwork of thirty-five New Art Center Faculty working in a variety of media, from ceramics, to painting, to jewelry, fiber arts and more. Browse and shop for original artwork just in time for the holidays and learn more about the New Art Center's Winter Art Classes! Admission is FREE but donations to support the New Art Center are appreciated. Snow date is Sunday, December 4. For more information, call 617-964-3424 or visit www.newartcenter.org.

New Art Center

Theatre Ink

Theatre Ink proudly presents The Cripple of Inishmaan a heartbreaking yet hilarious dark comedy by one of Ireland's most celebrated playwrights. Directed by Charlie Beers and Graham Techler Set on a remote island off the west coast of Ireland in 1934, The Cripple of Inishmaan is an irresistible tale filled with a host of charming characters, plots and twists. A Hollywood director Robert Flaherty arrives to film the Man of Iran in neighboring Inishmaan. The one person who wants to be in the film more than anybody is young Cripple Billy, if only to break away from the bitter tedium of his daily life. The Cripple of Inishmaan by Martin McDonough, the Tony award-winning playwright, creates a masterpiece of must see theatre that is eccentric, honest and brilliantly funny. (Contains mature themes and adult language)

Performances are on December 7, 8, 9,10 at 7:30PM in the Little Theater at NNHS 457 Walnut Street, Newtonville. Tickets are \$7 at www.theatreink.net or 617 559 6406

Newton Mother's Forum

Newton Mother's Forum Speaker Series 2011-2012

Mothers' Night Out Speaker Series with Susan Linn, PhD

When: Monday December 5, 2011, 7-9 pm EDT Where: The Paint Bar 823 Washington Street, Newton, MA

Cost: \$0 members, \$30 non-members

For more info, contact Christine Dunleavy 617-965-6576 or choar4@hotmail.com

About the speaker: Dr. Linn's research about the media's impact on children led her to co-found the national coalition "Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood." Her timely talk will address commercialization of the holidays. Dr. Linn is an Instructor in Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School.

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 or at the door.

Newton Family Singers

The Newton Family Singers invite your whole family to our fall concert, "When I was a Child," at 4pm on Sunday, December 11th This program of folk songs was inspired by common childhood experiences and watching our children grow. "When I was a Child" marks NFS's fourth season singing together. This concert will be held at Mason-Rice Elementary, at 149 Pleasant Street, Newton Centre. Suggested donation - \$8. For more information visit newtonfamilysingers.org. The Newton Family Singers are an intergenerational chorus and band celebrating family, community and American folk music.

Come join us for a fun experience and learn to Belly Dance!

Don't miss this workshop on Friday, Dec. 2nd at the Waban Library Center. Dance instruction 7pm - 8:15pm with Johara and Snake Dance Productions. Refreshments and good company until 9pm. \$25 per person. Email wabanlibrary@gmail.com to reserve your spot!

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 each time. To sign up email us at wabanlibrary@gmail.com or check out the website for more details www.wabanlibrarycenter.org

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. For more information go online to www.newtonma.gov/parks or contact Channon Ames at comes@newtonma.gov or at 617-796-1529.

Newton's Community Preservation Committee

Newton's Community Preservation Committee will meet on Tuesday, December 6th at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall Room 202. The agenda includes reports on three

CPA-funded surveys of Newton's historic resources (archaeology, City archives, and City historic buildings); on the project that led to the new Digital Newton section of the Newton Free Library's website; a discussion of CPA-eligible projects in the City's new Capital Improvements Plan; and evaluation & planning for 10th anniversary events. For additional

information, see www.newtonma.gov/cpa or contact Alice E. Ingerson, Community Preservation Program Manager at 617.796.1144 or aingerson@newtonma.gov.

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Save the date of Sunday Dec.11 for the First Unitarian Society in Newton's Alternative Gift Fair from 11:30 am-1:00 pm at 1325 Washington Street. With the stress and expense surrounding the holidays, it's no wonder they more often exhaust rather than uplift us. It's not too late to re-think your family routines. How does it work? When you make a donation toward a specific charitable organization, you receive a card detailing your gift to give to your recipient. A perfect opportunity to buy for those folks who have everything. Tax- deductible gifts starting at \$10.

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.

Earn \$\$\$s 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 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 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.

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

Classifieds

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 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

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, November 29.

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