

H M PTO

The Horace Mann School PTO Newsletter



NEWSNOTES

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

October 14, 2011



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

Wednesday, Oct 19
School Council Meeting at
7PM

Sunday, Oct 23
Family Fun Run & Walk

Thursday, Nov 3
Early Release - 12:30

Saturday, Nov 5
Mystery Dinner

Friday, Nov 11
Veteran's Day

Nov 15-17
Book Fair

Wednesday, Nov 23
Thanksgiving: 12:00 dismissal

Thursday-Friday, Nov 24-25
Thanksgiving

Next Edition:
October 28, 2011

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Michelle Ottaviano

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Brock Dilworth
www.horacemannpto.org

From Mark's Desk

As some of you know, I have been battling the flu for the past week, spending considerable time at home trying to rest so that I can fully recover and return to my normal daily regimen. Unfortunately, things have progressed a bit more slowly than I would have liked and I am still looking to regain my normal energy level. Perhaps the recent losses by the Yankees and Jets will serve to bolster my immune system.

Walk to School Event - A huge thank you goes out to David Levine for putting together last week's visit from Wally the Green Monster. David made the outreach to the Red Sox and invited Mayor Setti Warren, who graciously supported our efforts with his appearance. Thanks also to Ms. Moore for asking her students to make posters to promote the day. Overall, the event was a success and the mayor was impressed by the turnout; our hope is that we can continue to see children walk as we enjoy this unusually warm fall. We gathered some data about walkers at Horace Mann: Of the 200 students who responded to our survey, 150 stated that they walk to school, either on a daily basis, or on an occasional basis. This is well above the state average, which hovers near 20%. Way to Go! Keep those feet moving!

Effort Based Intelligence - On Back to School Night, I introduced a theme for the year aimed at encouraging students to have a positive attitude and a willingness to work hard towards achieving goals. The inspiration for this theme comes from Carol Dweck, who has written several publications (books, articles) describing in more detail praise, effort and the idea that intelligence is not a fixed trait. Dweck states that "Many believe that (1) praising students' intelligence builds their confidence and motivation to learn, and (2) students' inherent intelligence is the major cause of their achievement in school. Our research has shown that the first belief is false and the second can be harmful - even for the most competent students." As a school, staff and students are having conversations about effort this year, and I encourage you to do the same at home. For those of you who would like to read more about Dweck's thoughts on intelligence, and the impact of praise on your child, please read the following article (link below). It offers some further insight into the topic as well as concrete examples of how you might interact with your child to maximize their potential.

<http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/summer08/vol65/num10/The-Perils-and-Promises-of-Praise.aspx>

Fall Assessments - This fall, we have put into place a new plan for assessing students in literacy, particularly in grades K-3. Typically, classroom teachers and the literacy specialist try to set aside time during each day in the fall to do literacy assessments. In the younger grades, these assessments are a one-to-one undertaking and take considerable time to administer. To help support classroom teachers in the assessment effort, we created a master assessment calendar and provided each classroom in the school with 5-6 trained staff members for a 90-minute window. In almost every instance, the assigned team was able to conduct and complete assessments for the class within one testing window, reducing the amount of total class time that any one teacher would need to work on assessments. We are currently reviewing feedback from teachers about how the process went, and we will hopefully implement a similar plan for the January assessments.

From the PTO Officers



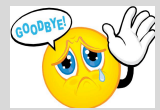
The Horace Mann Gift Wrap Fundraiser kicks today. Check out the catalog with tons of great holiday wrapping paper and ribbons as well as great gift ideas in your child's backpack. All orders will be delivered by Dec 1st—plenty of time before the holidays. Stock up now, avoid the lines and help support programming and technology at Horace Mann. Contact Jill Radsken (jradsken@gmail.com) with any questions.



The Horace Mann Road Race is scheduled for Sunday, October 23rd. There truly is something for everyone—100 yard dash, 1 mile kids run and a 5k course through the Horace Mann neighborhoods—you can run or walk the route. Go to <http://horacemannpto.org/road-race.html> to learn more. The first 100 registrants receive a limited edition HM Road Race t-shirt—don't miss out on the fun!



Mystery dinner invites were mailed this past week. Don't miss out on this fun adult-only evening Saturday, Nov 5th and a chance to meet new and get re-acquainted with old friends. The evening starts at the home of Sebastian & Lisa DiFelice for cocktails and your dinner assignment. We have 12 host families this year—all with amazing menus planned. Reply cards can be mailed using the envelope provided with the invitation or dropped in the mystery dinner box in the front or back lobbies. Contact Sue Sung (tbc1132@yahoo.com) or Susannah Wardly (Susannah.Wardly@ga.natixis.com) with questions or for more details.



Our time with Mrs Coffey is coming to an end. Join us on Thursday, October 27th for a drop in coffee to give our best wishes to Mrs. Coffey and show our appreciate for all she has done for Horace Mann. We will present Mrs. Coffey with a special gift to Horace Mann in her honor. A big thank you to Tonino Chiacchierarelli for his time and carpentry skills on this project.



School photos should be coming home next week. For anyone who missed Picture Day, or isn't happy with their photos—picture retake day is Nov 21st. Mark your calendars and call Coffee Pond Photography for details 800-632-2323.



The school directory has been delivered to the printer and should be available for distribution sometime next week. A tremendous thank you to Liz Mansfield for taking on the monstrous job!

thank you!

Thanks to all who have made their dues payments—it's not to late if you haven't yet! Return dues to your child's classroom teacher or the PTO box in the front lobby of the school.

Also From the PTO



Sunday, Oct 16

Understanding Our Differences 2011 Gala Celebrates People Who Make a Difference: Parents, you are invited to join us as we honor Understanding Our Difference's retiring executive director Beth Mendel and all our volunteer speakers on Sunday, October 16, at 6:30pm at the Brae Burn Country Club in Newton. Featured speakers include Steven Rothstein, President, Perkins School for the Blind, and Steve Grossman, Treasurer of Massachusetts. For ticket information or more information on the Understanding Our Differences program, visit www.UnderstandingOurDifferences.org

From The Superintendent

Newton Inspires

Please join me for a wonderful free community event: "Newton Inspires: An Evening of Ideas and Community," presented by the Newton Schools Foundation. On Thursday, October 27th from 7-9pm at Newton North High School, two-dozen prominent Newtonians will discuss their passions, share insights, and inspire us with stories. The speakers represent an array of fields and interests, will address topics ranging from business, government, education and economics to sports, arts, entertainment and life, in small group sessions. You choose three 20-minute sessions to attend and thn gather together at the end of the evening to debrief and reconnect over coffee and dessert. Space is limited so please register in advance. The web site also includes a list of the evening's terrific speakers: www.newtonschoolsfoundation.org.

From The Community

School Committee Meeting
October 20th, 7pm

A special **School Committee meeting** is being held on 10/20, 7:00 p.m., Newton North library, for the purpose of having a presentation and discussion with the Board of Aldermen regarding an update on facilities: (Day Middle School project, elementary modular classrooms, long-term facilities plan).

CAP Volunteers Needed

The Child Assault Prevention Program (CAP)

Volunteers needed for the school year! New training begins October 12th. The training has been revised to more easily fit with busy schedules. For more information and an application visit our website www.ncscweb.org, or email Gail Sommer at gsommer@ncscweb.org.

Parent Group
Series: Navigating the Rocky Road of Adolescence

Group Parenting Series: FREE four sessions starting Nov 2nd, for parents of teens, led by licensed psychologist Deborah Weinstock-Savoy, Ph.D. This group series will explore the many changes that occur during adolescence, and how they affect relationships at home and school. Sponsored by the Friedman Center for Child and Family Development and The Newton Partnership. Held at the Newton Cultural Center, 225 Nevada St Newtonville. Four Wednesday sessions (11/2, 11/9, 11/16 and 11/30) from 7:00-8:30 PM. Groups fill up quickly. Pre-registration required: at <http://freedman.mspp.edu> or 617-244-INFO.

Newton Special Education Programs

Newton Special Education Programs for Elementary and Pre-School Students, Thursday, October 20th at 7:30pm. Come hear about special education services and programs in Newton's Elementary and Preschool Schools for the 2011-2012 school year. Meet Judy Levin-Charns, Ed.D, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, Maura McLaughlin Tynes and Robin Fabiano, Co-Directors of Elementary Student Services, Michael Thurm, Director of Early Childhood Education, Dan Almeida, Supervisor of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) Services, and other special education staff. The 2010-2011 Newton Special Education Program Guide can be found here. The 2011-2012 Program Guide is not yet available. The presentation will be held in Room 210 at 100 Walnut Street. Light refreshments and networking begin at 7:15pm. The presentation will run from 7:30 to 9:00pm.

Single Parent Support Group and Lecture Series

Single Parent Support Group and Lecture Series: Brainstorming/Social Session

Come join us for the start of the new year of the Single Parent Support Group. Meet new members and get reacquainted with the returning group members. Help us plan topics and give suggestions for future speakers. Facilitator: Barbara Sullivan, M.A. Tuesday, October 25th, 6:30-8 pm, Newton Cultural Center, Auditorium, 225 Nevada Street Child Care and dinner (pizza and salad) will be provided.

6:30 pm Dinner and take children into Art Room for child care

6:45-8 pm Single Parent Support Group session

Please pre-register by October 21 for the meeting and for child care (if you will need it).

Funded by the Rebecca Pomroy Foundation

Snow Shoveling Volunteers Needed

Snow Shoveling: The City of Newton is preparing a list of STUDENTS (or adults) willing to volunteer snow shoveling services for your local senior/disabled residents. Can YOU please help out? The law now requires that homeowners remove snow from their properties, your assistance to your neighbor will help keep them in compliance with the law. Application available at: <http://www.newtonma.gov/exec/documents/snow-shoveling.pdf>

Newton STEM

Newton STEM invites you to join their email list (not more than weekly): Newton parents, teachers, and students interested in Science, Technology, Engineering and/or Math are invited to sign up for the NewtonSTEM email list at <http://newtonstem.org/email-list>. We post notices of upcoming events, resources, accomplishments, and opportunities on www.NewtonSTEM.org and email them to our list each weekend -- never more than one email a week.

- Space Night for Girls! at MIT Lincoln Labs, Oct. 27

- MA Statewide STEM Summit in Newton, Oct. 18

- New survey of parents and students about STEM preparation and inspiration

- Science Olympiad 2012 teams forming now

**Newton Community
Preservation
Committee**

Newton Community Preservation Committee Events

Public Meeting Tuesday, October 18, 2011

7 pm, Newton Senior Center, (345 Walnut Street, Newtonville)

No discussions of individual proposals or projects are scheduled. This meeting will be devoted mostly to reviewing drafts and plans for the 10th anniversary events below.

HAPPY 10TH BIRTHDAY, NEWTON CPA!

To celebrate Newton's adoption of the CPA in 2001, and the funding of Newton's first projects about a year later, the CPC is holding a series of special events over this next year. Every event is open to all, no matter where you live in Newton! But an opening, short presentation at each event will focus on a few neighborhoods or villages.

Refreshments provided! Come

- meet the Community Preservation Committee
- ask questions about the Community Preservation Act
- tell us what you think makes Newton a community worth preserving
- add your photos & notes about potential projects to our interactive maps

The maps exhibit is also portable. Could your organization host it for a few days?

CPA 10th Birthday Party for Newton Corner, Nonantum, & Newtonville (Wards 1 & 2)

Tuesday, 15 November 2011, 7-9 pm

Newton North High School, Film Lecture Hall (enter from front lobby)

CONTACT US: Alice E. Ingerson, Community Preservation Program Manager,
phone: 617.796.1144 or email: aingerson@newtonma.gov.

**Theatre Ink
Tartuffe**

Theatre Ink: Our 2011/12 season opens with Moliere's "Tartuffe" a hilarious and outrageous classic comedy directed by Dan Fabrizio. Tartuffe, a roguish imposter, worms his way into the orderly household of prosperous yet naive merchant Orgon. He sets out to marry the daughter, seduce the wife, imprison Orgon and get his hands on the family fortune. With thwarted lovers, eavesdropping and the famous 'under the table scene', one of the funniest comic set pieces ever written for the stage. Tartuffe is performed with a relevance that will delight modern-day audiences. Performances are on November 3, 4 and 5th at 7:30PM in the Performing Arts Center main auditorium at NNHS 457 Walnut Street, Newtonville. Tickets are \$7 for General Admission at www.theatreink.net

**The Newton Pumpkin
Patch**

The United Parish of Auburndale is hosting its fifth annual **Pumpkin Patch**, from Saturday, October 8th through Monday, Oct 31st. The proceeds help the UPA support a number of programs in the New England area. Don't miss this fun family outing! Pumpkin Patch hours are weekdays, 10am-6pm and weekends, 9am-5pm.

The UPA is located at the corner of Woodland Road and Grove Street near Williams Elementary in Auburndale. For more information, please contact the UPA at 617-964-8516.

A Green Decade

A Green Decade and Newton/Needham Chamber of Commerce Expo: Sunday, October 16th 11am-5pm, join the Green Solutions Expo in partnership with Harvest Fair to learn about solutions that will help reduce your carbon footprint. There will be over 50 exhibitors under a big tent next to Newton's Harvest Fair in Newton Centre. Get tips on how to live a more environmentally friendly lifestyle and see exhibitors with green services, products and ideas.

**NSTAR Home Energy
Audit**

Sign up for NSTAR home energy audit at no-cost! Call **866-867-8729** and mention **Newton Eco-teams**. You may be eligible for insulation rebates, as well as a 0% loan offer. Sign Up HERE! lyndsay.rose@nextsteplivinginc.com <http://nextsteplivinginc.com/newton-eco-team-project/?program=Newton>

The **Newton Eco-team Project** promotes conservation to reduce the carbon footprint of our households by 25%. Groups of 5-8 people meet only 3 times to learn ways to save energy and money. For more info, call Jay Walter at 617-527-8383 or entasis@rcn.com

New Art Center

New Art Center: Many Late-Fall Classes start this November! Register today for classes in drawing, painting, sewing, woodworking, ceramics, and many more for all ages and levels of experience. View all late-fall class offerings online, or call for more information or to request a catalog at 617-964-3424. The New Art Center is located at 61 Washington Park.

**Waban Library Center
Anniversary
Celebration**

Waban Library Center Anniversary Celebration, Chapter 2: Join us for an evening of celebration over wine and cheese, featuring the talents of local artists on Friday, October 28th at 7pm at the Waban Library Center, 1608 Beacon St, Newton, suggested donation for the evening is \$30. The evening includes: Newton Highlands Artist, George I. Campbell, presenting his Exhibit Opening "Cold Spring Park Newton & Monteverde, Costa Rica: Recent Digital Photographs from Nature", *Ethnic Dance Demonstrations by Eve Agush - Flamenco Dance and Johara & Snake Dance Productions-Belly Dance*, Music by Paul Bloom, Jazz Pianist and a Discussion led by Cindy Stone, Executive Director of Historic Newton-Discussion of the History of the Durant-Kendrick House & Grounds For more information, call 617-244-0700 or go to www.wabanlibrarycenter.org or. The Waban Library Center is a volunteer organization that is funded solely by private donations. The proceeds from this event will help support future programs at the WLC and continue to help enhance our literary collection of books.

**Newton North Little
League**

Newton North Little League is celebrating 60 years of baseball with a gala event featuring food, raffle & live auction, Little League memorabilia, live band & dancing, and lots of celebration. Please join us on Friday, October 14th, 7pm - midnight at the American Legion Post 440, 295 California Street, Newton. Tickets: \$35 per person, \$60 per couple, \$300 per table of 10. Youth (13-18) alumni tickets \$20, no children under 13. Music provided by Axminster, food catered by The Chateau, enjoyment provided by NNLL! Purchase tickets for dinner in advance at <http://newtonnorthlittleleague.org> or send a check to Newton North Little League, P.O. Box 600412, Newtonville, MA, 02460. Can't make dinner? Stop by after 9pm for a donation of \$10 as the celebration continues with Axminster.

Join the Cub Scouts

Cub Scouts: Fun and adventure await in Cub Scouting, where boys in grades 1 through 5 get a chance to do all sorts of great activities with friends. Have you ever built your own pinewood derby car and raced it against your friends? Do you like roasting hot dogs around the campfire you built in the woods? Do you like being part of a team, achieving more than you ever thought was possible? Cubs Scouting will help you do that and more. Cubs can also participate in Pack sponsored event like sleepovers at the Museum of Science, sleepover on the USS Massachusetts battleship, sleepover at the PawSox, snow tubing, maple sugaring, and many more! Cub Scouting aims kids in the right direction, building their confidence through activities and helping them learn leadership skills. Newton Cub Scout Packs meet at the following locations: Union Church, Waban; First Baptist Church, Newton Center; Temple Reyim, West Newton; Myrtle Baptist Church, West Newton; Our Lady Help of Christians, Newtonville; Second Church, West Newton. For more information visit www.ktc-bsa.org. Cub Scout Pack 210 meets the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm at the First Baptist Church on the corner of Beacon and Center streets, Newton Center. Next meetings October 6th and November 3rd. Contact jjanosky@alum.mit.edu for more information.

**Historic Newton
The Jackson
Homestead**

Historic Newton at the Newton Harvest Fair: Sunday, October 16, 11:00 AM-5:00PM. Stop by our table at the Harvest Fair on the Newton Centre Green to make dyes from plants and common foods as they would have in the colonial era. At Langley and Center Streets. Free.

**Brookline Music
School**

Brookline Music School: Open House & Instrument Petting Zoo, Student and Faculty Performances During Pumpkinfest at the Lincoln School Sunday, October 16, 2011. The Open House & Instrument Petting Zoo will take place at Brookline Music School's Kennard House, 25 Kennard Road, Brookline, MA 02445 on Sunday, October 16, 2011 from 1:00 to 3:00pm. Student and faculty performances will take place during Pumpkinfest at Lincoln School, 19 Kennard Road, Brookline, MA 02445 on Sunday, October 16, 2011 from noon to 4:00pm. The Open House and Pumpkinfest are both FREE and all ages are welcome! For more information visit www.bmsmusic.org or call BMS at (617) 277-4593.

**Watertown
Children's Theater**

Watertown Children's Theater: Edgar Allen Poe wrote stories and poems that have entertained readers for over a hundred years, with twists and turns in them that continue to mystify and delight. WCT's Play Factory brings the life and works of Poe together in Poe! Poe! Poe! , performed by an ensemble cast of 6th-9th graders including Newton's own Zoe Warre. Performances are October 28-30, 2011 in the Black Box Theater at the Arsenal Center for the Arts. Seating is limited. Tickets available beginning October 14th at www.watertownchildrenstheatre.org or 1.800.838.3006.

**Burr Cooperative
Nursery Play Date &
Open House**

Burr Cooperative Nursery School: please join us for our fall Play Date & Open House, where parents and children can meet our teachers, talk to current families, and enjoy a craft and a snack! We are now enrolling for the 2011-2012 school year. Wednesday, October 26, 3:00 - 5:00pm 64 Hancock Street, Newton, MA 02466 www.burrcoop.org

Karate Classes

Kids' Karate: Free Trial class, Free Uniform for those who enroll. Girls and boys, entry ages first through fifth grades. Saturday, November 5, 10:00-11:00 a.m. Cost per 7-Week Session is \$79. Five 7-Week Sessions per school year. Renting beautiful space at Trinity High School in Newton since 2002. For more information, please leave message at (617) 527-8053, or see kids-karate.org

Classifieds

ActiveMinds Tutoring, LLC: Your source for in-home tutoring. Effective, Personalized and Convenient. All grades/all subjects, including test preparation (MCAS, SSAT, ISEE, SAT...). Sign your child up today for academic success! Call: (617) 663-5700 during business hours, or (617) 227-2225 Eve/Wknds. Please visit our web site at www.activemindstutoring.com.

Flute Lessons: Nurturing, goal oriented FLUTE TEACHER welcomes new students of all ages and levels. Professional Flute Studio in Newton. First lesson is complimentary. Please email Barbara@newtonfluteteacher.com or call Barbara Nakazawa at (617)527-4413 for more info.

Moody Street Circus is pitching its little top tent at the Nonantum Post 440 on California Street for world-class shows in October. Community-conscious local circus with stellar 7th and 8th generation circus artists to perform 10 fun-for-all, family-friendly shows weekends from October 15 - Halloween. Acts include The Bertini Unicycle Troupe & Trampoline Comedy (as seen at Storyland) and Sacha & Melinda Pavlata of the Big Apple Circus, Circus Flora, Cirque Passion (and they are former Mason-Rice parents!). Circus shows to benefit ALS Therapy Development Institute, veterans and autism. Kids under 2 are FREE, \$8 for kids, \$15 for adults, family four-pack only \$40! Free Parking! October 15/16, 22/23, 29/30 and a special Halloween Show. Purchase tickets at www.moodystreetcircus.com

PIANO LESSONS: Established teacher with forty years of experience teaching Newton students of all ages and levels. Serious, basic foundation yet sensitive to different learning styles. Year end recital. Call Jane Wanger at 617-965-2305 or write thewangers@prodigy.net for more info.

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

Private Occupational Therapy/Academic Tutoring: Winnie Ebb, MS, OTR/L is expanding her private practice in Newton Center and has openings for new students. She brings 30 years of experience to her private work with children. Services provided include Occupational Therapy, Homework Support, Organizational Strategies and Academic Tutoring in all subject areas. If interested please contact Winnie Ebb at fouebb@comcast.net or 617-965-3870.

Call Y3K TUTOR IN YOUR HOME today. When schoolwork goes the wrong way! Our many years of experience in teaching and educational consulting has developed the right way to motivate, the right way to teach, be understood, and be remembered. We tutor special ed. such as ADD, ADHD, Asperger's, Autism, Emotional/Behavioral, and gifted. We also tutor regular ed. and test preparation. All subjects and ages are taught. Parents can now receive 25% off the first lesson. Call 781-492-8700 or log on to <http://www.Y3KTutorInYourHome.com>.

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, October 25.

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Main Office (617) 559-9510
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hmnewsnotes@lists.neighborhood.net

We're on the Web!
horacemannpto.org