



# NEWSNOTES

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

November 24, 2010

## From Mark's Desk

Dear Horace Mann Families,

It is hard to believe that we are fast approaching the Thanksgiving break. Our Wednesday early release will conclude our 12th week of school...it is amazing how fast the time has gone. First and foremost, two important announcements to let you know about:

Congratulations to Kathy Dregalla, who announced on Tuesday that this will be her last year at Horace Mann. I feel privileged to be part of this chapter in her teaching career, and I know that she will leave Newton having made a lasting impression on many, many students throughout the course of her career. Kathy, enjoy the ride these last few months!

Also, David Tynes has been named the official winner of the OUR TOWN COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD! I can think of no one who is more deserving of this recognition. Congratulations David!!!

Traffic Patterns: You may have noticed the police presence last week during dismissal. I requested this support as a result of some potentially dangerous practices in and around the blue zone area. There are two areas of concern that I would like to highlight: 1) Parking on the grass next to the brook. 2) Parking across the driveway to the staff parking lot. Both of these situations are unsafe for students and only serve to add to the confusion during dismissal time. Please follow the guidelines for the blue zone, or park along the playground and enjoy a few minutes of fresh air. Thank you for your cooperation!

Math Night: Jesse Winch and Mary Eich prepared a presentation for parents on Thursday evening that included a brief overview of the Everyday Math Program as well as some more targeted information around concepts specific to grades K-2 and 3-5. Mary looked at multiplication and division for the upper grades, while Jesse took parents through some exercises in subtraction. With the 15 parents who attended, there was some engaging discussion about differentiation, RTI, MCAS, and parent involvement both at home and in school. We hope to expand discuss of these topics in the near future. Thanks to Jesse and Mary their efforts to organize this event.

Book Fair: Thank you to everyone who volunteered for the book fair, particularly Sharon Russo for organizing the event. We had a crafts table, face painting, Henna tattoos, and guest readers, along with lots of people shopping for books and holiday gifts. We had a good showing in the store and I hope to see that the online event was a success as well. Thanks for everyone's support!

Computer Upgrade: The HM PTO has come through again to address another nagging issue with regard to technology. We have been using aging laptops that often experience difficulties with processing speed as well as running the most recent software programs. For a reasonable investment, we have been able to purchase memory and OS upgrades to improve the performance of these machines. We also hope to purchase new laptops with additional funds contributed by the HM community. Thank you to all those who have donated and paid PTO dues!



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

Mystery Dinner postponed  
to January 21

No School, Thanksgiving  
Break: November 25-26

Next Edition: December 3

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Behavior Management: In the past few weeks, I sent out a survey to staff members asking questions about how we currently manage behaviors in various places in our school environment. Given that I am new to Horace Mann, I wanted the chance to re-evaluate our values and expectations around how we treat one another and how we act in and around the school grounds. As part of the process, teachers will engage their students in conversations about behavioral expectations and generate some recommendations. We will then get together at our staff professional day in December to look at the student responses and try to formalize some guidelines for the playground, the hallways, etc. As part of this process, we will also consider more specific expectations around bullying and some of the more severe behaviors that occur with a smaller population of students. As we develop these guidelines, I will be sure to share them with the larger community.

Thanks and Happy Thanksgiving!  
Mark Nardelli

## From the PTO Officers

As we take a break from our busy lives during this Thanksgiving holiday we hope that you are able to reflect on all the things we have to be thankful for. Please enjoy this time with your family and the people that matter most.

We would love to hear your feedback about our most recent Barnes & Noble book fair. We will post the final figures within two weeks after the online sales have been calculated. Several Horace Mann families enjoyed the in-store event, art show, crafts, guest readers, face painting and Henna tattoos. All proceeds from the book fair will be used to enrich the current literature collection in our school library and in classrooms. Congratulations to the Blasi family, the winners of the 3G Nook! Special thanks to Sharon Russo and Helen Rousseau for all their hard work.

The 5th grade class is sponsoring a Holiday Raffle to win an Iflip video Camera. Tickets will go home with each 5th grader. If your child is not in 5th grade but would like to participate in sales, please contact [jdestino71@aol.com](mailto:jdestino71@aol.com) with the amount of books that you would like to buy or sale and Julie LaValle will get them to you or your child. Please return ticket stubs and money to their teacher as soon as they are sold. Ticket is \$1.00 each and come in books of 10. The ticket sales will go up to December 17th. That day the 5th grade class will be holding a holiday cookie bake sale at which the winners will be chosen.

Your gift-wrap orders from Innisbrook are here. The gift-wrap will be delivered to each class room on Wednesday. We appreciate the hard work of Pat Tobin organizing this event. If you have any questions about the order you received please contact Pat Tobin at [ptobin@mac.com](mailto:ptobin@mac.com)

## Also From The PTO

The 4th grade learning disabilities unit of Understanding Our Differences program has come to a successful conclusion. Thank you to our team of volunteers: Karen Solari, Nani Bauza, Jill Fieleke, Mari Young and Jessica Johnston. We would also like to thank David Tynes, Patricia Karam, Jordan Lund, and our principal Mark Nardelli for their support. Upcoming Understanding Our Differences units include physical disabilities, intellectual disabilities and chronic medical conditions. Please e-mail Jessica Johnston at [jessb16@yahoo.com](mailto:jessb16@yahoo.com) or Mari Young at [mariyoung@juno.com](mailto:mariyoung@juno.com) if you are interested in volunteering.

Sheryl Franks Creative Skating Academy donates a portion of the skater's tuition back to the Horace Mann PTO at the end of year. Please visit [www.creativeskatingacademy.com](http://www.creativeskatingacademy.com) for more information on the classes' schedule. All classes are held at The Fessenden School/Coffin Sports Center at 450 Crafts Street, West Newton.

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, Oct. 19.

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We're on the Web!  
[horacemannpto.org](http://horacemannpto.org)

Happy  
Thanksgiving

Barnes and  
Noble Book Fair



Fifth Grader  
Holiday Raffle

Gift Wrap



Understanding  
Our Differences  
Program

Support HM  
School