



NEWSNOTES

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

March 18, 2011

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

Saturday, March 19
Spring Auction & Casino
Night

Tuesday, March 22
MCAS Testing - Full Day

Wednesday, March 23
MCAS - Early Release

Saturday, April 9
Horace Mann Talent Show

April 18-22
Spring Break

Thur/Fri, April 28-29
Scholastic Book Fair

Friday, April 29
Reading with Sundaes

May 2-6
Book Fair

Thursday, May 5
Early Release

Friday, May 6
International Pot Luck
Dinner

Next Edition: April 1

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From Mark's Desk

Dear Horace Mann Families,

Just as we were getting comfortable waking up to full daylight each morning, the moment came to set our clocks ahead by an hour. I know at my house, this seemingly insignificant alteration threw chaos into our already fragile routine. I imagine that some of you can also relate; perhaps some day in the future we can petition for daylight savings changes to occur during vacation weeks...

Budget: This week, Superintendent David Fleishman presented his budget proposal to the public. You can access the budget as well as the Dr. Fleishman's slide show by clicking on the following link: <http://www3.newton.k12.ma.us/schoolcommittee/fy2012>. Keep in mind that this is a proposal and nothing is set in stone. Over the next few weeks, members of the community will have a chance to weigh in before the School Committee votes on April 6. If you have thoughts or concerns, please attend the School Committee meeting on Monday, March 28 or send an e-mail to schoolcommittee@newton.k12.ma.us. As for the impact of the cuts on Horace Mann, some are evident in the slide show, while other details won't be clear until central staff have time to re-allocate staffing. I will be sure to keep you in the loop.

Horace Mann Behavioral Values: As I outlined in an e-mail earlier this week, we are practicing values that are central to our mission here. I wanted to enlist your support in encouraging the children to adopt and live by the values that we have recently created. They are:

- 1) Make Safe, Responsible Choices
- 2) Be Kind and Respectful to Everyone and Everything
- 3) Include Everyone

Over the next three weeks, we will discuss and practice each of these values throughout the school. For our first week, we will be focusing on making safe, responsible choices. This effort includes walking quietly in the hallways, keeping our hands to ourselves, being safe out on the playground, etc. Staff members will be on the lookout for positive examples of these behaviors and children will be able to earn red colored links as part of a school-wide chain that will be displayed in the lobby. Subsequent weeks will focus on the other two values. You can encourage our efforts at school by talking with your children about these behaviors and helping them to live up to them on a daily basis.

Irish Step Dancing Performance: Sara McSwiggan and her oldest daughter Caolinn spent some time with volunteer staff members to teach us an Irish jig that we all performed for the children on St. Patrick's Day in the gym. Caolinn spent some time teaching the children a little dance as well. After embarrassing myself on the dance floor, I vowed not to repeat this performance at the talent show.

School Council: We continued our discussion around home/school communication at the March school council meeting. We began creating a plan to provide support around what parents can do to engage with their children at home around academics. Although in the early stages of planning, we hope to invite parents and children to an evening pizza/academic event (next year) that will expose families to simple literacy practices that can be implemented at home. If all goes well, we would expand the model to other types of supports, including math and home organization/structure tips.

School Auction: Please support our efforts to raise money for the wonderful things that happen here at Horace Mann. You can attend the Live Auction/Casino Night and/or go online and place some bids at the [Silent Auction](#). PTO members have worked really hard to put this event together, and we are all really looking forward to a great turnout. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Mark Nardelli

From the PTO Officers

Auction

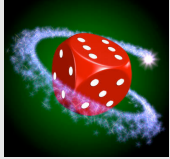


**Closes 11:00pm
Friday, March 18**

This is it....your LAST chance to bid!!!! With over \$20,000 worth of items -- there truly is something for everyone! We are adding new items every day and we currently have many items with no open bid yet!! It's time to get some amazing deals on great items for you, your family and your friends - restaurant gift certificates, spa services and summer camp programs. Don't miss out--auction closes TONIGHT 11:00pm. The success of this online auction depends on spreading the word to as many people as possible. We need your help. Please refer a friend and encourage them to participate so they don't miss a single moment of the fun and excitement.

<http://www.biddingforgood.com/hm2011auction>

Casino Night



If you haven't purchased tickets for tomorrow's **Casino Night** at the Post 440 it's not too late. Tickets will be sold at the door after 8pm. Receive \$250 in funny money to gamble away guilt free. There will be some pretty special guest dealers who you might recognize! As you may have heard we have some spectacular live auction items including Red Sox Tickets with the opportunity for your son or daughter to be the bat boy/girl for the team, Taylor Swift tickets, flight school lessons, a diamond necklace and more!

Also from the PTO

Campbell's Labels for Education



Start collecting Campbell's Labels for Education and earn free school supplies for Horace Mann! HM earns points for each UPC (bar code) label or beverage cap collected from participating products, including Campbell's, Post, Pepperidge Farm, V8, Pop-Secret, Prego and many others. In exchange for these points teachers can choose from a catalog of resources including art supplies, computers and electronics, musical and sports equipment, library and reference materials, and much more. **Collection boxes are now located at each of the school entrances!**

For a complete list of participating products go to

<http://www.labelsforeducation.com/earn/participating-products.aspx>

To view the complete Merchandise Catalog go to

http://www.labelsforeducation.com/assets/pdf/2010-2011%20Labels%20for%20Education%20Catalog_9.28.pdf

Safe Routes



The PTO is looking for a volunteer to help co-chair the Safe Routes To School Committee with 5th grade teacher, Lisa Moore. The committee meets monthly to discuss ways to promote more walking to school, safety rules such as bike helmet safety, blue zone safety and other ways to encourage our kids and parents to be safe. Please contact Karen Solari sksolari@verizon.net if interested.

Talent Show

The Talent Show will be Saturday, April 9 at 1:30pm. The event is held at F.A. Day Middle School Auditorium. Don't miss this chance to watch our Horace Mann kids in action.

4th Grade Funtastic Friday



On Friday, March 18, 7-9 pm, Newton Unplugged will host a special **Funtastic Friday** exclusively for 4th graders across Newton. Socialize with your buddies and meet new friends from other Newton schools. A DJ will set the place rocking with music, and have you running with laughter, games and challenges. Snacks and drinks are available at kid-friendly prices. Admission is \$7. Location: NCSC Gym, 492 Waltham Street, West Newton. For more information, call Newton Parks & Recreation at 617-796-1525

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, March 29th.

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We're on the Web!
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