



September 16,
2011

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

Tuesday, Sept 20
Curriculum Night
6:30pm-8:45pm

Monday, Sept 26
School Pictures

Tuesday, Sept 27
Back to School Picnic
5:30pm

Thursday, Sept 29
No School,
Rosh Hashanah

Thursday, Oct 6
All School Early Release
12:30 Dismissal

Sunday, Oct 23
Family Fun Run & Walk

Next Edition:
September 30, 2011

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From Mark's Desk

Dear Horace Mann Families,

Welcome back to another hopeful and promising school year. Despite a few tears here and there on those first days, we have gotten off to a smooth start. The dedicated, caring and professional teachers here at Horace Mann have immediately immersed the students in all aspects of school life: getting to know one another, practicing new routines, getting organized, and creating a mindset for learning.

As for the Nardellis, Eliana spent the summer learning how to hula hoop and has now happily entered third grade. Julia is a first grader and is enjoying the longer school day; she always has an interesting fact to share about her time at school. Alora celebrated her first birthday last week and is walking all over the place. She has almost perfected her Count imitation "aah aah aah!"

School Goals At our staff meeting this week, we laid out a plan for what we would like to work on this year at HM:

1. Implement the goals and objectives of the new Common Core National Standards.
2. Continue to refine and develop our RTI instructional model (I'll give new families a chance to learn about RTI) to provide all students with skill proficiency in math and literacy.
3. Take a closer look at our social curriculum. Last year, we worked on creating school-wide values; this year, we will look to implement specific curriculum materials that celebrate diversity and foster a positive school climate while teaching social skills and addressing negative behaviors like bullying.

In smaller committees we will also look to . . .

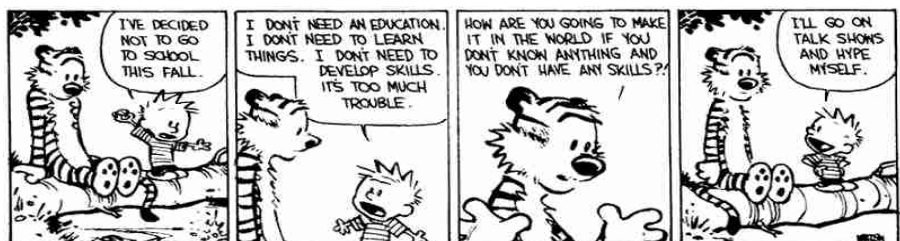
- Improve and enhance the home/school partnership.
- Implement the use of iPads in regular and special education, as well as the use of Google docs and calendars as a collaborative tool.
- Explore the efficacy of the co-taught model (currently in place in our 4th grade).
- Establish a school data team to utilize the highest leverage data and to inform us about student progress at all grade levels.

Monthly Assemblies Each month, we get together as a school to share stories, celebrate birthdays, and sing songs. We also try to focus on a theme. Last year we placed an emphasis on COURAGE, inviting students to try new things and take risks. This year, the focus will be on ATTITUDE and EFFORT. We want to convey the message that in order to succeed in life, we must first believe in ourselves and our ability to overcome obstacles, and then only through hard work and perseverance will we be able to achieve our goals and discover unknown talents. As a first assignment, I have asked each of the children to come up with something that they would like to accomplish this year. At assemblies, we will celebrate some of these successes and model for one another the value of effort. I encourage you to have conversations at home about how you can help your child achieve his or her goals, whatever they may be.

Boston/Newton Partnership In the spring of last school year, we reached out to our Boston parents to try to re-create the METCO liaison position on our PTO board. Thankfully, Kendra Stewart-Campbell volunteered to assume this role and will be working with the PTO to more clearly define our goals for the year. As a first initiative, we would like to establish a BOSTON/NEWTON family partnership to help all families feel like they are part of the Horace Mann community by fostering participation at important school events, and improving communication throughout the year. Ideally, we would like to identify Newton families who would be willing to serve as a partner to a Boston family for the year. Activities could include after-school play dates, coordinating child-care for evening events, and other ideas. If you are interested in being a partner family, please let me know.

I leave you with the following to inspire your goals conversation...Have a great year!

Mark
Nardelli,
Principal



From the PTO Officers



DUES CAMPAIGN



CURRICULUM NIGHT Tuesday, Sept 20

Welcome Back! We hope you all had a relaxing summer and are settling into the back-to-school routine. Back-to-school is a busy time for everyone, and so is the case with the PTO.

The 2011-2012 dues campaign has officially kicked off. In your child's backpack on Friday, 9/17 was the Dues campaign letter. Check should be made payable to HM PTO. In addition, this year you can pay your dues by credit card. This campaign kicks off our fundraising and generally provides funding for 20% of our annual budget. We will be on hand at Curriculum Night to collect dues.

Join us Tuesday, Sept 20th, to learn about your child's curriculum for the 2011-2012 school year. Grade teachers will present their curriculums in individual classrooms and there will be a general session in the gym where Mr. Nardelli will address parents. Please see the schedule of the evening below, and please note this is an adult only event so arrange childcare and join us for this informative evening.

6:30 - 7:15pm Grades K-2 - Individual teacher presentations
7:25 - 7:55pm General Session for all parents in the Gym
8:00 - 8:45pm Grades 3-5 - Individual teacher presentations

Also from the PTO

The 2011-2012 School Directory is in the works—a special thank you to Lizzy Mansfield for taking on this project. We realize that the Directory is a valuable resource to all HM families and we are shooting to have the Directory complete and distributed to families by early October. Please make sure to confirm the information listed for your child(ren) at Curriculum Night - lists will be posted on the classroom doors. The PTO Calendar is almost finalized as well: this will be included in the Directory and posted to the PTO website as soon as it has been finalized. We will send out a link to the calendar on the site once it is available.

School pictures will take place Monday, September 26th. Look for picture order forms to come home late next week. Please return your order and check to your child's teacher no later than Monday 9/26/10 (School Picture Day). If you have any questions, problems or concerns, please contact Kim Daley at bkdaley@yahoo.com.

On Sunday, October 23rd, we will be holding our 7th Annual Family Fun Run & Walk. This event includes a 5K Run, 5K Walk, 1 mile race, and Kids Dash. The proceeds from this race will help finance the school's annual "Fitness for Life Celebration". "Fitness for Life" is a unique health and fitness promoting event where children, teachers and parents come together at a local park in the spring for a day filled with physical fitness activities, lots of fun, and a barbecue lunch. For more details go to www.horacemannpto.org/road-race.html. Sign up now: The first 100 registrants get a free t-shirt!

Horace Mann is now signed up for the Stop & Shop A+ School Rewards Program that earns cash for the school each time you use your Stop & Shop card. There are three easy ways to register your card and earn dollars for Horace Mann:

1. Log on to www.stopandshop.com/aplus to register online.
2. Email emelo2@verizon.net with your Stop & Shop card number and your last name.
3. Sign up using the sheets posted at both entrances to the school.

NewsNotes Information

READ NEWSNOTES, COMMUNITY NEWS AND CLASSIFIEDS ON THE 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 bi-weekly. Please email items of interest to hmnewsnotes@lists.neighborhood.net.

The next deadline for submissions is 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 27.

Main Office
(617) 559-9510
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Mark's Email
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NewsNotes Submission Email
hmnewsnotes@lists.neighborhood.net

**We're on the
Web!**
horacemannpto.org