



NEWSNOTES

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

June 17, 2011

From Mark's Desk

Tuesday, June 21st
Kathy Dregalla retirement
Front door foyer
8:00 am

Wednesday, June 22nd
Last day of school
12:00 dismissal

Tuesday, August 30th
Incoming kindergarten
playground "playdate"
6:00 pm

Thursday, September 15th
Back-to-school picnic

Next Edition:
September 2011

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Dear Horace Mann Families,

This is the last edition of Horace Mann NewsNotes for the 2010-2011 school year. Hard to believe that nine months have gone by! Although we are busy wrapping up many end-of-year events, at some point I will have more time to fully reflect upon all that has happened this year. I will say that it has been a joy getting to know the staff and the traditions here at Horace Mann, as well as the children and their families. I hope to continue this work next year and to develop some new Horace Mann traditions. As the summer approaches, please use the time to be with family and to slow down the pace of life. We don't get these precious moments back! Have a great summer!

Staffing for Next Year: Before welcoming new staff, I would like to recognize two Horace Mann members who will be moving on to bigger and better things. Jan Dunlevy, our learning center teacher, will officially retire from the Newton Public Schools this spring. Her expertise and energy as well as her unbelievable dedication to children will be missed. We also will be saying goodbye to Kathy Dregalla after a 35-year career in Newton, and 20 years at Horace Mann. Her passion for musical theater, her dedication to diversity, and her commitment to fostering community spirit are part of her legacy. We wish both Jan and Kathy the best!

I would also like to officially welcome several staff members who will be new to Horace Mann next year. Laura Harvey will be our new first grade teacher, taking the place of Melissa Chatfield as she extends her maternity leave. Currently, Laura is working in two schools in Connecticut, spending part of her time as a special educator in a co-taught classroom. Prior to that, Laura was at HM doing her student teaching, earning both her undergrad teaching license and her Masters degree in moderate special needs at Boston College. Danielle Betancourt will be joining the second grade team, moving from the Winthrop Elementary School in Boston where she has been teaching first grade for the past three years. Danielle comes to us with a wide range of experiences and talents, graduating from Fordham University and getting her Master's from Boston College. Michelle Bilodeau will join the learning center staff in September to fill Jan Dunlevy's role. Michelle is currently working in the same capacity at Williams where she has been for the past several years. Finally, Nicole Quatralle will fill in for Jenny McGowan when she goes on maternity leave in the fall. Nicole is working as both an inclusion facilitator and learning center teacher at Ward. All of the people mentioned above are talented and committed to their professions; we are very excited to have them join an already amazing team here at HM! As a final note, we are completing the interview process for our Kindergarten opening and should have a decision before the end of the school year.

Modular Update: The city is moving forward with plans to install a 4th modular classroom, hopefully in time for the opening of school in September. After considering and rejecting several options, the modular will go into the remaining space next to our current 5th grade modular. Although the fenced in butterfly garden will not be directly impacted, the outdoor classroom and picnic table space will be usurped. Both Peter Greene and I will continue to work with the city planners to minimize the impact of the installation. In terms of reconfiguring space, the new modular will hold Ms. Berardi's third grade classroom. In addition, Emily Bard's second grade class will be moved to make space for the new Kindergarten class in the main hallway. If the modular is not installed by the start of school, Ms. Berardi will temporarily use room 126 until the modular is ready.

Staff Appreciation Luncheon: Thanks to Lauren Paton for opening up her home last week to all HM staff, and to Kathy Baron for coordinating the effort to get over 50 families to contribute food items or funds to a terrific luncheon. There was an incredible spread of entrees, salads, and desserts to thank and honor all of the hard work the teachers and assistants have put in this year. Several people were responsible for the set up and break down of the day as well. Thanks to Peter Greene, John McCall, Jackie Yaunch, Claudia Wolf, Amy Kropke, Christine Schaefer, and Karen Solari. It was a relaxing, welcoming, and festive atmosphere, and was a treat for all.

Newton Serves Day Part 2: While teachers enjoyed the appreciation lunch, Jacqui Mallowney, Maura Bresnahan, and Sarah Arcese came to HM to brighten and add color to the bulletin boards. Troy Randall came in to do some carpentry and repaired bookcases and shelving. They accomplished a huge amount in a small span of time and the teachers were delighted to see the improvements. Thanks so much for offering your time and taking care of our teachers!

Moving Days: Last Friday, we had a small group of parents come down to help a few teachers pack up and prepare to move their classrooms to new locations (not an easy task!). Thanks to Marcia Tabenken and Jacob Kolodney, Alyssa Vachon, Jill and Eleanor Ranalli, Sachiyo and Joe Takeoka for their help with packing boxes and organizing materials. We hope to repeat this again this week!

Flag Day: Ms. Oldmixon's class prepared a presentation in honor of Flag Day, which is a special event at Horace Mann. With the help of Mr. Tynes, Mr. Brady and Ms. Dregalla, the students sang songs, recited historical facts about the origin of the flag, and replaced the old flag with a new one. It was a thoughtful, informative and inspirational exercise.

Principal for a Day: Spencer Notick, in Ms. Hamill's 5th grade class, spent the day with me on Monday, acting as principal in my stead. He enjoyed a ride to school as well as a trip to meet the Superintendent; he delivered birthday certificates and made special rules for the day; he read stories with K students, and helped with math in 2nd grade; and he helped supervise recess (with walkie-talkies!) and got to enjoy a pizza lunch with friends. Overall, Spencer did a terrific job...I know who to call when I need backup.

Have a wonderful summer!

Mark Nardelli

From the PTO Officers and other announcements

On Tuesday, June 21, please join us as we honor Kathy Dregalla in her retirement after more than 35 years in Newton schools, including 20 years at Horace Mann. Munchkins and coffee will be served starting at 8:00 am in the foyer at the front door. Please make an effort to stop by with your child to make this opportunity special for Mrs. Dregalla. The PTO will be making a contribution in her honor to enrich the musical curriculum needs at our school.

The teachers were so appreciative of the luncheon served at Lauren Patton's home last Tuesday. Another big thank you to both her and Kathy Baron for coordinating all the delicious food contributions and purchasing the supplies to make the event a success. The extra money collected from the generous contributions was used to purchase a new Keurig for the Teacher's room.... Now THAT'S Staff appreciation!

An enormous thank you to Karen Solari who wraps up her post as Co-President of the HM PTO. Karen has worked tirelessly over the last two years to support our children. Under her leadership the HM PTO has provided ELMO's for each classroom and purchased 10 new laptops for our classroom carts. We will miss Karen's can do attitude and energy—and can't thank her enough for all she has done for HM and all of our children.

The Butterfly Garden needs your help this summer! Every year we enlist help from HM families to help keep the butterfly garden alive through the summer months. We are asking for families to volunteer for one week at a time. All you need to do is visit the garden 3-4 times on the week you volunteer (depending on the weather), set up the sprinkler and let it run for 30 minutes. If you can help, please complete the doodle poll (<http://www.doodle.com/kun2bsknr2n2wd3d>) to sign up for your week. Or contact Michelle Ottaviano (emelo2@verizon.net) for more information or to select a date. Once you have signed up, she will contact you with more specific instructions.

Do you know a local business owner that might be willing to sponsor Horace Mann through the Cartridges for Kids recycling program? Its easy! All they need to do is collect laser/ink jet cartridges, cell phones, and other applicable items, contact us to arrange for pickup, and their recycling will turn into \$\$ for the school. If you know someone who is interested, please send their contact information to Michelle Ottaviano at emelo2@verizon.net and she can take it from there. Please reach out to those you know and help the PTO cushion the shrinking budgets!

Looking ahead to the 2011-2012 school year please mark your calendars for the back to school picnic on September 15th. All families with incoming kindergarteners are invited to a casual playground visit to meet new friends on August 30 at 6pm.

Finally, as we close out the school year and finalize the budget the PTO will be making another substantial technology purchase to enhance the curriculum in all grade levels.

**We hope each of you have a wonderful, restful summer
with friends and family.**



Cartridges for Kids!



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