



# NEWSNOTES

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

May 13, 2011

## From Mark's Desk

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

Every Friday  
Slush Sales \$2.00  
After school

Sunday, May 15th  
Newton Serves

Wednesday, May 25th  
Choral Concert  
10am & 7:45pm

Friday, May 27th  
Fitness for Life  
(Rain Date June 3)

Monday, May 30th  
Memorial Day

June (date TBD)  
Spring Concert  
10am & 7:45pm

Tuesday, June 14th  
Staff Appreciation Lunch

Wednesday, June 22nd  
Last Day of School  
12:00 dismissal

Next Edition: May 27

NewsNotes Editor:  
Michelle Ottaviano

Website Manager:  
Brock Dilworth  
[www.horacemannpto.org](http://www.horacemannpto.org)

Dear Horace Mann Families,

It has been a busy spring and it seems that the race to the finish line is on. It is truly amazing how fast the year is passing us by. Congratulations to Mr. Tynes and his wife Maura as they celebrate the arrival of their new baby boy Seamus earlier this week! Mom and baby have come home from the hospital and all are doing well. Congrats!!!

**Book Fair:** We had a great turnout for the book fair a few weeks back; we were able to raise over \$4000 towards the purchase of new books for our school. A huge thank you to all of the parents who worked to get this event together, particularly Sharon Russo. She was the driving force behind the evening event, the mystery readers, the window paintings, and much more...thanks so much for your time and energy!

**International Night:** Last Friday, Nani Bauza put together yet another fabulous evening of food and culture in the Horace Mann gym. Close to 20 families set up tables and shared photos, flags, jewelry, and other traditional items for guests to see. Most importantly, they shared a favorite dish or dessert. Lots of families turned out to sample the amazing food, and I must say that I ate way too much! The atmosphere was fun and relaxing, and it was a nice way to celebrate the diversity that makes Horace Mann so special. I am already looking forward to this event again next year!

**The Hiring Process:** We have begun the process for filling our two potential openings for next year, and decided to do the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade hiring process as one search. We established a committee that consists of both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade team teachers, one special educator, our literacy specialist, and two parents. The process is composed of three rounds. For round 1, the committee reviews resumes and generates a list of candidates who I then screen in one-on-one interviews. From the screenings, I recommend a group to move on to the next round, which is a 30-minute interview in front of the entire committee. After the interviews and much discussion, the group decides who will move to the third round, which consists of a classroom observation and reference checks. After sharing thoughts from the observations and speaking with references, I will make the final determination about who will be recommended for hiring. We are currently in round 3 of the process and I hope to make a decision by the end of the month. I will let you all know when we have filled our two openings.

**SchoolKidz Update:** Thanks to those of you who participated in the SchoolKidz supply survey. Based on the responses, a substantial majority of parents were in favor of continuing the program, which we plan to do. Parents who like the program point to the convenience of the system, as well as the knowledge that children would come prepared with what teachers want them to have in class. We did get some helpful feedback from people who were less satisfied with the program, and we will make some changes to address those concerns. For example, grade level teams will discuss creating a less obvious way to distribute kits so parents don't feel obligated to buy them. I hope that the changes will reflect the idea that participating in this program is optional, and families should feel free to shop on their own if that makes more sense.

**Staff Professional Development:** Last week we offered two different professional development opportunities during our Thursday afternoon early release. Classroom teachers, led by Louise Martin (our literacy specialist) worked in grade level teams to look at writing samples in relation to the new Common Core standards. They analyzed the samples for how well students performed in relation to the standard, and then talked about how to modify the assignment or change the instructional approach to produce better results. In our other offering, classroom assistants worked with me and with Jenny McGowan (our inclusion facilitator) to have a conversation about Horace Mann's RTI program. We asked for their feedback about what is working, and what needs improvement, and the conversation was very productive. The assistants provided us with some valuable insight about how we can make improvements to the RTI model that we will use at our next RTI meeting, which meets monthly.

Enjoy the gradually improving weather!  
Mark Nardelli

## From the PTO Officers

**BIG THANKS** to all the families that came to support our Event Night on Friday! "Reading with Sundaes" was a great way to get kids excited about BOOKS! We sold \$8,000 in BOOKS - WOW in two days!! Our school will benefit in a huge way with \$4,000 to spend through Scholastic to purchase books for the classroom, the library and more.

Also...Ralph Ranalli & The Social Action Committee raised \$275 to purchase books for the children at the Shiners Hospital. We appreciate your support and hope everyone had a great time! See you all at the next Book Fair!!

Thanks to: Sharon Russo & Helen Rousseau for heading up the Book Fair and to our volunteers: Nani Bauza, Nicolette Campbell, Jen Conley, Kim Daley, Lisa DeFelice, Danijela Dukovski, Pam Greene, Maura Harrington, Lara Kothari, Sandy Malec, Liz Mansfield, Julie LaValle, Megan Li, Susan Lynch, Michelle Ottaviano, Jill Ranalli, Nicole Randall, Margaret Raymo, Karen Solari, Marcia Tabenken, Satch Taeoka, Manisha Trivedi, Susan Tuozollo, Alyssa Vachon, Claudia Wolf, Mari Young and Sheila Zaida.

A Special Thanks to: Patti Karam & "Clifford"; Mrs. Dregalla & Mr. Tynes for offering their classrooms; Billy and Greg from DAY after DAY; Norm Rousseau for ice cream from JP Licks; our custodians, Mr. Peter & Mr. Brady for set-up & clean up; and all our Mystery Readers: Richard King, Mrs. Rosen, Mrs. Oldmixon, Patti Karam, and Joe Russo.

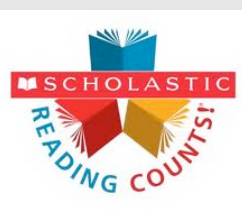
Congratulations to Alison Pierce's daughter, Cadence Turner, who won the raffle for the Kindle, the Maloney Family, who won the Book Gift Basket, and to all the students who paid close attention to the stories for great give-a-ways. We had a 3-way tie for the Jelly Bean Jar...Guess How Many? There were 1100 Jelly Beans!! Congratulations Sofia Leone-5th grade, Joseph Gross-4th grade and Christopher Gagnon-1st grade. GREAT JOB!

International Night was a huge success. Thanks to all the families who shared interesting information about their culture, delicious food and amazing artifacts. The night was enjoyed by all. A special thanks to Nani Powderly, Manisha Trivedi, Peter Green, Bill Brady and the many volunteers who helped.

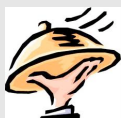
Fitness for Life is scheduled for Friday, May 27th. Please look for information from both teachers (permission slips and bus/lunch contribution \$6) and from room parents (collecting the additional items or funds needed to make the day complete!)

Slush for Sale! Every Friday after school line up for your watermelon or lemon Italian Ice. \$2.00 each.

The Staff Appreciation Luncheon has been scheduled for June 7th. Lauren Patton has offered to open her home to host this year's event. Kathy Baron has offered to coordinate all food and beverage donations so we can make this year's event amazing for our teachers and staff. Please be on the lookout for information about the event and how you can help.



Slush for Sale



## Teacher Treats!



Teacher Treats are back!! Take a chance and win a really fun experience with the staff of Horace Mann. Many teachers offered their time for a special activity and 10 were randomly chosen to participate. Each child will receive one free ticket and may purchase additional tickets: one for \$2 or 3 for \$5. The lucky winners will be announced on Friday, May 20th. Enter now for a chance to win a special occasion with:

- Mrs. Carey, Ms. Mallowney, Ms. Sandison: We will take six kids for an afternoon at school. Students will each bring a lunch to eat with the teachers. Ice cream sundaes will be provided. We will do crafts and hopefully get some outdoor playtime.
- Mrs. Dias, Ms. Mikus, Ms. Oldmixon: We will take 3 students from each fourth grade class (for a total of 9 students) on May 31 from 12:30-2. Students will each bring a lunch from home. We will make jewelry and have ice cream.
- Mr. Tynes: I will take 2 kids on a Tuesday or other early release day in June. We will play sports in the afternoon. We will then go to the baseball card shop on Watertown Street and end our time at Cabot's for lunch and dessert.
- Mrs. Hamill and Mrs. Moore: We will take 4 fifth grade students on a Tuesday afternoon to Cabot's for lunch and ice cream.
- Mrs. Karam: I will have 1 student spend a ½ day with me as a library teacher. You will recommend books for purchase for next year, help me check out books for students, and then relax for lunch together.
- Mrs. Lewis: I will take 2 kids to do an art project and have a treat one day after school.
- Mrs. Marita Rosen: I will take 2 students and each student can bring 1 friend (for a total of 4 students) for an afternoon of miniature golfing at McGolf.
- Mr. Nardelli: I will have 1 student become Principal for the Day. You will help me with some of my daily responsibilities.
- Ms. Bard: 1 student from my class will be allowed to choose all of the activities the class will do for an entire day in June.
- Ms. Liz Rosen: I will take 2 kindergarten students on a Tuesday afternoon to Cabot's for ice cream and lunch.

## Also from the PTO

In March the Horace Mann Third Graders raised just under \$2,500 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital by participating in a Math-a-thon. Over the past several years, the third grade classes have worked hard on all types of math problems and computations, contributing almost \$18,000 in Math-a-thon funds to the hospital. Congratulations on a job well done! The hospital staff and the children of St. Jude's are very appreciative of your efforts and have named us an elite school!



### NewtonSERVES

Do you have an hour or two to help spruce up the school? Please join us at Horace Mann on Sunday morning, May 15<sup>th</sup> for OUTDOOR projects or Tuesday afternoon, June 7<sup>th</sup> for INDOOR projects!

**May 15:** Phase 1 will take place on Sunday morning, May 15<sup>th</sup> as part of a city-wide event, NewtonSERVES -- a day of community service bringing together volunteers of all ages to complete tasks that benefit over 50 non-profit organizations. Volunteers work in teams on projects throughout the city. ALL volunteers should meet at the front entrance at 9:30. Our work will consist of laying mulch and general clean up of the school grounds.

**June 7:** Phase 2 will get started on Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:30, immediately after school. Please help with minor painting and other small projects inside the classrooms. We also need donations of paint, brushes and other supplies. A "wish list" will be posted in the front entrance. Please consider donating if you cannot be there to help!

Any time or resources you can spare is appreciated. Please contact Maura Bresnahan ([mbresnahan@comcast.net](mailto:mbresnahan@comcast.net)) or Jacqi Mallowney ([jmallowney9571@comcast.net](mailto:jmallowney9571@comcast.net)) for more information. Register online <http://www.newtoncommunitypride.org/NewtonSERVES.html>



## Cartridges for Kids



Thank you to everyone for sending in your valuable recyclables for Cartridges for Kids. We have collected dozens of digital cameras, toner cartridges, laptops, and the like that will earn \$\$ for Horace Mann. For those of you that don't yet know, boxes are located at both school entrances for collection. Cartridges for Kids will accept cell phones, PDAs, empty laser and inkjet cartridges, laptops, iPods, video games and consoles, digital cameras, DVDs, GPS devices, and scientific calculators - even if the items are broken or missing hard drives. Here is a sample of what we can earn for each item:

Digital Cameras: \$1 - \$3

Scientific Calculators: \$3

Graphing Calculators: \$7

Laptops: \$5 - \$30

Ink Jet Cartridges(empty): \$0.50 - \$2

Cell Phones: \$1 - \$60

Laser Cartridges (empty): \$0.50 - \$5

iPods: \$3 - \$60

A complete price list can be found at <http://www.cartridgesforkids.com/recyclelists.html#>.

With shrinking budgets we need your effort more than ever, so please send in your unwanted items and help the PTO raise much needed funds. If you have questions, please contact Michelle at [emelo2@verizon.net](mailto:emelo2@verizon.net)

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, May 24th.

Horace Mann School 687 Watertown Street, Newton, MA 02460 [www.newton.k12.ma.us/horacemann/](http://www.newton.k12.ma.us/horacemann/)

Main Office  
(617) 559-9510  
Call Back Line  
(617) 559-9530

Mark's Email  
[Mark\\_nardelli@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:Mark_nardelli@newton.k12.ma.us)  
NewsNotes Submission Email  
[hmnewsnotes@lists.neighborhood.net](mailto:hmnewsnotes@lists.neighborhood.net)

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