



NEWSNOTES

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

October 22, 2010

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

Sunday, October 24
Family Fun Run & Walk
Fall Fair

Thursday, October 28
Early Release
12:30 Dismissal

Friday, October 29
School Council
Elections End

Tuesday, November 2
Election Day Bake Sale
7:00 a.m. -7:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 11
Veteran's Day
No School

Mystery Dinner postponed
to January 21

Monday, November 15
Picture Retake Day

November 16-20
Book Fair

Wednesday, November 17
Flu Clinic

Thursday, November 18
Coffee with Mr. Nardelli

November 24
School Closes 12:00
Thanksgiving Break

Next Edition: November 5

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From Mark's Desk

Dear Horace Mann Families,

Thanks to everyone who attended the Balanced Literacy presentation on the morning of Oct. 13, 2010, in the Horace Mann Library. Below is an overview by Louise Martin, Literary Specialist, of what was shared at the presentation:

Balanced Literacy is an integrated approach to reading and writing that emphasizes comprehension, phonics, fluency, explicit strategy instruction and the development of a lifelong passion for learning through the use of authentic texts and authentic authorship experiences. Students learn in a variety of settings - whole class, small group, and individual - with appropriate instruction and mediation by the teacher. Always, the emphasis is on helping students develop a love of reading and self-expression, and acquiring the tools to do both confidently and competently.

For a more in depth overview of the components of Balanced Literacy click on the following link which is on the Horace Mann School website under curriculum resources:
http://www2.newton.k12.ma.us/~Louise_martin.

On a side note, attendance at the parent coffee was limited to a small number of parents... please take a moment to answer a short (less than 1 minute) survey about why you did not attend. Your input will help us to think about how we schedule future opportunities. To take the survey, click [here](#).

Parent Conferences: The fall parent conference window begins next week and runs until November 17. You should have had an opportunity to sign up for a time slot with your child's teacher. Here are some tips for parents for both prior to and during the conference:

Getting ready:

Talk to your child before the conference to find out what he/she thinks is going well and what he/she thinks are areas for improvement. Ask your child if there is anything he/she would like you to talk about with his/her teachers. Make sure your child doesn't worry about the meeting and that he/she knows that this is a typical expectation that the school has to facilitate good communication between parents and teachers. Before you come to school, write notes to yourself about your child's behavior and study life at home.

Questions to ask during the conference:

- What are my child's strengths and weaknesses as a learner?
- Is my child working up to his/her ability? How is his/her effort?
- Does my child participate successfully in class discussions and activities?
- How well does my child get along with others?
- How can we work with our child at home to support what is happening at school?
- What are some goals that we should have for our child for the remainder of the year?

Horace Mann teachers work really hard every day to support your child's efforts to learn, and they prepare diligently for these conferences. Please enter into the conversation with an open mind and try to assume best intentions. If you have concerns, it is helpful to use statements to describe how you feel, rather than drawing conclusions before hearing the teacher's perspective. I hope that these conferences are useful and informative.

Thanks,
Mark Nardelli



Gift Wrap orders raise over \$3,800 & 130 families Pay Dues

Thank you, Mr. Nardelli & Ms. Martin



From the PTO Officers

Thanks to Pat Tobin and all the families who worked hard to sell Innisbrook gift wrap and products. Our orders raised over \$3,800 for our school! We have collected dues from over 130 families. If you have not yet done so PLEASE send in your contribution to your child's teacher or donate through our website at www.horacemannpto.org or go directly to <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/882877711>. Money raised so far this year has provided:

- Creative Arts and Science programs
- Two Elmo projectors
- Ellison paper cutter
- Teacher stipends to purchase materials for classrooms.

We want to thank Louise Martin, our Horace Mann Literacy Specialist, and Mark Nardelli for a great presentation on literacy at Horace Mann School. Mr. Nardelli plans to hold more meetings throughout the year to help parents feel connected and informed about our school. We encourage all to attend!

Also from the PTO

We are hoping to see many Horace Mann families this weekend at the Horace Mann Road Race and Fall Fair on Sunday, October 24. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. There will be something for everyone: a pumpkin dash, a one mile race and a 5K. In addition, you'll be able to cheer on your rubber duck as it floats down the brook to win a prize! A tremendous amount of time and planning has gone into making these events fun for all ages. The Fall Fair will begin at 11:00 a.m. Enjoy great games, food, crafts, face painting and lots of surprises. Please make every effort to bring the kids and have a wonderful day with our Horace Mann Community.

The 2010-2011 Horace Mann Student Directory should be published and distributed by late next week. It's a useful tool for communicating with our school community. Thank you for your patience. Liz Mansfield and Kathy Baron have volunteered many hours inputting data and merging documents to get it ready for printing and distribution.

Election Day Bake Sale in the Gym: Tuesday, November 2, 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Please contact Sharon Russo at srusso@comcast.net to help SELL or BAKE goodies. More information and sign-up sheets will be emailed to you.

Barnes and Noble School Book Fair: HM PTO is having an in-store event on Tuesday, November 16, at the *Chestnut Hill Location on Rte 9*, plus 5 days of shopping online. Look for all the FUN details SOON!

We have postponed the Mystery Dinner originally scheduled for November 12. Please save the new date for January 21. We are sure you will enjoy this evening of culinary surprises and lots of fun! If you were unable to host in November please consider hosting a dinner in January. Please contact Sandy Malec at SandyMalec@yahoo.com, Jennifer Conley at jennifer@gooddeedsllc.com or Karen Solari at ksolari@verizon.net with any questions.

From the Nurse's Desk

Seasonal flu vaccine will be offered during the school day to all students in Kindergarten through Grade 12 at no cost to families. Parents may choose the flu shot or the nasal spray flu vaccine for their child. More information, including dates and consent forms, is available at www.newtonma.gov/flu or from the school nurse. Horace Mann's clinic will be held Wednesday, November 17, starting at 8:30 a.m. Forms are due Monday, November 15.

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, Nov. 2.

Family Fun Run & Walk



Fall Fair Oct 24



Bake Sale Nov 2

Book Fair Nov 16



JAN 21

Flu Clinic Nov 17



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We're on the Web!
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