



# NEWSNOTES

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

October 8, 2010

**Every Tuesday**

Pretzel Sales \$1.00  
After school  
Front/Back Lobbies

**Monday, October 11**

Columbus Day  
No School

**Wednesday, October 13**

Morning Coffee with Mark  
8:00 AM

**Friday, October 15**

Gift Wrap Fundraiser  
Deadline

**Sunday, October 24**

Family Fun Run & Walk  
Fall Fair

**Thursday, October 28**

Early Release  
12:30 Dismissal

**Thursday, November 11**

Veterans Day  
No School

**Friday, November 12**

Mystery Dinner

**Monday, November 15**

Picture Retake Day

**Next Edition: October 22**

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[www.horacemannpto.org](http://www.horacemannpto.org)

## From Mark's Desk

Dear Horace Mann Families,

By the time you read this, we will have officially completed our 5th week of school, and by now most of the children have settled into their daily routines. Of course, we threw the Kindergartners a curveball; this week they have begun their full day schedules and undoubtedly will need a little more time to get acclimated to the longer school day. Here are a few important items to think about as we move into October . . .

**Parent Coffee:** The originally scheduled parent coffee has been moved to Wednesday, October 13th, during which time I will host a gathering for parents beginning at 8:00 a.m. There will be an informal time to socialize and chat about school happenings, and then there will be a brief presentation on literacy from 8:30-9:00 a.m. Louise Martin, our literacy specialist, will present information about how we approach reading and writing at Horace Mann, including a description of balanced literacy, assessments, and RTI. Please join us for this informative coffee session.

**MCAS scores:** By now, you should have received results for your child's performance on last year's MCAS. If you haven't, please contact me via [e-mail](#). If you would like to see information about Horace Mann's performance as a whole, you can do so by clicking on this link: [HM MCAS profile](#). If you can navigate the site, there's lots of information to sift through. For those of you who want the big ideas, Horace Mann continues to be a high performing school and demonstrated solid growth for the 2010 testing year, meeting benchmarks for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in the aggregate as well as in all subgroups. Despite this success, we are committed to improving every year, and we have already begun looking at both individual test scores and subgroup scores to identify areas of weakness. Our goal is to use the analysis of our MCAS data, along with our own internal assessment data, to fine-tune our instructional objectives and to plan interventions that will help all of our students demonstrate growth and increased success.

**School Council Update:** Two candidates have expressed interest in filling this year's School Council opening. Susan Tuozzolo and Alyssa Cifuni have both written statements that will be published to the Horace Mann community over the next few days. I encourage you to read the statements and take part in the voting process. Details about voting will be forthcoming.

**School Assemblies:** On the first Friday of each month, we gather as a school community in two assemblies, one for the K-2 students and one for the 3-5 students. During each assembly, we do the pledge, share a song, and then engage in any number of other activities. For example, a 3rd grade class might share their poetry, or 1st graders could perform a skit. I also like to use this time to talk about important issues related to school culture. For instance, at our opening meeting we talked about courage and the various forms it can take here at school. This month, I will be reading a book called *One* by Kathryn Otoshi. The story is about a little blue dot that is having trouble fitting in because of a bully (the red dot). My hope is to talk with the children about differences, to help them be more reflective about how we treat one another, and to realize the power of the group to conquer adversity. I welcome your support in reinforcing these messages at home.

Thanks,  
Mark Nardelli, Principal

## From the PTO Officers

### DUES CAMPAIGN



THANK YOU,  
PLEASE GIVE

Thanks to all of you who have turned in your dues. This campaign is one of our major fundraisers of the year and critical to supporting the Creative Arts & Sciences Program as well as maintaining and adding to the school's Technology Fund. Both the Creative Arts & Sciences Program and Technology Fund are not part of the Newton Public Schools budget and must be funded by the money we raise as a PTO. We recommend a \$50 per student contribution, but any contribution will get us closer to our goals. This year we need to buy 18 new laptops to replace the broken or outdated models currently on the carts our children use in their everyday learning. We hope to close the Dues Campaign before the Thanksgiving holiday, so please submit your dues as soon as you can. Return your DUES ENVELOPE to your child's classroom teacher or PAY ONLINE, by clicking the [giving site](#) link under Announcements on our homepage <http://www.horacemannpto.org/>.

## Also from the PTO

Gift Wrap  
Oct 15 Deadline



The gift wrap fundraiser has been extended by one week until October 15th for people to input their orders. Go to <http://www.innisbrook.com/>, select the EZ button, register your child and input your orders. Our school number is 105470. Have your child return the checks they collected to their classroom teacher. It's easy to do. Don't miss out. Contact Pat Tobin with any questions: email [ptstobin@mac.com](mailto:ptstobin@mac.com) or call 617-527-6569.

Family Fun Run  
& Walk



Fall Fair  
Oct 24

Mark your calendars and get in your registration for the Horace Mann Fun Run on Sunday, October 24th. Join races for all levels: 100 yard pumpkin dash for kids 6 and under, 1 mile run and 5k run thru the neighborhood of Horace Mann. Learn more and register online at <http://horacemannpto.org/road-race.html>. Festivities will continue throughout the afternoon with the Horace Mann Fall Fair: excitement for all with food, games, and rides right on the school grounds. Don't miss out on the fun! Volunteers are needed for both events: contact Brian McCabe at [psmccabe@comcast.net](mailto:psmccabe@comcast.net) to help with the Fun Run and Julie Lavallo at [jdestino71@aol.com](mailto:jdestino71@aol.com) to help with the Fall Fair.



Nov 12

Want to host a small group of Horace Mann parents at this year's Mystery Dinner? Showcase your culinary skills and have a great night of fun socializing with other Horace Mann parents. Contact Sandy Malec ([sandymalec@yahoo.com](mailto:sandymalec@yahoo.com)), Karen Solari ([ksolari@verizon.net](mailto:ksolari@verizon.net)) or Jennifer Conley ([jennifer@gooddeedsllc.com](mailto:jennifer@gooddeedsllc.com)) to sign up as a host family or to get more information. And, mark your calendars to join us for this fun, adult only event on Friday, November 12th. Invitations will go out in mid-October.

Picture Retake  
Day  
Nov 15



Picture retake day will be Monday, November 15th. Be sure to mark your calendar if your child was absent on Picture Day or you wish to schedule a retake. Anyone with questions please contact Coffee Pond directly at 508-907-6633, press 0, and speak to their customer care department.



GOING GREEN

NewsNotes is now a brief one-page edition of Horace Mann news only. To ensure equal access of information to all, a paper copy of NewsNotes will go home bi-weekly with the youngest member of each Horace Mann family and will be posted on the PTO website. To foster "green" practices at Horace Mann, additional details and other PTO announcements will be posted on the PTO website regularly. Community News and Classifieds will be posted bi-weekly on the PTO website and the PTO bulletin board in the front lobby of the school. Our goal is to be web-only by 2011-12. Use the links below to stay connected!

### NewsNotes Information

NEWSNOTES IS ON THE NEWLY LAUNCHED & REDESIGNED PTO WEBSITE at <http://horacemannpto.org/newsnotes.html>.

Community News and Classifieds (formerly part of NewsNotes) will be posted on the Horace Mann PTO website at <http://horacemannpto.org/community-news.html> and <http://horacemannpto.org/community-classifieds.html>. You can also check the PTO Bulletin Board for a posting of these online listings.

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, Oct. 19.

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We're on the Web!  
[horacemannpto.org](http://horacemannpto.org)

