

# H M P T O

The Horace Mann School PTO Newsletter



# NEWSNOTES

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

January 29, 2010

## Upcoming

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



**Wednesday, February 3**  
Parent Workshop: Bullying at School

**February 15-19**  
No school Winter Break

**Friday, February 26**  
Science Night

**Saturday, March 13**  
Silent Auction

Next Edition:  
February 12

## From Greg's Desk

Dear Horace Mann Families,



If you were fortunate enough to see Wednesday night's Winter Concert or last Friday's assembly or Wednesday morning's concert, then you know that what I am about to say is true: the Aladdin-Troubadours performance was fantastic! Mrs. Dregalla deserves the Busby Berkeley award for creative choreography, with camels dancing across the stage, rug merchants chiming in on cue, and multiple Aladdins and Jasmynes singing their hearts out while swaying to the rhythms of the Arabian Nights. Hats off to all of the students who participated (and to parents for help with those stunning costumes); special thanks to our superb accompanist, Stephanie Rogers, and to our guest snare drummer, Don Dregalla!

### Progress Reports

Today your child will be bringing home a progress report, which we write and give to parents every January and June. The purpose of the report is twofold: to share with you how we think your child is doing relative to established state- and district-wide standards (not relative to classmates' performance), and to give you an indication of how much progress your child has made since the beginning of the school year or since the previous reporting period. Additionally, teachers like to update you on how your child is doing in terms of personal and social growth: interactions with peers, independence in the classroom, cooperation with adults, and so forth.

Five or six years ago, Newton switched from a system in which every elementary school had its own report form and method of reporting to a district-wide, standards-based form that measures performance against established - and universally accepted - standards. This means that every third-grade student in the district is being judged by the same criteria in reading, writing, math, social studies, science, art, and other subjects. At the same time, an effort is made, via comments and a rating scale, to share teachers' impressions of how each student is faring in terms of progress and effort.

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

**Greg Hurray's Email**  
[greg\\_hurray@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:greg_hurray@newton.k12.ma.us)  
**Newsnotes Submission Email**  
[hmnewsnotes@lists.neighborhood.net](mailto:hmnewsnotes@lists.neighborhood.net)

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

## From Greg's Desk (Continued)

I know, because I have read every single report, that teachers have put a tremendous amount of time, care, and thought into these documents. Using assessment data, student work, and their daily notes, teachers have made every effort to accurately convey your child's performance, progress, and effort. In my experience, while performance matters - and it is important for you to know how your child is achieving relative to established benchmarks - progress and effort are much more important in the long run. Our ultimate goal is for students to love learning, to be engaged by their studies and classroom activities, and to see themselves making progress. These three things - a love of learning, engagement, progress - almost always lead to genuine success over time.

As you read your child's progress report, please feel free to talk with his or her teachers about any questions you might have, or with me if you have comments about the reporting form itself. It took a committee of curriculum coordinators, teachers, and parents five years to come up with this form, and this summer we will reconvene to review its strengths and weaknesses. To that end, we would greatly appreciate your input!

Sincerely yours,

Greg

## From the PTO

The Horace Mann School Dance was a huge success. Thanks to Rich Galgano who made every effort to make the 5<sup>th</sup> grade dance organized, safe, and most importantly FUN for the children and parents who attended!

As you know, 50% of Horace Mann families have paid their dues. PTO's new incentive is to reach 75%. If you haven't paid your dues please do so before April vacation and your kids will have an Ice Cream Sundae Party to celebrate reaching our goal!

## Thanks

## PTO's Dues: Ice Cream Sunday

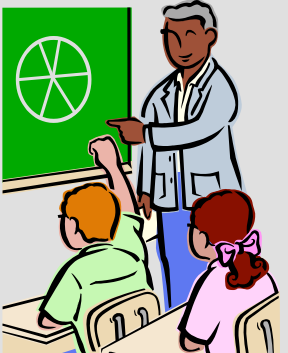


## Loose Change



Keep sending your extra loose change to school with your kids. Every single penny helps! The PTO is collecting loose change in all the classrooms at Horace Mann.

## Important Update on School matters



PTO Council had the pleasure of meeting with Mayor Warren on Tuesday night. We learned that both the Superintendent search and the principal search are going as planned. He is determined to gather data about the city buildings and schools, especially concerning their infrastructure and address the needs of the poorly maintained buildings over a 5-10 year span. He also plans to meet with Acting Superintendent Jim Marini, Chief Cummings from NPD and parents to discuss traffic safety issues around our school, with special attention to Blue Zone Safety. Lastly, if you didn't get a chance to view the video of an ELMO in use in our school, you can access the footage at the following address online: <http://northeastschoollibrarytechnology.wikispaces.com/Mrs.+Malec> Password: ELMO. Thanks again, to Marybeth Denucci and Sandy Malec for their time!

## Bullying at School February 3rd

Please mark your calendar for our next PTO sponsored parent Meeting February 3rd at 7:30 pm. We will address the topic of bullying. Craig Murphy will give parents strategies to help empower our children to prevent bullying. He will facilitate a dialogue to help parents, teachers and the community send the same message to our children about bullying. Remember bullying affects everyone.

## Calling all Cooks!



## Also From the PTO

Please contribute your favorite family recipes to our first version of the Horace Mann Cookbook, A Taste to Remember. Proceeds from the cookbook will help support our Horace Mann Community. We need your help!

Here's what to do:

Find your favorite recipes from any of the following categories: Breakfast, Appetizers, Soups, Salads, Breads, Entrees, Side Dishes, Desserts

Send in your recipes to: [HoraceMannCooks@gmail.com](mailto:HoraceMannCooks@gmail.com). Be sure to include your child's name so we can recognize them in the cookbook. Please submit Recipes by January 31<sup>st</sup>.

The more recipes we collect, the better the cookbook, the more money to support our school!

## Submit Drawings for the HM Cookbook

Have your picture immortalized in the inaugural edition of A Taste to Remember, The Horace Mann cookbook. Have your child submit a picture along with your family recipe. We will randomly select drawings to be a part of the cookbook. Please include your child's name along with the drawing and recipe. Thanks for helping make this cookbook a success.

Pictures can be submitted in a box in the front lobby of the school.

Ever wonder...How much electricity can you get out of a lemon? How far could your rubber-band car go? Does the shape of a paper airplane affect the distance it can fly?

All this is part of the fun at Science Night, February 26, 6:00-8:30 pm. Registration deadline is February 12th!

Join special hosts Greg Hurray and David Tynes to learn some amazing things about the everyday world in an interactive, noncompetitive atmosphere.

**EXCITING FOR KIDS:** The fun is in the tinkering! Perform an experiment or build a working gadget. The more interactive and participatory your project, the better! Kids can work with their friends, siblings or on their own (one adult required).

**EASY ON PARENTS:** You can design your own project, or choose from our "Cookbook of Experiments," each with step-by-step instructions and an explanation of the science involved. Each project should fit on a table, and should have a (kid-quality) poster explaining it. Operative words: kid-quality!

**FUN FOR EVERYONE:** Food will be available for sale, so you can feed the family, browse the exhibits, and socialize. You can also pre-order your family's pizza when you register! See the PTO's demo of exciting classroom technology (the ELMO), and stay for the Technology Fund raffle drawing at the end of the evening - someone will win a Nintendo DSI.

**NEW THIS YEAR:** you can do it all online at the PTO website ([www.horacemannpto.org/sciencenight.htm](http://www.horacemannpto.org/sciencenight.htm)): get info, browse the Cookbook, register, and pre-order your pizza. For questions, contact us at [SciNight@gmail.com](mailto:SciNight@gmail.com) or call Michelle Ciurea at (617) 331-9436. See you there!

Earlier this month in your child's home school folder, you should have received an auction donation letter. Donations have begun to come in from area businesses and Horace Mann families. Here are some ideas...

Do you own your own business--donate a gift certificate for goods or services or place an ad in the program book. Contact Lisa for donations at Lisa DiFelice at [ldifelice@Verizon.net](mailto:ldifelice@Verizon.net).

## Silent Auction: "Springtime in Paris"



**Save the Date:  
Saturday, March  
13 at the Post 440**



Do you or your employer have season tickets to a Boston sports team? Donate tickets to a Red Sox, Patriots, Celtics, Bruins or Revolution game. Contact Lisa DiFelice at [ldifelice@Verizon.net](mailto:ldifelice@Verizon.net).

Do you have a cape, lake or ski house? Donate a weekend or week's stay. Contact Jennifer Conley at [Jennifer@gooddeedllc.com](mailto:Jennifer@gooddeedllc.com).

Participate in the re-gifting drive. By donating any holiday gifts you received but already have or won't use. Items must be new, unopened and something someone else would actually use. Contact Jennifer Conley at [Jennifer@gooddeedllc.com](mailto:Jennifer@gooddeedllc.com) for more info.

Or donate your time--we could always use some extra hands planning or even just on the day of the auction for setup before and cleanup after the event. To learn more about becoming part of the auction commuter contact Patty McCabe at [psmccabe@comcast.net](mailto:psmccabe@comcast.net). Or join us for our next committee meeting Wednesday, February 11 at 8:45am at the home of Committee co-chair Jennifer Conley at 502 Crafts Street.

Come to the auction--This event is the PTO's biggest fundraiser of the year but it's success depends on you. Mark your calendars, line up the sitter and make sure you join us on March 13th for what's sure to be a fun night.

And don't forget--All donations to the Horace Mann PTO are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by State and Federal law.

## From The Community

The Horace Mann School is collecting medical supplies and clothes for Haiti. Medical supplies are a priority. Rubbing alcohol, hydrogen peroxide, gauze, bandages and ointments. Also, clothing for men, women and children. Canned foods, water are also needed. Donation will be collected in the lobby of Horace Mann school. Tuesday, January 26 through Tuesday, February 9. Questions contact Lisa Mikus, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher or Sophia Bowden at [Sophia.Bowden@state.ma.us](mailto:Sophia.Bowden@state.ma.us)

**Donations for  
Haiti  
January 26-  
February  
9**



**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Spelling  
Bee**



A fun and educational citywide Spelling Bee for all Newton children grades K - 6.

Children compete within their own grade level only, and everyone receives a goody bag and a certificate of participation to celebrate their hard work. The top three spellers in each grade get a special prize.

Choose one day from the grade appropriate group:

Grades K - 3

Monday, March 1 or Wednesday, March 3

Grades 4 - 6

Monday, March 8 or Wednesday, March 10

Sign up soon! Registration limited. \$7 entry fee

Sign up on line at [www.newtoncivicpride.org](http://www.newtoncivicpride.org) or call 617-527-8283 for more information.

**Spring and  
Baseball are  
Coming!**

NLL serves boys and girls, from ages 4 to 12, who attend, or reside in the school districts of Horace Mann, Lincoln Eliot and Underwood. Middle school and private school students, from these districts, are also welcome and eligible to play. Registration and additional information is available at [www.newtonnorthll.org](http://www.newtonnorthll.org) Walk-in registration will be held at the Albemarle Field House on Saturday, January 23rd from 9am -12 noon and Saturday, February 27th 9am- 12 noon at the Albemarle Field House

**Newton Camps  
Information**



One-Stop Shopping for Newton Camps: The Planning Out-of-School-Time (POST) database is a single, centralized place to get free online listings of over 160 summer day camp programs in Newton, serving kids ages 3-17. This database is searchable by location, age of child, type of camp and specific camp activities. Additional information is provided, including hours of operation, cost, financial aid, availability of transportation and availability of programs for children with special needs. The website also has tip sheets and other resources for parents on specific camp and out-of-school-time topics. For more information or to search for a camp, go to [www.projectinterface.org/post](http://www.projectinterface.org/post). This is a program of The Newton Partnership and Project INTERFACE. Questions can be directed to Jenny Gamson at [jenny\\_gamson@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:jenny_gamson@newton.k12.ma.us) or 617.559.9064.

**Workshop:  
Collaborative  
Problem Solving  
Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>  
7 to 9 p.m.**

An Effective Approach to Understanding and Supporting Your Child  
Presenter: Ross W. Greene, Ph.D. - Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and author of the acclaimed books, The Explosive Child, and Lost at School, will provide an in-depth review of his model for supporting children who demonstrate challenging behaviors. Dr. Greene will also specifically focus on work with children and families, how parents can implement CPS at home, and how it has been implemented in the Newton Public Schools. Location: Williams Elementary School, 141 Grove St., Auburndale  
This workshop is free and no registration is required.

**Parenting in the  
Digital Age**

Join discussions of the challenges of parenting in the Digital Age: Texting, Facebook and Cyberbullying.  
Wednesday, February 3, 2010 at 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in Bigelow Middle School 42 Vernon St., Newton

**Slip-Sliding to  
School**

Would you like your child to walk safely to school in winter, without having to step out onto busy streets to avoid snowy sidewalks There is a move afoot to ensure sidewalk access year-round. Residents are being asked to contact their Aldermen and Mayor Warren and let them know that you support a residential sidewalk snow removal ordinance and enforcement of the current ordinance which prohibits anyone from shoveling snow from their property onto the sidewalks. Questions? Contact [SafeSidewalks@gmail.com](mailto:SafeSidewalks@gmail.com)

**Environmental Art  
Contest  
Grades K-5**

The Green Decade/Newton 2010 Environmental Art Contest is open to all students who live or go to school in Newton, grades K-5. The theme is "How My School Is Helping Newton Go Green" and submission deadline is Monday, March 15, 2010.  
Registration info and further contest details: contact the Green Decade at 617-965-1995 or visit <http://www.greendecade.org/artcontest.html>.

---

## Classifieds

---

**Piano Lessons** - Learn Jazz/Blues/Classical, theory, sight reading from a Berklee & New England Conservatory graduate with 25+ years teaching experience. Gloria Jasinski, phone: 617.566.9704, email: [piano566@comcast.net](mailto:piano566@comcast.net)

**Homework Help:** ActiveMinds Tutoring, LLC: Your source for in-home tutoring. Effective, Personalized and Convenient. All grades/all subjects, including test preparation. Sign your child up for academic success and receive a free lesson! Call: (617) 663-5700.

**April Vacation Soccer Clinic for Girls at Boston College** - Boston College Lady Eagles will be holding their annual April Vacation Clinic from April 20th to 23rd, 2010. Please visit <http://bceagles.cstv.com/camps/bc-w-soccer-camps2.html> for more information.

**Position available at the New Art Center: February Vacation Week Counselor**

The New Art Center Vacation Program offers opportunities for teenagers who are interested in learning about childcare and arts programming. Counselor positions are paid positions with plenty of training and hands-on experience. Contact Jessica Alexander at [jessica@newartcenter.org](mailto:jessica@newartcenter.org) or 617-964-3424.

**Family Dancing at the Annual Winter Concert** - Live music, activities, crafts, a bake sale, and fantastic raffle prizes. Saturday, February 6, 10am-12pm, Newton Cultural Center, 225 Nevada Street, Newton. \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. For tickets, contact Sarah Sian at [tickets@burrcoop.org](mailto:tickets@burrcoop.org) or 617-388-3132. All proceeds to benefit Burr Cooperative Nursery School, a non-profit organization.

**Wheelock Family Theater: "Honk"**, based on Hans Christian Anderson's "The Ugly Duckling" at the Wheelock Family Theatre January 29 through February 28. Added: Special School Vacation week matinees. Coming up "The Barber of Seville", "The Little Mermaid", "A Tale of Two Cities" and more. Info at [www.wheelock.edu/wft/](http://www.wheelock.edu/wft/).

### Newsnotes Information

**Editors:** Gina Mulvaney, Maura Harrington, Nani Bauza, Susanti Sugianto, Melissa Dilworth, Deb Randall.

*Newsnotes* is the main vehicle of communication at Horace Mann School. *Newsnotes* is published by the PTO bi-weekly. Please email items of interest to [hmnewsnotes@lists.neighborhood.net](mailto:hmnewsnotes@lists.neighborhood.net).

Deadline for submissions is 11:00am on Tuesday the week you want the items to appear. Classifieds from the Horace Mann community are free. Classifieds from non-community members may be charged a nominal fee.

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

**Greg's Email**

[greg\\_hurray@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:greg_hurray@newton.k12.ma.us)

**Newsnotes Submission Email**

[hmnewsnotes@lists.neighborhood.net](mailto:hmnewsnotes@lists.neighborhood.net)

**Announcement List**

[hm-parents-announce@lists.neighborhood.net](mailto:hm-parents-announce@lists.neighborhood.net)

**Discussion List**

[hm-parents@lists.neighborhood.net](mailto:hm-parents@lists.neighborhood.net)

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

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