

# H M P T O

The Horace Mann School PTO Newsletter



# NEWSNOTES

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

March 19, 2010

## Upcoming

### Every Tuesday

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



### Tuesday, March 23

MCAS testing 3:00 dismissal

### Wednesday, March 24

Early Release . 12:30

### Friday, April 2

No School . Good Friday

### April 19-23

No School . Spring Vacation

Next Edition:

April 2

## From Greg's Desk

Dear Horace Mann Families,

By far the most exciting news of the past two weeks was the announcement last Tuesday that Brown Middle School Assistant Principal **Mark Nardelli** has been selected as **Principal of the Horace Mann School** starting July 1, 2010. I have known Mark for many years and I can say, in all honesty, that I can't think of a better choice for Horace Mann! Mark was for many years an outstanding and very popular science teacher at Brown. For the past few years he has served as Assistant Principal and both students and teachers love him. Mark has deep roots in the Horace Mann community - he was a student here in the late 1970s - and is anxious to get to work. He will be spending as much time as possible learning about Horace Mann over the next few months - he spent all day Wednesday visiting the school - and, increasingly, will be involved in important decisions affecting next year's plans.

### Haiti Follow-Up



**Jordan Lund**, our talented and socially conscious art teacher, developed a plan to raise funds for victims of the earthquake in Haiti that she named **Hearts for Haiti**. This involved making and selling heart-shaped pins for \$2.00 a pin. Ms. Lund and her students raised a total of **\$325**, which they donated to the American Red Cross's Haiti Relief Fund in the name of "the students of the Horace Mann School."

Ms. Lund mentioned that "many students donated extra, which I thought showed how generous and caring the students are at HM."

### Musical Events

In the past week we have been treated to several rousing musical events: **Newton's All-City Band** - more than 60 musicians in grades five through eight - performed for the upper grades under the direction of former Horace Mann teacher **Gary Fox**. This was a terrific performance of pieces from all over the world, including selections from Broadway shows like *West Side Story*. I think it's fair to say that students really loved this concert! Last Friday our first graders, led by substitute music teacher **Deanna Mustachio**,



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## From Greg's Desk (Continued)

entertained their kindergarten and second grade schoolmates with a jitterbug rendition of *Green Eggs and Ham*. Believe me, the place was jumpin'! And this Friday, the entire school had the special treat of seeing **Sara McSwiggan's** award-winning daughters perform **Irish Dance steps** during morning assembly.

All of these events helped keep our spirits up in the midst of some horrible weather!

Best wishes for a warm and sunny outlook as we officially head into spring,

Greg

## A Message From Our New Principal - Mark Nardelli

March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Dear Horace Mann Families,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and to share with you my excitement about joining what I know to be a caring community, dedicated to building a school environment that is safe, inclusive, and committed to excellence. I feel fortunate to be part of this community, and I embrace the opportunity to continue the Horace Mann tradition.

Professionally, I have spent my entire career at Brown Middle School, both as a science teacher, and most recently as an assistant principal. I am proud of the collaborative culture we have created amongst the staff there, as well as our commitment to helping all students succeed. I feel that my experiences there have prepared me for this new challenge, and I hope to use my middle school background to bring a unique perspective into the elementary school environment.

On a more personal note, I currently reside in Medfield with my wife, Christine, and our two daughters Eliana and Julia. Christine was an elementary teacher for many years in Brookline, and is now teaching 4<sup>th</sup> grade in Westwood. Eliana will be in second grade next year, Julia will be starting Kindergarten, and we wait with great anticipation for the arrival of a third Nardelli into the family in the late summer.

The auction on Saturday night was a great success, and I thank all of you who spoke with me and offered me a warm welcome. It was fun to see some familiar faces and meet some new ones as well. I look forward to getting to know more of you in the weeks and months to come.

I will be meeting regularly with Greg this spring to talk about the transition and to stay informed about important decisions that will need to be made for the fall. I have great respect for Greg's work and expertise, and I admire his commitment to children, both academically, and socially. I am thrilled at the prospect of working with him throughout this transition.

Thanks again for trusting me with the opportunity to lead a truly wonderful and vibrant school community.

Sincerely,

Mark Nardelli

## From the PTO

An enormous thank you to all who braved the rain storm to join us for the Spring Auction. There was over \$20,000 of items up for bid all donated by Horace Mann families, friends and local businesses. In addition to a fun night for all who attended we also raised almost \$19,000 for the children of Horace Mann. Thanks to all for your support--because of you the event was such a success. A big thanks to Jenn Conley, Lisa Defelice & Patty McCabe for all of their hard work.

## Spring Auction

**Upcoming PTO Meetings - please mark your calendars**

The first Meeting is scheduled for April 7<sup>th</sup>. The meeting is a follow up to the Anti Bullying meeting in February. Many of us left that night with unanswered questions and concerns. The Horace Mann Teachers along with Craig Murphy and Greg Hurray would like to answer these questions and concerns with some strategies the school is putting into place with a program called Steps to Respect. Please make every attempt to attend this meeting as we are all responsible for bullying; parents of children who have bullied, parents of victims of bullies and those who have not been affected. Remember, it takes a village. Once we are informed, it's our responsibility to teach our children the vocabulary and strategies to end the cycle and keep our children safe. This meeting will follow a specific agenda in hopes that we all have a clear understanding of the initiative the school is putting in place.

The second meeting, scheduled for mid May is critical to the success of our PTO next year. We would like to invite every committee member and every member of our parent community who has not yet volunteered to join us. We plan to look at our fundraising needs for the year ahead in addition to the community building events that make Horace Mann special. Let's work together to plan a successful year ahead. Again, it is our responsibility as parents to support the needs of our children's school.

**And Also from the PTO**

**Box Tops for Education**

The green sheets have been passed out and are due April 16th.... keep clipping. Our goal for 2010 is \$500.00, to date we have raised \$315.00. For more information on participating products and how to earn more for our school visit [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com)

**From The Community**

**21st Century Classroom demo**

**Newton Schools Foundation** Join The Newton Schools Foundation and NPS Director of Information Technology, Shelley Chamberlain for an in-classroom interactive demonstration at Brown Middle School. You'll be a student for the night with eighth grade science teacher Michelle Fox and hear how this project will bring 21st Century Classrooms to Newton! Shelley Chamberlain will be available to answer questions about the interactive tools and her vision for the future. Wednesday, April 28, 2010. 7-8:30 PM. Brown Middle School Rm 212 To RSVP or get details, email Tori Filler at [Tori\\_Filler@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:Tori_Filler@newton.k12.ma.us) or call 617.559.6120.

**Bike Newton Sunday 3/21**

**BIKE NEWTON**, [www.bikeweston.org](http://www.bikeweston.org), is holding a General Meeting at the **Newton Cultural Center, 225 Nevada St. on SUNDAY, March 21, 2-5 PM**. This free event will feature displays about BIKE NEWTON's projects, and discussions (facilitated by Newton Aldermen) regarding the recently-submitted application for Newton to be designated a Bicycle-Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists (LAB). The mayor will be joining us at the meeting, along with other city officials. There will be a **SmartCycling CLINIC for Youth (all ages)**. Steve Heinrichs, Certified LAB Instructor, and member of the BIKE NEWTON Steering Committee. RSVP for event to [bikeweston@gmail.com](mailto:bikeweston@gmail.com), or call 617 527-1237. To register for the clinic, contact [sheintr4143@aol.com](mailto:sheintr4143@aol.com)

**Stand for Children Day on Beacon Hill**

**"Stand for Children's Day" on Beacon Hill** - Tuesday, March 23, 9 a.m. - noon. Parents and other community members from Newton are being encouraged to join with hundreds of education advocates from around the state on Beacon Hill to show support for public education. There will be speakers from the field of education policy and practice during the indoor rally, and an opportunity to tell legislators what matters to Newton. The event is free and open to the public. Transportation will be provided, but advanced registration is requested. For more info and to register: [www.stand.org/ma/dayonthehill](http://www.stand.org/ma/dayonthehill). Optional online rally for those who can't be there: Here is a way to make an online "sign" to send to Beacon Hill's legislators. Go to [www.stand.org/ma/signs](http://www.stand.org/ma/signs)

**7<sup>th</sup> Annual  
"Hoopin' for  
Newton"**

**7th Annual "Hoopin' for Newton"** (formerly "3 on 3 for Charity") Sunday March 21st at 2 pm at the Newton North High School Gym. Here is one of the last chances to play in the NNHS gym. Girls and Boys, Men and Women. All levels of experience, beginner to college hoops. Teams are matched by experience and play for fun. This charity event benefits Newton families in need, providing seed money for Newon ASC, ONE Newton (the fund inspired by the plight of the Beatrice family and designed to help other families as well) and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. For more info or to reserve a place: [westmanj@comcast.net](mailto:westmanj@comcast.net) or 617-285-2632.

**FitKids Jamboree**

**FitKids Jamboree at NCSC, West Newton: Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.** Bring your kids ages 2-5 to the FitKids Jamboree. Athletic activities provided by Knucklebones, healthy snack choices provided by Whole Foods Market, and the Lakeshore Learning Art Experience gives kids the ability to create things that reinforce active, healthy lifestyles. Divided into three 2 hour sessions (9-11 a.m., 11:30-1:30 p.m., and 2-4 p.m.). Located at 492 Waltham Street, West Newton. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit [www.FitKidsJamboree.com](http://www.FitKidsJamboree.com) or call 617-935-9856.

**Kindergarten  
Spring Soccer**

**Register now for Newton Kindergarten Soccer Spring 2010!** All children entering kindergarten or first grade in Newton in the fall of 2010 are invited to join the program which has been introducing children to soccer since 1993. Teams are organized by elementary school. Saturday mornings, April 24 - June 19 (except 5/29) at Richardson Field. We need parent volunteers; previous knowledge of soccer is required. Fee: \$60. (Financial assistance is available and is confidential). Register by March 31, 2010. Enrollment is limited and handled on a first come first serve basis. You will be contacted by a coach the week prior to the first session. [www.kindergartensoccer.org](http://www.kindergartensoccer.org)

**18<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Newton  
Heartbreak Hill  
Youth Race**

**Ready, Set, Run!** The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Newton Heartbreak Hill Youth Race is on Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, noon - 3 pm. The race is one mile, up and down Heartbreak Hill. Pre-registration required. Youths (9 - 18) \$10, Adults (19 - 90) \$12, Wheelchair athletes \$10, Family walk \$10. First 500 registrants receive free t- shirt. All registrants receive a race medallion, seedling tree and a free ticket to pre-race pasta/pizza party on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm at Newton City Hall. Sports celebrity appearances include photo-ops with "Pat" the N.E. England Patriots Mascot, and face painting by the N.E. Revolution cheerleaders! Call 617-527-8283 for more info, or register at [www.newtoncivicpride.org](http://www.newtoncivicpride.org)

**Bringing Down  
the House at  
Newton North**

**June 4-6 at Newton North :** Join in a fun-filled retrospective of student and community life at Newton North on June 4-6, before the building closes its doors for the last time. "Bringing Down the House" celebrates the more than 30 years of high school life at Newton North. The weekend features a free Open House from noon-5 p.m. Saturday, with a walk down memory lane on Main Street, memorabilia displays, video and music clips, alumni gatherings, art activities, live music, dining and the Great North Yard Sale. Other festivities include a Theatre Ink retrospective on Friday night, Jubilee concert on Saturday night and Alumni Jazz Brunch on Sunday morning. Times and ticket prices for these events will be announced soon. We are looking for volunteers to help plan and execute the commemoration. Please email [klgrannan@northptso.org](mailto:klgrannan@northptso.org) or phone 925-324-4519 for more information on the event or how to get involved.

**New Art Center  
April Vacation  
Week**

**April Vacation Week at the New Art Center.** April 20-23, 9:00-3:30pm, extended hours are available. We welcome students currently in grades K-5, and teens in grades 6-9. The day includes classes in painting, drawing, sculpting, ceramics and drama, as well as a snack time, lunch and recess. Children will be inspired by the exhibition in our Main Gallery, **EXTRAORDINARY: Puppetry, Storytelling, & Spirit.** We'll create small and large puppets, made from found objects and materials such as wood, wire, clay and more! For more information and to register, please visit [www.newartcenter.org](http://www.newartcenter.org) or call 617-964-3424. Register Early! Tuition: \$270, \$255 sibling rate

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## Classifieds

Your Child will Rise and Shine at Rosenshine! The Rosenshine Nursery School of Temple Reyim in Newton is currently accepting

applications for September 2009 for preschoolers ages 3 - 5 years. Our 5 day, 9 AM - noon program offers early drop off and extended afternoon hours. For more information contact Meryl at (617) 527-2410 ext 18 or e-mail [nursery@revim.org](mailto:nursery@revim.org)

**Newton elementary school teacher available for tutoring, K-5.** Please view my professional website and contact me with questions. [www.jenniegoldenson.com](http://www.jenniegoldenson.com) (617) 281.1848

Two Newton South juniors have started a new DJ company specializing in **Bar and Bat-Mitzvahs, Birthday and Sweet 16 Parties, Graduation Events, Family Functions, Holiday Parties and School Dances.** The M&A DJ Company will bring to you a successful dance party or background music for any type of event. High quality professional equipment and an array of enjoyable music for all occasions. Prices start at \$300 per function. For booking information, contact Alex at [vwlyon@verizon.net](mailto:vwlyon@verizon.net) or 617-866-3871

**Cultural Care Au Pair:** Flexible, live-in childcare up to 45 hours per week for \$340 (per family, not per child). Three ways to match with potential au pairs and a selection of hundreds of qualified and carefully screened candidates with legal visas up to two years. Cultural Care Au Pair offers year-long local support and the stability of an established program celebrating 20 years of service. For more information, please contact Local Childcare Coordinator Kristina Shimkus at 617-916-9220, e-mail: [kristina.shimkus@lcc.culturalcare.com](mailto:kristina.shimkus@lcc.culturalcare.com),

**YOGA FOR KIDS & TEENS:** The next Yoga 6-week session begins **March 10, 2010.** Empower your children to learn how to achieve a strong, flexible body and a calm, balanced mind. The course is designed to be **FUN!** Instructor: Liz Mansfield. **Wednesdays: kids age 7-11** from 4-5PM and **teens age 12-17** from 5-6PM. Location: Beacon Hill Athletic Club, 1089 Wash St., Newton. Bring water and a good attitude! Mats provided. **Register NOW!** [www.kidyogastars.com](http://www.kidyogastars.com) or call 617.799.9991.

## Newsnotes Information

**Editors:** Melissa Dilworth, Gina Mulvaney, Maura Harrington, Adriana Powderly Bauza, Susanti Sugianto, 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.

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