

Farewell Note From Mrs. Jeffrey

Dear Horace Mann Families:

I would like to take this opportunity to say good-bye to everyone. As most of you know, I will be retiring in December after spending fifteen years in the Melrose School system. I worked at the Winthrop School for five years and have spent the rest of those years here at Horace Mann.

I have watched every single child grow since they have entered school, some even before they got here! They are truly the reason I have enjoyed working in the school for so many years.

I have been so lucky to work at a place where I have had the opportunity to get to know so many wonderful people. May I wish you all the best the future can bring.

Linda Jeffrey



Parking Reminder



If you are using our "drop off" area in the morning, PLEASE do not get out of your car to assist your child. Once your child has gotten out and closed the door to your car, please safely turn into traffic to let the cars behind you drop their children off. It's important we follow this rule to ensure the safety of our children, parents and community during the morning hours. Please respect the rules and use designated street parking if your child needs help getting out of the car with their belongings. Thank you for your support.

Pantry of Hope Food Drive



The Horace Mann PTO Board wants to thank all the students and their families who participated in making our Thanksgiving Food Drive such a success. At a time when families are busy preparing their homes and the fixings for friends and families to arrive, or who are preparing to travel themselves, remembering to send in a few cans or boxes to our drive to help those in need, truly speaks volumes for the sense of community and giving back that we try to foster here at Horace Mann. Our families were very thoughtful and generous, allowing us to donate **a total of 15 boxes filled** with non-perishable food items to those in need. Items ranging from canned tomatoes, soups, vegetables, and fruit to boxes of spaghetti, baking mixes, and potatoes. Even a tray to cook the turkey was collected. Thank you to Ms. Goodhue's 5th grade classroom for their help in collecting and loading the bountiful collection boxes on Monday morning, November 21st. The Pantry of Hope received the collection just after morning drop-off and were amazed and ever-so grateful for the amount of donations by all the students and their families. The Pantry of Hope is located in the First Baptist Church at 561 Main Street, on the corner of Upham Street. They open their food pantry doors every Tuesday from 3:30 - 5:30, should you need their assistance or care to give in the future. They can be reached at 781-665-4470.

Yankee Candle Fundraiser Results



The 5th grade raised \$1,378.40 from the Yankee Candle Fundraiser! We would like to thank everyone who participated in the fundraiser. Yankee Candle Committee members: Krissy Carter, Julie Gage, Jaye McGillicuddy and Jeannie McNeely

Get to Know Me

This month in the Staff Profile, we feature Mrs. Jeffrey, our long-time School Secretary. This is her last year working at Horace Mann as she is retiring at the end of this month.

Name: Mrs. Linda Jeffrey

How long have you worked at Horace Mann? 10 ½ years. I worked at the Winthrop for 5 years before coming to Horace Mann.

What do you like most about working at Horace Mann? The students.

What is the biggest change you've seen during your years of working at our school? In many families, both parents work and the use of the internet.

If you could give any words of wisdom to the students of our school, what would they be? The same as I told my own children: School is your job and you should try to do your best and learn as much as you can.

Favorite color? Fuschia.

Favorite food? Shrimp.

Favorite movie? Mary Poppins.

Favorite book? No favorite but enjoy mysteries.

Favorite sports team? N.E. Patriots.

Do you have any hobbies? Quilting, knitting, reading, gardening.

Favorite holiday or season? Thanksgiving, fall.

Favorite vacation spot? Lake Winnepesaukee.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would it be and why? I would like to go to Newfoundland and see where my grandparents grew up.

If you could make a bucket list of three things you would like to do in this second half of your life, what would they be? 1. Travel to every state that I haven't seen in the United States. 2. Travel to Newfoundland. 3. Use up all the fabric I have bought!

Tell us something about yourself that no one else knows or would guess? I grew up in Melrose and now live in Saugus. I have been married for 34 years and have two children. My daughter is a psychiatrist and my son is an engineer. I look forward to being a grandmother someday.

Anything else you would like to share about yourself? I look forward to spending more time with my family and friends.



PTO Meeting Minutes

On November 21st, we held our monthly PTO meeting, attended by parents, staff and Mr. Strasnick. We reviewed the following information:

The PTO board provided an update on our Thanksgiving food drive. We collected about 16 boxes of non-perishable food items, which were donated to Pantry of Hope in Melrose.

We were provided an update on plans for a Horace Mann Science Fair, scheduled for March 5th. This will be an extracurricular event in which students will be encouraged to participate as individuals or teams. More information will be coming home soon.

For Classroom Connections, we were joined by Ms. Stevens and Ms. Rees, two of our special education teachers. They shared some excellent information about the importance of reading for all students and provided many tips on how we can help our children become better readers.

Mr. Strasnick provided an overview of the Helping Hands project, to help families in need during this upcoming holiday season.

Mr. Strasnick provided an update on the staffing changes resulting from Ms. Sarasin's departure. A letter was sent home to all families with the details.

We were provided an update by the committee on the recent Book Fair. While final results were not yet in, the fair overall, and especially Cocoa Night, were very successful once again this year. The money raised through the book fair goes directly toward the library.

The PTO is planning its next monthly Dine Around at Kelly's in early December. Details will be sent home soon.

We discussed that the Golf Tournament is at risk because we do not have a committee chair in place.

As a group, we discussed several other possible ideas for fundraisers, including a 5K Road Race, a Mother/Son dance, a Horace Mann Cookbook.

The treasurer provided an update on Innisbrook sales and a reminder that the PayPal link is once again working.

The Enrichment Committee provided an update on the recent enrichment event about Amelia Earhart, as well as some information about the upcoming event for December with New England Percussion Ensemble.

Thanks to those who attended. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 19th, at 7:00pm in the All Purpose Room. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. We look forward to seeing you there.

Congratulations & Best Wishes to Mrs. Jeffrey!



As you may know, our wonderful secretary, Mrs. Jeffrey, will be retiring this month. Mrs. Jeffrey has been a part of the Melrose Public Schools for 15 years, the last 10 of which she has kept things running smoothly for us here at the Horace Mann. In order to celebrate her years of service and dedication to the students of Horace Mann, the PTO is hosting a party in her honor on Thursday, December 8th, from 5-7pm in the All Purpose Room. Watch your notices for more details on the retirement party!

Help Wanted: Golf Tournament

After several years of successfully running our Golf Tournament, our former committee co-chairs have moved on to focus on other volunteer efforts. We have had several parents express an interest in helping out, but to date, we do not have a chairperson in place for this year's event. Without committee leadership, this event is at risk of being cancelled. Don't golf? Don't worry!



The Annual Golf Tournament is our largest fundraiser each year and is critically important to our school. In addition to the day of golf, many others join for dinner to socialize with friends, enjoy the DJ entertainment, and participate in great raffles and silent auctions. We are looking for volunteers to chair and/or join the team. Leading this committee is a great role for two or more volunteers to share as co-chairs! We have past committee chairs who are willing to offer guidance and can share detailed information outlining the required tasks, and we are also open and flexible to your new ideas. Please contact our volunteer coordinator, Beth Federico bethfederico@yahoo.com, if you are interested in being part of the team. In the near future, we will be hosting a team meeting to share ideas and formulate a plan.

Join us on Facebook



The HM PTO invites you to join us on Facebook. If you are on Facebook and haven't already joined our group, Horace Mann - Melrose MA, please check us out! We've set up this group for HM parents to provide information about our fundraisers, upcoming events, etc. as part of our ongoing effort to increase communication about on-goings at the school. As safety is a top concern, this group is not intended for the students, and the group is private to ensure that only members of the HM community can join and view the content. Any posts will remain separate from your personal page and your personal posts will not be visible to the group (unless, of course, you are also "friends" with other individuals the group). We hope that this group will provide a positive forum for parents to keep current about things happening at Horace Mann. Please find us at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=150001078371890>

Congratulations to November's Kindness Award Recipients

Kindergarten

Katie Bentley
Ben Cassavoy
Tyler Muse
Ava Tung

Grade 1

Gabriella Hill
Jack Morrissey
Sofia Pitcher
Anna Spinale
Tommy Waden
Joey Zarella

Grade 2

Sam Barbagallo
Justin Camelio
Isabel Cunningham
Madelaine Kozlowski
Matthew Ormond
Sarah Podradchik
Parker Thornton
Annabelle White

Grade 3

Will Campagna
Chad Costa
Nicholas Levesque
Michael Maher
Kira Mate
Catherine McCarron
Casey McCauley
Alisa Peet
Emily Sands

Grade 4

Jovon Meadows
Brianna Wright
Isaiah Valdivieso
Amber Chow
Selah Russell
Joey DiMare
Abby Keefe
Xavier Valdivieso
MaryKate Mahoney
Olivia Lavery
Sabrina Gardner

Grade 5

Julia Bulman
Taliah Chase
Bella Drago
Nora Elhassouni
Arianna John
Linnea Kelley
Grace Konstanty
Daniel Maffie
Maeve McGillicuddy
Ben McNeely
Cian Murphy
Fiona Murphy
Heer Patel
Zachary Peet
George Taranowski
Kyle White



Give the Gift of True Play



I'm just going to come out and say it... toy options today are kind of lame from a developmental point of view. With all of the technology available, the toy industry has lost sight of some of the basic components of play: exploration, manipulation, and problem solving. Many toys just require the push of a button and poof... something happens electronically. I feel strongly that today's youth are missing out on those key play components because of the influence of technology. As a result, kids may be lacking fine motor/gross motor skills, sensory motor skills such as motor planning, and problem solving. When considering gift options for the little ones in your life this year, keep these rules of thumb in mind: Try to stay away from toys that require batteries; seek out classic toys/games that have stood the test of time (think about what you played with and most enjoyed); and take a moment to figure out the demands of the toy (physical and cognitive). Some favorites of mine include:

- ❖ Ants in the Pants and Don't Spill The Beans (these are by far the #1 free choice pick in my office!)
- ❖ Legos, Tinker Toys, Lincoln Logs, blocks, and Mr./Mrs. Potato Head
- ❖ deck of cards, UNO
- ❖ Wikki Stix (kids LOVE these)
- ❖ jigsaw puzzles, Colorforms
- ❖ scooters, bikes, skateboards, sleds, and skates
- ❖ Mastermind , Othello, and Yahtzee for the "big kids" (I still have and use my original sets!)



Enjoy, and have a fun playing during your holiday vacation.

~Jen Papasodoro, OTR/L~

Garden News

The Horace Mann Community Garden Committee held its first Garden Club Meeting on Wednesday, November 16th. It was a great turnout with 20 students ranging from K through 5th grades.

We discussed how terrariums are tiny tropical ecosystems and showed how the water cycle can be observed. We also introduced the concept of the "HM Garden Club Ambassador," asking the kids to share the things they learn in the Garden Club with teachers, students, and parents.



The Garden Club will **not** be meeting in December. Our tentative schedule for monthly, after school Garden Club meetings are as follows:

January 18	April 18
February 15	May 16
March 21	June 6






We have also created a garden blog that we hope you will visit. We will include garden and garden club updates along with interesting facts that support garden activities. To learn more about garden news as well as information about terrariums, check out our blog: <http://hmsgarden.wordpress.com/>

~Horace Mann Community Garden Committee~



Horace Mann School - December

Responsibility

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4	5 1:30p – MMM – Gr 2 5:00 p Dine Around – Kelly's Roast Beef	6	7	8 1 Re-take School Picture Day	9 Gr 4 – Field Trip	10
11	12	13	14 Gr 3 – Field Trip 1:00p - Enrichment	15 Report cards come home	16 Gr 5 Craft Day	17
18	19 1:30p – Winter Concert for instrumental students 5:00p - School Site Council 7:00p - PTO Mtg Everyone is welcome!	20	21	22	23 Full day of school	24
25	26  Winter Vacation	27  Winter Vacation	28  Winter Vacation	29  Winter Vacation	30  Winter Vacation	31

2011



Horace Mann Elementary School

Reminder!!

2011 – 2012 Annual Family Contribution

THANK YOU to all who have already made your Annual Family Contribution! For those who haven't yet had a chance to send in your donation, we want to remind you that it is never too late! And, our PayPal link is once again up and running, making it easier than ever to contribute. Your contribution really makes a difference!

The PTO's primary goal is to support and organize programs that will enrich the elementary education experience of our children. This includes our monthly enrichment programs, new books for the library and guided reading, materials for the new school garden, mini-grants for teachers to augment their classroom materials, school spirit activities like Field Day and the Ice Cream Social, field trip buses, and many other things. All of these activities require funding beyond what the district budget provides.

For the 2011-2012 school year, we are asking that each family make a contribution of \$25 (or another amount in which you feel comfortable). Many families have expressed that they are not always able to participate in our numerous fundraisers and would prefer to make a monetary donation. While we'll continue to hold events to raise money for the school, and hope you'll participate when able, we have scaled back this year and will focus on incorporating more family-oriented school spirit and community events. We recognize that not everyone will participate in every fundraiser, and strive to offer a variety of ways to get involved. Your participation in these events, as well as your donations, are both critically important and will help to support many initiatives for our children.

Your voluntary contribution is tax deductible and can be paid via PayPal on the PTO section of the HM website, or by returning the form below. We greatly appreciate your support!

Please make check payable to Horace Mann PTO, noting "donation" in the memo, and return to school to the attention of PTO Treasurer.

Student Name(s) _____

Grade(s) _____

Amount enclosed _____ \$25 _____ Other amount/additional donation

Parents name _____

Email address _____ phone _____

_____ I am interested in volunteering... please contact me with more information about volunteer opportunities



Attention Horace Mann Families!

This winter, the Melrose Education Coalition will collaborate with Mayor Rob Dolan to coordinate a series of science fairs at each of the five elementary schools across our district. Winthrop was the first brave school to attempt this last year and it was a huge success! Over 140 kids participated in the Winthrop science fair. Now it is our turn at Horace Mann to join in the fun. The Science Fair is a **voluntary, extra-curricular, parent run** event for all Melrose students K-5.

The Horace Mann Science fair will be held in the evening of March 5th, 2012.

How to Participate

- ✓ Complete the Permission Slip & Registration (coming soon by backpack) and turn it in to your school by December 21, 2011.
- ✓ Complete your experiment and create your display board in time to showcase it at the Science Fair on Monday March 5th.

Guidelines

- ⇒ Students may participate as individuals or in teams of no more than 5 (2-3 is best).
- ⇒ Teams can be different grade levels, friends or even same family.
- ⇒ The Science Fair is an opportunity for students to learn through the Scientific Method.
- ⇒ Think of an interesting question and use the scientific method to find the answer.
- ⇒ **Do an experiment** - test a hypothesis to answer a question
- ⇒ **Do Not make a model** (volcano, solar system, etc.) – there's nothing to test.
- ⇒ Keep it simple and don't stress – this is meant to be fun and educational.

Support ~ **The Website will give you all the info you need for a great project.**

Find detailed guidelines, project ideas and time-lines, a project worksheet, resources and an explanation of the Scientific Method at the Melrose Science Fair Website.

<https://sites.google.com/site/melrosciencefair2012/>

We may host a few mentor sessions when students/parents can come to Horace Mann and meet with "experts" to talk through their projects, have questions answered, and see sample display boards for ideas.

Volunteers Needed

Please remember this Science Fair is an entirely volunteer-run event. We need parent volunteers for the day of the event. If you are available to help at the Horace Mann School on March 5th, please contact **Amy Williams** at mempro@comcast.net



Ilda Carreiro King, Ph.D.

Helping Teachers Help Their Students



Over the past three years Horace Mann has had the wonderful opportunity to collaborate with and learn from Dr. Ilda Carreiro King. Ilda Carreiro King, Ph.D. is a Developmental and Educational Psychologist who uses the lens of classroom ecology to inform improvements in reading instruction. She is known for bringing a learner-centered approach to all levels of the school community: administrators, teachers, students, and parents. Through workshops, demonstrations and observations, she develops a continuum of services, curriculum and techniques that helps all types of students become fluent, strategic, and independent readers.

We first used her as resource two years ago to assist us with getting our multi-grade classroom up and running. We now use her expertise for whole school initiatives. She is currently working with the staff on using progress monitoring tools for some of our students during guided reading. She is widely used in all the elementary schools as well as the middle school. To learn more about Dr. Ilda King you can visit her website.

<https://sites.google.com/site/drildaking/home>

The Horace Mann Helping Hands



As the holiday season approaches, the Horace Mann School has a tradition of helping families in need.

If you are a family concerned about providing your family with a memorable holiday season, please consider submitting a request to the Helping Hands. If you fill out the bottom portion of this form and return it to the Principal by Friday, December 9th, the items requested will be posted on a "helping hand." The helping hands are displayed in the foyer of the school. Each hand has an item that your family may need for the holidays. The hand also has a number that corresponds with the Principal's confidential listing of family requests.

The generous families of Horace Mann try to fulfill the requests of the families, by bringing the items to the Principal's office to be distributed to the families in need.

Some commonly requested items are listed below but please feel free to request additional items.

Helping Hands Request

Parent Name: _____ Contact Phone: _____

Children's Names and Ages: _____

Clothing

Sweater : Gender _____ Size: _____ Color: _____ Gloves/Hat/Scarf Gender: _____ Size: _____ Color: _____

Pants/Jeans: Gender _____ Size: _____ Color: _____ Coats: Gender: _____ Size: _____ Color: _____

Toys

Family Board Games: _____ Dolls/Action Figures: _____ Toys: _____

Learning Games: _____ Books: _____

Household/Family Needs

Grocery Store Gift cards: _____ Other Store Gift Cards: _____

Other Items: _____