



Happenings

a publication for students and parents of
Horace Mann Elementary

April 2011



Horace Mann Hot Topics

By Principal Jeff Strasnick

- ☂ MCAS testing is completed for the Reading portion of the test for grades 3 through 5. The children did a great job and we all are very proud of them!
- ☂ Math MCAS for grades 3 through 5 and science for grade 5 begins May 10th. We will be sending a schedule home prior to testing to show you when each grade will be testing.
- ☂ Congratulations to the *Horace Manniacs* trivia bee team. Parent, Mike Mullaney, HM Occupational Therapist, Jen Papisodoro, and Principal Jeff Strasnick made a strong showing at this year's trivia bee to support the Bridge Foundation. We made it to the final round and tied for second place out of 42 teams, which is the best the team has done in several years!
- ☂ April vacation is the week of April 18th. Friday April 15th is NOI an early release day. It is a full school day. And remember your taxes are due.
- ☂ Here's hoping April brings temperatures over 50 degrees!

Horace Mann Happenings Editorial Staff

The *Horace Mann Happenings* Editorial Staff appreciates your support for our newsletter! Your editorial contribution to our school newsletter is important to maintaining positive communication within the Horace Mann community. Please feel free to send content for the newsletter to samantha.sullivan1@verizon.net.

In addition, if you have any feedback or ideas to improve the newsletter, please send along to any one of our staff members:

- ❖ Nancy Murphy – Designer/Editor jn95murphy@verizon.net
- ❖ Sam Sullivan – Writer/Editor samantha.sullivan1@verizon.net
- ❖ Sharon Lavery – Editor/Production Coordinator sklavery@comcast.net

Important Dates in April

- April 1 – 4/5 Grade Half Sleepover, 6:00 p.m.
- April 4 - Monday Monthly Meeting, 1:30 p.m.
- April 6 - Spring Open House/Ice Cream Social, 6:00 p.m.
- April 12 - Spring Concert, 6:00 p.m.
- April 13 – PTO Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- April 26 - Walk to School Day
- April 18-22 – Spring Break, NO School
- April 27-29 - 5th Grade ECamp





PTO Corner

The PTO Board would like to thank everyone who attended the recent Parents Night Out at The Beebe Estate. It was a great opportunity to meet and mingle with other parents in a relaxing setting. A great time was had by all, enjoying wine and beer tastings courtesy of Nasty Nonni's of Saugus. We'd especially like to thank HM parents Lisa and John Coyne for their wonderful Irish music, and HM parent Giovanna Spinale of "Mama Giovanna's" for her delicious desserts.

March PTO Meeting Notes

Our meeting was attended by about 20 members, as well as several teachers. Mr. Strasnick was not in attendance due to a schedule conflict.

After introductions, the following topics were discussed:

- ✓ The Golf Tournament Committee provided an update on the plans for our upcoming event, scheduled for 5/13. The event format will be much as in the past, and non-golfers are encouraged to attend the dinner, as it will include raffles, silent auctions and a DJ. Notices have gone out to ask families to think about any business contacts for possible corporate sponsorships.
- ✓ Pat Muxie, Director of Curriculum for Melrose Public Schools, presented an overview of the K-5 curriculum and responded to parents' questions. Her presentation has been posted on the HM website.
- ✓ An update on our monthly Dine Arounds was provided. We are still awaiting final results from Brueggers (January), which is delayed due to the need for some tax info. Kelly's (February) raised \$218. Fuddruckers (March) was sponsored by the 5th grade and at the time of the meeting, results had not yet been confirmed. We are scheduled for Uno's (Revere) for April 14th and The 99 Restaurant for May, which will be our last of the year.
- ✓ Committee Chair Beth Federico provided an update on Math-a-thon results. Overall, the new online format was very successful and greatly reduced the amount of volunteer effort required for this event. While participation was a bit low, those who pledged were very generous, and we raised over \$900 for the PTO's general fund.
- ✓ The upcoming Ice Cream Social and Open House was quickly reviewed.
- ✓ Possible plans for a Read-a-thon were discussed.
- ✓ Sub Night was discussed again. Several parents have offered to assist to enable us to continue this traditional favorite in Mr. McDermod's absence. Details are still to be determined.
- ✓ Co-VP Jackie Skane provided an update on Citywide PTO.
- ✓ The co-treasurer reviewed the monthly budget report. As our fiscal position has improved slightly, we are working to make some additional funds available for Enrichment. Reminder that the budget is always available to be viewed online. Details to access this info can be found on the "from the treasurers section" of the HM website.

Thanks to all who participated, and a special thanks to HM Alums Maeve Murphy, Alex Venuti and Miranda Lombardo for providing babysitting services. Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday; April 13th. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.



April Classroom Happenings

Second Grade

Spring for second graders is a busy time of year! We leap into the spring with excitement and new ideas for our community garden. After planning and debating many thoughts, we have decided that we would like to plant both vegetables and flowers. As spring rolls through, we are eager to watch our plants grow! We'll make a fresh salad with our veggies and we'd like to give away some things we grow to a nursing home in our community or a homeless shelter.



Learning about words continues to help us become better readers and writers. Our vocabulary becomes stronger each day as we learn about synonyms, antonyms and compound words. We have also been focusing on word structure and continue to expand our knowledge of prefixes and suffixes.

Reader's Theater has been a great tool that has consistently helped us build our reading fluency. We're currently performing "Town Hall" which directly ties into our Community Building unit in Social Studies. This unit takes a further look at how a community is built and things that make a community successful.

In math, we have been studying different measurements of time as well as starting a new unit on geometry. We continue to be focused and excited about learning many new things.

Lastly, we are continuing to work with our new FOSS science kits. Currently we are working on further developing our concepts of Solids and Liquids. We will discuss and define certain properties surrounding both Solids and Liquids.



Fourth Grade

We are so proud of all of our 4th graders for their hard work during the English Language Arts MCAS. We will continue to work hard to prepare for the math MCAS in May. In math we are working fractions and probability. April is National Poetry Month, we will embark on a month long study of poetry. For this month's book project we will write original poems both in and out of school.

In reading, we are starting literature circles back up again. Students will be working in small-differentiated reading groups, where students will be reading a book of their choice. Literature circles provide students the ability to practice different ways of collaborating to read a work of literature.

In science, we completed a unit on the water cycle, and found out that water has many unique characteristics! We have just started our 12-week unit on rocks and minerals. We are using the FOSS science kits, which offer multiple hands on opportunities for learning. We will wrap up the year with a study earthquakes and volcanoes.

In social studies, we are finishing up the Southeast region of the United States and continuing our journey to the Pacific Ocean. We look forward to seeing families at the Ice Cream Social to show off all of our hard work! Happy Spring!

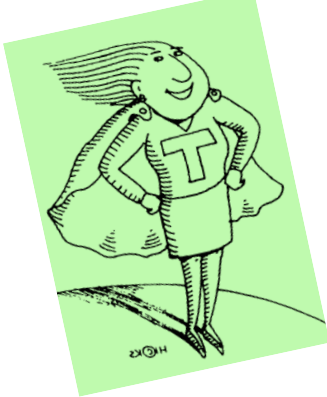


Walk to School Day

To promote health and wellness in our community, the *Horace Mann Walk to School day is Tuesday, April 26th* with a rain date of Tuesday, May 3. Please feel free to wear your HM spirit shirt! If you cannot walk to school, feel free to walk around the HM building a few times when you arrive to school. Please stay tuned for more information. There will be classroom activities planned and prizes for walking/participating!



Save the Date - Teacher Appreciation Luncheon



It's that time of year when our thoughts turn to honoring our terrific HM teachers. Save the date: *Wednesday, May 4 12:30-2:00*. We will be asking for donations of food and gift cards once again this year. If you can, please consider donating your time to this great event. More information to come in the weeks ahead. If you have any questions about this annual HM tradition, you may contact Laurie Armstrong at 781-665-4762.

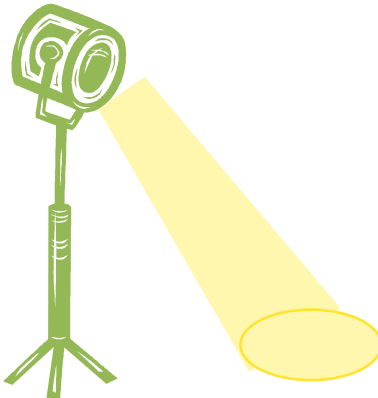
Celebrate Red Sox Opening Day

On Friday, April 8th, we will celebrate Red Sox Opening Day! *Students may wear a hat into school for \$1.00. Hot Dogs and Cheeseburgers will be on the school lunch menu. Popcorn and Hoodsie Ice Creams will be sold for .50 each.* All proceeds will benefit the Horace Mann Family Fund.

The Family Fund was established in 2005 to assist families within our school community who may be experiencing a serious illness, traumatic or tragic event. Over this past year we have been able to help many families. Celebrate the beginning of the Red Sox Season while supporting this worthwhile fund. Thank you very much for your generosity and support! GO SOX!



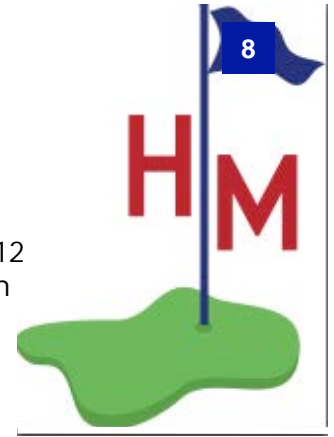
Spotlight on Horace Mann Student



Pictured here with friends from Carney Academy, Horace Mann student Lydia Lombardo (middle right) is Irish step dancing at the fifth grade Harrington's fundraiser held last month.

8th Annual Horace Mann Golf Tournament

To continue the tradition of our most successful fundraising event, and to combine efforts with our PTO to maintain the essential programs for the students of the Horace Mann School, please consider a Family Sponsorship or perhaps a Raffle or Silent Auction Item for this year's Golf Tournament. One hundred percent of your donation will be funded to benefit the 2011/12 school year - enhancing the educational opportunities of the Horace Mann School students.



Family Sponsorships

- ⊙ Family name on event signage
- ⊙ Recognition on Horace Mann website
- ⊙ Tournament Program visibility

If you would like to make a family donation for the tournament, please go to our website:
http://www.melroseschools.com/horacemann/_golf/

Group Sponsorships

- ⊙ Group name on event signage
- ⊙ Recognition on Horace Mann website
- ⊙ Tournament Program visibility

Ex: This hole sponsored by the 5th grade teachers....by the PTO.... by the 2nd grade parents.... by the Library Committee....

If you would like to make a group donation for the tournament, please mail this form and checks (payable to Horace Mann PTO) to: *Katie McCarron, 53 Albert Street, Melrose, 02176.*

Raffle/Silent Auction Items

We are also collecting raffle and silent auction items. If you have something you would like to donate such as sporting event tickets, home organization or massage services, timeshare, theatre tickets, please contact: *Krissy Carter (krissycarter@verizon.net)* or *Kathy McNeely (kknmcneely@comcast.net)*

Your Family name will appear on the HM website and you will receive recognition in the Golf Tournament Program Booklet. Your donation will help benefit the school 100% and is tax deductible (tax exempt number: 331-216-703).

Thank you for supporting the children of the Horace Mann Elementary School!

April is National Occupational Therapy Month

Submitted by Mrs. Papasodoro



If anyone ever has any questions related to what I do here at Horace Mann, please do not hesitate to email me at jpapasodoro@melrose.mec.edu. Occupational Therapy (O.T.) typically works with students on foundation skills such as fine motor, visual perceptual, and sensory motor skills, including upper body/core muscle tone and strength, so that they may better access the curriculum. Happy O.T. Month!

Help Wanted submitted by Melinda Stockwell

It looks like the warmer weather is finally on its way and it is time to get out and reconnect with other people again. Volunteering is a great way to get out there and spend time working in the community with familiar, as well as new faces. If you would like to get involved, here are some opportunities we have open:



Memorial Day Parade 2011 - Chairperson NEEDED

Do you have a creative flair and would like to show it off to the whole city? If this describes you, please think about heading up the Horace Mann float for the Memorial Day parade. This event shows great school spirit and the HM kids have a great time marching down Main St. Once again, without a volunteer to head up this effort, it won't happen this year.

Pumpkin Festival

This great event has been well run by our current PTO co-president, Debbie Brooks, for the past few years. She would like to step down after the 2011 Pumpkin Festival and is looking for a co-organizer (or two) this fall to shadow her and learn the ins and outs of this fun, family event. What a great way to meet new people and learn from an experienced volunteer before you can add your own touches in 2012 to this community tradition! Please contact me or Debbie Brooks if you are considering this opportunity.

Innisbrook Fundraising Program

One of Horace Mann's most successful fundraisers needs YOU! We are looking for volunteers to run 2011 Fall Innisbrook Fundraising Program. This is a great opportunity for a pair of friends to do some valuable work that funds many Horace Mann activities through the year. You're done when the delivery comes in before the holidays and you will have made an important contribution to the school's spirit and funds. We are really looking to fill this position soon. Without a volunteer for this program, leaves a large hole in our PTO budget. Please consider this opportunity and let me know if you have any questions. You may also contact Sandy Venuti or Stefanie Costa with any questions regarding this successful program - they have done a fabulous job over the years!

Volunteer Coordinator

This position connects volunteers from the school community with the opportunities available. It is a great chance to find out what is going on with volunteer activities at the school, meeting many of the families and the staff and realizing how much hard work everyone does to keep all these activities and programs up and running. This job is not all consuming and much of it can be done through email and the occasional phone call. Being at home during the day is not necessary to fulfill the duties of this job. It is busiest in September/October and then slows down considerably for the rest of the year. This position could really benefit from someone with fresh ideas and a desire to meet new people. If this position seems right for you, contact me directly.

There are so many activities that happen for the Horace Mann community that are fully run by volunteers, parents, families and the great staff. If an activity is important to you and your family traditions, think about how you may be able to help. If it seems overwhelming to be in charge of an event, think about asking a friend to join you in the job. We, as a community, will ultimately decide which activities and events are important to us, because, without volunteers, these events cannot happen. As always, thanks to all the volunteers at the Horace Mann. Even an hour of your time can make a difference.

If you have any questions about any of these opportunities, or you would like to try to squeeze volunteering into your schedule, please contact me.

..... **SAVE THE DATE**

HORACE MANN EIGHTH ANNUAL

Golf Tournament

MOUNT HOOD GOLF COURSE | FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2011



Sign up your foursome now!

PAST WINNERS

2009 First Place Team

Ed Keenan, Dave Buonopane,
Rick McDermod, Bill Goodwin

2008 First Place Team

Kurt Lavery, Jeff Abbott,
John Connolly, Brian Ouilette

2007 First Place Team

Derek Costa, Rick Shea,
Curtis Lanciani, Chris Rossino

2006 First Place Team

Doug Baraw, Rob Venuti,
Bob Cataldo, Mark Denning

2005 First Place Team

Ian Arnold, Pete Kelly,
Fred Kelly, Craig Foley

2004 First Place Team

Ian Arnold, Pete Kelly,
Fred Kelly, Craig Foley

2003 First Place Team

Ed Keenan, Rich McDermod,
Bill Goodwin, Patti Jones

Join the Horace Mann Community, friends and family at our largest annual fundraiser. Whether it be to **play in the tournament, or to just enjoy a fun night of dinner, drinks, music, and dancing** your participation is encouraged and welcome!

1:00 Golf Check in and Registration

1:30 Scramble Start

6:00 Dinner Check in, Raffles/Silent Auctions, Hors d oeuvres & Cocktails

7:00 Dinner

8:00 DJ, Dancing & Announcements

Volunteers interested in helping with the event please contact Kathy McNeely at 781.665.4211, kknmcneely@comcast.net, or Krissy Carter at 781-665-3402, krissycarter@verizon.net

Contact: Katie McCarron, 781-620-1342 or katie.mccarron@hotmail.com

Register online at http://www.melroseschools.com/horacemann/_golf



HORACE MANN GOLF TOURNAMENT

Registration Form

Horace Mann School 8th Annual Golf Tournament

Friday, May 13th, 2011

Shot Gun 1:30pm • Mt Hood Golf Course, Melrose MA

Golfer Registration: \$150/golfer • \$600/foursome

Registration includes: Greens Fees, Cart and Dinner

Golfers can register online or by filling out this registration form.

http://www.melroseschools.com/horacemann/_golf/

Player 1 Captain Name: _____

Contact Info/Email: _____

Player 2 Name: _____

Contact Info/Email: _____

Player 3 Name: _____

Contact Info/Email: _____

Player 4 Name: _____

Contact Info/Email: _____

Dinner Only: \$35/person

Name: _____

Number of diners: _____

Total Amount Enclosed (Golf and Additional Diners): _____

Please mail completed form and payment to:

Horace Mann PTO
c/o Katie McCarron


53 Albert Street
Melrose, MA 02176

Tel: 781.620.1342

email: Katie.McCarron@hotmail.com

Horace Mann School – April

Keys to Success - Determination

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1 Gr1-5 report cards go home 7:45-8:15 Bank Day in the library 6:00-10:00 PM-Gr 4&5 Half-Sleepover	2
3	4 1:30 – Monday Monthly Mtg	5	6 MCAS – UPS pickup 6:00-7:30 PM – Ice Cream Social/Spring Open House	7 9:00-11:00AM-Spring Concert dress rehearsal at Middle School	8 Red Sox Opening Day fundraiser Gr 4 No. Shore Music Theater	9
	Grds 3-5 MCAS ELA – make-ups					
10	11 Gr 3 – Museum of Science Gr 5 – Lex/Concord	12 6:00-8 00PM Spring Concert at Middle School	13 7:00 PM - PTO Mtg Everyone is welcome	14	15	16
17	18 Patriot’s Day April Vacation	19 April Vacation	20 April Vacation	21 April Vacation	22 Good Friday April Vacation	23
24	25 1:00 PM Enrichment – Harriet Tubman	26	27  Secretaries Day	28 District Math meet at 3-5 PM location TBD	29	30
Easter			Grade 5 E-Camp			
			Dis Skane			

2011