

PTO Meeting Notes – October 20, 2010

The first PTO meeting of the school year included approximately 30 members in attendance, including Mr. Strasnick, the PTO board, parents, and several teachers. The following topics were covered:

- An order form will be sent home for adult HM School Spirit Shirts.
- The mini-grant process has been revised with an additional earlier deadline for first half of the year.
- The Garden Committee gave a presentation on new garden plans; presentation will be available on the HM website.
- Updates on HM booth at Victorian Fair – considered successful school spirit event, no profit raised but great to be at the fair.
- The Fall Fiesta was successful in achieving the goal of new family participation, and raised \$3500 for the school
- The Innisbrook sale achieved over \$6500 in product sales, resulting in \$3200 profit for HM.
- The Family cookout was a very successful community event and raised over \$1200 for HM.
- The October Dine Around event will be held at Dockside Restaurant on October 26th. Horace Mann will receive 25% of sales from customers with our coupon
- A Horace Mann “Walk to School Day” will be planned for the spring.
- Tastefully Simple fundraiser was kicked off at the Pumpkin Festival and will be in progress through the end of the month; HM will receive 30% of all sales.
- Co-Vice President Jackie Skane provided an update from Citywide PTO.
- Co-Treasurer Wendy Deeds presented the 2010-2011 budget. The budget was approved. There are a few line items on the budget which are awaiting further information and will be updated by November’s meeting.
- Mr. Strasnick reviewed several safety reminders
- Mr. Strasnick provided an update on SmartBoards, now mounted in classrooms and being actively used; working through a minor technical issue with TVs in other classes.
- Mr. Strasnick announced Dave McCauley as new School Site Council parent representative.
- Concern was expressed regarding the traffic problem at the drop off zone related to change in crossing guard at Howard/Ruggles. The Melrose Public School business manager has been notified and he is addressing this with Melrose Police to ask for assistance.

Thanks to all who participated! The full minutes will be posted on the PTO section of the HM website. We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting, to be held on **Wednesday November 17th**. (PLEASE NOTE: the November meeting was originally scheduled for 11/18 but has been changed so as not to conflict with Cocoa Night)

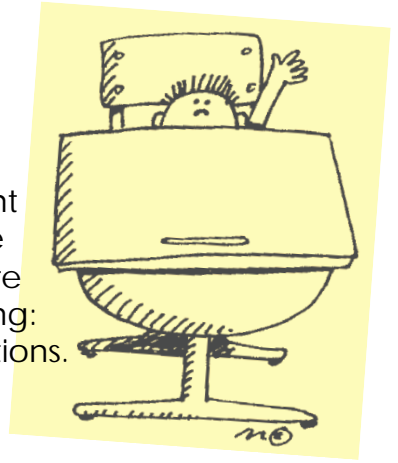
Thank you to HM Alums, Maeve Murphy and Miranda Lombardo, for providing babysitting services during the meeting. ☺



Classroom Spotlight

2nd Grade

Second graders are very busy learners! We engage daily in a variety of Reading and writing activities. Reading comprehension strategies taught thus far are predictions, characterization, main idea and details. We are writing in our journals daily in response to reading and math. Students are discovering how to become better writers by improving six areas of writing: ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, and conventions. Initial mini lessons will guide students to show that their lives are rich with potential topics. This strategy aims to show that topics can be narrowed and new ideas can be developed.



During word study we learn about words and how they work. Each lesson is organized around a principle such as words with common spelling patterns, words with long and short vowel sounds, and the forming of past tense by adding the suffix "ed" to words. We choose our own weekly spelling words from the word study principles taught and from our High Frequency Word Lists. We study our words with our spelling buddies. Daily activities include Make Say Check Mix, Look Say Cover Write, Buddy Check, Making Connections, and Buddy Test.

In math we are investigating numbers to 100, number patterns, comparing and ordering numbers, tables and graphs. In November we will be working on addition strategies, bridging the ten, doubles ($7+7$), doubles plus one ($7+8$), doubles plus two ($7+9$); the counting on strategy when one of the numbers in a problem is 1, 2, or 3; and subtraction strategies, count back, fact families, and missing addends.

In our first science unit, Living and Non- Living, students discover that plants and animals have characteristics that help them survive. Our social studies curriculum helps us to better understand our community and become better citizens.

Thank you to the PTO and second grade parents for your continued support. We greatly appreciate all that you do!



4th Grade

The 4th grade is wrapping up the month of October with pumpkin character book projects reflecting the main character from this month's book genre of fantasy. In math, we are moving along nicely into data collection, analyzing and graph data. During the month of November, we will begin multiplication and division work! In Social Studies, students have been researching their ancestors. Be sure to check out the world map and our personal family stories on the 4th grade walls!

In science we have been discovering all the wonders space has to offer. We have just finished learning about gravity, mass systems, the moon and all of its phases. We learned why we have day and night and how solar eclipses happen. Next, we will dive deeper into space and explore plants, comets and the difference between the biosphere, hydrosphere, and lithosphere. Space is a very exciting place!

Horace Mann Family Fund



The Horace Mann Family Fund, formerly the Family In Need Fund, was instituted in 2005 to assist families within the Horace Mann community who may be experiencing a tragic event or serious illness. To raise funds for the Family Fund we hold one major fundraiser a year. In the spring we celebrate Red Sox Opening Day during lunch in the All Purpose Room. Students are able to purchase popcorn or Hoodsie cups for .50 each. In addition they may wear a hat for a \$1 donation. Traditionally this raises approximately \$300 for the fund. This year, the proceeds from the Back to School Cookout were donated to the Family Fund. The proceeds from these events will be used throughout the school year to provide some assistance to families within our school community.

With the cold weather and holiday season approaching us, we often receive requests for assistance. If you know if anyone who could benefit from the Family Fund please contact one of us. All requests and "gifts" are confidential.

We would like to especially thank the students and parents in Mrs. Savarino and Ms. Pellegrini's class 2009/2010 who generously donated \$50.00 to the Family Fund. It is greatly appreciated.

HMFF Members:

Joanie Russell – Co- Coordinator HMFF
Karen Corr- Co Coordinator HMFF
Mr. Jeff Strasnick - Principal
Ms. Valerie Kostandos - 2nd Grade Teacher
Ms. Debra Rees- Classroom teacher
Mrs. Debbie Brooks- Co President PTO



Recap...Pumpkin Festival 2010

By Debbie Brooks, Pumpkin Festival Committee Chair



The Annual Horace Mann Pumpkin Festival was a great success once again this year! The weather forecast was ominous, but the storm cleared out and left us with a blustery and beautiful fall day! I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make the day a success. Whether you worked a shift at the festival, helped with set up or clean up, or donated baked goods and raffle items – we couldn't have done it without your help! And a special thanks goes to our area coordinators – Sam Sullivan & Carol Denning who coordinated all the fun games, Sharon Wilson in the craft area, Ted Marena who created the spooky Haunted House, Lisa Bergeron on Pumpkin Sales, and Lisa Maher on the delectable Bake Sale.

We also want to thank Mr. Strasnick for being such a great sport as the target in our Sponge the Straz game. As a result of a great team effort, we raised over \$3,500 for the PTO, funds which will be used to directly benefit our kids! And thanks to all of you, the Horace Mann families and friends, who came out to join in the fun while supporting our school.

Get to Know Me

This month, we feature **Jillian Meuse**, a 3rd Grade teacher at Horace Mann, in the Teacher Profile. This is her first year teaching 3rd grade.

Name: Jillian Meuse

College Attended: Salem State College

Years Teaching: Two years as a paraprofessional in third grade; first year teaching third grade.

Place of Birth: Brookline, MA

Favorite Movie: Home Alone

Favorite Color: Blue

Favorite Sport/Team: Boston Bruins

Favorite Food: broccoli pizza and apple pie

Hobbies: I enjoy exercising, reading, and shopping. I have also spent a lot of time over the past year visiting my husband in Colorado. ☺

Favorite Vacation Spot: Bermuda

Favorite Holiday: Christmas

Favorite TV Show: Seinfeld

Favorite Book: Childhood Favorite – Make Way for Ducklings by Robert McCloskey
Adult Favorite-The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein

Why did you decide to become a teacher?

I wanted to become a teacher so I could make education fun and exciting for children. My hope is to have students want to learn and be excited about coming to school.

What do you like most about working at Horace Mann?

The students and staff at Horace Mann are great. Everyone is extremely friendly and caring towards one another. It makes for a great learning and teaching environment.



Attention Skiers & Snowboarders

This year, Horace Mann will be participating in Wachusett Mountain's Donation Discount Program. For every lift ticket purchased online using our special Horace Mann code (code# DON-HMS), you will receive a \$5 discount. At the end of the ski season, Wachusett will make a donation back to the school of \$10 for every ticket purchased.

Tickets can be ordered beginning November 15th at www.wachusett.com, and the season starts December 1st. We will have a link on our website soon. We will also be planning several "Horace Mann Days" at the mountain throughout the season. Wachusett is great place for those learning to ski, and it's only about an hour from Melrose. This is a great way to get out for some winter family fun, while also earning money for our school!



Volunteer Update – More Help Wanted

Thanks to those of you who have stepped forward to fill in the needed volunteer positions so far this year. We have had several successful events to date thanks to all the volunteers and staff that have given their time and effort. We do have a few more positions that need to be filled.



Lost and Found – This job has been done in the past by a working parent. It consists of setting up a labeled box in the all-purpose room, going through the box periodically to try to identify any family names on clothes, posting notices in Happenings newsletter, and sorting through clothes to donate or dispose. This is a great way to volunteer if you want to help out but have a busy schedule.

Traffic Committee and **Raffle Committee** are groups that need members. If you would like any more information on any of these, please give me a call. If you filled out a volunteer interest survey, you will receive an email from me within the next two weeks confirming your interests. Also, committee chairs will receive lists of interested volunteers in the next two weeks as well.

Please remember you need to be registered with The Bridge if you want to volunteer. If you have not registered, please do so. You can register in the Horace Mann office any day of the week. If you have any volunteer questions or concerns, feel free to contact me.

Melinda Stockwell
781.665.5441
melinda.stockwell@gmail.com

HM Enrichment Program



The Horace Mann School operates an enrichment program each year for its students. The Horace Mann PTO funds the program throughout the year. The enrichment committee works directly with Mr. Srasnick and a teacher volunteer (Ms. Lavita) to coordinate the program, and include guest speakers or performers to host a session once a month for our school. For example, last year a local theater group from Wakefield visited our school and provided a lively performance on bully prevention and friendship. We also invited a storyteller to share stories of African traditions. Ben Franklin, from Historical Perspectives, visited classrooms for students to learn about his life and important contributions during the 18th century.

This year, we kicked off the program with a visit from *The College Fund Band*. The band has played in Faneuil Hall Marketplace's world renowned Street Performer Program for the past two years. This amazing 'musical family' continues to prove itself as one of the most talented, enthusiastic and professional performers at the Marketplace. The group includes Mom, Debbie on the keyboard/vocals, son Jack on guitar and lead vocals, and son Dan on drums. The kids and staff really enjoyed their music! We invited them to the school to inspire students to follow their musical dreams, and have a little fun! Feel free check out the CFB on their website, <http://www.collegefundband.com> - they are playing at Faneuil Hall Marketplace throughout the fall!

You will learn more about the monthly HM enrichment program in the Happenings. If you have any questions or ideas for the program, please contact Ms. Lavita.

Coats for Kids

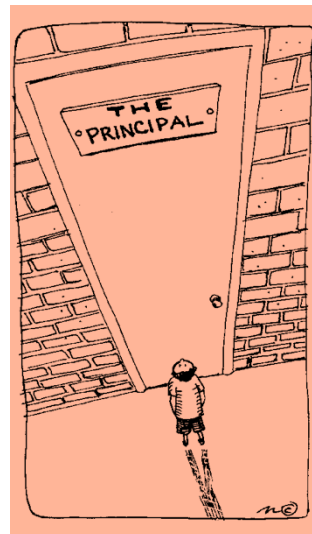
The fifth grade will be collecting Coats for Kids from November 1st to January 8th, 2011. This is a 5th grade Community Service Project. We are counting on you to help those in need by donating coats for all ages, babies, children, teens and adults. Through a partnership with Anton's Cleaners School Rewards Program, our school has the opportunity to win several wonderful prizes in addition to providing warmth to someone in need.

All you need to do is donate a warm winter jacket or coat that is gently used and of good quality; a coat that you would give to a friend! Ski jackets are also accepted. Just bring your coats and drop them in the bin that will be located outside Mrs. Capaldo's classroom. We will take them to Anton's cleaners where they will clean the coats and distribute them to a list of participating partners. Please see the attached flyer for more information or contact Joanie Russell joanierussell@comcast.net. Thank you in advance for your support!



Principals for the Day - Oct. 22, 2010

Pictured here are the McGillicuddy Girls, Maeve and Ella. They won the Principal for a Day prize at the Fall Fiesta! Nice work girls!





Donate quality winter coats for kids, adults and babies, too!



Collecting now thru January 8

Accepted

- Warm, winter jackets
- Gently used
- Good quality
- Coats that you'd give a friend
- Ski jackets
- All sizes needed**

Not accepted

- Rips, holes and/or tears
- Broken zippers
- Permanent stains
- Sweatshirts
- Vests
- Spring coats

Coats distributed by community agencies to those in need

Promotional Partners



Distribution Partners

- Catholic Charities
- Community Giving Tree
- Lowell Wish Project
- Lutheran Social Services of New England
- Massachusetts Association for Community Action
- Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless
- Massachusetts Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children
- Mental Health Association of Greater Lowell
- Middlesex Human Service Agency
- Rosie's Place
- The Salvation Army
- and many more!**

Supporting Partners





- Enterprise Bank
- Graham Communications
- Massachusetts Association for Community Action
- Package Supply Corporation

Sponsored by



Cleaning of coats donated by Anton's Cleaners. More information at www.antons.com/cfk

Horace Mann School -November

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1 1:30 – Monday Monthly Mtg	2  State Election Lunch in Classroom	3	4 Early Release 12: 30 dismissal Lunch is served	5	6
7	8	9	10 7:40-8:15 Initial Bank Day in library	11 Veterans Day No School	12 Gr 5 – Wolf Hollow	13
14	15 Book Fair	16 Book Fair	17 Book Fair 7:00 PM - PTO Mtg Everyone is welcome	18 Book Fair 6-8 PM Cocoa Night	19 Book Fair	20
21	22	23	24  12:00 dismissal Thanksgiving	25  No School Thanksgiving	26  No School Thanksgiving	27
28	29	30				

2010