

We were joined by about 10 parents, as well as several teachers and Mr. Strasnick, for our monthly PTO meeting on December 15th. The following topics were discussed:

- Candidate for co-secretary, Rachel Svenson was introduced and unanimously voted in by those in attendance. Welcome Rachel to the PTO Board!
- We reviewed the fantastic results of the Thanksgiving Food Drive and thanked the community for its generous support!
- On behalf of the Enrichment Committee, we provided an update on the Enrichment event for December – the New England Aquarium, Penguin Program, which was a great hit with the students.
- The reviewed the newly revised state policy for gifts to teachers and staff .
- Linda Peet provided an update on the Book Fair and Cocoa Night results. Throughout the Book Fair, we sold a total of about \$6,000, with about ½ of this coming from a very successful Cocoa Night. We chose to take our proceeds in cash versus “scholastic credits” so that we would have more flexibility in the books we could purchase for the library. Our net profit was about \$1500, which will go directly to the Library Fund.
- Charlene Grasso provided an update on the 5th Grade Yankee Candle Sale, reporting that we brought in over \$4000 in sales, with a profit of over \$1600 for the 5th Grade Activities Fund.
- Co-VP Jen Ward reported that she is continuing to solicit local businesses such as Target and Walmart for donations, which can be used to help fund classroom supplies for the teachers. We did receive confirmation of a \$700 grant award from Target to be used toward field trip bus expenses.
- Co-VP Jackie Skane reported on November’s Dine Around results from Liberty Bell. We earned \$326, which includes our proceeds from the restaurant, as well as the raffle and donations. The next Dine Around will be held at Kelly’s Roast Beef on December 27th.
- The Wachusett Mountain Program was reviewed. It will be ongoing all season and all the detailed info was in the recent flyer as well as on the HM website.
- We have confirmed a Horace Mann night at Jump On In in Woburn for Monday January 10th.
- We have confirmed a Horace Mann Wine & Beer Tasting event for Friday January 21st. We will also have “Party of Gold” at the event so bring along any unwanted gold jewelry and trade for cash!
- We reviewed a plan to use Study Island and other online programs for this year’s Math-a-thon, which will be run during February vacation.
- This month, the members of Citywide PTO participated in a focus group to provide feedback to the school district about the new bullying policies.
- PTO Co-Treasurer Wendy Deeds presented the monthly budget update.
- Mr. Strasnick provided an update on the Horace Mann Helping Hands project.
- Mr. Strasnick reported that with the colder weather, there has been an increase in visits to the nurse due to injuries at recess. He reviewed the winter/cold weather safety procedures to ensure the kids staying safe.

Thanks to all who attended. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 19th.