

PTO Notes from September 19th

Our first PTO meeting of the year was attended by about 30 members, including parents and staff. We kicked off our new format, in which we'll be joined each month by teachers from a particular grade level, who will tell us about what's going on in their grade.

- ❖ Staff members Wendy Florino, Kathy Tarpey and Nicole Wells joined us to share what their students are doing in Kindergarten. They highlighted their focus areas of letter sounds, reading, health (focus on safety), sorting & counting, and learning about their school environment. They will also begin meeting with 3rd grade "reading buddies" and 5th grade "lap top buddies" soon. The two classes do get together for some group activities and while schedules may differ, the same material is covered in both Kindergarten classes.
- ❖ Mr. Strasnick announced the results of the School Site Council election and introduced Andrea Hill as the newest member of the Site Council.
- ❖ Mr. Strasnick reminded parents of the drop off and pick up procedures.
- ❖ Mr. Strasnick introduced his new blog, which can be found at horacemannmessenger.blogspot.com. He hopes this will help enhance communications at the school. Please check it out...
- ❖ Mr. Strasnick provided an update on the use of the new SmartBoards, which are now in all the classrooms. The teachers are using the SmartBoards regularly and the kids are all enthusiastic about this new technology.
- ❖ The PTO Board provided an update on several upcoming events:
 - The Innisbrook fundraiser sale is starting this week until October 3rd, and orders will be delivered before Thanksgiving.
 - Pumpkin Festival planning is in the works. The event is scheduled for October 15th and we will need lots of volunteers. More info to come.
- ❖ Horace Mann will have a team participating in Melrose Alliance Against Violence (MAAV) annual walk on October 23rd. More info to come on how you can join and/or support the team.
- ❖ The 2011-2012 HM PTO budget is still being finalized and will be presented for approval at the October meeting.
- ❖ The Enrichment Committee gave a quick preview to the upcoming October activity called Mad About Math. This event will be tailored for both younger and older students and is sure to be a fun and energetic learning experience for all students.

- ❖ Mr. Strasnick provided an overview of Monday Monthly Meeting for new parents and reminded parents that the schedule of which grade is hosting the meeting, as well as monthly themes, is posted on our website. Parents are encouraged to attend when their child's grade is hosting.

Thank you to all who attended the meeting, and a special thanks to Maeve Murphy and Hannah Mulcahy for providing childcare services during our meeting.

Our next meeting will be held on **Monday, October 17th at 7:00pm** in the All Purpose Room, when our 5th Grade teachers will be our special guests. All our welcome and encouraged to attend.