



HORACE MANN MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 5

JANUARY, 2012

I truly hope that you have had a wonderful start to 2012. I am very proud of the students and staff at Horace Mann, and I look forward to an exciting rest of year.

REMINDERS AND UPDATES

Please reference an email sent at the end of December regarding academic and behavioral expectations through the remainder of this school year.

It is very important to weave through the parking lot and to follow the traffic pattern during drop-off and pick-up.

If a student brings his/her cellphone to school it must remain off and in the locker throughout the day. Please avoid texting your student during school hours. In addition, any phone calls from students must be made from a school phone. Please remind students that they should not be dismissing themselves from school by texting parents to come get them. Calls to parents for dismissal will only come from the nurse or the principal.

We will be moving into the next phase of our Aspen implementation this month - opening the Family Portal. This portal will give parents/guardians singular access to all of their students. More info to come!

TECHNOLOGY

Social networking and personal technology for our students has amazing individual and instructional potential. But the dark side to the powerful, addictive pull of texting, instant messaging, and 24/7 communication is the toll that it is taking on student sleep and work habits.

Students need at least nine hours of sleep:

- ◆ Sleep deprivation is becoming a huge problem - children are on cell phones and computers often until well into the night. This can have a negative effect on health, concentration, behavior, and affect.
- ◆ Cell phones are not the only culprits - video games and computers also contribute to staying up late or all night.

Students need focused attention on their studies:

- ◆ Students are rushing to "finish" work to get to games and social networking.
- ◆ Students should "surrender" cell phones and personal technology, and make sure computer use is in a public place (not in their rooms) during study time.
- ◆ Hold students to the full time - 1 hour for 6th grade, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours for 7th grade, and up to 2 hours for 8th grade.

Make sure students "park" their technology:

- ◆ Do not allow televisions, cell phones, or computers (or anything with wifi access) in bedrooms. The temptations are too great.
- ◆ Anything brought into school will need to remain off and in the locker during the day. And, the school is not responsible for any loss, damage, or theft of/to personal technology.

TRI-COUNTY RVTHS

All 8th graders should have received an admission's letter and application to Tri-County RVTHS by the end of the first week in January (You can also download an application form from www.tri-county.tc). All applicants must complete the application and give it to Mr. Fortin for processing during the month of January. If you have any questions please call.

All applicants must attend an upcoming interview workshop with Ms. Demers and Ms. Wnuk. Students will learn how to make a good impression and how to answer some of the actual interview questions! Applicants will receive a letter indicating the date and time of their interview.

CONCERTS AND DRAMA SHOWS

Kudos to all of our students who participated in the music concerts and drama club performances this winter. If you missed the shows, you missed truly amazing performances! Thank you Mr. McGovern, Ms. Wright, Ms. Hersee, and Mrs. Plouffe and thank you to everyone that helped and/or attended either night. Each group has additional performances scheduled for the spring so stay tuned.

Upcoming events:

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| January 16 | Observance of Martin Luther King’s Birthday—no school |
| January 25 | Early Release Day for Professional Development—dismissal at 10:40 |
| February 14 | Tri-county interviews |
| February 20-24 | Winter vacation |

NEWS YOU CAN USE:

WWW.FRANKLIN.MA.US/AUTO/SCHOOLS/FPS/FLYER/DEFAULT.HTM

Please see flyers and announcements for Franklin Public School children and their families on this website.

Horace Mann Middle School
PCC Newsletter – January 2012

Upcoming Meeting:

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 19th at 6:00pm**. Officer MacLean, School Resource Officer, will be joining us and will speak about his goals to establish a strong relationship with the students and our community.

We hope to see you there!

Dates to Remember:

January 16th: Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday – No School

January 21st: 8th grade students and families - FHS Transition Information Day

January 25th: Professional Development Day – Students dismissed at 10:40am

January 27th: Movie Night at HMMS – 6:30pm Grades 6th-8th

Thank You!

The PCC would like to send out a heartfelt thank you to Kim Derby and to all the Horace Mann Middle School students and families who purchased books at the recent Scholastic Book Fair. With the sales of this event, the PCC was able to purchase almost 100 new books for both the library and for the classrooms too. We would also like to thank all the parent volunteers for their time to make the Book Fair a success. Thank you again for supporting your child's love of reading and for participating in this wonderful fundraiser.

We want to thank Doreen Donahue for organizing our Turkey Raffle this year! This year was a huge success. 1,267 tickets were sold for a total of \$1,085.75.

41 homework passes were earned, 5 families won turkeys, and 3 Advisors received floral arrangements and will participate in a future celebration. Proceeds from this raffle will go to the PCC to support enrichment programs. In addition, as part of this program, we donated 5 turkeys to the Franklin Food Pantry.

Thank you to Diane Oteri and all the parents who sent in desserts for the Staff Holiday Luncheon in December. The sweets were enjoyed by all! Teachers were also treated to a raffle sponsored by the PCC. Prizes included \$25 gift cards to Barnes & Noble, Best Buy, Kohls, Michaels, and Marshalls.

Thank you to the Beautification Committee for the winter decorations throughout the entrance and grounds. The school looks great!

Other News and Updates:

Calling all SMURF Fans! The PCC will be hosting our first **Movie Night SMURFS** at Horace Mann Middle School for students in grade 6th – 8th. Come with your friends on Friday, January 27th from 6:30-9:00 pm in HMMS auditorium. Admission is free with a ticket. Tickets will be available during lunches, the week of the show. The PCC will be selling snacks, desserts and beverages. If you would like to donate refreshments please email—Lisa Rein at massreins@verizon.net

8th grade students! There is still time to submit your **baby photo**. We have extended the deadline to Friday Feb. 3rd to get as many photos as possible. Photos should be given to your homeroom teacher and include your full name and homeroom teacher on the back. Please contact Kathy Kinson at hmmsyearbook11_12@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

Yearbooks are coming! Look for a flyer coming home with the students this week. All books will be ordered online at www.ybpay.com. Parents should click on the “locate state” section, then town, and then find our school and from there follow the instructions for ordering a book. Payments are made by credit or debit card.

Fundraising:

Send in your **Box Tops** by Friday February 17th. Remember, the advisor group with the most box tops collected will win a celebration! To view a list of all participating products, go to www.btfe.com.

Don't forget to register online for our **Stop & Shop fundraiser!** Go to www.stopandshop.com/aplus. You can register or re-register using your Stop & Shop number (on your card) and inputting the Horace Mann id: 07095.

To date, the **Magazine Drive** has raised over \$7,000, with more money coming in each month from the Address Booklets. This has been one of our most successful fundraisers.

We will continue to accept orders online throughout the year!

Go to qsp.com, and enter the Support Section – Shop Now>> ,

School/Organization#: 1091614

We really appreciate your support!