



# **HORACE MANN MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**

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NOVEMBER, 2009

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## **FOCUSING ON OUR MISSION:**

Thank you:

Mr. Jim Schliefke for organizing a trip to the Spacecamp in Huntsville, Alabama, open to all Horace Mann Middle School students. We have 19 students who will be participating in the trip of a life time in July.

Mr. and Mrs. Vacca for organizing a recent Sunday trip to the Museum of Fine Arts for the Asian Study group, a group of students who share a passion for Asian study.

Mr. Bruno Nosiglia for organizing a trip to the Metrowest News facilities as part of our S.T.E.M. initiative.

Our S.T.E.M. team for organizing a trip to Nypro Corporation in Clinton, MA. Important opportunity for our students to learn about engineering and business careers.

Mr. Bob O'Brien for connecting us with Natick Labs who will be providing technology for our Robotics League and math classrooms.

Mr. Mark Brady for writing grants to procure two Robotics League teams. These teams will be competing in regional competitions!

Parents Ms. Jette and Ms. Arms Ledwith for organizing two Destination Imagination teams to represent us in the Regional Tournament in March.

Mr. Jim d'Entremont and Mr. Dave McGovern for challenging students to participate in this year's SEAMAGNET Geography Fair through Bridgewater State College!

Ms. Andi Ridley for leading our Math Team and setting up competitions with neighboring communities.

Ms. Deb Goss, our reading specialist who will be sponsoring a special literary event at Barnes and Noble during the Holiday season (more information coming).

Franklin Education Foundation for providing our science teachers with a high-powered microscope!!

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## VETERANS DAY

*"America has a sacred trust to care for those who defend her. From the warriors who stormed the beaches of Normandy on D-Day to the brave men and women returning from Iraq and Afghanistan—our Veterans share a legacy of service that crosses generational lines and upholds the values upon which our Nation was founded: service to a cause greater than self."*

*Eric K. Shinseki, Secretary of Veterans Affairs*

On November 10th at 9:00, Horace Mann Middle School will be conducting a Veterans Day Ceremony. We are hoping that our students who have friends, relatives who have served our nation or who are currently serving our nation in any branch of the service, would consider inviting a guest to be presented at our ceremony.

We would ask that student to introduce his/her guest at the ceremony, providing a brief biography relative to the veteran's service. If your child is nervous about speaking, we would make sure the veteran was introduced by a teacher or myself. It is a simple, but beautiful ceremony! Your child will be bringing an invitation home, please encourage participation!!!

## CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Mr. Rob Vacca, sixth grade teacher, who will be part of a panel discussion along with a professor of East Asian studies from Brown University discussing "Korea in the World: A Geographic Focus" through the Five College Center for East Asian Studies and the Teachers Center for Global Studies—November 7th.

Mr. Andrew Carroll, Latin teacher, who was a presenter at the Massachusetts Foreign Language Annual Fall Conference. The topic of his presentation: Tuscan Summers and Shattered Garden Pots.

Ms. Jane Pichette, art teacher, whose graduate college thesis exhibition will be on display on November 14th from 6-8 p.m. at Gallery 17, 303 Atwells Avenue on Federal Hill in Providence.

Ms. Judy Butler, parent and guiding spirit behind our Gifted/Talented Initiative who was recently presented with a prestigious award in the field of Gifted/Talented education. Thank you Ms. Butler for supporting our participation in the regional Gifted/Talented conference in

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## SPRING YARD SALE:

Horace Mann Middle School will be sponsoring its second annual Yard Sale in May. PLEASE CONSIDER SAVING YOUR YARD SALE ITEMS FOR US!!!

If you would like to help us out with this endeavor (a great fundraiser to support so many enrichment initiatives), we could use your help. Please contact Lisa Piana, our committee chair. Her e-mail address is Piana@verizon.net. There are many ways in which you can help—big or small!!!! WE NEED YOU!

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## FEF CASINO NIGHT:

Please support the Franklin Education Foundation, which over the years has supported many, many enrichment opportunities for our students. Just this past year alone—providing us with a high-powered microscope, support for our Mosaic Project and our Girls Leadership Group.

November 20th at the Elks

Tickets just \$25.00—great food, door prizes, silent auction!

## INTERNET SAFETY FORUM:

Dan Feeney from the Norfolk County District Attorney's office will conduct a parent forum on Internet Safety (**FOR PARENTS ONLY!!**) on Monday, November 16, 2009 from 7 to 8:30 in the Thomas D. Mercer Auditorium at the Horace Mann Middle School.

## SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Council)

The next Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) meeting will be Wednesday, November 18, 2009 at 7PM in the 3rd floor conference room of the Franklin Municipal Building. The topic will be Emotional Difficulties in Childhood and Adolescence. Diagnoses such as "depression", "bipolar disorder", and "anxiety" are becoming increasingly common among children and teenagers. These disorders can manifest in very different ways, across different individuals and across different ages and stages of development. They can also be accompanied by difficulties that affect other domains of functioning, including social problems and learning issues. Therapist Meghan Welsh, MS, from the Integrated Center for Child Development, will discuss psychiatric disorders diagnosed in childhood and adolescence, ways in which they manifest, and how to treat them and support those who experience them.

**NOVEMBER 13TH FUNDRAISER:** Friday, November 13th Franklin SEPAC will be hosting a Fundraiser: "An Evening of Comedy" Hosted by NESN's Paul Fitzzy Fitzgerald

Doubletree Hotel, 11 Beaver Street, Milford, MA

Doors open at 6:30, show at 8:00

Appetizers, raffles, silent auction, and take your photo with ALL THREE New England Patriot's Superbowl Rings

Tickets are \$30 and will be on sale at SEPAC meetings. Visit [www.neautismbenefits.com/store](http://www.neautismbenefits.com/store) for more info, and to purchase tickets. Or contact Sarah Montani at [FranklinSEPAC@gmail.com](mailto:FranklinSEPAC@gmail.com)

Please visit our website [www.franklin.ma.us/SEPAC](http://www.franklin.ma.us/SEPAC) to see the full details on dates/speakers/topics and to sign up for our monthly newsletter.

## Upcoming events:

November 10	Veterans Day Program—9:00 a.m.
November 11	Veterans Day - No School
November 12	Parent Communication Council Meeting—9:00 a.m.—Discussion of MCAS Results and school-wide initiatives
November 20	Casino Night—Franklin Elks - Tickets available in our main office or at the door
November 25, 26, 27	School closed for Thanksgiving Break
December 3 and December 4	Parent Conferences—Dismissal at 10:40

## NEWS YOU CAN USE:

[WWW.FRANKLIN.MA.US/AUTO/SCHOOLS/FPS/FLYER/DEFAULT.HTM](http://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.