



# HORACE MANN MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 2

OCTOBER, 2011

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As I mentioned at the recent Parent Information Night, despite the delayed opening, it has been nothing short of an amazing start to the school year. Thank you to all—students, parents, and teachers—for your continued support, advice, and well wishes!

In addition, consistent and effective school-home communication is one of my goals this year. One of my primary means of whole group information sharing will be through this monthly newsletter which will (hopefully) change and evolve as I continue to grow into this role. To that end, your suggestions, contributions, and feedback are always welcome!

Sincerely,  
Shawn Fortin

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## EXECUTIVE SKILLS

Executive skills are those skills that allow students to organize behavior over time. They include planning (creating a roadmap to reach a goal or complete a task), organizing (placing things according to a system and making decisions about what is important), and managing time (estimating, allocating, and sticking to deadlines).

We need your help in reinforcing these skills at home. Please:

- Set up a daily/weekly study block
- Help break down projects
- Encourage the use of a calendar
- Organize materials
- Provide a clean, quiet, and dedicated area to work

## REMINDERS AND UPDATES

Thank you for your continued support with the updated Middle School Dress Code—the cool weather definitely makes it easier!

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 cell phone 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 and any calls for dismissal will come from the nurse or principal.

There is a \$50.00 activity fee which allows students to attend as many clubs as they wish. You may pay this fee ONLINE through <https://unipaygold.unibank.com/Default.aspx?customerid=756> or please make your check payable to “Town of Franklin”. Club descriptions and meeting days are on our website.

Make your students’ bedroom technology free—no computers, video games, and especially no cell phones in the bedroom!

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## BROCHURES, FLYERS, AND INFORMATION

All approved brochures, notices and flyers will be posted online on the district webpage titled News You Can Use <http://www.franklin.ma.us/auto/schools/FPS/flyer/default.htm>

Non-profit groups who would like information to be posted on the website should contact the Office of the Superintendent at (508) 533-4819.

We are working hard to get family access to our new student information system (Aspen) and therefore grade, assignment, classroom, and even conduct information. The expectation is that the online portal will be open on or around the traditional first progress report time (the end of October). However, we may be behind schedule with this process. We do have a back-up plan for printing and sending home progress reports and I will keep you updated as to what to expect. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact your students team of teachers with questions regarding current grades and/or progress.

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## CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES:

A list of clubs and the days that they meet are on our website. Please see the link on the left side of the main page.

**STOP & SHOP REWARDS PROGRAM:**

Horace Mann has the opportunity to earn cash through Stop & Shop A+ School Rewards Program.

All you have to do is:

Log on to [www.stopandshop.com/aplus](http://www.stopandshop.com/aplus) to register online

**OR**

Dial 1-877-275-2758 to register your card over the phone

After you register your card, each shopping trip at Stop & Shop using your Stop & Shop Card earns CASH for our school! Each month, the amount of CASH awarded will be updated on the Stop & Shop website. You can track the amount of points you earn for our school by checking your grocery receipt and online when you create an account at [www.stopandshop.com](http://www.stopandshop.com). Our school will receive a check at the end of the program. The money can be used for any of our school's educational needs.

Remember, even if you registered your card last year, you must re-register this year for our school to receive credit. Attending to this simple process makes a HUGE difference to our school. We need your support. Thank you!

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**TARGET'S "TAKE CHARGE OF EDUCATION" PROGRAM:**

If you have a REDcard Target will donate 1% of your purchases at Target and Target.com to Horace Mann. If you have a Target Visa card they will donate 1/2%. At Target.com click on Community then click on the Take Charge of Education program and designate Horace Mann as your school. For more information call the Target Education Hotline at 1-800-316-6142.



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**SUBSTITUTE CAFETERIA WORKERS NEEDED:**

The Food Service Office is in need of substitute cafeteria workers. If interested, contact Susan Childers at Human Resources (Town Municipal Building) and fill out an application.

# GRADE 8 OPEN HOUSE

## Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School

Date: Thursday, November 8, 2010 7:00-9:00 p.m.

147 Pond Street  
Franklin, MA 02038  
[www.tri-county.tc](http://www.tri-county.tc)

Automotive technology, engineering technology, computer technology, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, culinary arts, dental assisting, cosmetology, graphic communications and more

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## HEALTH ISSUES:

To help reduce the spread of influenza we are asking parents and students to be mindful of the following:

### GET YOUR FLU SHOT!!!

Wash your hands **OFTEN** with soap and warm water. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand gel.

Cough and sneeze into your elbow, **NOT** your hand.

Do not share eating or drinking utensils (e. g. water bottles, forks, cups, straws).

Individuals who are sick with flu-like symptoms should stay home until they are fever free ( under 100 degrees F) for 24 hours **WITHOUT** the use of fever reducing medications. Flu-like symptoms include **FEVER** and a **SORE THROAT** and/or **FEVER** and a **COUGH**. Other symptoms may include: runny nose, headache, muscle and joint aches, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea and fatigue.

Please keep your student home from school if they have any flu-like symptoms. If you would like more information on the flu, you can go to the Mass. Department of Public Health influenza website: [mass.gov/flu](http://mass.gov/flu) or call the MDPH information line: 211.

If your child is taking antibiotics, they need to receive a full **24 hours of medication before returning to school.**

Tis the season for head lice - I know this is not a pleasant subject and parents tend to not share this information with the schools but we **NEED TO KNOW!!**

Franklin Public Schools have already had cases of lice and we need parents to be aware of any itchy heads!! You can refer to a video on the Horace Mann website under the nurse's office which will show you what head lice and nits look like.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call 541-6230.

Kym Cameron, R.N.

Horace Mann Middle School Nurse

**SEPAC:**

Welcome to a new school year!

Also, please join us for our informal Parent to Parent Support Groups. These laid back support programs are held the second Tuesday of every month at the YMCA in Franklin. Meetings are at 9:30am and children are welcome. It is our hope that these meetings will provide a comfortable setting for Parents/Guardians to share, learn and exchange information. The BERNON FAMILY BRANCH YMCA is located at 45 Forge Hill Road, Franklin.

**2011/2012 Calendar:**

**October 11, 2011:** Parent Support Group

**October 19, 2011:** Workshop - Understanding Your Child's Temperament and Learning Style

**November 8, 2011:** Parent Support Group

**November 11, 2011:** 3rd Annual Evening of Comedy Fundraiser

**November 16, 2011:** Workshop - What do tests really test?

**January 10, 2012:** Parent Support Group

**January 18, 2012:** Workshop - Augmentative Devices

**February 14, 2012:** Parent Support Group

**February 15, 2012:** Special presentation by Dr. ROSS GREENE, author of *The Explosive Child*, and originator of the Collaborative Problem Solving (CPS) approach.

**March 13, 2012:** Parent Support Group

**March 21, 2012:** Workshop -Sensory Processing, Auditory Processing, and Information Processing

**April 10, 2012:** Parent Support Group

**April 25, 2012:** Workshop - Basic Rights

**May 8, 2012:** Parent Support Group

**May 16, 2012:** Workshop - The Consumer's Guide to Neuropsychological Assessment

**June 12, 2012:** Parent Support Group

**June 20, 2012:** Workshop - Transitions to Adult Services

Please note our new website: [www.FranklinSEPAC.org](http://www.FranklinSEPAC.org)

**NOTES FROM THE OFFICE:**

If your child is absent from school and we do not hear from you, we assume your child was sent to school, but never arrived. The amount of time we spend trying to track down students is inordinate—PLEASE HELP US by always calling in to our attendance line by 7:30 A.M.—508-541-6230 then dial 1—on any day when your child is not going to be in attendance OR is going to be late.

Please understand with a student population of over 520 students, we do not interrupt classes and call students down to the main office if they forget homework, clothes for physical education, etc. There is no problem if students drop by the main office (between classes) to pick up things they may have forgotten (should you wish to drop them off).

If you are planning to have your child dismissed during the day, please send in a note to the office specifying the time for dismissal. We will give your child a permission slip to leave class and be ready and waiting for your arrival, and we will avoid spending huge amounts of time tracking students throughout the building.

Also, if you need to get a message to your child during the day, please call us before lunchtime, if at all possible, so that we could send the message to your child in the cafeteria.

We try to protect valuable instructional time and avoid interruptions for teachers and students. Thank you for understanding!

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**ATTENDANCE POLICY** – Just a reminder of the middle school’s attendance policy – **A STUDENT WHO IS ABSENT FOR MORE THAN SEVEN DAYS IN A TRIMESTER** will fail for that term, unless documentation from a physician is provided. A parent note or phone call is not documentation.

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**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

If your contact information changes (home phone, work phone, email address) please notify the office at 508-541-6230 so that we can update our records.

If you have moved please notify the office of your new address by bringing a Proof of Residency form from the Superintendent’s Office to the school.

## Upcoming events:

<b>October 10</b>	Columbus Day—No School
<b>October 19</b>	Panther Pride Night at FHS for current eighth graders and their parents!
<b>October 20</b>	PCC meeting—6:00 p.m. in the library
<b>October 26</b>	Professional Development Day—students dismissed at 10:40
<b>November 3</b>	Eighth graders visit Tri County for the day.
<b>November 8</b>	Full Day Professional Development—No school for students
<b>November 11</b>	Veterans Day—No School for students
<b>November 18</b>	PCC meeting—8:30 a.m. in the library
<b>November 23,24,25</b>	Thanksgiving Break
<b>December 2</b>	Picture Retake Day
<b>December 8 &amp; 9</b>	Half Day, NO lunch served, students dismissed at 10:40, Report Card Conferences
<b>December 26- January 2</b>	Winter Break