



# HORACE MANN MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2

SEPTEMBER, 2009

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## PLEASE COME TO OUR BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT FOR PARENTS!

- WHEN:** Thursday, September 17—6:30-8:00 P.M.
- WHERE:** Thomas D. Mercer Auditorium
- WHY:** Hear about our MCAS results, School Enrichment Model, S.T.E.M. (Science/Technology/Engineering/Math Initiative), our literacy goals... Meet your child's teachers who will provide an overview of the year's curriculum and answer any questions you may have!

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### A FEW REMINDERS/SUGGESTIONS:

\*Set up a daily study block time -

One and half hours: sixth and seventh graders

Two hours: eighth graders

\*Your child may insist homework for the next day is finished before the hour and half or two hour time slot is complete—but please encourage your child to stay in the study area—organize the binder, review notes, work on the outside reading requirement.

\*Help your child manage his/her time—Plan out practice/game schedules/dance practice, music lessons for the week—working in the study block time each day. **MANAGING TIME** is one of the most important life skills your child will learn during the middle school years.

\*Thank you for supporting the dress code—Please do not allow your child to wear flip flops to school (the rubber kind which fold up easily—they are dangerous on the stairs and are easily punctured!)

\*Check our web site frequently. We post the daily schedule and include important messages and updates about coming events!

\*Traffic patterns—Thank you for following the traffic pattern in the parking lot for morning and afternoon drop off and pick up. It is so important to weave through the lot to avoid the inevitable back up onto Oak Street which creates major traffic nightmares!!

\*Students are often "texting" well into the night—It's a good idea to have your child turn in his/her cell phone before going to bed at night.

\*Make your child's bedroom technology free—no computers, phones, tvs in your child's bedroom.

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## **SCHOOL ENRICHMENT MODEL:**

Do you have (or know of someone who might help) a hobby or area of passion/interest that you might be willing to share with our students? Last year we offered thirty-three Enrichment Clusters for our students including—Landscape Architecture, Electronics, JFK Conspiracy, Fundraising for Pakistani refugees; Civil War, World War II and the Holocaust and many more. Several of our Enrichment Clusters were led by parents!!! Our students loved those offerings. Please get involved! We need you! Let us know if you'd be willing to help!

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## **HEALTH REMINDERS:**

While we may not be able to stop Swine Flu, we will take all precautions to avoid the spread of germs, viruses, etc. We will encourage our students to cough/sneeze into one's sleeve or a tissue and encourage frequent washing of hands.

## **TOO MUCH PAPER!!!**

A new way of disseminating information has been established by the Office of the Superintendent. All approved brochures, notices and flyers will be posted on a web site—a link to the sites will be featured prominently on the district web site, school based web sites and in our monthly newsletter—THE LINK IS TITLED—**NEWS YOU CAN USE** and the link is:

<http://www.franklin.ma.us/auto/schools/FPS/flyer/default.htm>

Non profit groups who would like information to be posted for web site publishing should contact the Office of the Superintendent at 508-553-4819.

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## **MAGAZINE FUNDRAISER:**

Our annual magazine fundraiser begins the week of September 8th. We have known and worked with Mr. Kevin Donnelly over the past twenty-five years (at least). He is a reputable man and the company has an impeccable reputation. While these are hard economic times, we hope you will consider helping out. If you don't wish to purchase any new subscriptions, simply renew old ones through us! We will not encourage students to go door to door. We always accept direct donations to our PCC in lieu of involvement with fundraisers. Make checks payable to the Horace Mann Parent Communication Council. Proceeds support:

- \*Summer Reading Celebration
  - \*Author Visit from a Nationally Renowned Author
  - \*All kinds of enrichment programs (NASA, Theatre, History, etc.)
  - \*Veterans Celebration, Six Pillar Society, National History Day Initiative, our Math Team, Talent Show, Video Yearbook to name a few more!
  - \*Support for all kinds of field trips
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## **PREPAY ONLINE FOR LUNCH INFORMATION:**

You may prepay online for your child's lunch. All the necessary information is included with this newsletter (see pages entitled MyNutrikids.com). You may also prepay by check made payable to "Franklin School Lunch Program" and, of course, the cafeteria still accepts cash.

**IMPORTANT DATES TO KEEP IN MIND:**

- September 10** School pictures
- September 10** Parent Communication Council meets in library—9:00 a.m.—All parents welcome to attend!
- September 17** Parent Information Evening—6:30 to 8:00 p.m.—PARENTS/GUARDIANS ONLY—not for students
- September 21** Professional Development Day—students dismissed at 10:40 a.m.
- September 28** Yom Kippur—No School
- September 29, 30 and October 1 and 2** Four sixth grade teams go to YMCA (schedule will be sent home with students)
- October 8** PCC meeting—9:00 a.m. in library
- October 12** Columbus Day—No School
- October 26** Professional Development Day—students dismissed at 10:40
- November 3** Full day Professional Development—NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
- November 11** Veterans Day—No School
- November 25, 26,27** Thanksgiving Break
- December 24 -  
January 1** Winter Break