

PTO NOTES

The Marion Cross School
November 9, 2005



Calendar

No School: Thursday, November 11
Friday, November 12
Friday, November 18—Parent/Teacher Conf.
Noon Dismissal: Wednesday, November 16
Gift Making Festival: Saturday, Nov. 19, 10am–2pm
PTO Meeting: Monday, December 5, 7:00pm, Art Room
School Board Meeting: Wednesday, December 7, 7pm,
MCS Library

Homework Club: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 3:15–4:30pm,
Library Classroom

Directory Additions

The following two families recently joined the Marion Cross School community. Please add their contact information to your School Directory:

HAMISH CAUGHEY, Jim Tobin's 3rd Grade
STRUAN CAUGHEY, Heather Cook's 1st Grade
Andrew & Alison Caughey
422 Hogback Road
802-356-6875 (cell)
649-2894 (after Nov. 28)

MAX LEVA, M. Doscher & B. Haney's 4th Grade
Sheila & Adam Hescock
261 Main Street
649-1476

New Display Case Features "Cross School Kids in the News"

The next time you are in school, please notice the new display case right across from the office where news articles pertaining to MCS students are displayed. If you missed it in the paper, you can see it in the lobby!

The PTO Newsletter is distributed every other week.
Our next deadline is Thursday, November 17.
Send all the news that is fit to print to:
alice.williams@mac.com

PTO Funds Well Spent

The PTO is pleased to be supporting the following staff generated requests:

Two field trips to the Montshire Classroom Workshop ("Blood and Guts" and "Discovering Density") for both 1st grades.

Two science assemblies (one for the lower and one for the upper grades) by Slapstick Science's Ted Lawrence, "Dr. Quark."

We have also agreed to support a purchase that for the moment will remain "secret". The holiday program promises to be extra special this year!

We will consider requests again in the spring. The deadline for submissions is March 1, 2006. Your financial support of the PTO makes these gift awards possible.

PTO Dues



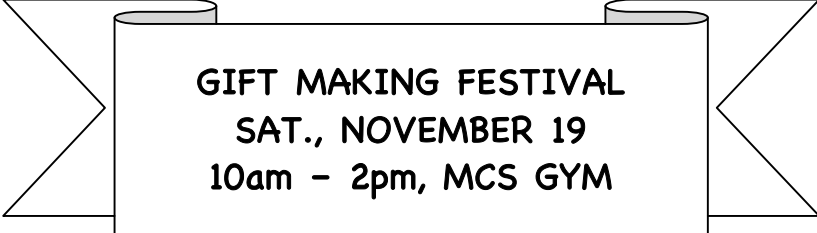
Not sure whether you paid your voluntary PTO dues? Email treasurer Debby Hall, woodshall@valley.net, to find out! Remember your donations are tax deductible.

While dollars are up, participation isn't. We haven't heard from over 50% of school families. Please consider participating!

Homework Club Reminder

Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:15–4:30pm
Library Classroom

This program is designed to offer a quiet place for students in grades 4–6 to do their homework. A staff member is present to answer questions. Please check in by 3:15, and bring a snack if you want!



**GIFT MAKING FESTIVAL
SAT., NOVEMBER 19
10am - 2pm, MCS GYM**

Gift Making Festival What to Expect, How to Plan!

The Gift Making Festival is rapidly approaching. For those families new to Marion Cross and unfamiliar with this wonderful tradition, here are a few details:

The Gift Making Festival is a PTO sponsored event that provides an opportunity for children to make creative, unique and inexpensive gifts for holiday giving. There are typically a dozen projects costing from \$.50-\$1.50. All projects can be completed in a short time and most children make multiple gifts. For the past few years, we have focused on projects that reuse and recycle everyday items. We work with a "necklace" token system, so as children arrive, they purchase necklaces (2 necklaces for \$1) then pay for each project with the necklaces. The projects this year will be priced between 1-3 necklaces. We allow for about 200 projects per table. As tables finish, they close, which may be before 2pm.

Should all this gift making cause participants to become hungry, not a problem! We also provide lunch and snack items at our wonderful café. Very reasonably priced homemade food items like soup, quiche, chili, baked goods and drinks are available. This total package adds up to a day of family and community fun.

Look for samples of the gift projects in the lobby display case after November 14. During the week of November 14, all students will bring home a planning worksheet. The sheet will include all of the gifts, costs to make them and a list of café items with prices. Children can think ahead of time about what they want to make. Mark your calendar and don't miss this fabulous and festive day.

P.S. We are still looking for baby food jars! We have everything else we need. Thanks.

Food On Friday Teams Up With The Gift Making Festival

The PTO will be accepting non-perishable food donations during the Gift Making Festival. We ask families to consider giving a can/box of food to The Haven the day of the event. This venue will hopefully provide a convenient and enjoyable way for families to participate in Food on Friday.

This week, The Haven is short on **bags of rice and rice mixes in a box; baking products, such as cake and brownie mixes; and tuna.** Students seem to get a big charge out of dropping their donations in the cart. Thank you. The amount of need out there is staggering.

Gift Making Festival Café Wish List Help Still Needed!

The following is a list of items still needed:

- 2-3 more people to take a shift in the kitchen (9:30-11:30am, 11:30-1:30pm and clean up, 1:30-3:00pm)
- Cookies, brownies, bars, cupcakes, muffins, coffee cake - GALORE!
- Cider, seltzer, lemonade mix
- Apples and bananas
- Milk and cream for coffee
- Crackers & cheese (12+ individual servings in baggies)
- 4 large tubs of cream cheese

Contributors can call or email:

Pam Mobilia, 649.1119, pammobilia@hotmail.com

Lisa Cadow, 649.1961, lisa.cadow@valley.net

Cinny Bensen 649.1949, cbensen@valley.net

Thanks for contributing to the success of this great event!

The 6th Grade Service Table at the Gift Making Festival is Back!

This year the sixth grade will once again host a "service table" at the Gift Making Festival. Students (and parents!) will be invited to help construct a craft and all proceeds will be donated to a charitable organization. This year the students will be donating to one international and one local organization - Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and SERG (Sustainable Energy Resource Group). Please be sure to stop by the sixth grade table and support the effort (parent contributions to the causes are welcome too!).

Interested in helping out? Please contact Jinny Brack, virginia.c.brack@hitchcock.org or 649.3891. Thank you.

Halloween Thank You from Alison May

I'd like to thank the PTO for the candy collected - and such a lot of it! I had already bought what I thought would be enough (600 pieces or so); the PTO delivered an overwhelming amount and, unbelievably, all but about 20 pieces were left over! So, my deepest thanks to the thoughtfulness of the PTO for those of us in the "hit" area. The weather was fantastic, the kids as polite as ever, and a good time was had by all. I think perhaps, however, we are now known as the trick or treat capital of the Upper Valley - a lot of our visitors came from Lyme, Thetford, Hanover, Wilder, WRJ, Sharon, Strafford (I asked every so often) and to my amusement, one woman from LA who had been visiting in NY decided she wanted her son to experience a trick or treat night, and came to Norwich! Again, my thanks - Alison May

Calling All Inventors!

It's time for the third annual **Machine Madness at the Montshire Museum of Science on Saturday, November 19.**

We invite inventors of all ages to build a contraption at home that can be linked to creations made by fellow participants. The result: an incredible chain reaction!

A few guidelines:

- Your "link in the chain" should be no more than 2' wide and no longer than 4'.
- Your link must begin and end by a string pull. Be sure that it takes no more force than the hanging weight of a golf ball to start your link, and that it ends by pulling a string with enough force to lift a golf ball several inches.

Intrigued?

Arrive with your machine between **1:00-1:30pm**. We'll work together to link up the machines and at **2:30pm** we'll make our first attempt at a chain reaction. Check out the web page for more details, and photos of last year's event. Event free with admission.

One Montshire Rd., Norwich, VT, 802.649.2200
www.montshire.org/mmadness/index.html

Norwich Public Library Happenings



Here are some of the exciting, upcoming events being held at the Library. For more information, call us at 649.1184.

Hope to see you there - Beth Reynolds, Children's Librarian

After-School Children's Craft

Kids in grades 3-6 can join us on Wednesday, November 9 at 3:00pm for an Afternoon of Paper. We'll make paper envelopes, experiment with marbling gift wrap, and try our hand at twirling. All items would be perfect enhancements for holiday presents. Space is limited, so please call to reserve a spot.

Lovely Lemony Snicket

Join us on Nov. 16 at 1:00pm for "A Rather Unfortunate Event". We'll watch the movie with Jim Carey at his comic best as Count Olaf. Popcorn and juice will be provided.

On Wednesday, Nov. 30, kids in grades 3-6 can join us at 3:00pm for a book discussion of Lemony's work, including the latest - The Penultimate Peril, Book the 12th. Theme food and beverages will be provided while we talk about the books and toss around some trivia. It promises to be Absolutely Awful—you won't want to miss it!

Attention Skiers!

SPECTRA is currently accepting registrations for this winter's skiing program at the Dartmouth Skiway. The Team SPECTRA program (kindergarten through 8th grade) as well as the Adult SPECTRA program will meet each Sunday afternoon, 1pm-3pm, at the Dartmouth Skiway beginning January 8 and ending March 5. Neither program will meet on February 19. Registrations will be accepted through the end of November.

Contact: Bill Proom at bill.proom@gfplp.com or 603.643.5343.

Remember: The MCS School website is full of information and a copy of the latest newsletter yours hit the trash to early!
School website: www.marioncross.org

Come celebrate the holiday season
(and hear MCS parents sing!)
at the Handel Society of Dartmouth College
concert on Tuesday, November 29 at 7:00pm,
Spaulding Auditorium.

Tickets available at the Hop Box Office.

Dartmouth Lecture
"Child Labor in the Global Economy"
Professor Eric Edmonds
Wednesday, November 16, 4:30pm
3 Rockefeller Hall

Professor Edmonds will talk about the patterns of child labor in poor countries, why it exists, how we can help alleviate it, and how international trade patterns affect it. It is an event co-sponsored by Dartmouth's Rockefeller Center and the League of Women Voters.

This lecture will raise awareness about children in the world who work in horrifying conditions. Some of the products they make end up in our homes without our realizing the conditions under which they were produced. It only takes asking a few questions and knowing a few options to be better global consumers. This will be a very enlightening 90 minutes that can help us think about our place in a larger world and how to raise our children to be global citizens.

This lecture was brought to our attention by Lizann Peyton who serves as board chair for Rugmark USA, an organization that labels rugs as child labor free because the rug industry in India, Pakistan and Nepal is one of the worst child labor offenders.

HALLOWEEN WAS FUN!!

Halloween Candy Collection was a great success! We were able to deliver almost twice the amount of candy as we did last year. And based on the crowd I saw out there that was a good thing!!

Thank you to all the people who generously donated this year, to all the people who helped collect the candy at the different locations, to everyone with their helpful suggestions and thanks to the many people who showed up on Saturday morning to deliver the candy so fast and efficiently! -Gretchen Dwyer

Hartford-Norwich Holiday Basket Helpers Needed

Believe it or not the holidays are surely approaching, and with greater need being expected this year, Hartford-Norwich Holiday Basket Helpers is hoping you will help.

HNHBH helps to provide Christmas for people in the Upper Valley in many ways. Through sponsoring families we are able to provide needed clothing and much wanted toys to children who may otherwise go without. For local seniors and shut-ins we deliver baskets of non-perishable fruits to help make the holidays brighter.

As has been school tradition, Marion Cross will be collecting raisins for the senior baskets. As the fruit baskets will go to seniors who usually live alone, small boxes or individual serving sizes are preferred. There will be a collection box in the lobby beginning Monday, November 7. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Many have asked how to do more for this organization providing for families in our community. Here's how:

- Sponsor a family or child – provide suggested new clothing and gifts for children under 18. This can be done as a family, or families and friends can band together to provide for a family. You may choose how many children you would like to sponsor.
- Make a financial donation to be used for food gift certificates for a holiday dinner.
- Volunteer – help with setting up for distribution day, organizing and delivering baskets.

The distribution of gifts takes place the first week in December, and time always seems to fly by before it is upon us. Please contact us as soon as possible with any questions or to sign up to be a sponsor.

Thank you,
Ann Marie Smith, 649.1667, birdseye95@adelphia.net
Beth Perry, 649.9048, eliz.perry@valley.net

Donations Requested to help young Thetford couple who were living in New Orleans during Katrina. They may lose all they own if they can't afford to go back to move their belongings here and FEMA won't assist with that expense. Contact Beth Pearson at 649.1984 or beth.pearson@dartmouth.edu for more information.