



MPTO PRESS

Volume 3

Middleton Parent-Teacher Organization

April 2006



In the Spotlight

This month's spotlight is a familiar face around town through her generous contributions to Middleton elementary schools and through her public service as a member of the Middleton School Committee and Middleton School Building Committee. Paula Lanfranchi has lived in Middleton for almost eight years with her husband David, and her three greatest achievements in life: Christina, 5th grade, David 1st grade, and John, kindergarten. Paula has been involved in Girl Scouts, the "Kids to Kids" anti-bullying program, the Birthday Book Club, and teaches Religious Education at St. Agnes Parish. Paula has a background in finance and accounting. In between family, volunteer work and community service, she also works part time as a bookkeeper for a local business.

Since September 2005, Paula has been immersed in the activities of the Middleton School Building Committee (MSBC). The charge of the MSBC by the Board of Selectmen was to evaluate options for permanent new elementary school space. Having children in both elementary schools, Paula understands first hand the need to address the current issue of serious overcrowding and to take action now to ensure the best possible educational experience for the children of Middleton. In November 2005, the MSBC received approval from the town to move forward with hiring an Owner's Project Manager (OPM) for a New School Building on Locust Street. The MSBC has worked diligently these past several months trying to understand the complexities and closely align itself with the newly reorganized Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) to ensure the best possible outcome for grant funding. The Committee's work has included attendance at forums and a meeting with the Executive Director of the MSBA. The MSBC has also secured the services of RF Walsh Company of Boston as its OPM. With the endorsement of the Middleton School Committee, the MSBC is submitting a warrant article for Annual Town

Meeting in May to allow for preliminary design development, schematics, geo-technical testing, traffic studies and continued project management services. This work is required to allow for a formal and well-documented request for full design funding at the planned Special Town Meeting in the fall of 2006.

This year, both the Fuller Meadow and Howe Manning Schools will see the addition of temporary portable classrooms to help with the overcrowding issue. As Chairperson of the MSBC, Paula intends to keep the momentum of this project going before it begins to seriously impact the educational experience of our children. **The MSBC is busy preparing for another Public Information Evening, which will be held at Fuller Meadow School on Wednesday, April 26, from 7:00-9:00pm.**



FLOWER POWER!!!

Children's Flower Pot Raffle

The children at both Fuller Meadow and Howe Manning have participated in an art project where each student gave his or her



own "personal touch" to beautiful flower pots (designed by Lisa Ikels & Maria Scarpa) with the school, teacher name and year. The flower pots will be raffled off at the Wine/Beer Tasting on May 5th but everyone has a chance to win whether you attend or not! Simply buy your raffle tickets in advance (\$1 each; 6 for \$5; 12 for \$10) and return them to school along with your payment in an envelope marked "MPTO Flower Pot Raffle." **Be sure to include your family's last name, child's name, child's teacher's name and a phone number! Checks should be made out to MPTO, Inc. If you would like extra raffle tickets, contact Stacy Fallon at jfsal@comcast.net or Teresa Buono at teresabuono@comcast.net.**

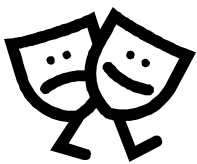
VOLUNTEER

Tri-Town Educational Foundation – Volunteer Positions, Board of Directors

The purpose of the Tri-Town Educational Foundation (TTEF) is to encourage the development of creative and innovative classroom programs for the students of Boxford, Middleton, and Topsfield. Through all-volunteer efforts since its inception in 1986 the foundation has:

- Raised over \$250,000 from the Tri-Town communities.
- Funded over 200 innovative programs.
- Obtained and distributed over \$45,000 of corporate grants.
- Created opportunities for teachers to pursue varied interests and share those interests with our children.
- Established a broad base of support with over 1,000 donors annually.

The TTEF Board consists of nine members – 3 volunteers from each town. The Board typically meets once a month between late September and late May for about two hours. There is a “busy” time, just before the annual phone-a-thon, when the workload increases to eight to ten hours for that month (typically February or March). The TTEF is currently looking for members from the Middleton community. Check out the TTEF web site at <http://geocities.com/tritowneducationalfoundation> for more information. It is not up to date, but the history of the organization, past years' grants and guidelines are listed. Looking it up might offer a “window” into the activities of the foundation. If you are interested in volunteering as a Board member, please contact Irene Kastrinakis at ikastrinak@comcast.net.



FIELD TRIP & PROGRAM CORNER

March was a busy month for programs at the schools.

Throughout the month the children brought in their pennies for the Math Madness penny collection. Classes competed ferociously for first place each week to win a special snack time of jokes and Simon Says with the queen of Simon Says, the Penny Lady herself. We are so grateful to the *Penny Lady* (a.k.a. Gimmie Sue Valacer) and *Mary Rockwood* (her lovely assistant) for all their time and energy. They gave so much of themselves this month, coming in most days of the week to one of the two schools for the lunchtime weigh-ins and snack time parties.

To round out the math piece of Math Madness, Dr. Reitman hosted a fun night of math games and family learning during her Family Math Night. Families got to play fun games, not even knowing they were exercising their math skills. Even better, Dr. Reitman gave everybody a packet of fun math games to take home with them to enjoy on their own. Thank you Dr. Reitman!

In addition to this month long penny collection, the students also enjoyed a few in-house programs and field trips. At Fuller Meadow Clara Barton, the founder of the American Red Cross, visited the 2nd grade, while the kindergarteners tested their mystery solving skills at the North Shore Music Theater as they watched a stage performance of the story of how “Miss Nelson Is Missing.” The 5th graders at Howe Manning were busy with a program on electromagnetism from the Museum of Science and then on a field trip to the Ecotarium in Worcester.

See our website at www.middletonpto.org for a preview of a list of field trips and programs still to come.

PARENT-TEACHER



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BREAKFAST

The Parent-Teacher Pancake Breakfast was a huge success with teachers and families enjoying the tremendous breakfast spread provided by Supino's Restaurant. The PTO would like to thank all the teachers and parents who volunteered to help in the kitchen flipping pancakes and serving food. The children enjoyed being able to see their teachers in this fun, social setting. Special thanks to Alison Bruyette and Lisa Ikels for chairing this school community event.





MARCH MATH MADNESS COMES TO AN END!

The final numbers are in and we reached our goal! The students raised a total of

\$4,850.00 between the Fuller Meadow and Howe Manning schools. Congratulations students!! That is an *awesome* accomplishment!

We needed \$4,000 to bring in Top Secret Science for both schools (or another program for Howe Manning – if you get your votes in!). If one pound of pennies equals \$1.63, then our goal was to collect 2454 pounds of pennies to reach \$4,000. The students have raised enough additional money to add something special to their field day celebrations.

So who brought in what, you're wondering? Miss Worthen's 1st grade class came in first place at Fuller Meadow with 225 lbs. Mrs. Church's 4th grade class came in first place at Howe Manning with 130 lbs. These two top earners have earned themselves a fun-filled Spring outdoor party with the Penny Lady and Mrs. Rockwood. (For the complete breakdown by class, check out our website at www.middletonpto.org.)

Of course, everybody is a winner because your pennies are bringing in a fun program for all the classes! In itself, a penny may not be worth much – but see what happens when we put all our pennies together? Whenever we work together, we increase the value of our efforts. We are proud of all our children!



An Evening of Wine & Beer Tasting

Save the date for the MPTO's first Evening of Wine & Beer Tasting to be held on Friday, May 5, 2006 at the Sheraton Ferncroft in Danvers. It will be fun, adult only night with local wineries on hand including Middleton's own Red Oak Winery, Alfalfa Farm Winery in Topsfield and Matt Robinson of United Liquors, Braintree. You can also sample some great beers from Distinguished Brands International, Middleton. To compliment your wine and beer, delicious hors d'oeuvres will be offered followed by a scrumptious dessert table. Sing a long or just listen to the piano styling of Jon Mansfield and be sure not to miss the live auction at 9 pm. We have numerous items, including 3 sets of Red Sox tickets, autographed Red Sox & Patriots memorabilia, golf foursome's and birthday parties. We will also have numerous raffle prizes including low-end raffles and high-end raffles with items over \$100 value.

Tickets may be purchased by sending a check to school made payable to MPTO for \$40/person. Please write Wine/Beer Tasting on the outside of your envelope. **This event is open to all so be sure to invite friends, family and coworkers. Ticket deadline is April 25th.** Please call Michele Solimine for ticket information at 978-750-1884.

We are still looking for raffle items. No donation is too big or too small. Examples include: tickets to sporting events, jewelry, gift baskets, services, stay at a vacation home, hair salons, etc. Please call Stacy Fallon at 978-750-8815 if you have an item to donate.

All of the money raised will go to support the fabulous field trips and programs that your children have come to love and enjoy. Monies will also help support teachers in their classrooms. The MPTO spends over \$50,000 dollars a year to support our children and teachers.



The End of April is . . . National Turn-Off-Your TV Week!!!

Check out <http://www.tvturnoff.org> for information about this organization and ideas on TV-free activities for your children. **Due to the Public Information Meeting being held on April 26th, the PTO will not be holding the ice cream social. We encourage parents to attend this important meeting to learn about the progress of the new school building project.**



READ ACROSS AMERICA

In honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday, Fuller Meadow held their annual Read Across America celebration in March. The two week long celebration was dedicated to encouraging the love of reading in our children. In addition to the reading coupon drawings in the classrooms, there were guest readers during the students'

library times.

Knowing how much bigger a child's world becomes with every book they read, we would like to thank everybody who participated and lent their time, creativity and voices to the broadening of our children's worlds!



MASS. BOOK AWARDS

Every year at Howe Manning, the MPTO provides Miss DiVaio and her school library with the current Mass. Book Awards titles. Miss DiVaio then holds a reading contest for the students. On March 9th students who read five or more of the Mass. Book Awards selections were invited to attend an award party. They received prizes for their reading and enjoyed snacks and cake, courtesy of the MPTO.



HONORABLE MENTIONS

The MTPO would like to thank the following people for their special contributions to our efforts:

Mrs. Pelletier – Thank you for all your help in tracking the children's pennies on the thermometer and for giving us back the teachers' faces on the staff bulletin board.

Dollena Bramante – for keeping the MPTO information boards updated at the schools.

Gimmie Sue Valacer – for all your time and energy as the Penny Lady!

Mary Rockwood – for boldly assisting the Penny Lady.

Nancy Gallagher – for always being here, there, and everywhere whenever we need her!

Dr. Reitman – For helping our children overcome their math anxieties with her Family Math Night.

Ron Supino – and his lovely wife, Kim, along with their willing restaurant staff. As if running their family restaurant wasn't enough to keep them busy, they are always stepping up to "the plate" to lend a helping (and feeding) hand to the Middleton community.

Rich Maggio – for so generously donating his company's printing services to the MPTO and Howe Manning school newsletter.

Dr. Baxter and Mrs. Fitzpatrick – As always, thank you for all your support and encouragement. We appreciate how eager you and your staffs are to work with us to help make our children's education all it can be!

...And to all the teacher and parent volunteers who have so generously given their time: Your generous contribution of time, energy and support have made all this happen! **Thank you!!**



HAVE A GREAT SPRING VACATON!!!



