



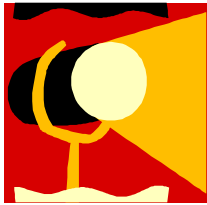
MPTO PRESS

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Middleton Parent-Teacher Organization

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Editor: Sandy Burns



SPOTLIGHT

To recognize the talents and accomplishments of those who provide such valuable role models for our children and ourselves, we offer this “spotlight” as a new feature of the MPTO newsletter.

This month’s spotlight is on somebody whose name is familiar to many Middleton residents through her generous contributions to our community: Ann Noyes. Ann has lived in Middleton for the past 10 years with her husband Kevin and two sons, Zachary and Ben. Having started off as high school sweethearts, Ann and Kevin are entering into their 15th year of marriage, and are bound together by, amongst other things, their commitment to volunteerism and community involvement. They became involved in the schools when their oldest son entered kindergarten at Fuller Meadow nine years ago, and have continued their involvement over the years in various PTO, PAC and school council roles.

This year, Ann was kind enough to undertake the creation and maintenance of our locally acclaimed MPTO website (www.middletonpto.org). Her talent for website design, coupled with her appreciation of the students and the schools, has resulted in an attractive website that both informs and entertains. With Ann’s help, parents can stay involved in their children’s school experience with a click of their mouse. Having a full plate herself, with her involvement in the Masco PAC, as secretary of the Friends of the Flint, and her career in publishing, Ann knows the importance of simplifying all the information that parents receive.

So what does the future hold for this unsung hero? In her immediate future, Ann is resurrecting a tradition she began many years ago – the Winfrey fudge fundraiser. She wants to give Howe Manning students the opportunity to help fellow students at the Northside School in Bogalusa, Louisiana, who are still recovering from the disaster of Hurricane Katrina. Down the line, Ann is looking forward to packing her well-used but dusty suitcases for a family excursion to either Hawaii or on an Alaskan cruise. With her gusto for life, Ann reminds us all that you get out of life what you put into it.

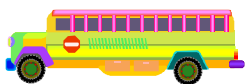
If you know somebody whose story you would like to “spotlight,” please email us at info@middletonpto.org, or call Mia Cloonan at 978-774-4199.



This newsletter was printed through the generosity of Richard Maggio and his family owned printing company. Our heartfelt thanks!

We are also grateful to Sandy Burns for putting together this wonderful newsletter for us. Thank you, Sandy!

FIELD TRIP & SCHOOL PROGRAMS CORNER



In between shopping for holiday gifts and planning holiday meals and festivities, our Program Committee lent a hand to the celebrations at the Fuller Meadow School with a laser light show. We also brought a variety of programs and field trips to both schools, including the 3rd grade's trip to the Wenham Museum and their visit from Helen Keller, the 6th grade's introduction to Egyptian art and history with a Pyramids and Pharaohs program and a visit to the Egyptian and Nubian Arts exhibit at the Museum of Fine Arts, a pioneer living program for the 1st grade, the Tanglewood Marionettes show for the pre-school and kindergarten, and, of course, this week's school-wide celebration of Italian culture at Howe Manning.



6th Grade Pyramids & Pharaohs Program

Thanks to all the teachers at Howe Manning who accommodated the needs of Culture Week into their lesson plans, as well as the many parent volunteers who helped out with the Italian fun and mayhem. Our special thanks and appreciation go to Jodi Jarvis for leading the students in their Italian experience and to Michelle Fitzpatrick for her commitment to cultural education for her students. We're also grateful to Supino's Restaurant for providing us with such an authentic sampling of Italian cuisine. Everybody's generosity with their time and energy gave the Howe Manning students a true overview of Italian culture.

ANTI-BULLYING PROGRAM

Once we return from winter break, it's back to work for all of us involved with student programs. We need to gear up for the Middleton Anti-Bullying Program, which is based on one of Mrs. Fitzpatrick's great finds, the Essex District Attorney's Kid-to-Kid

Bullying Prevention program. This collaboration of parents and students not only enhances awareness of bullying behavior and solutions, but also builds a bridge between our two schools with the skits that the Howe Manning 5th and 6th graders perform for the K-3 grades at the Fuller Meadow School.

This program is a wonderful opportunity for all participants. The Howe Manning students work together in small groups to create and script their own skits that they perform for the Fuller Meadow students. This two-month long process teaches them responsibility while giving their creativity expression and building their self-esteem and confidence. Last year, the parent coaches watched in awe as they saw the metamorphosis of not only the students' skits, but of the very depth of their characters and maturity. The parent coaches shared a sense of pride in the students' accomplishments, feeling better about themselves for having been a part of it. The students at both schools learned from the skits how to recognize when they were being bullied, and even when *they* were bullying others. As incredible as that is, the piece that gave many children relief was that they learned new ways of dealing with situations which involve bullying behaviors, whether they acted as the bully, the bystander, or the victim.

If you are interested in having a similarly gratifying experience, then now's the time to get involved. We are grateful to Tina Varinos for volunteering her time, energy and creativity to heading up this year's program. To become a parent coach, or for more information on the Anti-Bullying Program, please give Tina a call at 774-3798 or her email her at fandtvarinos@comcast.net.

MATH MADNESS



Remember to save your pennies! During the month of March, students will be involved in some friendly competition to see which classroom can collect the most pennies. Remember, all

funds raised through this penny challenge will be used to pay for all-school programs such as the Top Secret Science residency in each classroom. If you would like to help weigh the pennies after school, please contact Kim Cosco at 762-3182, or k.cosco@comcast.net.

FUNDRAISING SO FAR . . .

We wish to thank everyone who has supported the MPTO through Treasure Chest donations and our fundraising events. Below is a list of all the fundraising we have done to date and our profit.

EVENT	PROFIT
Golf Tournament	\$6,492.15
Pumpkin Festival	\$1,081.54
Katrina Read-a-Thon	\$406.40
Square 1 Art	\$3,575.59
Treasure Chest	\$11,293.00
Joe Corbi's Pizza	\$1,500.00
TOTAL	\$24,348.68

Through your contributions, we continue to fund all the field trips and in-house programs for the school children. In celebration of the 100th day of school and as a thank you to our wonderful teachers, we have also been able to carry on our tradition to provide them with an annual stipend to assist with costs for supplies for school projects. We have honored funding requests from teachers in support of the 5th and 6th grade concerts, the ESP Match Olympics program, 2nd grade reading materials, Howe Manning Mass Book Awards program, 4th grade Lego Team Challenge, and the 6th grade yearbook. Your generosity makes all the difference in enriching and enhancing our children's education.

Family Fun Night was just that - Fun!



UPCOMING EVENTS

We have some fabulous family-fun events happening in March and April. In May, our Evening of Wine & Beer Tasting promises to be a

great night out for adults to come and sample some fabulous wines and great tasting beer and spend the night socializing with friends and neighbors. Our Teacher Appreciation Luncheon held during Teacher Appreciation Week is a wonderful way to thank our amazing teachers for all their hard-work and dedication to our children's education. Dates for these events are provided below.

March: Pancake Breakfast (March 11th)

April: Family Game Night & Ice Cream Social (end of April)
 May: Wine/Beer Tasting (May 5th)
 May: Teacher Appreciation Luncheon (first week in May)

Volunteers are still needed for all events. Volunteering is a great way to contribute to your children's education, to make some new friends, and to get involved in the community. The time you volunteer, even if just for an hour, contributes greatly to our organization and the programs we can offer our school children. If you are interested in helping out for any of these events, please contact Stacy Fallon for more information at 750-8815 or via email at jfsal@comcast.net

2006-2007 PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Would you like to become more involved in your child's school experience? Joining our Program Committee is a perfect place to start. The Program Committee researches, plans, and schedules field trips and programs for both Fuller Meadow and Howe Manning. The responsibilities are well distributed within the committee, making this a great way to become involved at the schools without sacrificing any of your other activities and responsibilities. If you are interested in this exciting opportunity, please call either Mia Cloonan at 774-4199 or Kim Cosco at 762-3182. You can also reach us by email at m.cloonan@comcast.net or k.cosco@comcast.net. We can't wait to hear from you!

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS & PROGRAMS

FULLER MEADOW



March 9 th	Clara Barton (2 nd grade program)
Mar. 22 nd & 23 rd	North Shore Music Theater (kindergarten field trip)
April 11 th & 12 th	Animal Adventures (preschool & kindergarten program)
May 4 th & 5 th	Acton Discovery Science Museum (2 nd grade field trip)
May 30 th & 31 st	Tidepool program (1 st grade program)
June 1 st & 2 nd	Saugus Ironworks (3 rd grade field trip-tentative dates)
June 2 nd	Butterfly Place (2 nd grade field trip)

HOWE MANNING

March 15th Electromagnetism (5th grade program)
March 21st Ecotarium (5th grade field trip)
April 11th Weather with Matt Noyes
(4th grade program)
April 12th Yoko Watkins (6th grade program)
May 3rd Strawberry Banke (5th grade field trip)

EVERYBODY'S A CRITIC

The following reviews were written by actual student participants. Some spelling has been edited. To see more students' reviews (in their original handwritten form), check out our website at www.middletonpto.org.

(To submit your own review of an MPTO sponsored field trip, program, or event, email us at info@middletonpto.org.)

Pioneer Living - 1st Grade Program

"Pioneer life wasn't easy. They had to shave with a knife. They had to go outside to get water for their dishes, and wash their clothes. Imagine living like that!"

-Hannah Mahoney, Mrs. Fuller's class

"I learned a lot about pioneer kids. A pioneer is a person that discovered a place before anyone else discovered it. Pioneers used corn and wheat to grind into flour and used it to bake cookies and cakes. Pioneer kids' toys were made out of wood because back then they didn't have metal but they had lots of trees so they used the trees. Back then when pioneers were alive washers and dryers weren't invented. They used something called a ringer. They would take their clothes and put it through and it would squeeze most of the water out. Now do you see how much I learned about pioneer kids? Thank you PTO."

-Jack Carter, Mrs. Riley's class



Museum of Fine Arts - 6th Grade Field Trip

Dear MPTO,

Recently, on February 30th the entire 6th grade encountered an exhibit that we will never forget. Our field

trip took us to the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. As I entered the first room I was amazed at how well preserved the artifacts were. Room after room had unimaginable objects that after thousands of years being buried under layers of sand still had beautiful colors. I wouldn't be able to tell you which room was my favorite. I hope to go back and visit the other exhibits to see even more unbelievable artifacts from the past.

Sincerely, Dylan Giustra

Dear MPTO,

Recently I participated in a field trip to the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. The whole sixth grade got packets to complete on the Egyptian exhibits. I enjoyed completing the packet and they kept me occupied. They also made me learn more because I really had to study the Egyptian artifacts. At first I was disappointed that we actually had to do work, but then I discovered that it wasn't too bad. The only thing I would change was the length of the trip. It was cool to be away from school, but around for about 15 minutes after we finished with the packets waiting to go to lunch. We waited another 15 minutes after lunch waiting to board the busses. Overall, the field trip was very interesting, but it was just a little to long. Thank you for letting us take the trip to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

Sincerely, Brian Davis



The PTO would like to thank the following individuals for their tireless help in support of PTO events, fundraisers and activities:

- Linda Tirrusa for coordinating the Corbi's fundraiser.
- Shelly Hood and Gail Kroll for their work on the Family Fun Night.
- Deb Carbone for coordinating the Square 1 Art Fundraiser.
- Karen Nalesnik and Jody Shea for the fabulous pre-school Valentine's Party at Miss Jody's of Dance, Etc.
- Photocopy Chair Sue Rubin.
- Jodi Jarvis and Mia Cloonan for organizing our first Literacy Night.
- Website designer Ann Noyes.

We couldn't have done it without all of your help. We would also like to thank the numerous volunteers who help behind the scenes and constantly volunteer their time to help make our jobs a bit easier.