



MARION CROSS SCHOOL

# PTO **December 2016** NEWS

## Upcoming PTO Events

Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> - Book Buzz, 5:00-6:30pm at MCS  
All month - Canned tomato drive for the 19 Days of Norwich  
All month - The Giving Tree teacher wish list  
Friday January 6<sup>th</sup> – PTO Meeting 8:15am at MCS Library

## Important MCS Reminders

Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup> - Holiday Concert Grades 3-6  
Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> - Holiday Concert Grades K-2  
Thursday December 22<sup>nd</sup> through to Monday January 2<sup>nd</sup> - Holiday Break  
Tuesday January 3<sup>rd</sup> - First Day Back to School

## MCS Book Buzz THIS Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

Need good children's books for holiday gift giving, or to keep the kids occupied over the long break? Then come to the first MCS Book Buzz to hear kids present their reviews of books picked by kids, for kids!

### What is Book Buzz?

Nine 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders, Mr Bill and 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Becky French will give 90 second reviews of books they recommend for K-6<sup>th</sup> graders, preschoolers and/or families to read or receive for the holidays. At the end of the evening, books can be ordered from the Norwich Bookstore and will be delivered in time for the holidays. 20% of sales will go to the MCS PTO.

### When and Where?

Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at MCS  
5:00-5:30pm Prior to the event, come enjoy free snacks and drinks from Boloco  
5:30-6:30pm Book Buzz presentations

### How Do I Get Tickets?

Tickets are \$5 each or \$10 per family  
Tickets must be purchased in advance\* at the Norwich Bookstore by 6pm Monday, 12/5  
\*We need a headcount in advance for ordering food and planning seating

### Anything else?

Kids must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver  
All proceeds benefit the MCS PTO  
Any questions, please email Lisa Christie [j.lisa.christie@gmail.com](mailto:j.lisa.christie@gmail.com) or Stephanie McCaull [smccaull@gmail.com](mailto:smccaull@gmail.com)

## Giving Tree returns with teacher wish lists

Are you wondering what to give your child's teacher this holiday season? As you are planning your gift giving, consider taking a look at what your teachers have put on their wish list by visiting our virtual [Giving Tree](#). If you buy or donate something off of the list, please indicate that by typing "purchased" next to the item. Questions? Please email Chelsea Nolan at [chelsea.p.nolan@hitchcock.org](mailto:chelsea.p.nolan@hitchcock.org)

## 19 Days of Norwich Canned Tomatoes Drive

MCS is happy to participate again this year in the 19 Days of Norwich by collecting canned tomatoes. Donations can be dropped off at the front office or outside your child's classroom. We thank you for joining in this effort to make this a happy holiday season for all!

## Thank you to K-3 Fall Feast Volunteers

The Staff Appreciation Fall Feast was a great success. The staff was thrilled and so appreciative of the incredible array of food and drinks and flowers provided by Kindergarten-3rd grade families. As one person said "it lifted my spirits!" Check out the Marion Cross PTO Facebook page to see photos of the fabulous array of food.

## Box Tops For Education Challenge Heading into the Home Stretch!

The BTE Fall Collection challenge is moving into its final week. The final day for the purposes of the class-to-class competition will be Friday, December 9th (although BTE collections will continue throughout the year). As you recall, the first two weeks of our challenge brought us almost to our collection goal of 5000 BTE coupons and dimes... so we raised the ante and set a new goal of 8000 units. I'm pleased to announce that we DID surpass our goal of 5000 units... but we have a bit of work to do if we want to meet our goal of 8000. To do this, we need to collect a little over 2000 BTE coupons and dimes before December 9th.

The class-to-class competition is still quite tight...with two classes (K-Newberry and 2-Fors) having already submitted over 600 units each. Two additional classes (1-Scully and 3-Holley) have already submitted over 500 units each. And, two more classes (1-Moore and 3-Thompson) with over 400 units. There is usually a big movement in the class totals after the last collection, so make sure you get your child brings in his or her BTE coupons and dimes by the morning of December 9th if he or she would like them to be included in the tally for this competition. (I always have a few students come up to me after the final day of the challenge, saying, "But I brought some in a whole bunch the day after the challenge, can you please count those too???" )

As a reminder, if we meet that goal of 8000, the PTO will have enough money to purchase both the super useful recycling bins for the school, as well as replacement chess pieces so that the chess competitions can begin in earnest again on the playground. I bet if everyone in the school brings in an additional 10 coupons or dimes, we will meet this goal!!! So, here we go MCS, the gauntlet has been thrown... sharpen up those scissors and bring out those eagle eyes, and let's see if we all can score a perfect 10 in collection.

— The Box Tops Divas: Katie Kitchel, JoEllen Gardner, Brie Swenson and Laura DiPiazza

## Lost and Found Solutions: Mabel's Labels

The MCS PTO is partnering with Mabel's Labels to reduce items in our lost and found. Mabel's Labels are bright, customized, dishwasher and microwave safe (great for water bottles and lunch containers) and laundry proof. Check out the selection of labels and tags available at [mabelslabels.com](http://mabelslabels.com).

If you place an order, please click on the 'Support a Fundraiser' button on the top right side of the home screen. Then click on the 'Select Your School' button. Scroll through the names until you find Marion Cross. Choosing our school's name will result in 20% of your order total being donated to the MCS PTO. This is an easy way to reduce the number of unclaimed items in the lost and found and support our PTO at the same time. Samples of Mabel's Labels are on display by the lost and found. If you have questions about Mabel's Labels, please contact [Melanie.m.michel@hitchcock.org](mailto:Melanie.m.michel@hitchcock.org) for more information

## Marion Cross School Business Partners

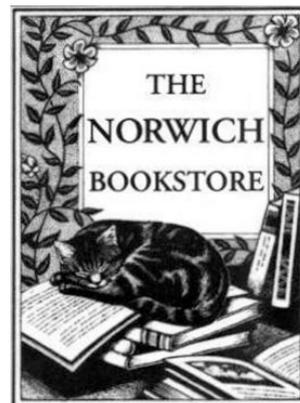
This month's PTO Business Partner is Norwich Bookstore. Here is an interview with owner, Liza Bernard.

### What is your favorite Holiday Book?

It is a toss-up between *Who Is Coming to Our House*, by Joseph Slate and illustrated by Ashley Wolff (board book), a gentle tale of anticipation, and *Star Mother's Youngest Child* by Louise Moeri, illustrated by Trina Schart Hyman, a classic Christmas story that asks "what is enough?"

### What is a must-have dish on the Holiday table?

Traditionally, our family has duck cooked with olives on Christmas, once cooked on the woodstove when a snowstorm knocked the power out!



### What book is on your bedside table currently?

More like a tower of books! The three on top are:

- 1 - The new biography by Trevor Noah, Born a Crime, about growing up in apartheid and post-apartheid South Africa and his incredible family story.
- 2 - The Three Body Problem by Cixin Liu and Ken Liu that I have been wanting to read for years.
- 3 - The Golden Age, an historical novel by Joan London.

### What author has inspired you this year?

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to hear Zadie Smith speak at the annual booksellers conference in September. What she shared about race, and friendship, and family, and community continue to roll around my head and heart! And I look forward to finishing her new novel, Swing Time, when things calm down a bit...

### What children's book recommendations can you make for the following age groups?

#### Pre-K/Kindergarten

Who What Where by Oliver Tallec - funny for all ages!

The Lost House: A Seek and Find Book by B.B. Cronin - find eccentric grandfather's things...

The Moon's Almost Here by Patricia MacLachlan, illustrated by Tomie dePaola - lyrical, beautiful (and we have signed copies!)

They All Saw a Cat by Brendan Wenzel - ingenious celebration of observation

#### 1st & 2nd Grade

Bramble & Maggie Snow Day by Jessie Haas, illustrated by Alison Friend - chapter book, girl & horse face winter!

Bring Me a Rock! by Daniel Miyares - insect tyrant learns appreciation.

The Otter by Cynthia Rylant, illustrated by Preston McDaniels - the 6th in the Lighthouse early chapter book series

Where Are You Going, Baby Lincoln? by Kate DiCamillo - younger sister goes off in search of herself

#### 3rd & 4th Grade

Some Writer!: The Story of E.B. White by Melissa Sweet - a perfect combination of text and pictures.

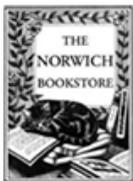
Raymie Nightengale by Kate DiCamillo, illustrated by Chris Van Dusen - heart-filled and heartfelt

#### 5th & 6th Grade

When the Sea Turned to Silver by Grace Lin - adventure, legend, family

The Secret Keepers by Trenton Lee Stewart - kid-propelled action, magic

If you would like to donate a book to the Book Angels Program, please stop by or call The Norwich Bookstore 802-649-1114. Book Angels gather books as gifts for kids around the Upper Valley who may not have a book to call their own and Book Angels would love to have your support!



**Thank you, business partners!**