



MARION CROSS SCHOOL

PTO February 2017 NEWS

Upcoming PTO Events

Friday, February 10th - Staff Appreciation Valentine's Breakfast

Friday, February 10th - UVHS Pet Pantry Food Drive (ends Feb 10th)

Thursday, February 16th, 7:30pm - Cindy Pierce & Dr. Michael Lyons Talk

Friday, March 3rd, 8.15am - PTO Meeting, MCS Library (Please note new date and time)

Friday, March 3rd, 6-8pm - Bingo Night

Friday, March 24th, 6-8pm - Mud Stomp Family Dance

Saturday, March 25th - 3rd Annual MCS Big Hoot Variety Show

Important MCS Reminders

Thursday, February 16th, 6:30-7:30pm - Instrumental Concert

Monday February 20th - Friday, February 24th - Winter Break

MCS Staff Appreciation Valentine's Breakfast: Friday, February 10th

Show the MCS faculty and staff your thanks by helping us fill the staff lounge with lovely brunch items, sweets, and flowers at the Staff Appreciation Brunch on Friday, February 10th. The staff truly enjoy these special food-filled days. The Valentine's Brunch is provided by families of children in grades 4-6. If you would like to contribute to the Valentine's Brunch, please sign up [here!](#)

Cindy Pierce and Dr. Michael Lyons to speak at MCS - February 16th, 7:30pm

We are excited to welcome Cindy Pierce and Dr. Michael Lyons to MCS to present *Discussing Sexuality with Your (Younger) Children*. The Norwich Public Library is organizing this event, but it will be held in the MCS multipurpose room, right after the MCS Instrumental Concert.

Parents of children elementary school age and younger are encouraged to attend this session on what information about sexuality is developmentally appropriate for kids at all stages and how parents can overcome the discomfort of talking with children about sex. Please bring an open mind, a list of questions, and a sense of humor!

About the speakers: Cindy Pierce educates and entertains audiences with her message about making healthy choices and navigating cultural pressures. She is author of *Sexploitation: Helping Kids Develop Healthy Sexuality in a Porn-Driven World* and *Sex, College and Social Media: A Commonsense Guide to Navigating the Hookup Culture*. Michael Lyons is a family physician with White River Family Practice who has provided care to kids and adults in Upper Valley for over 20 years. He is also a clinical assistant professor at Dartmouth's Geisel School of Medicine.

Get ready to play B-I-N-G-O!

Bingo Night, the PTO's Spring fundraiser, is coming up on Friday, March 3rd, 6-8pm. In the spirit of Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling, we are collecting gently used toys, games and puzzles (no books or stuffies please) for Bingo prizes. A collection box is now available in the front office. In addition, we would like to hold a raffle on Bingo night. If you have an item or service you would be willing to donate, or if you have any other questions about Bingo night, please contact Lydia Starosta at lydvet@aol.com and thank you!

3rd Annual MCS Big Hoot Variety Show is COMING SOON!

The MCS Student Performance is scheduled for Saturday, March 25th at RMS from 6-8pm. There is no set standard for performance acts. They can include singing, dancing, playing an instrument, juggling, gymnastics, joke-telling, comedic or dramatic skits and anything in between! [Sign Me up!](#) Submission Deadline is Friday, February 17th. GOT QUESTIONS??? contact Tracy Zuckerman at tracyzuckerman@comcast.net

UVHS Pet Food Pantry Drive Ends Feb 10th

If you haven't already, there is still time to contribute to the UVHS Pet Food Pantry drive. If you're shopping for your pet, or just happen to find yourself in the pet food aisle, please toss in an extra bag of dog or cat food to help families struggling to feed their beloved pets. Dry and canned pet food, leashes, collars, food bowls - all are helpful. Thank you!

PTO Funds Used to Purchase Additional AED for MCS

An incident this winter raised awareness at MCS of the need for more AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) located throughout the school. The PTO was happy to be able to provide funding for one of two new AEDs. There will now be three AEDs at MCS: one outside the gym, one in the lobby and one on the 2nd floor in the 5th and 6th grade wing. Thank you to all our PTO supporters who make contributions like this possible!

Skating Party Thank You

Thanks to all who helped make the annual skating party such a success! A special thanks go to the 'hosers' for working so hard to get the rink ready, to the Norwich Inn for the hot chocolate, and to the countless volunteers who brought food, tied skates, carried tables, tended the fire, poured hot chocolate and contributed to the fun! All of your help made this such a wonderful event for the Marion Cross community. Thank you from the Norwich Rec Council and Marion Cross PTO.

Box Tops Break-to-Break Challenge, just around the corner!

It sneaks up on you...almost like Punxsutawney Phil and his pesky shadow...but the start date of the next Box Tops Challenge is fast approaching. The 2017 Break-to-Break Challenge will begin on Friday, February 17th (the day before February vacation week) and will conclude on Friday, April 28th (the first Friday after returning from April vacation week). Last spring, the school collected 7800 box tops and dimes! Let's aim high and see if we can hit 10,000 this time around!!! In order to do this, we need everyone to be active, vigilant, and involved – as much as many of us are being in other parts of our lives. But for this particular act of vigilance, we want everyone to have the focus of fun and goodwill!

To help with the fun, we will be adding a couple of mini-competitions and silly events during the collection time. The honors for the first mini-competition will be awarded to the class that has the most box tops and dimes in their boxes on the first day of the challenge. Sometime later in the challenge, we might have another single day award, with a shout-out going to the class that has the most in their collection box on that single day. I will also be asking the kids to tell me the strangest or most unexpected place they found a BTE coupon. (I found one on a Hanes underwear package once...I'm looking for something to top that!!!) And who knows what else us zany divas will come up with...stay tuned.

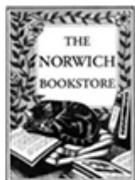
Thanks in advance for your help with this challenge. Let's reach that 10,000 goal. How cool would it be to raise \$1000 for the school in tiny bits of paper and plastic that we would also be saving from our landfill?!? Your Box Tops Divas, Katie Kitchel, Jo Ellen Gardner, Brie Swenson & Laura DiPiazza.

Passport to Winter Fun - Fill it Out, Get Fun Prizes!

The Upper Valley Trails Alliance "Passport to Winter Fun" program has started at MCS! The Passport is an engaging program developed by the Upper Valley Trails Alliance that encourages children to be more active and to spend more time outdoors during the winter. For every 10, 20, and 30 days that your child is active for at least 1 hour, they can claim free passes from local, participating recreation-related businesses. All students who complete 30 days of the Passport will receive a Polar Bear Achiever Prize and be entered into a Grand Prize Raffle. Your child should have already filled out and handed in the front flap of the Passport, either to the front office or his/her teacher. At the end of the 30 day participation, a parent/guardian should sign the back flap and return that to school. The back flaps are required to receive the "achiever" prize. To redeem the step prizes (every 10 days) simply show your passport at the participating business. Thanks for your help to keep our students healthy and active this winter!

More information can be found on the Upper Valley Trails Alliance website at: www.uvtrails.org

Marion Cross School Business Partners



Thank you, business partners!