



MARION CROSS SCHOOL

PTO **June 2017** NEWS

Upcoming PTO Events

Friday, June 16th - Retirement Rep - 2:40pm in the MCS Multi

Monday, June 19th - Watermelon pick-up (see below for details) - After school near the main entrance

Important MCS Reminders

Wednesday, June 7th - Norwich School Board Meeting - 7:00pm in the MCS Library

Monday, June 19th - 6th Grade Celebration - 5:00pm at MCS

Tuesday, June 20th - Field Day

Wednesday, June 21st - Last day of School - Noon dismissal

MCS Retirement Rep: June 16th, 2:40pm

Every June the PTO organizes a retirement rep to honor any MCS staff who are retiring that year. This year the retirees are Education Assistant Marsha Biggs (26 years at MCS), Education Assistant Joanne McCormick (29 years at MCS), and custodian Dave Stewart (5 years at MCS). The rep will be held in the MCS multi on Friday, June 16th at 2:40. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you or your student have thoughts or memories of Marsha, Joanne or Dave that you would like to share, please email Stephanie McCaull smccaull@gmail.com or Susan Simmers susan_simmers@yahoo.com

We Need Watermelon Slicers for Field Day!

Please sign up [here](#) to slice a watermelon for MCS Field Day on Tuesday, June 20th. We will hand out watermelons after school on Monday, June 19th. We're asking volunteers to take one home, slice it up, and return the next morning for the kids to enjoy after Field Day. Thank you!

Farewell and thank you to PTO Co-Chair Stephanie McCaull!

The end of the school year marks the end of Stephanie McCaull's two years as PTO co-chair. It's been an amazing two years, full of fun community activities and fundraising events. Thank you Stephanie for your great leadership, commitment to MCS, and the unflagging energy and enthusiasm you brought to your role. You will be missed!

Welcome to Emma Cottage, new PTO co-chair!

While we are sad to see Stephanie go, we are very excited to welcome Emma Cottage as PTO co-chair for next year. Emma will work with Susan Simmers who is starting her second year as co-chair. Thank you, Emma!

And thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers!

We are told time and time again by teachers and staff how much they appreciate our PTO. We couldn't do it without all your help. We are so lucky to have such an active and engaged parent/guardian community! Thank you!

Volunteers Needed for 2017-18 School Year

The PTO has some open positions for which we are seeking volunteers. Please let us know if you are interested: smccaull@gmail.com or susan_simmers@yahoo.com

1. **Newsletter:** With Emma taking on the co-chair role we are looking for someone to take her place as our monthly PTO newsletter coordinator.
2. **Treasurer:** We are so grateful to Tonya Gammell who has served as PTO Treasurer for a whopping 6 years. She has graciously offered to stay on for one more year, but we are seeking someone to "shadow" her next year in hopes of taking over beginning in the Fall of 2018, ideally serving for a few years (but we don't expect six!).
3. **Spirit Wear:** We are looking for someone to re-invigorate and manage MCS Spirit Wear. This can be as simple or as sophisticated as you like!
4. **Box Tops:** After 8 years of leadership, our fabulous Box Top Divas are looking for others to take over this program (for more information see below).
5. **Norwich Library Display:** MCS is given the month of November to display children's art in the glass display case in the entrance to the Norwich Public Library. We are in need of a parent or two to work with Caitlin Eastman to collect artwork and display it for MCS.

PTO Grants Awarded for 2016-2017

In the course of the school year, the PTO raises money through our membership drive and various events. That's the highly visible part of the PTO. What's less visible is where that money goes. Some goes to fund visiting authors, artists, and musicians, to the supplemental food program, to staff appreciation and retirement events, to free events like the Mud Stomp and the Skating Party, to the MCS community gardens, etc. The bulk of it however goes back to MCS in the form of grants. The PTO awards grants each fall and spring, and every teacher, staff member and parent is welcome to submit grant requests to the PTO Finance Committee. Thanks to the hard work and generosity of our MCS families, we were able to fund over \$6,700 in grants for the 2016-2017 school year.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the PTO and helped to make these grants possible, and a big thank you to our business partners!

Fall 2016 Grants Awarded: \$2,152

1. The MCS Science Committee's purchase of compound microscopes to be used in Science, Art and LEEEP
2. A contribution to the 6th Grade field trip to the Ecology School in Saco, Maine
3. A school visit from poet Tim Fortier for Grades 1 & 2 on November 15th

Spring 2017 Grants Awarded: \$4,642

1. Purchase of an AED (automatic external defibrillator) for MCS
2. 35 pairs of wool socks for Kindergarten's Forest Fridays and other outdoor activities
3. 20 pairs of all-weather bib pants for Kindergarten activities
4. The Science Committee's purchase of a year's subscription to "Mystery Science," an online K-6 science curriculum
5. A new human skeleton and chart for the nurse's office and health curriculum
6. A bus for the 5th grade field trip to the Fairbanks Museum
7. Supplies for the Bird Week elective for 5th and 6th graders
8. A contribution to the Celebration Books fund

Bike to School Day Thank You

Once again Bike to School Day was a great success! Thank you to Dan McGinley-Smith for organizing volunteers, logistics and publicity to ensure another fun, fabulous, and safe Bike to School Day on May 10th. Even the weather cooperated with a beautiful sunny morning! An eager peloton of riders departed Huntley, biked past the library where younger riders joined the parade, then ended at MCS where the bike rack was full to bursting. It was a great morning, and we can't wait to do it again in the fall.

Garden News & Request for Summer Helpers

Marion Cross has 3 new sets of raised bed gardens along the bus driveway, thanks to wonderful parent volunteers, student helpers, and generous funding from the PTO. We chose to refurbish the former beds to have a sunnier, slug and snail free place to grow veggies. Children have planted tomatoes, carrots, radishes, peas, and nasturtiums. In addition to these, Lisa Holley's third grade class has been raising perennial pollinator friendly flowering plants as part of the Upper Valley Pollinator Project. These have been planted in the center bed. We hope that they will thrive and spread to support the diminishing number of native pollinators in our area. All third grade classes have been learning about pollination. The back garden has been planted by students for Salad Day. Spinach, kale, lettuce, and radishes have been growing since MCS Earth Day, but the weather has not helped the speed of their development! A fifth grade lunch recess garden crew has been working faithfully to keep the plants watered, weeded, and thinned. Thank you to all those who donated time, materials, and heavy equipment to make these garden upgrades possible. If you would like to be involved in keeping things growing over the summer, please contact Lindsay Putnam Lindsay.Putnam@marioncross.org We will need waterers and weeders through the summer. If you can sign up for a week or a couple of weeks, please let us know. Thank you!

Box Tops Collection Wraps up a Successful Fundraising Year – AND a few more days to empty your pantries - Last Collection Day is Friday, June 9th

Thanks to everyone for a great year of Box Tops clipping! In all the program raised approximately \$1,200 this year for the PTO to use towards special projects for the school. Mr. Bill is deep in design mode for a visionary recycling station which he has plans to be fun and interactive for the students. The building of this recycling station will require some creative engineering and woodworking skills, if any handy parent wants a challenging woodworking project to take on with his or her kids for the summer, please express your interest to Mr. Bill.

Do you still have BTE coupons in your house? The Classroom Collection containers will fly out of the classrooms on Friday, June 9th, so please send in any remaining BTE coupons or dimes by that Friday.

A huge round applause for the top 5 collecting classes of the Break-to-Break Box Tops Challenge: K-Newberry, K-Morse, 1-Moore, 1-Scully, and 3-Holley. These five classes turned in over 400 BTE coupons and dimes each...with Mrs. Holley's 3rd graders taking home the first place "Clipping Trophy" with a total of 618. The kids have lots of fun with these challenges, especially in the lower grades. It's delightful to hear their energetic cheers when the totals are announced at Rep.

As mentioned in the last PTO meeting, these Box Tops Divas are ready to pass the "golden scissors" off to the next generation of divas. Please contact PTO Chair Susan Simmers if you have a vision for the Box Tops program and would like to take over the leadership of this FUNdraising initiative. Beyond the collection rules set by the national Box Tops for Education brand, there is no hard and fast way to organize this program, and thus it can take on the creative vision of whoever is in charge. We've had a great time getting to know the children and parents throughout the school over the past seven years of leadership, and it's been so rewarding to use the money collected to purchase items that have been really valued and used by all the children of the school... from piano keyboards to PE parachutes, and fruit trees to sap buckets, and beyond. You never know what a BTE coupon or a dime can become when it joins with hundreds of its friends.

Your Box Tops Divas: Katie Kitchel, Jo Ellen Gardner, Brie Swenson, and Laura DiPiazza

Food Drive

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone for all of your generous donations that led to our successful Food Drives this year. We couldn't run this program without your support. We have been brainstorming new ideas for next year and look forward to more successful drives. We welcome any suggestions of non-profits/community based centers that could use a helping hand in collecting donations. Please contact Megan megmeg3409@gmail.com or Maya mayamayabee@yahoo.com Megan Anderson and Maya Barnes

Last Day of School Celebration at Storrs Pond

The Hanover Improvement Society and the Ray School PTO have invited MCS families to join them at Storrs Pond in Hanover for an "End of the School Year" celebration, starting at 2pm on Wednesday, June 21st. Admission to Storrs Pond will be free. Adult supervision is required for all children.

MCS Used Book Sale Collection

Please Save Gently Used Children's Books, Audio Books and DVDs for the 2018 MCS Used Book Sale
If you find yourself clearing out your bookshelves over the summer, please keep in mind the 2018 MCS Used Book Sale. This beloved biennial fundraiser for the MCS Library will take place in May 2018 but it's never too early to start gathering up those gently used books, audio books and DVDs that are appropriate for elementary school-aged children. What does "gently used" mean? Anything in good enough condition that you'd be willing to purchase yourself. Please no magazines, coloring books or adult books, except for parenting books. If you would prefer not to hold onto these items but rather move them out of your house, please contact Nicole Butters nsbd123@gmail.com who has generously offered to store items at her home.

Norwich Parade – All Welcome

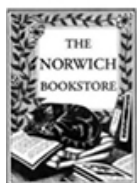
The Norwich Lions Club is organizing a parade to coincide with the Norwich Fair days. Come along and join the parade on Saturday July 22nd at 10:00am. The theme is 'Into the Future' and there will be floats, walkers, bikers, animals, music, tractors and more. If you have any questions about participating, please contact Rose Smith at rosemswift@aol.com

Welcome All New MCS Families – Popsicles on the Playground

The Marion Cross School PTO would like to welcome all of our new families entering grades K-6 next fall! Please spread the word and save the date for popsicles on the MCS Playground. Monday, August 28th from 4:30pm to 5:30pm. If you have any questions, please contact Molly Gentine mollygentine@hotmail.com

Marion Cross School Business Partners

Thank you for all the Business Partners who contributed to this school year. We look forward to seeing which businesses will support us next year and who we learn more about over the coming months.



Thank you, Business Partners!