



# MARION CROSS SCHOOL

# PTO October 2016 NEWS

## Upcoming PTO Events

Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> - Bike and Walk to School Day  
Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> - Fall Grant Requests Due  
Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> - Harvest Tasting at MCS Open House  
October 3<sup>rd</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> - Halloween Candy Collection  
Every Wednesday in October: Willing Hands Food Drive

## Important MCS Reminders

Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup> - No School – Teacher In-Service Day  
Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup> - No School – Columbus Day  
Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> - MCS Open House 4:30-5:30pm

## Thank you for supporting this year's PTO membership drive!

Thank you to the Marion Cross community for participating in this year's PTO membership drive! We raised a record amount from membership dues which will all go to support PTO programs. If you ordered a printed copy of the directory you should receive it later this month. If you opted for the online version, you should have already received log-in information. If not, please contact Jessica Eakin at [jceakin12@gmail.com](mailto:jceakin12@gmail.com)

## Get ready for Bike and Walk to School Day on Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>

This fall's Bike and Walk to School Day takes place on Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. All students are encouraged to find an eco-friendly route to school, whether it's joining the bike parade from Huntley, walking with friends and family, carpooling or taking the bus. For bikers there are two starting points: Huntley Meadow and the Norwich Public Library. Older riders will start at Huntley Meadow while younger riders are encouraged to meet at the Norwich Public Library and join the bike parade as it passes. All children in 1st grade and below must be under the direct supervision of an adult and all riders must wear helmets. Riders should assemble at 7:30am at both sites with a planned departure from Huntley Meadow promptly at 7:40am. Main Street will be closed briefly for the bike parade. For anyone walking to school, please stay on the sidewalks. Volunteers are needed to stop traffic at intersections to ensure participant safety. Anyone interested in volunteering please contact Dan McGinley-Smith at [mcginleysmith@gmail.com](mailto:mcginleysmith@gmail.com).

## Calling all produce for Willing Hands Wednesdays in October

Do you or someone you know have surplus fresh fruit or vegetables? Perhaps a bumper crop of squash or more apples than you need? This October the PTO Food Drive will benefit Willing Hands ([www.willinghands.org](http://www.willinghands.org)), a local group that picks up produce that would otherwise go to waste, and delivers to our Upper Valley neighbors in need.

Students can bring in fresh fruits and/or vegetables to their classroom every Wednesday throughout the month of October. Willing Hands will pick up everything from MCS and distribute it throughout the Upper Valley. Last year we collected over 500 pounds of food for Willing Hands – let's see if we can do even better this year! Any questions, please contact Megan Anderson ([megmeg3409@gmail.com](mailto:megmeg3409@gmail.com)) or Maya Barnes ([mayamayabee@yahoo.com](mailto:mayamayabee@yahoo.com)), PTO Food Drive Co-Chairs.

## **PTO now accepting applications for fall grants – deadline October 14<sup>th</sup>**

Parents and teachers are encouraged to submit applications for PTO grants. In the past, grants have covered activities, books, equipment or anything else that enhances the academic lives of children at Marion Cross. Though preference is given to proposals that impact the entire school, projects that would benefit individual classrooms or grade levels are also considered. We anticipate most requests will be for amounts less than \$1,000. Applications are available in the front office in the PTO box. Please return all applications to the PTO box in the main office by October 14<sup>th</sup>. Any questions, please email Stephanie McCaull at [smccaull@gmail.com](mailto:smccaull@gmail.com).

## **Now collecting candy for Halloween**

The Marion Cross School PTO is now accepting Halloween candy donations from "out-of-town" families to be distributed to "in-town" families who receive 500 or more enthusiastic trick-or-treaters on Halloween night! Collection boxes are placed in the following locations: Marion Cross School Office, Town Clerk's Office at Tracy Hall, Dan & Whit's, Norwich Public Library, and Norwich Nursery School. We will be collecting bags of candy until Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> when we will distribute them to approximately 100 in-town families. Thanks in advance for your "sweet" donations! Molly Gentine and Jill Collins on behalf of the MCS PTO.

## **Harvest Tasting at MCS Open House**

Get ready for the second annual Harvest Tasting at the MCS Open House on October 19<sup>th</sup>! On this evening Molly Riordan, Lindsay Putnam and parent volunteers will be in the front lobby, sharing the harvest from the MCS gardens with all children and families. The MCS gardens have been successful due to many helping hands, most notably the children who prepare the garden beds and carefully plant seeds in the spring under the guidance of Lindsay Putnam, LEEP educator.

We need volunteers to help prep and cook the vegetables, and to help set up and serve at the Open House. If you would like to help, please contact Molly Riordan at [marymriordan@gmail.com](mailto:marymriordan@gmail.com) or 649-7060.

## **Box Tops for Education: Still seeking BTE Counting Reps & postponement of first BTE Collection Challenge**

As we still haven't found Box Tops counting reps for all of the classrooms, we have decided to delay the official start of the first collection challenge. We will officially kick off the challenge with the students when we've lined up enough classroom counters, and we will aim to conclude the challenge on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Currently we are seeking BTE counting reps for the following classrooms:

Grade 3 - Trombley

Grade 4 - Haney

Grade 5 - Buck

Grade 6 - Biolsi

Grade 6 - McKeever

Although we'd love to have the BTE counting rep be a family member of a student in the class, this is not a necessary requirement. So if you wanted to be a BTE rep, but someone snagged up the position in your child's class...here's your chance!!! This is a super easy way to give back to the school, and is a great way for a parent who has limited daytime flexibility to volunteer for a PTO activity in an extremely helpful way. The time commitment for most BTE counting reps is limited to 2-3 hours (at most) during the two collection challenges and can be done outside of school hours - you can even enlist the help of your children to do the counting!!!

If you would like to sign up for one of these open BTE rep spots, please sign up through this google document link: [BTE Rep Sign Up Sheet](#)

With your help, we know that we can keep this Box Tops fundraising effort fun and sustainable...and valuable! The Box Tops Divas: Katie Kitchel, Jo Ellen Gardner, Brie Swenson and Laura DiPiazza

## Marion Cross School Business Partners

**Boloco is the Marion Cross School Business Partner for the month of October.**  
Below is an Interview with John Pepper, CEO of Boloco.



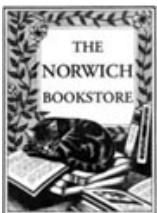
**What is your favorite thing about Autumn in the Upper Valley?** - I love the tone of the sunlight later in the day. The temperature at this time of year is my favorite. I'm pretty color blind on red/green so I can't appreciate the colors like others I am told, but it still looks beautiful to me!

**What made you want to live in Norwich?** - My wife Maggie wanted to live here and I wanted to stay with her :) Seriously, the public school system is a big factor and we have friends here, some of whom I've known for 20-30 years! Staying close to Dartmouth and Tuck are big positives, but living in Norwich means I'm far enough away to stay out of any real trouble. One last thing about Norwich... the real estate taxes were especially attractive :-0

**What charity or non-profit do you think is amazing?** - I'm a huge fan of what Jean Brown and the team at the Prouty have built over the years. Boloco and I, personally, have always tried to support in a big way with burritos, raised cash, engagement, you name it. I also love the Upper Valley Trails Alliance. An expansion of recreational trails, not just the Upper Valley but both VT and NH would be game changing I think. I hope we can get there so that walking, biking, x country skiing can be even more easily accessed from anywhere.

**Why Burritos?** - I spent the 4 years between Dartmouth and Tuck in operating rooms selling laparoscopic surgical devices and internal organ staplers. Three of those years were in gorgeous Youngstown, OH and the last year was in San Francisco, CA. I fell hard for the Mission style burrito while there, and the idea that a burrito could be more than just Mexican seemed like an obvious winner for me (although I've always loved the Mexican-inspired burritos best). I opened our first Boloco in Boston (then known as Under Wraps) with two co-founders while I was a second year at Tuck. I've eaten on average 2 burritos a day in the 19.5 years that have since passed. That's well over 7,000 burritos. I still love them.

**Does Boloco have a mission statement?** - "To positively impact the lives and futures of our people through bold and inspired food and practices." I do love burritos, but I couldn't find a lot of purpose in selling them after the first year in business. When I realized that the entire industry relies on underpaying its employees to be successful, I made the improvement of the lives of fast food workers my top priority. That kept me in this business for 16 years, and caused me to repurchase it last year and jump right back in. I've always told people that I'm not sure how long I'd be able to be in the restaurant biz, but trying to build a business model that pays its people a livable wage and through training and development helps them see a brighter future is something I could do for a lifetime. We often like to say "even a burrito aspires"... to matter, to make a difference, to be happy. We have a long, long way to go!



**Thank you business partners!**