



Week of Oct. 12, 2014

Marion Cross School • Norwich, Vermont

PTO NOTES

Deadline for fall grant requests is THIS Wednesday, October 15

Parents and teachers are encouraged to submit applications for a PTO fall grant. 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 level are also considered. We anticipate the majority of grant requests will be for amounts less than \$1,000. Please return all applications to the PTO box in the main office by October 15.

Volunteers still needed

- Box Top Counters for Ms. Rice, Fors, White, Biolsi, French, and Mr. Minelli: Please contact Lydia Starosta at lydvet@aol.com
- MCS Variety Show volunteers: Please contact Nicole Butters at nsbd123@gmail.com
- Giving Tree co-coordinator: Please contact Marieke Sperry at marieke.sperry@gmail.com

Halloween Candy Collection underway

Every year the PTO accepts donations of candy from "out of town" families to "in town" families who receive up to 500 enthusiastic trick-or-treaters on Halloween night. Your donations help lessen the cost that those in town families bear. Collection boxes are placed in the following locations: MCS Office, Town Clerk's Office at Tracy Hall, Dan & Whit's, Norwich Nursery School and the Norwich Public Library. The PTO will collect candy through October 25 for distribution to in town families on Sunday, October 26, Questions/comments please contact Lydia Starosta at lydvet@aol.com. Thank you in advance for your "sweet" donation!

Box Tops challenge off to a roaring clip

The Fall Box Tops for Education Challenge is off to a promising start. With 2,111 coupons already counted, we are well on our way towards our goal of 6,000. With the coupons collected so far, we can purchase 4 of 12 microscopes for the LEEEP program and other scientific investigations at school. With a full-school effort, we know we can get all 12. Please double check the expiration, as we are unable to redeem any coupons that have expired.

The class-to-class competition is a nail-biter as usual. Currently, 1st place currently goes to Mrs. Holley's 3rd graders with a solid 318; 2nd place follows close behind with Mrs. Keogh's 2nd grade class at 287, and 3rd place goes to Mr. Wilson's 4th grade class with 214. Those three classes are followed closely by Ms. Dustin's 1st graders with 211.

As a reminder, we are not counting dimes towards the class-to-class competition this fall. The winning class will be determined solely by the number of unexpired BTE coupons that come in. However, since we are finding many dimes mixed among the BTE coupons, we are still keeping track of them, and will award one class the special title of "Best Rule Breakers for a Good Cause!" (Currently this title is locked up by Mrs. Hall's 6th Grade class with 1,106 dimes! With these dimes alone, we will be able to purchase 2 more microscopes for the school.) Also, The class-to-class competition ends on October 24. We hope you are having fun clipping and earning money for the school...and that there are not too many in-house sibling competitions for who gets to claim which BTE coupon!

Dates to remember

Wednesday, October 15: Fall Grant requests due

Friday, October 24: Box Tops fall competition ends

Saturday, October 25: Deadline for Halloween Candy donations

Giving bowls a huge success – thank you

Last Sunday was a Giving Bowls vision come true. Throughout the day, from early morning until late afternoon, there was so much to behold: the joy and celebration of community, friends rendezvousing with neighbors and friends, the many "stations" busily giving kindness and direction, volunteers happily stepping into place as designed, the busy happiness of excited children. From the beautiful hand-glazed bowls...to thinking about local hunger...to learning more about Willing Hands...to an array of delicious donated soups...to hearty breads baked by MCS 4th, 5th and 6th graders...to eating under and around the big tent...to origami cups filled with drinking water...to yummy treats baked by K-3 students and sold by 6th graders...to lovely handmade items donated by local artisans and offered in the raffle and auction... to the bread oven which enabled guests to craft, bake and eat a self-made roll...to reveling in glorious weather...all surrounded by goodwill and fun local musical talent.

THANK YOU to all who came and shared the day with us, to those who glazed the bowls throughout September and to the many, many volunteers who brought this all to fruition. Thanks to all your support, we raised almost \$8700 for Willing Hands! We also delivered 140 pounds of bread and baked goods to Willing Hands and 87 pounds of non-perishables to the Haven. What a truly extraordinary community we have!

With utmost appreciation and thanks from the 2014 Giving Bowls Committee!

Heather Bagley, Julia Dickenson, Caitlin Eastman, Carolyn Frye, Bill Hammond, Lisa Holley, Cara Liu, Jane Phipps, Katie Madden, Sarah McGinley-Smith, Ashley Milliken, Andrea Nolon, Maggie Pepper, Susan Simmers, and Tracy Smith

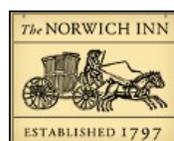
Bike (and unicycle!) to School Day fun

Thanks to all who helped make this season's Bike to School event possible. We counted **147 bikes and unicycles** at Marion Cross on bike to school morning - that is truly inspirational! Perhaps the day's greatest moment for me was the night before as I heard a father teaching a child to ride her bike on the sidewalk outside my window. Motivating kids to learn something new and showing kids what it feels like to get themselves to school with their own two legs are just a few of the reasons for our efforts. As always, we welcome suggestions on how to improve the event. Please don't hesitate to contact me (Dan) at mcginleysmith@gmail.com.

Thank you business partners!



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