



Week of Nov. 10, 2014

Marion Cross School • Norwich, Vermont

PTO NOTES

PTO Finance Committee awards fall grants

The MCS PTO Finance Committee awarded more than \$2,500 across nine grant requests last month. Funding will cover expenses for books, French magazines, dramatic play supplies, cameras, soccer balls, a musical experience hosted by the Vermont Symphony Orchestra, and a Fairbanks Museum field trip. If you would like more details on these grants please email Lydia Starosta at lydvet@aol.com.

Staff Appreciation Friday Feast: November 21

K-3 MCS families will host the first Staff Appreciation day of the year, Friday Feast on Friday, November 21 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the staff lounge. A scrumptious lunch for all MCS staff will be provided to express our appreciation for all they do for our children! If you have children in grades K-3, please click [here](#) to participate. Items may be dropped off on that Friday morning between 7:30 and 11 a.m. Upper grades will host the second appreciation day in February. Thank you in advance for your support.

Another successful Halloween candy collection - thanks to all of you!

During October MCS families and community members generously donated more than 13,000 pieces of candy which was distributed to more than 100 homes before the big night. Many thanks to all who participated by donating and helping to distribute candy to in-town families who were lucky to see more than 400 trick-or-treaters!

Holiday Basket Helpers collecting raisins and canned pears

A few words from Megan Brendel and Colleen Rozzi, the Holiday Basket Helper Coordinators: "As we have done in the past, we would like to ask the children and families in your school to help the Hartford Norwich Holiday Basket Helpers program collect canned and dried fruit for the senior fruit baskets. We will distribute over 175 identical fruit baskets on December 13 to seniors in need that live in Hartford and Norwich. Our goal is to collect as many cans as possible so our limited cash resources don't have to be used to buy what is not collected. We will then be able to provide a larger dollar amount on a grocery food card included in the fruit basket. The seniors are so appreciative for receiving a basket, made possible because of the generosity of your students and their families."

This holiday season please consider bringing in donations for the Holiday Basket Helpers. We are asking for donations of **raisins** (6 pack of small boxes please) and **canned pears** (15 oz cans - not the large economy size) for the fruit baskets. We plan to collect through Wednesday, December 3. Please place donations in the bins outside each classroom or in the lobby. Thank you for your generosity.

- Cara, Danielle and Jen

Second community forum for foreign language expansion in December

Come learn about the proposed expansion of the MCS French language program, which may be considered for the 2015-2016 budget. A community forum is planned for Tuesday, December 9 at 7 p.m. in the Marion Cross Multi-purpose Room. Members of the MCS Foreign Language committee will share the chronology of its work, research on early language learning, learnings from the 3rd Grade Pilot Program, and its recommendations for expanding the current foreign language program. Come with your questions! For those who can't attend in person, we are hoping to try a live Twitter feed during the event so community members can participate from afar. More information about this format to follow. Feel free to contact Committee Chair, Katie Kitchel (kkitchel@me.com) if you have any questions.

Box Tops for Education Challenge provides digital microscopes for school

Thanks to all of the diligent clipping and collecting work done throughout the MCS community, the Fall BTE Challenge brought in \$730 to the school. With these funds, the PTO is able to purchase a set of digital microscopes for the LEEEP program. But wait...there's more! Because the school raised money beyond our original fundraising goal, the PTO is also able to support a suggestion made by Lindsay Putnam, director of the LEEEP program, to provide one additional microscope for use on a daily basis in each grade! Similar microscopes have been used this fall in the 1st grade classrooms, and have provided fascinating opportunities for scientific exploration, especially during the study of the meadow habitat. Lindsay is planning more exciting "magnified" learning experiences for LEEEP and knows that having access to a classroom microscope will also lay the groundwork for unplanned learning moments. You just never know when a student might be inspired to look at something a little closer; now it can happen every day!

Thanks for all for your support of this spirited fundraising effort. The next class-to-class challenge will take place in early 2015. Collection containers will remain in the classroom though so feel free to continue sending in Box Tops as you clip them.

A Christmas Carol coming to Northern Stage

The next MCS night at Northern Stage takes place on Thursday, December 11. Northern Stage will perform A Christmas Carol, described as follows by Northern Stage:

Charles Dickens' story of redemption remains as powerful and uplifting as it ever was. Don't miss your chance to share this perennial holiday favorite with your whole family. It's an experience they will treasure for years to come.

Call now to reserve your seat. Tickets are \$30 each with 30 percent of that coming back to the PTO. Please remember to tell them you are part of Marion Cross School. Please contact Ashley Clapp (clappashley@gmail.com) with questions.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Stagecoach seeks volunteer drivers

Stagecoach has been around in the community since 1976, creating a network of community transportation alternatives that connect the people and places in Orange and Northern Windsor Counties. A big part of our work is our Dial-A-Ride System which includes programs that focus on specialized populations including elders, persons with disabilities, and low-income families and individuals. We have grants available to reimburse volunteers for mileage when they use their own car to take members from this vulnerable population to medical appointments, grocery shopping, and other social events. BUT, we just don't have enough volunteer help to really meet the need of the Upper Valley Community. We have a huge need for drivers from your area, mainly to get people from White River Junction to appointments at Dartmouth. Please visit our website at www.stagecoach-rides.org for more information or to volunteer and thank you!

Thank you business partners!



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