



Week of Nov. 24, 2014

Marion Cross School • Norwich, Vermont

PTO NOTES

MCS Staff enjoys fabulous Friday feast

Many thanks to all of the K-3 parents who contributed so generously to last Friday's feast for the MCS staff. All of your delicious culinary offerings were enjoyed by all. The teachers especially enjoyed a rare opportunity to sit down to enjoy a meal and conversation with each other. Thank you!

Holiday Basket Helpers collecting raisins and canned pears

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.

It is that time of year again: the Giving Tree is here!

The Giving Tree is still going strong. The MCS parent community has always been generous and loves to help accomplish those dreams, so we asked teachers to think outside the box too: do you need help cutting 1,000 pieces for an art project, or someone to clean the hamster cage once in a while? Will new floor pillows make for a perfect 'quiet' spot? Do you wish you had 100 green markers for that one activity? You name it, we list it. Let's see what the Tree gives this year! You can find the Giving Tree on the Marion Cross website. Go to the PTO link and click the Giving Tree tab. Teachers will list items on their "wish list", parents or groups of parents can then purchase the items. Please mark "purchased" in the column next to the item so we don't get doubles! The form is pretty straight forward but please email me at marieke.sperry@gmail.com if you have questions. This is also a reminder to PTO reps that the Giving Tree is a great place to go if you are collecting "classroom monies" and would like to contribute to a somewhat larger gift!

The MCS Spirit Wear Store open for business!

Choose from a variety of clothing with the MCS logo. Prices for adult and youth sized items are \$7 for t-shirts, \$24 for sweatshirts, and \$20 for sweatpants. In addition, you can choose to personalize any items for \$5. To view the Spirit Wear merchandise and download an order form, go to the Marion Cross website, click the PTO link and then the MCS Spirit Wear link. Completed forms and checks payable to *Norwich School District - MCS Shop* can be returned to the PTO box in the school office. Next order will be placed December 5. Do your Christmas shopping at the MCS Spirit Wear Store! If you have questions about Spirit Wear or the ordering process, please contact Melanie Michel at Melanie.m.michel@gmail.com or call 649-7023.

Lost and Found items to go to Haven on Friday, December 12

Please come and check the Lost and Found so neatly organized and maintained by 5th grade student volunteers. There are lots of clothes, hats, water bottles and shoes you might not have realized you were missing yet! The Lost and Found is located on the main floor by the elevators, next to the stairs going up to the 5th/6th grade hallway. Any items still there on December 12 will go to the Haven.

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.

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.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING EVERYONE. AS YOUR PTO CO-CHAIRS, WE ARE SO THANKFUL TO BE A PART OF SUCH A WONDERFUL SCHOOL WITH TEACHERS, STAFF, PARENTS AND STUDENTS WHO CARE. EAT, RELAX AND ENJOY! Lydia and Tracy

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!



FLANNEL

