

MARION CROSS SCHOOL

PTO **March** NEWS

UPCOMING PTO Events

Monday, March 7 (Today!): PTO Meeting — 3:30 p.m. in the MCS Art Room

Monday, March 7 (Today!): Sign-up deadline for Big Hoot Variety Show

Friday, March 18: Family BINGO Night Fundraiser — 6 p.m. in the MCS Multi-Purpose Room

Monday, March 21: Spring Grant Applications Due — Return to PTO Box in Main Office

Important MCS Event Reminders

Friday, March 11: Parent/Teacher Conferences — No School

Monday, March 14: Teacher In-service — No School

Friday, March 25: Kindergarten Screening — No School for current kindergarten students

Big Hoot Student Variety Show: Sign up deadline is today!

Performance Acts and 6th grade co-hosts now being accepted for the Big Hoot Variety Show. Students can choose to sing, dance, do skits, gymnastics, magic tricks, play an instrument, tell jokes, and more. [Click this link](#) to find out more about how to sign up for this fabulous night of student entertainment. Questions? Email tracyzuckerman@comcast.net

PTO now accepting applications for spring grants

Parents and teachers are encouraged to submit applications for a PTO spring 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**. Applications are available in the front office in the PTO box or by [clicking this link](#). Please return all applications to the box by March 21.

Family BINGO Night Fundraiser: Friday, March 18

The fun Friday nights continue at MCS. Family Bingo Night takes place on Friday, March 18 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Multi-purpose Room. Prizes for BINGO winners are repurposed treasures from our own homes. If you have any gently used toys, games, or puzzles (no books or stuffies please) to donate, please drop them off in the collection box in the MCS office. We will also hold a bake sale and a raffle for prizes including Italian cooking classes for kids, gift certificates to Boloco and Morano Gelato, dinner for two at Simon Pearce and the ever-coveted juggling or magic lesson with Mr. Bill. Please mark your calendars and be sure you come down for some good old-fashioned, low-tech family fun! [Sign up](#) to bring bake sale goodies or to work BINGO night! Questions? Contact Lydia Starosta at lydvet@aol.com

Break-to-Break Box Tops Challenge off to an impressive start!

Congratulations to the entire school on breaking the record for the most Box Tops (BTEs) and dimes collected on the first day of a collection challenge. After that first day, the school tally reached 3,373 units for \$337.30 raised in just one day! With such a strong start, we are challenging the school to reach 8,000 units before the end of this challenge on Friday, April 22. When we reach this goal, we will have collected the most BTEs and dimes of any challenge to date. Since we are almost half way to our goal, we know this is possible—especially if we all work together. The class that won the first mini-competition of the Break-To-Break challenge is Mrs. Newberry's kindergarten class. They turned in a jaw-dropping 477 units. Mrs. French's and Mrs. Haney's 4th grade classes weren't far behind turning in an impressive 372 and 353 each. Those three classes combined contributed more than \$120 to our current school total. Bravo! I will meet with Mrs. Newberry's class later this week. As winners of the first mini-competition, they will have the unique experience of helping to

determine what the PTO will purchase with the funds raised during this challenge. Stay tuned for what they decide! We will continue to post the collection results in the front lobby throughout the competition. Will Mrs. Newberry's crafty K's maintain their lead, will the power of the fourth grade teams overtake them, or is there an underdog clipping in the wings? Only time will tell in this good-natured competition where one class may get bragging rights, but the entire school wins! - *Katie Kitchel, Box Tops for Education co-chair*

March Local Business Partner—The Norwich Inn

The PTO's Local Business Partner for March is The Norwich Inn, a mainstay of the village for more than 200 years. Here's how current owner Joe Lavin answered our questions.

The Norwich Inn is such a beautiful heirloom in our town. What year was it built and how long has it been operating as an inn? Built by Dartmouth grad, Colonel Jasper Murdock in 1797, the historic Norwich Inn served as a stagecoach tavern and hostelry for generations of New England travelers. A devastating fire in December 1889 destroyed the hotel, the Union Hall, and several neighboring structures. The Innkeeper, Dr. W.S. Bowles, rebuilt it in 1890 on the foundation of the original structure. The new building, renamed the Newton Inn, was a handsome Victorian structure with a wraparound porch and central turret. In 1920, Dr. Bowles sold the Inn to Charles and Mary Walker, who again named it the Norwich Inn. Though Prohibition had just begun, townsfolk fondly recount that Mary, known as "Ma" Walker, quietly carried on the Norwich Inn's tradition as a tavern by selling bootleg from the basement. The hotel register from the period, on display in the parlor, has several cartoon drawings of Dartmouth students with frothy mugs held high. Theodor Seuss Geisel, "Dr. Seuss," Dartmouth '25, was a frequent patron of the Inn. Since that time, several owners have made their own architectural changes to reflect the tastes and trends of their time. Porches were enclosed, towers were removed, and architectural details "modernized." In 2010, additions to the Walker House and Ivy Lodge were built. The Inn continues to improve and modernize while keeping its original New England historic character.

Who would you say has been the most famous guest of The Norwich Inn? The Norwich Inn was the first tavern in Vermont to entertain a President of the United States. On July 22, 1817, President James Monroe visited the Inn, and while here, he addressed the townspeople of Norwich and "partook of a dinner, prepared...in handsome style."

Does The Norwich Inn have any good ghost stories? We do have a few. Ma Walker, cited above, is commonly considered to be our "Ghost." Whenever anything goes wrong, for which there is no explanation, we blame it on her. The actual stories experienced by guests and employees over the years yield the profile of a benign and playful spirit. I remain skeptical.

Not only is The Norwich Inn a small hotel, but it also houses our local pub and the Jasper Murdock brewery. Who makes the beer and from where do the recipes come? Our brewer for the last five plus years is Jeremy Hebert. We now have a stable of some 35 brews, including an authentic English style cask ale. We have seven on at any one time. All recipes are the creation of our three brewers during the past 25 years.

What is your oldest beer? Favorite beer? The oldest beer is Whistling Pig Red Ale, created about 25 years ago by the original Brewer and co-owner of the Inn, Tim Wilson. It debuted at a game dinner, wherein wild boar was a featured entree. In these parts, another name for a wild boar is "Whistling Pig," hence the name. Two years ago, in partnership with Vermont Farmstead, we created Whistling Pig Red Ale Cheddar Cheese. It's available at the Inn, Dan & Whit's, and King Arthur Flour. Asking me to name my favorite brew is like picking between 35 children, but since they are not people, their feelings won't be hurt! I am partial to our Stackpole Porter and any of our Stouts. We also have several IPAs which are very tasty.

Thank you business partners!

