

DATES TO REMEMBER

Dec. 24—Winter Vacation Begins

Jan. 4—Back to School

Jan. 15—Systemwide 1/2 Day, NO KINDERGARTEN

Jan. 18—Martin Luther King Day, NO SCHOOL

Feb. 15—Vacation Week

Feb. 22—Back to School



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FROM THE PRINCIPALS' OFFICE

Holiday Season Gifts

We realize parents are very interested in giving gifts to their child's teacher during the holiday season. Gifts are appreciated but not expected. Though giving gifts is well-intentioned, please be aware that teachers and school staff are public employees and the state's new ethics law regulates the gifts they can receive. Individual gifts are acceptable. Classroom parents **CANNOT** pool money to buy a gift.

Dismissal Policy Reminder

Anyone picking up a student will be asked to show a photo ID. If someone other than a custodial parent is picking up a child, that student must bring in a note indicating the name of the individual to whom he/she is to be released. Unless the student is being released through the Health

Office, this note is necessary even if that individual's name is listed on the emergency card.

If an unplanned or last-minute dismissal change is necessary during the school day, please contact the school office to make arrangements and the staff will notify the classroom teacher and the student of the change. Teachers are not able to check e-mail during lessons and may not receive your e-mail promptly. A call to the office will avoid unnecessary confusion at dismissal time. Thank you for your cooperation.

IN & OUT OF THE CLASSROOMS

Jordan/Jackson After-School Music Program

The J/J After-School Music Program currently has openings for 4th and 5th graders for the following group music lessons: drums, Wednesdays from 2:45 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.; trumpets, Tuesdays from 3:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.; flutes, Tuesdays from 3:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.; saxophones, Wednesdays from 3:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

The cost for the program is \$170 for the entire school year. Instrument rental is available at Mockingbird Music 508-339-6727.

If you need child care from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., an additional

\$100 is required. A snack and drink, and a quiet location will be available for your child to get a head start on homework.

Please call the CHAMPS Office for more information or registration forms.

J/J Spirit Day

The next Spirit Day will be "Crazy Hat Day" on Wednesday, December 23. Show your school spirit and wear your craziest hat!

iCARE

Kim Piro is soliciting volunteers to serve as classroom readers to benefit her iCARE Program. Introducing children to acceptance through reading and education began six years ago to teach "typical" children from preschool to grade 5 about children with special needs. Books focus on a variety of different disabilities and are available in the school libraries.

Next MESA Meeting.....

January 13, 2010

7:30 p.m.

J/J Cafeteria

MESA4parents@gmail.com

Any interested parent who would like to be a reader in the classroom may contact Kim at 339-1409 or kpiro@comcast.net. Parents can also register on-line at: www.thejamiefund.org. Visit the "programs" page and click where it asks you to volunteer. Enter your information and you will be contacted about reading for the program.

All parents are invited and encouraged to join in this fulfilling educational experience.



Amazing Results

"Hats off" to Jordan and Ethan at J/J for all their hard work collecting for Cradles to Crayons' Family Time to Give event.

Collections were amazing this year: 57 pair of pants, 116 shirts and sweaters, 7 fleece jackets, 20 winter coats, 4 snow suits/snow pants, 32 pair of mittens and gloves, 17 scarves, 52 hats, 6 rain jackets, 5 pair of snow boots, 11 pair of shoes, 4 belts, 2 pair of tights, 1 pair of socks, 3 pairs of pajamas, 3 pair of slippers, 1 sweat suit, 13 skirts and dresses, 1 baby blanket, 1 baby jacket, 2 baby rompers, 1 pair of baby pajamas, 1 baby bathrobe, 3 baby hats, 1 baby dress, a bag of diapers, 83 books, 4 puzzles, 1 game, 5 packs of crayons, 1 pack of markers, 1 pack of play dough, 1 pack of water colors, 1 pack of stickers, 2 enormous bags of Power Ranger toys, 1 bag of infant toys and stuffed animals, 1 set of safety knee and elbow pads, 1 calculator, 2 car seats and 1 booster seat.

A big thank you to Ms. Foley, Mrs. Chiappone and Mr. Dunlea and their students and to everyone that added to the Cradles to Crayons collection boxes. By taking the time to donate things that are no longer needed, one hundred sixteen children will benefit from your generosity this season. Thank you so much for your support.

Celebrate Diversity

The next meetings are Jan. 8 and Jan. 22. Heroes, politicians, and inventors that you've chosen will be discussed. Vote on the best prepared. These "heroes" will be added to the "concentration" game.

MESA MESSAGES



Contact MESA

You may contact MESA at MESA4parents@gmail.com or go to the Mansfield Schools website and click on the MESA link from the Robinson or Jordan/Jackson puzzle piece. All parents of Mansfield Elementary School students are invited to attend our monthly meetings. Meetings typically last one hour, refreshments are served, and young children are welcome. Often times we host a speaker on a topic of current interest to parents.

COMMUNITY CORNER

Breakfast with Santa

Special Olympics Massachusetts (SOMA) presents Breakfast With Santa on Saturday, December 12, from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. at the Robinson Elementary School. The cost is \$7 per child or \$15 maximum per family.

Come to enjoy some morning treats of donuts, coffee, juice and milk. Have your picture taken with Santa by First Choice Photography or make a holiday craft. You may also enjoy some favorite holiday tales told by our "celebrity storytellers."

All proceeds to benefit Mansfield Special Olympics.

Stand for Children Focus Group Meeting

The Stand for Children organization is holding its next strategy meeting and focus group on Wednesday, December 9 in the High School Library from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. All are welcome.

Holiday refreshments and free child care will be provided. To attend, please register at: www.stand.org/ma/focusgroups and indicate if you'll require childcare. For further information: 1-800-663-4032, Mansfield@stand.org

Relay For Life Meeting Schedule

Save the dates!

Relay For Life Team Kick-Off
February 9, 2010
MHS Auditorium 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Relay For Life Team Captain Mtg.
March 8, 2010
MHS Library 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Relay For Life Youth Captain Mtg.
April 8, 2010
MHS Library 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Relay For Life of Mansfield
June 11-12, 2010, Friday 3:00 p.m.
to Saturday, 12:00 p.m.
MHS Facility

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

CONTACT THE HORNETS' ELEMENTARY ENTERPRISE

Please contact Christine Dumouchel, Parent Volunteer Editor, at 339-0111 if you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or have information to publish. The next submission deadline is at 12:00 p.m. 1/7 for the 1/13 publication. Submit to: themansfielddumouchels@comcast.net