



Montclair News and Events

A supplement to the news and events of the monthly calendar

From Mrs. Lalumiere Malvesti

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Mark Your Calendar



- * **Early Release Days** ~ Every Tuesday students are dismissed at 11:55.
- * **January 7** ~ School Committee Meeting @ 7:00 at Broad Meadows
- * **Jan. 12-15** ~ P.A.C.K. Week
 - Pack Purple Day—Monday
 - Pack White Day—Tuesday
 - Pack Red Day—Wednesday
 - Pack Yellow/Orange Day—Thursday
 - Pack Green Day—Friday
- * **January 12-24** ~ Winter DIBELS
- * **January 13** ~ PTO Meeting @ 8:30
- * **January 19** ~ Martin Luther King Jr. Day—No School
- * **January 23** ~ Grade 1 Field Trip to Harvard Peabody Museum
- * **January 26** ~ Happy Lunar New Year!
- * **January 27** ~ Lunar New Year Celebration
- * **January 30** ~ Reading & Math Celebrations
- * **February 16-20** ~ February Recess—School Closed

News and Events

Holiday Concert—Our holiday concert, “Happy Holidays America,” was held on December 17th and put us in the holiday spirit. It was a packed house with standing room only! Thank you to Mrs. O’Sullivan, our music teacher, and Ms. Enzmenn, our band teacher, for putting together an outstanding performance. I would also like to thank all of the teachers and staff for proving additional support during the concert.

Community Service Projects—The Student Council sponsored a toy drive during the month of December. All toys collected were donated to Toys for Tots for children in need during the holiday season. This month the Student Council is sponsoring a Hat Day on January 23. Students can wear a hat with a 25¢ donation. All funds raised will be donated to Home for Little Wanderers.

Instant Alert—Keeping parents informed and involved helps to assure student safety and improve student success. With today’s on-the-go lifestyles, it has become more difficult for schools to reach families quickly and effectively. This is why QPS implemented Instant Alert for Schools. Instant Alert for Schools is an essential tool for notification and communication. Within minutes of an emergency, school officials can use Instant Alert to deliver a single, clear message to the students’ parents/guardians by telephone, cell phone, email, pager, or PDA. Instant Alert can also be used to notify you of a school closing due to inclement weather. It’s an equally effective way to keep you informed of upcoming activities and schedule changes.

Instant Alert is Internet based, allowing each family to maintain a secure, password protected online profile. To date, all parent/guardian and student information has been uploaded and updated according to the information you provided on the Contact Cards. Attached to this newsletter (on the back of the calendar), is an instruction sheet for accessing the system to update your profile. You can log into your profile at any time to update your contact information. Maintaining the accuracy of your profile will increase the ability of the school to keep you informed. The web address for Instant Alert is <https://instantalert.honeywell.com>.



If you do not have access to a computer we suggest that you utilize a computer at the Thomas Crane Public Library. If you need assistance with your profile, please use the “Help Request” link found on the Instant Alert website, or contact the school at 617-984-8708.

THANK YOU—I would like to thank the PTO and the countless number of parents/guardians who volunteered their time during the first few months of school. There have been many events (Soc Hop, Santa’s Secret Workshop, Ornament Night, Special Classroom Projects, just to name a few!) that would not be possible without your help and support. I look forward to seeing you at upcoming events!

News and Events Continued...

P.A.C.K. Week—During the week of January 12, Montclair School's Health and Wellness Team will sponsor P.A.C.K. Week. P.A.C.K. stands for **P**ack **A**ssorted **C**olors for **K**ids and is sponsored by Welch's. Monday is Pack Purple Day, Tuesday is Pack White Day, Wednesday is Pack Read Day, Thursday is Pack Yellow or Orange Day, and Friday is Pack Green Day. Please encourage your child to eat a healthy snack that is the color of the day! For more information or ideas on colorful snacks to pack, visit www.welchs.com/pack.



Math and Reading Celebrations—Two special celebrations will be held this month to honor students who went above and beyond to complete their Mathletics folders and reading goals. These celebrations will be held on January 30. There were 101 students who completed the reading goals and 185 students who completed the Mathletics. We are very proud of our students and their dedication to learning. More information and details will be sent to the students who completed the reading and/or math.



School Closings—School will be closed on Monday, January 19 in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. School will also be closed from February 16-20 for February vacation.

PTO Connection

Greetings from the PTO:

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a great Holiday Season and enjoyed their time off.

It was wonderful to see so many Montclair families at last month's Ornament Night! We want to thank everyone who helped with our very successful Secret Santa Workshop and Ornament Night. Both events require a lot of help - from shopping and set up, to wrapping and helping the students shop, distributing ornaments and pouring hot chocolate - and cleanup! We had a wonderful group of volunteers this year and everyone who volunteered their time for either of these events was entered into a raffle - Antoinette DiCresce, Michael DiPalma's mom, and Patty Flaherty, Aidan and Rory's mom, were our winners! Thank you to everyone who helped with these events by volunteering your time and/or sending in supplies. These events work so well because of the wonderful Montclair Community of parents, grandparents, guardians and teachers who volunteer their time. Thank you!



Our next PTO meeting is Tuesday, January 13 at 8:30 a.m. Among the topics we will be discussing is the planning for the upcoming 75th Annual Montclair May Festival (yes! we start planning for this huge event in January!). If you are unable to make the PTO meeting but would still like to be involved with the planning for the May Festival, please email us at montclair_pto@yahoo.com with your interest - we will be scheduling a May Festival Planning meeting for later in the month. Other topics will include ideas for a Spring Fundraiser and PTO Board openings for next school year as well as other business that may be brought up at the meeting. As always, children are welcome to attend the meeting.



Happy New Year!
The Montclair PTO

Notes & Quotes

Science Lab~Ooey Gooey! ~ Call it slime or call it quicksand-this stuff is fun! Kids can make it all by themselves, and they will learn a science lesson in the process.

You'll Need: measuring cups, pan, cornstarch, food coloring, & water

Here's How: Let your youngster measure 1 cup of cornstarch into a pan and add a few drops of food coloring. Have him/her slowly pour in about ½ cup of water and mix with his/her fingers until the cornstarch is wet.

What Happens? As your child squeezes the mixture through his/her fingers, it will change from liquid to solid and back to liquid again.

Why? This experiment demonstrates "suspension." You can explain that parts of the cornstarch are temporarily mixed with, or suspended in, the water. The particles are then separated again by a process called filtering.

Worth Quoting ~ "The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically...Intelligence plus character-that is the true goal of education." Martin Luther King, Jr.

Just for Fun ~



Q: What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

A: Frosted Flakes!!