



Montclair News and Events

A supplement to the news and events of the monthly calendar

From Mrs. Lalumiere-Malvesti

November 3, 2008

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Mark Your Calendars!



- * **Early Release Days**~
Every Tuesday the students are dismissed at 11:55.
- * November 2 ~ Daylight Savings Time Ends
- * November 4 ~ Election Day-No School
- * November 7 ~ 4th Grade Field Trip to Harvard Peabody Museum
- * November 11 ~ Veterans' Day-No School
- * November 13 ~ 3rd Grade Field Trip to Plimoth Plantation
- * November 13 ~ PTO Meeting @ 7:00
- * November 18 ~ Afternoon and Evening Report Card Conferences
- * November 26 ~ Early Dismissal (11:55)
- * November 27&28 ~ Thanksgiving Break

News and Events

Contact Cards ~ Please return your child's contact card to school as soon as possible. Make sure to check and update all necessary information. Thank you!

Fire Prevention Week ~ October 7-13 was National Fire Prevention Week. Thank you to Mr. Pettinelli, a retired Quincy Firefighter, for taking the time to visit our kindergarteners. Students learned about fire safety and were even able to try on different parts of a firefighters uniform.



Sock-Hop ~ The PTO did a fantastic job organizing the Sock-Hop on October 24. The moon was full and many Montclair families and teachers, dressed in costume, came to enjoy this wonderful social event. Thank you PTO and all who volunteered—it was terrific!

On the Road ~ The **first graders** had a fantastic time visiting **Wards Berry Farm on Friday, October 10**. Each student returned to school with their very own pumpkin! They learned about gourds, pumpkins, and even strawberry corn. Did you know that strawberry and blueberry corn really exists? The **fourth grade** will take an exciting trip to the **Harvard Museum of Natural History on Friday, November 7**. They will be brought face to face with the physical history of our planet on a trip that will offer an opportunity to develop a focused connection between our standards based curriculum and the 14,000 artifacts and specimens on display. The **third grade** will take a field trip to **Plimoth Plantation on Thursday, November 13**. They will learn about the Wampanoag People and the Colonial English community in the 1600s.

Canned Food Drive ~ The Student Council will run a canned food drive from November 7 to the 20. Students are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to be donated to those in need this holiday season. All donations will be given to the Quincy Crisis Center.



Voting Update ~ October 31 was a busy day for all! We kicked off the day with a Kids Vote performance by fifth grade that taught the students about voting. All students also participated in Kids Vote in which they had ballots and were able to cast their very own votes. Montclair's voting results are as follows: Obama & Biden won the president/vice president race. They received 206 votes while McCain & Palin received 125. Beatty received 174 votes for Senate while Kerry received 160. All uncontested candidates won. Our students also held Student Council Elections. I am pleased to announce that Jia Li Zhang, Fiona Berger, Justin McGaffigan, Allan Chen, Kelsie Dwyer, Jordan Currie, and Anthony Alexander make up our Student Council for the 2008-2009 school year.



Education Week Essay Contest ~ Congratulations to Cecilia Guan, a third grader in Mrs. Meade's class. She won second place city-wide in the Grade 2-3 category of the Education Week Essay Contest. She wrote a fantastic essay on "How Education Can Help My Generation Influence Changes in the World." The following students had essays or posters submitted from Montclair: Emma Devin (K), Sarah Pillone (Gr. 1), Cecilia Guan (Gr. 3), Jennifer Butka (Gr. 3), Jimmy Huang (Gr. 4), Karen Zou (Gr. 4), Vincent Mah (Gr. 4), Amanda Ngo (Gr. 4), Marty Vo (Gr. 5), and Ken Zou (Gr. 5). A round of applause goes to all students!



News and Events Continued...

Reminder of School Closing for November ~ School will be closed on the following days during the month of November: Tuesday, November 4, 2008 for Election Day; Tuesday, November 11 for Veterans' Day, Early Dismissal (11:55) on Wednesday, November 26; Thursday, November 27 & Friday, November 28 for Thanksgiving. School will reopen on Monday, December 1, following the Thanksgiving Break. Have a safe and happy holiday!



Elks Dictionaries ~ Once again this year the Quincy Lodge of Elks #943 donated a dictionary to all QPS students in third grade. The DICTIONARY PROJECT is designed to enhance literacy and reading for all third grad students and help them become good writers, active readers, and creative thinkers.

Report Card Conferences ~ Report Card Conferences, afternoon and evening, are scheduled for Tuesday, November 18, 2008. The staff and I look forward to seeing you!



PTO Connection

A big THANK YOU to all of the wonderful parents and teachers who sent in donations and volunteered their time at the Soc Hop. We had a great group of volunteers again this year who kept the water flowing, the snacks full, the tattoo lines short and the halls passable! Thank you everyone!

The Box Tops Context ended on October 20th. Mrs. Hurley's 4th grade class won the Pizza Party, tallying a remarkable 531 Box Tops! Thank you to everyone who sent in their Box Tops, together we raised almost \$400. Keep collecting those Box Tops – we'll have another contest before the end of the year!



The Yankee Candle Fall Fundraiser ended on October 15. Mrs. Lindsay's kindergarten class led the sales total this year, while Montclair's top individual sellers were Kelly Bishop, Maeve Walsh, Jacob Vegnani, Jade Murphy and Lindsay Lee. Great job! Thank you to everyone who participated.

We have had a busy start to the school year and this is just the beginning!

Our November PTO meeting is Thursday, November 13 at 7:00 p.m. Things to be discussed will be the possibility of having another fundraising event. Our Yankee Candle fundraising efforts this year were not as successful as in the past and money raised with this fundraiser is used to supplement the costs of field trips, weekly magazines and other classroom tools and activities throughout the school year. Ideas and thoughts are always welcome! We will also be preparing for Santa's Secret Workshop and Ornament Night and other business. As always, children are welcome at all PTO meetings.

Matthew Coughlin, a 2001 Montclair graduate, won the Annual Montclair PTO Book Scholarship. Matt is currently attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York. Congratulations Matt!

We will continue to send email reminders of meetings and other PTO events. If you would like to be added to our email contacts, please send an email to montclair_pto@yahoo.com.

Thank you for your support.



The PTO Board ~ Theresa Walsh – President, Gina Dwyer – Vice President, Stephanie Michel-Moore – Treasurer, Denise MacPherson – Corresponding Secretary, Ellen Hussey – Recording Secretary, and Ann Mariano – Citywide PTO Representative

Notes & Quotes

Useful Websites

Houghton Mifflin is the math series used in grades K-5. Houghton Mifflin has a wonderful web site that is filled with support for both parents and students. Parents' Place is filled with great activities that you and your child can engage in to support the lessons that are happening at school. Kids' Place is filled with test-taking tips, extra help, brain teasers, and much more! Check out www.eduplace.com/math/hmm/ to help support your child!



Houghton Mifflin is also the science series used for grades 4 and 5. You can access the science website at www.eduplace.com/science/hmssc/.

One other useful website to check out is www.harcourtschool.com/menus/trophies/menu.html. Harcourt Trophies is the reading series used in grades K-5. A few of the supports found on Harcourt's website are Test Tutor, Ideas for Writers, Grammar Practice, Homework Helper, Resources for Parents, Proofreading Practice, and much more!

Worth Quoting ~ Thanksgiving, after all, is a word of action. - W. J. Cameron

Just for Fun ~

Q: If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring?

R: Pilgrims!

