



HAPPENINGS

Middleton Parent-Teacher Organization Newsletter

THANK YOU FROM THE PTO BOARD

As this school year comes to a close, we are so thankful for the many parents and community members who have worked hard and contributed tremendously throughout the year to make the enrichment programs possible for our children! We all make the best efforts to bring fun and educational programming to the kids and without the constant and consistent support of our families, none of it would be possible!

We are already working on new ideas for fun community events and refreshing new fundraising programs to help keep things interesting. We have great expectations for another successful year ahead. The PTO would like to wish all our families, friends, faculty and supporters of all kinds, a wonderful and memorable summer vacation! We are all looking forward to serving the children of Middleton again in the fall.

Sincerest wishes for a beautiful summer,

Sam Klipper, Vicky Dimino, Lisa Brown,
Kim Paikos and Rebecca Pearl
PTO Board Members for 2011-2012

Farewell and Best Wishes

This June the Fuller Meadow School, it's faculty, staff, students and parents, will bid adieu to a wonderful teacher – Mrs. Janet Riley. Mrs. Riley was born and raised in Middleton and has spent her entire 26 year teaching career right here and will retire this June.

Mrs. Riley graduated from Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island and she began teaching 3rd grade at Howe-Manning. The Principal at that time was her former 6th grade teacher! She later made the decision to stay home with her family for many years before returning to school to earn her Master's Degree in Special Education. She then taught Special Education for about nine years before moving to Fuller Meadow and teaching 1st grade.

Grade 1 is, by far, her favorite grade to teach! She enjoys that the children are so eager to learn, excited about learning, are willing to take risks with their educational experiences and are so open and very honest. Honesty, in particular, gave way to a chuckle because over the years, she has certainly learned a lot about these children and their parents!

However, she's pretty sure that the things she won't miss about being a teacher are the spreadsheets she has to create for various administrative purposes, the progress reports and report cards. That being said, the thing she will miss the most is the laughter she shared with the children.

What's next you wonder? Well, Mrs. Riley would like to get a little healthier by walking a lot more. She recently moved to Amesbury with her daughter and would like to spend some time beautifying her new home with some gardening. She's anticipating sleeping past 5:00 AM and possibly never having to iron again! Mostly, she's looking forward to traveling a bit with her husband to visit her sons; one in Seattle, WA and the other in NY. All the while thoroughly enjoying all three of her grandchildren!



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The **New** Howe-Manning



Things are moving along quite nicely at the new Howe-Manning and the project continues to remain on budget and on time for a September 2011 opening.

On Thursday, May 26th a Decommissioning Event was held at the current Howe-Manning building. Students of the school wrote poetry about the building and created a timeline of Middleton and world events through the years which were on display. Slideshows of both the construction progress and the history of the school were presented. Everyone was invited to sign the gym wall. A photo of this will be a part of the time capsule the 6th graders are working on.

Please mark your calendars for an **Open House event at the new Howe-Manning** on Wednesday, August 24th (with a rain date of Thursday, August 25th) from 5:30-8:30pm. Parents and students will have an opportunity to tour parts of the school, and join a celebration including music and ice cream from Richardson's Dairy. Additional information will follow via Connect Ed messages, the school website, PTO e-mail blast, the Middleton cable station and many other vehicles. Parents will be asked to RSVP for a ½ hour time period so that we can keep traffic flowing and our children safe. To receive additional information right to your e-mail please send your name to newhowemanning@comcast.net.

Be sure to click on the school website at <http://www.tritownschoolunion.com/msbc-header.php> to get to the School Building Committee page. If you scroll down there are links to the Project Managers monthly reports with updated photos on the progress inside and out.

PROGRAMS FOR ALL

The start of spring has brought a variety of great programs to the students at Fuller Meadow. In April, to tie in with the DASH program, the second graders enjoyed a very realistic presentation given by "Helen Keller" brought to them by Historical Perspectives. Kindergartners laughed and clapped along to a rousing in-house theater production of "Strega Nona", presented by some very talented actors from the Theater and Dance Department at UNH. The first graders began preparation for their tide pools field trip with the "Tide pools Experience" presented by Natural Discoveries. In May, the second grade students experienced a new attitude towards math with the very entertaining program, "Marvelous Mathitude" brought to them by Academic Entertainment, and the first graders visited the Chelmsford Performing Arts Center for a fun and engaging performance by "Tom Chapin and Friends". In June, the first graders explored the tide pools at Odiorne State Park in Rye, NH and the third grade students investigated the science of sound in a hands-on program presented to them by the Discovery Museum of Acton. Last but not least, all of the students in grades K-3 enjoyed an engaging performance by Mark Rothstein of "The World of Rope Jumping", funded by the Penny Challenge. During his 45 minute show, Mark emphasized the importance of total fitness along with discussions about trying your best, making positive choices, teamwork, respect and character building. After the show, each grade level spent 45 minutes in a hands-on workshop where they not only had fun learning different rope-jumping techniques but also were taught the importance of physical fitness and how to be the best all-around person that each of them can be.

On Friday, May 27th, the Everett Dance Theatre visited Howe-Manning to perform "The Marriage of Art and Science" for grades 4-6. The Penny Challenge funded this spectacular entertaining and educational performance which brought the fun of science to life!

The entire student body learned about the principles of the center-of-gravity with a giant lever & fulcrum, conservation of energy with a bowling ball pendulum, weight distribution with a bed of nails, and much more!

As the seasons changed to spring and summer, the 4th Grade participated in unique science experiences at Howe-Manning. On Thursday, April 28th, an inflatable traveling planetarium from the "Mainely Stars Planetarium" program brought the cosmos to life for students, as they entered a huge dome and learned about the solar system and astronomy. In addition, the 4th grade enjoyed a visit from Channel 6 NECN meteorologist Matt Noyes, learning interesting information about weather, forecasting techniques, and storm safety.

Grade 5 enjoyed a field trip to Lexington-Concord on May 4th & 5th to learn about the American Revolution. After touring the National Heritage Museum and experiencing a multimedia program and ranger-guided education program at the Minuteman Historical Park, Howe-Manning fifth graders are now Revolution history experts!

The 6th grade students have kept busy during their final months at Howe-Manning. On Thursday, April 14th, they enjoyed a visit from author, Yoko Kawashima Watkins. Prior to her visit, the entire grade read her book "So Far From The Bamboo Grove" in literacy class. Students then met Ms. Watkins and learned about what life was like for her Japanese family at the end of World War II. The students listened intently to her stories and had the opportunity to ask questions about her life. In the world of science, 6th Grade students participated in a visiting program from the Museum of Science on June 2nd, learning how to distinguish among speed, velocity, and acceleration while exploring the unexpected motion of everyday objects.

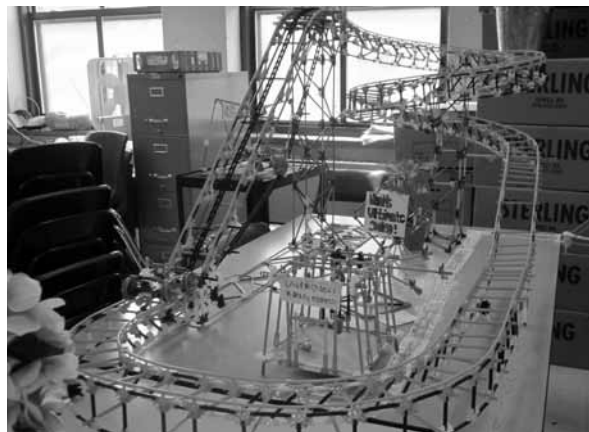
Farewell and Best Wishes, *continued*

Mrs. Riley has spent many years in Middleton, along with her sister Anne Daniels (affectionately known as the Fuller Meadow School Librarian), and has met so many wonderful people along the way. She's been privileged to not only have so many parents as students, but to also have taught their children. Each a positive experience. She takes with her years of great memories and the comfort of knowing that the people of Middleton, no matter how long they've lived here, are some of the most appreciative and supportive people she's met. For that, she sends a heartfelt and genuine thank you.

In the Fall we will start another new school year, but not without the lingering void of one our long-time and beloved teachers. The Middleton community wishes Mrs. Riley all the best in her future adventures and hopes that retirement brings her much happiness and the possibility of more sleep! We thank you Mrs. Riley for the many years of dedicated service, a compassionate heart, knowledge and wisdom. May your next journey bring you even more memories to cherish!

ROLLER COASTERS IN 6TH GRADE

The 6th grade students at Howe-Manning school got the opportunity to put their learning to the test. During a unit on "Force and Motion" in science class, students designed an entire amusement park made from K'Nex building pieces. They worked together as a team of 75 students create 2 humongous roller coasters and at least 25 additional amusement park rides and features. They used the "Engineering Process" when making each part of the roller



coasters. They also had a chance to see their required "motion" vocabulary put to the test. Momentum, velocity, speed, and inertia were all tested and re-tested to make roller coasters with working motors that actually worked! Several cars were made and succeeded at going around the roller coasters in a continuous manner. It was a team effort that took a total of 25 hours. Great work 6th graders!!

TEACHER UPDATES FOR 2011-2012

With the coming of the new year, come new changes within our teaching staff. We are pleased to announce that Mrs. Murphy (currently 2nd Grade) will be moving to Kindergarten. In addition, Ms. Danielle DeMarquez will become our fifth Kindergarten teacher to round out the team. We are very excited about these new changes and look forward to a great year!

We sadly report that Mrs. Bullis (4th Grade Math/Science) will not be returning to Howe-Manning this coming Fall. She has decided to embark on a new opportunity that will take her back to Georgia. We appreciate all that Mrs. Bullis has done for our children over the years and we thank her for her dedicated service to the town of Middleton. We wish Mrs. Bullis much luck and best wishes on her new journey!

Yoko Kawashima Watkins

In conjunction with author Yoko Watkin's visit to Howe-Manning, the 6th grade initiated an "Adopt-a-Crane" fundraiser in an effort for the people of Japan. Collecting \$1 per "adopted crane", the sixth grade students exceeded their goal of folding 1000 cranes to be adopted. During Ms. Watkins visit, she was presented with some of the adopted cranes and an accompanying letter, which will be mailed to Japan to be placed in Hiroshima Peace Park for Peace Day, August 6. The money collected for the cranes, which totaled approximately \$500, is being donated on behalf of the students of Howe-Manning to the Red Cross for relief in Japan. In addition, some of the cranes, which were not adopted, were sent to Students Rebuild in Washington State, where \$2 per crane was donated by the Bezos Family Foundation, to Architecture for Humanity. The remaining cranes were sent to the OshKosh B'Gosh headquarters in Connecticut, which donated \$1 to the American Red Cross for Japan, for each crane received. In the end, the sixth grade student's effort resulted in donations in excess of \$1,500! Great Job!



A School Community of **H.E.R.O.'s**

Great H.E.R.O. activities have continued in Fuller Meadow and Howe-Manning over the past few months. The Kindness Link program has continued in our classrooms and our children are proving daily that they are building a school community of kind kids. Classrooms are linking their chains together and showing their school spirit.

On April 12th the Kid 2 Kid program made a return to our schools. A great group of 6th graders worked extremely hard to create skits about various bullying situations and performed them for our grades K-6. Various age appropriate topics were introduced to show all to do their part to "Shine a Light on Bullying". A HUGE thank you to Paula Lanfranchi, Karen Slattery and Linda Tirussa who took on this project and dedicated their time to this incredibly valuable program. We also would like to thank the students who gave their time and effort in the program: Connor Brown, Sara Callahan, Alex Cameron, Beverly Carolan, Kyle Clifford, Michaela Costello, Christina Curreri, Robert Dodge, Julianne Doherty, Tori Donarumo, Zack D'Orlando, Jackson Evans, Andrea Faia, Joey Flak, Hannah Graf, Erin Grant, Christina Grieco, Geneva Griffin, Sarah Hardwick, Mia Karras, Andrea Kim, David Lanfranchi,



Deyana Marsh, Maddie Parenti, Candra Pepper, Josh Polakiewicz, Lily Polakiewicz, Macey Powell, Jason Slattery, Nicole Solimine, Zac Tinkham, Victoria Tirrusa, Isabelle Veazey, Michael Walsh.

The group would also like to share with you a poem written by an elementary school student in the United Kingdom which was read at the performance.

*I am the person you bullied in school
I am the one who didn't know how to be cool
I am the person you alienated
I am the person you ridiculed and hated
I am the person who sat on their own
I am the person who walked home alone*

*I am the person you scared every day
I am the person who had nothing to say*

*I am the person with hurt in their eyes
I am the person you never saw cry
I am the person living alone with their fears
I am the person destroyed by their peers*

*I am the person who drowned in your scorn
I am the person who wished they hadn't
been born*

*I am the person whose name you don't know
I am the person who just can't let go*

*I am the person destroyed for 'fun'
I am the person, but not the only one
I am the person who had feelings too
and I am a person, JUST LIKE YOU!!!*

And, as a great gift to thank our children for an amazing first year of the H.E.R.O. program, all children will be coming home with a H.E.R.O. water bottle. This gift is to help remind our children over the summer when they are at camp, with siblings, on a sports field, or anywhere they are that it is important to be a H.E.R.O. and respect others.

FESTIVAL OF ART

Festival of the Arts was hosted at Fuller Meadow on Thursday, March 31st for Grade 1 & 2 and on Thursday, April 6th for Grade 3. This year's theme was Broadway and each class got to sing their own unique song for the event! In addition to the singing, they also participated in a class dance as well! Throughout the event the students' artwork was displayed and parents could admire it while they waited. This event would not have been possible without the dedicated teachers who practiced and rehearsed endlessly with the children. To Mrs. Winchell for her commitment of having each child at Fuller Meadow contribute and sign the beautiful mural that is present in the cafe, to Mrs. Montani for getting our kids to dance and to Mr. Sharp for encouraging the



skills by participating in organized dances that included parents as well! This event was well attended, and we thank all the teachers for their contributions in helping to prepare the students for such a fun night!

kids to always sing their hearts out – we thank you for all the work you do!

Howe-Manning hosted their annual "Salute to the Arts" on Wednesday, April 13th. This event included a display of amazing artwork and African masks that the students worked diligently on throughout the year. Several students also demonstrated their musical talents, entertaining parents with short musical pieces that they had been working hard on, and others showed off their dancing

