

# Meeting House News

*A joint newsletter from the School and the Parent Partnership Committee*



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February 2008

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~2008~

Dear Families,

Happy New Year! We hope this New Year brings everyone good health and prosperity.

All of the staff at Meeting House Montessori would like to send out our sincere thanks and gratitude to each and every family. We thank you for the many thoughtful gifts and cards that were given to the teachers by their students before the winter break. We are very appreciative of your kindness and caring. The winter parties were very successful and the students were so proud to perform for their parents. Our greatest "thank you" came during the performances themselves. To watch your children take such pleasure in singing, reciting poetry, or serving you dinner was a very special gift for each teacher. The look of satisfaction of a job well done continues to reinforce our belief that each one of your children has tremendous potential and talent. The students were so proud of their accomplishments and the teachers were beaming along with them. Thank you for everything you do for MHMS, it has been a wonderful first few months of school.

Sincerely,  
The staff of MHMS

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## ***Parent/Child Night***

Your child will teach you how to do their favorite works. You will be awed and touched by how well the children know the materials and how greatly they respect them. This is not a night to be missed. It is best to leave siblings at home so that you can give your full attention to your student.

February 7th from 6:00-7:00 pm.

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## **Annual Auction - Shooting Stars of MHMS**

**Saturday, March 29th at The Lantana**



- Volunteers for all aspects of the auction planning are still needed
- We need to sell 200 tickets so please plan on coming to this great night!
- All donations are accepted. Please consider asking a businesses you frequent to support MHMS
- Begin thinking of a silent auction basket to donate
- All proceeds from the fundraiser directly benefit MHMS!



## Pre-Primary - Lori & Mary Ann

“What do scientists do?” This was the question posed to the children by Stephen as he visited our classroom and began a lesson on The Three States of Matter. Jackson quickly raised his hand and said, “Scientists want to learn about everything!” “And what do they have to do to learn about everything?”, Steven continued. Matthew responded, “They have to ask lots of questions.”

With that, Stephen held up an ice ball that he had made from the snow in the playground and explained that this ice ball is made up of millions of molecules all sticking together. Children began to ask lots of questions while having a chance to touch the ice ball and sharing what they thought might happen to it if placed in a bowl on the heater in the classroom. “I think it will melt.” “I think it might change its shape.” “I think it will make ice water.” Children then made periodic observations throughout the morning



Corbin makes an observation

session. Later, the bowl of water was heated in the microwave. The children observed how the liquid quickly became steam. They began to think about other solids, liquids and gases... the floor beneath them, the milk they drink, the air that surrounds them. The lesson culminated when they joined hands to make a large circle, each becoming a molecule. First, they gathered in a huddle becoming one, all sticking together. Then they moved slowly apart, gently flowing like a liquid before being transformed into a gas and freely floating around the room. We trust Montessori lessons, such as this, will inspire many scientists from our classroom who, as Matthew said, “continue to ask lots of questions” and as Jackson said, “want to learn about everything!”

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## Pre-Primary- Maria and Kirsten

The beginning of winter has been a very exciting time in our class. The winter party went well, giggles and all. The children really enjoyed preparing for the celebration. We would like to thank everyone again for their gifts, they were all so special, just like the children.

We really have a great community building in our classroom. The children are internalizing the meaning of giving without receiving. Everyone is learning to be patient and caring of each other.

In between snowstorms, the children have been busy at work. A huge focus for all ages has been on geography. The first years are learning the continents. The second & third years have been learning the countries in North America, Central America & South America. The main interest for our oldest ones has been on learning the states. Many children have been going on vacations. Whether it's Vermont or Florida, talking about their trips has been very educational. Apoorva will be leaving to visit family in India, when she returns I'm sure she'll have many tales to tell.



Sammy, Apoorva, and Manesha

Some of the new work presented in the class are orange juice squeezing, hand washing, flower arranging. We have also begun individual snack.

Stephen had joined us for few days. He gave a lesson on the three states of matter. He brought in some ice, which was not hard to find. The children observed what happened when you add heat to ice. Then we put the water in the microwave, to produce steam. They really enjoyed that lesson.

We have also discussing Martin Luther King Jr. and what he taught America.

Here's to a happy and healthy new year!

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## Pre-Primary - Sabrina and Clarisa

We have been extremely busy for the past few months. All our practice for the Winter party really paid off and it was a great success and lots of fun.

We have been working very hard since we returned on January 2nd. We have had many discussions about Martin



Johnny and Jasmine read together

Luther King Jr. Stephen also came to the class and gave a lesson on the three states of matter. The children thoroughly enjoyed this and were very excited about Stephen being in the classroom. We are studying dinosaurs this month and we are currently talking about the Triceratops.

Since we returned to school we have had three new students join us. Their names are Exavier Banks, Benedict Batol and Samantha Sibold. We are very happy to have them and they are a wonderful addition to the classroom.

## Pre-Primary - Jennifer and Liz

We are so proud of our students! They are choosing more works on their own, trying new things and figuring out their own unique ways to tackle challenges. One student, during a Sandpaper Letter lesson, struggled to make a connection with the letter 'm.' As he looked around the room, searching for something that started with 'm,' he found an 'm' printed on our sign language poster. He was so thrilled with his discovery! Since then, he has been learning signs for letters as he learns the sounds, and has real pride in his accomplishment.



Aidan working in Everyday Living

We gathered together to talk about Martin Luther King, Jr and shared the ways in which we show love to our family and friends. The children's responses included: I show love to my family and friends when I: hug them... play with them... help them with the cooking... draw pictures for them... tell them "I love you." The children truly honored the memory of MLK, Jr. in their sincere and pure hearts.

We are making the best of the cold and the snow, learning about the States of Matter using real snow and ice from outside. Ask your child to tell you about how Stephen taught them about how solids and liquids and gases behave!

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## Elementary - Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Mulvey, Ms. Dolan, Mr. Riley, Ms. Bartlett, and Ms. Bett

Elementary Newsletter January 15th compiled by third year students Ryan, Trevor, Laura, Michael, Lyndon, and the entire Upper Elementary

The Elementary classrooms have been buzzing with activity this month. Lower Elementary has been working on The Timeline of Life, maps, days of the week, internal and external parts of the fish as their cultural work. Math work continues to include the Stamp Game, Checkerboard and Racks and Tubes. Lessons in greater than less than have also continued. Attack Math as well as lessons on time and money are being worked on as well. Second years have been working on studying lines as part of the geometry curriculum. Language lessons have included work with plurals, contractions, parts of speech and reading comprehension. The Third Years have been studying angles, and like the seconds have done much work with parts of speech and reading comprehension. The Thirds have also been studying Africa and Asia and they continue to work on their Animal Kingdom work. Third Year students have also begun their first collaborative research project with the Upper Elementary. Both the Thirds and Upper Elementary have embarked on a study of the Chinese New Year.

Students in the Upper Elementary have been busy as well. Our Math focus has been on double-digit multiplication and learning to turn fractions to percents. We continue to work hard to memorize our math facts. We have been writing daily on such topics as "Should Meeting House students have homework?" and "My New Years Resolution is..." Currently we are working on "Should Meeting House have a dress code or a uniform?" In Science, we have been learning about Alfred Wegener's theory of Continental Drift and in History our focus has been on explorers and trading. This week begins our in depth study of the Chinese New Year. Students will be researching this celebration and on the evening of February 7th we will be sharing our research and celebrating the New Year. Third Years will be integral to this celebration as well.

Students have also been busy with Theater, as we prepare for our spring performance of Aladdin. This month's Gym focus has been basketball skills and in Art, the entire Elementary has been creating a paper mache dragon for our Chinese New Year celebration.



## Highlights From PPC & School Calendars

- Thu 2/7 - **Parents Night**  
6:00pm - 7:00pm
- Fri 2/8 - **Enrollment Forms and Deposits Due**
- Fri 2/8 - **Auction Planning Meeting**  
7:30pm  
Carberry - Currie Residence  
126 Grand View Ave, Quincy
- Sat 2/9 - **Family Game Night**  
5:00pm - 8:00pm  
School Gym
- Thu 2/14 **PPC Coffee Hour**  
8:30am - 9:30am  
School Gym
- 2/18 - 2/22 - **February Vacation**
- Mon 2/25 - School Resumes
- Sat 3/8 - **School Dance - A Family Event**  
School Gym  
Time TBA
- Fri 3/14 - **School Closed for  
Teacher Professional Day**
- Thu 3/20 - **Pizzeria Uno's Fundraising Day**  
All Day  
Pizzeria Uno's, Braintree  
Meals purchased anytime during the day  
will benefit MHMS
- Sat 3/29 **MHMS Auction-** The Lantana
- Sun 3/30 - **Big Apple Circus**



**Please remember to send in your Box Tops for Education. There is a collection bin at the front door. Each box top is worth \$.10. So far this year we have collected \$150 worth!**

### Did you know???

~President Wilson's daughter trained as a Montessori teacher and there was a Montessori classroom in the basement of the White House during Wilson's presidency?



### Library Project

The library project is well under way. Mei has held numerous volunteer days for parents to come in and help tag, cover and sort the books. Continue to watch the yahoo group for volunteer dates and times. Thanks to donations the library is growing every week. A box will remain outside the office to drop off gently used books for the library.

A nice way to help the library grow is to donate a book in honor of your child's birthday. Dedication plates will be placed inside the front of the book.

The cataloging of all the books continue to remain under the direction of Ms. Bartlett and the Upper Elementary. Stop in some day and see all the work that has been done.

Please consider joining in on this worthwhile project. The library is currently used by all the elementary students and the preprimary teachers.

## **Thank You!**

**Mei Wong Jay** for organizing the Library Project

**Sheree Marinillil** for hosting auction meetings at her home

**Julie Russell** for organizing Big Apple Circus, Game Night and Family Dance

**Jenn and Don Ormond** for the delicious Coffee Break Cafe coffee donations

**Everyone who participated in the Toymania Fundraiser. MHMS earned \$350**

**Anonymous Donor** for printing our Newsletter



### **Join the PPC Email Group!**

Get to know your fellow MHMS parents, ask questions, post reminders, and share information - join the list by going here:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MHMSPP>

Contribute to the next newsletter by sending info to: [MHMSNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:MHMSNewsletter@gmail.com)