October 24, 2014

Dear Families,

I hope you have plans to enjoy the wonderful weather this weekend. **THANK YOU** for attending Parent/Teacher conferences. You are welcome to set up a conference at any time during the school year. A scheduled conference at the end of first quarter allows us to share the wonderful things your children are doing and also address some areas of improvement that we can work on together to help your child learn and grow.

November and December are busy months for many families so I’ve included a listing of events. We will have a **Food Drive from November 1-21**. Please see the attached flyer for specific food items for each grade level. We are having a Classroom Challenge to see which Class brings the most items. Thank you to the Maryville Pride Lions for hosting the Food Drive with us and sponsoring the Classroom Challenge.

On November 7, I will host **Pastries with the Principal** in the Horace Mann Café, lower level from 7:00-8:00 a.m. I encourage your family to attend—grab some breakfast before heading to work/school. This is a time for me to hear from you and talk about what is going on at Horace Mann. These will be scheduled on the first Friday of every month. On November 13 we have a fundraiser event with Taco Johns. Taco Johns will donate 50% of all sales between 5:00-7:00 p.m. Just bring the family for a dinner out at Taco Johns and help Horace Mann.

The **Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon** is Tuesday, November 25 at 11:00 a.m. The luncheon is for all Horace Mann and Leet families and is held in the JW Jones Student Union Ballroom. This is a special luncheon with waiters/waitresses serving our meals. Because this is a catered luncheon, the cost is $4.15 per person, including students. We encourage our students to dress nicer on this day to make it extra special. Please see the attached invitation. This is a large family event and we need your RSVP by October 31.

The **Horace Mann Parent Advisory Council (PAC)** will have a meeting on Tuesday, October 28 at 5:15 pm in our library, located on the lower level. To accommodate schedules, they’ve also scheduled a meeting for Tuesday morning, October 29 at 8 am in the library. PAC is our parent organization and is our equivalent to PTO. Please attend one of these meetings and show your support for Horace Mann and PAC organization. The agenda includes fundraising discussion, outdoor classroom donation, survey results, and forward planning. Please contact Scott Yocom with questions about PAC.

**What is the outdoor classroom?** Cindy Scarbrough and Travis Stokes have been working with the Arbor Day Foundation to create a Nature Explore Classroom. The outdoor classroom concept was designed by Nature Explore/Arbor Day Foundation and when complete will be a certified Nature Explore outdoor classroom. They visited our site and developed the concept map specifically for our location. The design applies research-based, field tested design principles to create a nature-rich outdoor learning space for children. It will include the following areas: gathering, music/movement, nature art, shaded area with rocking climbing, wheel toy area, swings, discovery, messy play, climbing, garden/paths (each classroom will have a raised garden bed), weather station, dirt digging, greenhouse, and water area.
**October Calendar:**
28  PAC meeting 5:15 p.m. library
28  Halloween Bash 5:30-7:30 p.m. Horace Mann classrooms and hallway
29  PAC meeting 8 a.m. library

**November Calendar:**  **Food Drive Donations-- November 1-21**
1    Trash Pickup after the NW game-third grade and anyone else that wants to help
7    Pastries with the Principal 7:00-8:00 a.m.
11   Math Night  6:00-7:00 pm Hosted by Jenni Wall’s Elementary Math Methods class, held in the Student Union Ballroom
13   Taco Johns PAC fundraiser (HM receives 50% of all sales between 5-7 pm)
20   Conscious Discipline Parent Night; 6-8 pm  **topic: Choices & Empathy**
25   Thanksgiving Luncheon 11:00 a.m.
25   12:30 pm dismissal
26-28  No School

**December Calendar:**  **Angel Tree Donations-December 1-10**
4    Gaunt House Tree Lighting 5:15 pm Bearcat Choir sings
5    Pastries with Principal 7-8 a.m.
5-10  Scholastic Book Fair in Horace Mann lobby
9    Horace Mann Concert 7 p.m.
12   Last day of semester

Attachments include:
  Jump Rope for Heart
  Food Drive Flyer
  Candyland Math Night
  Crunch for a Cause (Taco Johns Fundraiser)
  Thanksgiving Invitation and RSVP

A copy of the weekly update is added to the Horace Mann website each week for easy access. Click on the Parent/Student tab and you will see Weekly Update listed.

Have a wonderful weekend! Thanks for sharing your children with us!
Sandy