



PTO Notes

Marion Cross School

Norwich, Vermont

September 16, 2011

Letter from the principal: New faces add to Marion Cross

Welcome to the opening of school at Marion Cross. With our new school year come 73 new student faces and several new faculty. Our students have arrived from as far away as Norway, California, Michigan, Wisconsin, Maryland and New York. Our new faculty come from closer to home.

Stephanie Ferland is our new 3rd grade teacher. Trained at the Up-

per Valley Education Institute, she previously taught at Hartland Elementary and Richmond Middle School. Stephanie is a strong advocate of "differentiation" to ensure the inclusion of all students into the regular classroom.

John Minelli, our Curriculum Coordinator and Director of Technology, also comes from the Hartford

(Continued on page 9)



New faculty for the 2011-12 school year include (from left to right) Stephanie Ferland, John Minelli, Kathy Carnahan, and Sarah Farrand.

Yearly PTO membership drive

The PTO's annual membership drive is going on now. The suggested donation from each family is \$25, which includes a free copy of the Marion Cross School Directory for the new school year. We realize each family's situation is different and welcome any contribution no matter how large or small. Please return your contributions along with the Membership Drive form as soon as you can. This form, sent home with your child, can be returned to your child's teacher or the office.

Also, if you have not done so already, please complete and return your directory information form. The form, printed on bright yellow paper, asks for your current contact information. Listings in the school directory are based on the information provided on this form. Again, this form can be returned to you child's teacher or the office.

CALENDAR

Saturday, September 17th

Norwich 250th Celebration
2 p.m., Norwich Green

Tuesday, September 20th

Breakfast with the Principal
8 a.m., RSVP in front office

Wednesday, September 21st

Half-day Teacher In-service
Noon Dismissal

Thursday, September 22nd

Bike to School Day
Huntley Meadows, 7:30 a.m.

Friday, Sept. 23rd

6th Grade Leadership
Field Trip

Wednesday, September 28th

Walk to School Day

Monday, October 3rd

Picture Day

PLUS...

Join us to paint Giving Bowls
Marion Cross Art Room
All Tuesdays & Thursdays
in September
6:30 to 9 p.m.



NECAP assessments on the way

Dear Parents of 3rd through 6th Graders,

Early next month the Marion Cross School will take part in the New England Common Assessment Program or NECAPS. During the three days of NECAPS, students will have sessions to work on the assessment program. The sessions will be broken up by rest periods, snack and class activity. To best prepare your student we encourage:

- Rest! A good night's sleep is very important.
- Food! Well balanced meals, a good and full breakfast help student's do their best.
- Relax! A positive, upbeat conversation about assessments will reduce any worry a student might have.

We ask everyone to do their best, not to be perfect. If you have a child worried about NECAPS, please encourage them to relax and let their teacher know. Results of this year's NECAPS will be available in late January or early February. As always, you will be mailed your child's results. Thanks in advance for your help in making the NECAP experience a positive one.

—*Dani Ligett*
School Counselor, NECAP Coordinator

School requests help to control head lice outbreaks

It came to my attention that two students in our school had head lice last week. It is a common nuisance that occurs in many elementary schools each year. It would be very helpful if parents periodically checked their children to see if there are lice or nits (eggs) present.

Please contact me with questions, or if you are unsure of what you are finding in your child's hair. I provide information to families to help them manage this. Please let me know as soon as possible if you find lice or nits. In this way I can assist you, and track the school situation. My phone number is 649-1703 exten-

sion 206.

Discussions with the Vermont Department of Health have reinforced information in literature indicating the only way to ensure there are no lice or nits is to meticulously check and manually remove them. Shampoos alone are not effective due to resistant strains of lice.

In order to prevent transmission of head lice, we are again asking parents to send in ear buds or headphones for their child to use for certain computer projects. The ear buds or headphones should be in a Ziploc bag labeled with your child's

ArtStart needs volunteers

ArtStart is a volunteer-run program that introduces students to important artists and art movements. These projects complement the classroom curriculum and wonderful art program already in place at MCS.

To run smoothly we need volunteers from each grade to help organize materials, coordinate classroom time, or teach a provided lesson. Please consider volunteering for this great program. The time commitment is flexible based on your schedule. No previous art or teaching experience is necessary.

An informational meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 27 at 9 a.m. Exact location TBA. Please contact Danielle Taylor at 649-1909 or danielletaylor10@gmail.com if you can help.

name, grade, and teacher. Teachers will keep the ear buds / headphones in a bin in the classroom. Ear buds / headphones should be functional, but there is no need to send expensive equipment.

The Vermont Department of Health has a useful website about head lice. It is <http://healthvermont.gov/prevent/lice/headlice.aspx>. You can also visit www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/ or www.headlice.org/. Thank you for your assistance.

—*Jan Hopkins*
School Nurse

Preparations well underway for Giving Bowls 2011

Giving Bowls 2011 is a month away and we need your help to get ready. Organizers are looking for volunteers to help paint the hundreds of ceramic bowls made over the summer. Anyone willing to help paint is encouraged to come to the Art Room from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on any remaining Tuesday and Thursday evening in September. The painted bowls will be placed on display before the start of the event for all to see.

Volunteers are also needed to help with set-up and clean-up, serve soup, hand-out bowls, etc. Please look to the next PTO Notes for more on this.



What is Giving Bowls?

Giving Bowls is meant to bring attention to hunger. Students and community members create and paint ceramic bowls which organizers then use to serve a simple meal of soup and bread.

Community members who attend the event get to keep their bowl as a reminder that there are always empty bowls in the world. Proceeds benefit Willing Hands, a local food collection agency for Upper Valley Food Banks.

KEY GIVING BOWLS DATES

September 20, 22, 27, and 29:
Art room open for volunteers to paint and decorate bowls

October 16th:
Giving Bowls 2011
2 to 4 p.m. on the Green

Parents gather for PTO back to school breakfast



Parents, caregivers, and young children gather by the flag pole after the start of school on August 31st for the PTO's annual back to school breakfast.

Class News

Dwayne Alexis, a Dartmouth Graduate intern in Mrs. Moore's class this semester, poses with his new 1st grade students. Dwayne grew up in NYC and ran on the Dartmouth track team. In fact he finished first in Norwich's annual Labor Day Road Race—making him the perfect person to keep up with the 1st grade.



Students line up on the front basketball court to wait for their new teachers (top). Mrs. Keogh plays a fun game with her new 2nd graders just after the morning bell rings on the first day of school. (right)



PTO sponsors emergency food and fund drive

In response to the recent flooding that devastated so many Vermont communities, the MCS PTO is coordinating an Emergency Flood Relief Food and Fund Drive. Each classroom and the front office will have a tub for collecting food / toiletries and a jar for collecting cash donations. We plan to offer our support to The Upper Valley Haven. The Haven is serving local residents devastated by the hurricane and partnering with agencies in hard hit areas to get help to neighbors most in need. We will

make a concerted effort to collect the listed items and money until September 21. We hope everyone will embrace this opportunity to pitch in and help. Many thanks.

— *Colleen Bozuwa & Lis Flannery*
Coordinators of PTO food drives

Items always in need include:

- Cereal (hot and cold)
- Peanut Butter and Jelly
- Canned fruits, vegetables, beans
- Pasta (all kinds) and pasta sauce
- Dry or evaporated milk

- Canned soups, stew, chili, tuna, sardines
- Canned tomatoes (whole, paste, diced, stewed)
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Pasta and rice sides
- Chick peas
- Dried beans, lentils, peas
- Bread
- Toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, toothbrushes, toothpaste, razors, deodorant, feminine products)
- Dish soap, laundry detergent
- Paper goods (plates, napkins, etc.)

Fall months promise days and nights full of fun at NPL

Let's All Go to the Movies. On Wednesday, September 21 (a half-day at MCS), kids are invited to attend our Midday Matinee. We'll show a movie about a family in trouble, until a certain nanny arrives to set things right. We'll start at 12:30, and popcorn and a juice-box will be provided, though children are welcome to bring their lunches from home. Movie running time: 90 minutes.

Calling All Kids in Third Grade and Up. Read on: Do you have an interest in LEGOs or photography or writing? We are trying to gage the number of kids who might want to meet at the Library and spend some time after-school once a month focusing on one of these topics. Call us at 649-1184 or email beth.reynolds@norwichlibrary.org to let us know your thoughts and when you might be free. Be sure to give us your contact information and we will be in touch with our

plans for the Fall. Whether you like to put pen to paper, see the world through a lens or build with blocks all hours of the day, we hope to see you here for some entertaining afternoons.

Two Events in Early October. Saturday, October 8 promises to be a big evening here at the Library. First we'll celebrate International Observe the Moon Night. Starting at 7 p.m., kids of all ages are invited for a variety of activities including: Pajama Storytime and cookies, Alka-seltzer rockets and the chance to look at the moon through our new binoculars. We received a grant for these binoculars and tripod, which will circulate to the community after the event is passed. Come join us.

After these festivities have ended, we'll start the next event: our second ever Read-a thon. Kids are invited to come and spend the night reading, having gotten sponsors

who have pledge so much per pages read. (A penny, a nickel, a dime for each page read.) We had a great time doing this a few years ago and there are several fabulous books being published in the next few weeks, including the latest "Lost Hero" book by Rick Riordan. The bookstore has generously offered to extend a 20 percent discount for books pre-ordered for this event.

Visit www.norwichlibrary.org or the Norwich Bookstore for a list of new books that can be pre-ordered. Attendees must RSVP for this event in order for us to have enough adults on hand to make it a fun, safe, and enjoyable evening. If you've always wanted to stay up all night at the Library, now is your chance. Please email beth.reynolds@norwichlibrary.org to RSVP or for more info.

— *beth reynolds*
Children's Librarian at NPL

Community News

Norwich marks 250 years with birthday celebration on the green



The Norwich University Color Guard return to the Norwich Green tomorrow to help Norwich celebrate 250 years. The photo on left shows the University Color Guard on the Green in 1968.

All residents are invited to celebrate Norwich's 250th birthday tomorrow at 2 p.m. on the Town Green. Cadets from the Norwich University Color Guard will join Governor Peter Shumlin and Congressman Peter Welch for the presentation of the

original town charter. In addition, Marion Cross students will read from the charter and perform special bicentennial music arranged by Fred Ladd with lyrics by Al Foley. Afterwards, Chad Finer will take a town wide photo. Vermont Crepe and Waffle and others will provide refreshments.

Please join us for this historic event! For more information please contact the Norwich Historic Society at 649-0124.

Appalachian Trail event on Sunday

Everyone is invited to celebrate Norwich's addition to the Appalachian Trail Community this coming Sunday, September 18th.

The AT Conservancy will sponsor a hike along the AT from Cossingham Rd. to Elm St and down to the Norwich Green. Families are most welcome and encouraged to attend.

After the hike, there will be special events for children on the Green, along with exhibits from businesses and organizations, and a "designation ceremony" for the town.

This is all followed up with a free barbecue as part of Norwich Night

at the Montshire.

If you have questions about the event, please contact [Elizabeth Maislen@hitchcock.org](mailto:ElizabethMaislen@hitchcock.org) or 802-526-9590. Questions about the hike can be addressed to JohnTaylor@uvtrails.org or 649-9075.

—Lindsay Putnam
LEEEP Coordinator

Meeting to learn about Girl Scouts

Girls in kindergarten through 6th grade are invited to become a Girl Scout.

A gathering for anyone wanting to learn more about scouting is planned for Tuesday, September 27 in the Marion Cross Multi-purpose Room.

Parents / caregivers and children can drop by anytime between 3:30 and 5:30 p.m.

Leaders, girls, and helpers are all needed. Please contact Dodi at boots.gsforever@gmail.com with any questions you may have about the Girl Scouts, which celebrates 100 years in March.

Appalachian Trail Hike & Celebration Sunday, September 18

1:30 p.m.
Meet at Huntley Meadows and carpool to Cossingham Road

2 p.m.
Hike 2.7 miles of Appalachian Trail to Norwich Green

3:30 p.m.
Exhibits and events for kids on the green

4 p.m.
Designation Ceremony

5 p.m.
Norwich night & BBQ at the Montshire Museum

Fundraising News

Local business partners program

What is the local business partners program? With this fundraising program, MCS helps our neighboring businesses grow while raising much needed funds for the school.

Local partners donate a fee to MCS and periodically give special offers to MCS families.

In turn, we feature them on the PTO website and newsletters. This program will raise around \$2,000 in much needed funds for the Marion Cross School while helping our neighbors and their local Norwich business.

In addition, as part of this program, each month, a PTO newsletter will feature an article that educates families about some aspect of the work / careers of each partner and a nonprofit of their choosing. Our

2011-12 Local Partners are:

- Dan and Whit's General Store
- Yummy Yammy
- King Arthur Flour
- The Norwich Bookstore
- Vreeland Clinic
- The Richards Group
- The Norwich Inn
- The Bike Hub
- Ledyard Bank
- Vermont Crepe & Waffle

How does this program work?
What do MCS families need to do?

In early October, each MCS family will receive a card to show when shopping at one of the local business partners. Exact details will appear in future PTO newsletters.

Fall Box Tops arrives with brand new challenge; it's time to get ready for Project Art Room aprons!

It's time to sharpen your scissors and start clipping because the first Box Tops for Education challenge of the school year is upon us!

From now until Friday, October 28th, we will hold a school wide challenge similar to the one last Spring. This time the goal is to collect enough Box Tops coupons (and dimes!) to purchase new aprons for the Art room. The classroom to bring



in the most Box Tops (and dimes) gets to wear the new aprons first!

Collection containers will arrive in classrooms by the end of this week. Simply send in your Box Tops for Education coupons with your child and he or she can put them in the box. Alternatively, you can bring in coupons to the Main Office. (If you choose this option, please put your Box Tops in an envelope or plastic bag with your child's name and teacher on it so the right class gets credit.)

Also, as you may have surmised, you can bring in dimes in lieu of Box Tops coupons if your family wants to participate but does not purchase Box Tops products.

MCS apparel available



Can't wait to show off your school spirit?!

CafePress offers t-shirts, both long and short sleeved, and sweatshirts with the MCS logo (shown above). Orders are accepted year round at www.cafepress.com/marioncross.

In addition, later this fall the PTO will sell MCS SpiritWear. Both CafePress and SpiritWear purchases support the PTO.

Please note that pricing for SpiritWear is better than what is available through Cafe Press, though the designs are different. Questions? Contact Karen at kjemery@comcast.net.

The children had a lot of good natured fun last year. We look forward to more friendly rivalry this Fall.

Please remember: we are not asking you to purchase new items with Box Tops Coupons on them. Rather we encourage you to look at what you already have in your pantry. You'll be surprised how many Box Tops you might find in odd places (soup cans, toilet paper rolls, etc.) So go forth and clip!

—Katie Kitchel & Jo Ellen Gardner,
Box Tops Coordinators

Partner Profile

Dan & Whits shares secrets of Norwich

Q. What does your company do?

A. Our company, Dan & Whit's, is a general store. We sell a little bit of everything. "If we don't have it, you don't need it." We are what all towns had before Wal-Mart's existed.

Q. What is the best part about doing business in Norwich?

A. The best part is definitely the people. Amazing and incredible people live right here, it is fun to see them on a daily basis. I enjoy knowing customers well enough to call them by name. Can you name celebrities that live(d) in town? How about Inventors? Scientists? Olympians? They all are friendly people!

Q. What is the one thing about your company you want us to know?

A. I want Norwich families to know you can't get more local than us, so come often. We appreciate the business!

Q. What skills are most important for you to have in a co-worker?

A. It is important that co-workers have excellent communication skills. It is often a fast paced environment and we need to react quickly when we get busy or situations arise (a bus arrives full of customers who don't speak English, a truck takes out the power line across Main Street and they close the road, etc.). Without good communication skills things get confusing fast.

Q. If you met a family moving to the Upper Valley, what would you say to convince them to live in Norwich?

A. Everything they need is right here. Have you ever tried to see how many days you can go and NOT leave town? We have restaurants, bookstores, consultants, the library, post office, a vet, etc. and of course Dan & Whit's! Anyone who moves here LOVES the place.

Q. Who was your favorite teacher in elementary school and why?

A. I loved all my teachers. Some are still at MCS and others have retired, but still live in town. Mrs. Nelson, my first grade teacher, brought her dog in on special occasions. (Her grandchildren go to MCS now!) Ceci Tseng, my second grade teacher, taught me a lot about writing. The ice rink is named in her honor and she is still in Norwich. My fourth Grade teacher, Mrs. Stone, taught my father, my uncle, and my siblings and cousins. She taught me the importance of reading as an essential life skill. During Mrs. Stone's first year as a teacher, Marion Cross was the principal. Mr. Girard was my fifth grade teacher. He is still at MCS (and so are his grandchildren!). He taught me to love science.

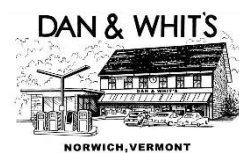
Q. As a community member what is one thing you appreciate about the Marion Cross School?

A. I appreciate the MCS PTO for encouraging local shopping. We bend over backwards for our excellent customers.

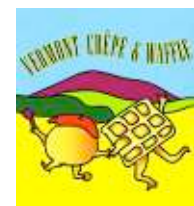
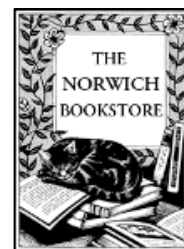
Q. What nonprofit do you wish MCS families supported and why?

A. The local nonprofit that I wish MCS families supported is the Upper Valley Aquatic Center (UVAC). This nonprofit organization is a top notch facility with a dedicated and committed staff. Its philosophy is that everyone should learn to swim. I encourage MCS families to take lessons and then you have a life skill. In addition to the lap pool, warm up pool and river and waterslide, UVAC has a fitness room, offers classes and has child care. A small cafe and tables allow parents to grab a bite to eat or check email, while their child is in lessons. Check them out at www.uvac-swim.org.

Thank you to our local business partners!



LEDYARD



Letter from the Principal

(Continued from page 1)

School District. He brings many years of experience working with faculty to integrate technology into their core content areas, and is already conducting teacher workshops to encourage a greater use of computers in the classroom.

Kathryn Carnahan, our new 4th grade teacher, has taught for 19 years in Arizona in both elementary and middle schools. Most recently, she worked in the Claremont School District and has a special interest in reading intervention and the use of technology in the classroom.

Our new speech pathologist is Mary Coffey (shown left). Mary moved to Hanover from Franklin Elementary School in St. Albans, VT where she was the speech and language teacher for students in kindergarten



through the 6th grade. As well as providing “one-to one” services to students with speech and language needs, she will work with teachers to encourage greater integration into the regular classroom.

Our long term substitute for second grade, Sarah Farrand, has lived in Vermont for more than 30 years. She comes to us from the Windsor and Hartford School Districts and is serving as the long term substitute for Melanie Devoid. She brings experience with “Investigations” math, “Foundations” and “Open Court” reading. Her passions are writing, history, and ecology.

Rebecca Cattabriga (shown upper right), our new special education paraprofessional, is a Norwich resident who attended Marion Cross. She recently received her Bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Southern Connecticut State University. Most recently, she has worked at the Child Care Cen-

ter in Norwich as a preschool teacher.

Finally, we are very grateful to the Dartmouth Teacher Education Program for placing Dwayne Alexis (below) in Ginny Moore’s 1st grade classroom where he will complete his student teaching. Dwayne is an avid cross country runner who, most recently, competed and placed first in the Norwich Labor Day race. His high energy is only matched by that of his first graders.

Please join me in welcoming our new students, parents, and faculty!

—Linda Kelley
Principal



The MCS Community values a tradition of educational excellence and is committed to nurturing the whole child in a climate of respect.

Marion Cross School
22 Church Street
P.O. Box 900
Norwich VT 05055
802-649-1703

PTO Notes is distributed twice each month by the Marion Cross PTO. Please email announcements you would like published to Michelle Avila at ptonotes@gmx.com. Text should be placed in the body of the email and not sent as an attachment. Sorry but the PTO Notes does not accept notices about commercial ventures (camps, classes, etc.).

We're on the Web! Visit us at www.marioncross.org/pto