

# **Middle School PA Newsletter**

**October 2009**

Dear Middle School Parents,

Welcome to the first MSPA Newsletter. In this newsletter we will outline the upcoming month's events at the MS, promote volunteer opportunities, recognize those who have volunteered, and make you aware of any additional MS news that is of interest. For a more comprehensive list of events for the months ahead, see the BB&N calendar [www.bbns.org/events/calendar](http://www.bbns.org/events/calendar). Also, for general information regarding the MS as well as all-school information go to [www.bbns.org/handbook](http://www.bbns.org/handbook).

We hope this newsletter is useful and informative as it is your link to the MS. We will send out additional e-mails for important reminders. If you have any questions, please e-mail us.

Sincerely,

Catherine Mandile, Lucia Marshall, Peggy Fitzgerald, and Maria Toffoloni

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**Show Your School Spirit and Support the Financial Aid Program!**

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## **What's Going on this Month?**

### **Back to School Night/PA Dessert**

**Thursday, October 1- 6:30 pm**

### **Athletics Introduction - 5:45 pm**

At 5:45 pm parents will have the opportunity to meet with Rick Foresteire, Director of Athletics. It's a great chance to learn and talk about the MS sports program. Meet your child's advisor and teachers; learn about homework expectations and academics and our Advisory Program. MS parents visit classes on a condensed schedule to meet teachers, see classrooms and learn more about the curriculum. Refreshments will be available throughout the evening.

**Coffee with MS psychologist, Dr. John Baker and MS counselor,  
Krista Haskell**

**Wednesday, October 7 - 8:15 am**

Topic: "Helping Your Child Adjust to Middle School Life" is a lively topic that always raises lots of questions.

**No School: Monday, October 12 - Columbus Day**

**No School: Tuesday, October 13 - Professional Day**

**8th Gr. ERB's and 7th Gr. Rube Goldberg Competition**

**Wednesday, October 14**

2:15 pm dismissal - Gr. 8 at MS and Gr. 7 at US

*Special Schedule this Week*

*No Sports but there are Games at end of week*

**Gr. 8 Field Trip to Salem/Gr. 7 ERB's**

**Thursday, October 15**

4 pm dismissal for Gr. 8 from MS (depending on returning traffic)

2 pm dismissal for Gr. 7 from MS

**MS Student Mix**

**Friday, October 16, 7:00 - 9:30 pm**

Gr. 7 and Gr. 8 dance at the MS. If you are interested in signing in students, providing food/drinks or chaperoning, please contact Ellie Loughlin at [peloughlin@aol.com](mailto:peloughlin@aol.com).

**MSPA and USPA Social/Speaker Event**

**Thursday, October 22 - 6:30 pm**

"Why Smart Kids Make Risky Choices."

The MSPA is joining forces with the USPA to present an evening of "Why Smart Kids Make Risky Choices." Dr. John Knight, the Director of the Center for Adolescent Substance Abuse Research (CeASAR) at Children's Hospital, will talk about how "Parents Can Protect Their Teen's Life and Future."

**Spirit Day**

**Friday, October 23 - 2:00 pm**

**All School BB&N Spirit & Alumnae Weekend October 23-24**

For Spirit Day all MS students meet at the US before, during or after their respective games to have some food and drink and raise the BB&N Spirit! Parents and family members come to cheer on the teams, help with refreshments, and promote school spirit. If you are interested in volunteering for this event, contact Alba Lopez at [albalopez@aol.com](mailto:albalopez@aol.com). The All School BB&N Spirit & Alumnae weekend continues on the 24th. The weekend offers many sports

events and it is a "celebration of the blue and gold." If you are interested in helping out with this event, please contact Alba Lopez at [albalopez@aol.com](mailto:albalopez@aol.com)

### **Soup Bowl and Making Sense of MS**

**Thursday, October 29**

**Soup Bowl - 6:00 pm**

**Making Sense of MS - 7:00 pm**

Join us prior to Making Sense of Middle School and enjoy good food and relaxing company and take home a wheel thrown stoneware soup bowl. Soup bowls are made by eighth grade students and Libby Maclaren. The cost is fifteen dollars which includes salad and bread. Proceeds will go to the LOVE and UNDERSTANDING program in Vietnam which supports poor children and their families.

If you would like to contribute a pot of soup for eight, a salad or bread, please contact Libby Maclaren at [elizabeth\\_maclaren@bbns.org](mailto:elizabeth_maclaren@bbns.org) or 617-800-2350.

At 7 pm a panel of teachers and Jamie Wallace, our Learning Specialist, will host a parent evening open to all who would like to hear more about how best to help MS children "make sense" of MS with increased academic expectations. Discussion will include how to support children with homework, internet searches and organization.

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## **Volunteer Opportunities**

### **Pizza Lunch**

Ellie Loughlin is still looking for volunteers to help out with pizza lunch. Please contact Ellie at [peloughlin@aol.com](mailto:peloughlin@aol.com) if you're interested in volunteering. Also if you have not sent in your payment for pizza lunch, please mail to MS Parents' Association, 80 Sparks Street, Cambridge, MA 02138.

### **Faculty Appreciation Luncheon:**

Looking for 12 Volunteers on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

Who takes care of your child from 7:45 am to 3:40 pm (most days)?

Who oversees your child's intellectual, social and emotional development (not to mention grammatical skills, critical thinking and computational abilities) for 40 hours each week?

Who stays up late reading your offspring's evolving prose?

Who chooses to spend their working lives with 12 and 13 year olds?

## OUR BELOVED MIDDLE SCHOOL FACULTY AND STAFF!

Please help us show our appreciation by volunteering to help with MS Faculty Appreciation this year: Food is love!

Each month the MS Faculty Appreciation Committee hosts a special lunch for faculty and staff at which parents provide the food, drinks, decorations, set up and clean up. You can help by contributing a dish and/or coming to help set up or clean up.

The first luncheon will be held on: **Friday, October 16**

Additional luncheons will be held in November, January, February, April and May, specific dates to be determined.

We need 12 volunteers per lunch to help with this important aspect of MS life. There are TWO ways you can help - simply donate some food or volunteer to help on the day of one of the lunches (or both!).

Please contact Shannon Hayden at [shannon\\_hayden@verizon.net](mailto:shannon_hayden@verizon.net) or Kevyn Fusco at [kevynfusco@verizon.net](mailto:kevynfusco@verizon.net).

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## Special Thank Yous

Once again we'd like to thank Ellie Loughlin for running the Ice Cream Social. Our appreciation goes out to all parents who came to help set-up, clean-up and scoop as well as to all those who came to socialize and meet other parents.

Thank you to Ellie Loughlin, Barbara Kohler, Susan Tinagero, Cindy Savage and Joan Rosenberg for successfully organizing the first Pizza Lunch as well as to all the parent volunteers who served pizza to the kids.

Appreciation goes out to Peggy Fitzgerald, Randi Cutler, Brett Little and Maura Connolly for their fabulous efforts taking pictures of our children. The photographs graciously framed by Lucia Marshall are hanging above the cubbies outside the Big Room. Check them out!

Have a wonderful October and please contact us if you have any questions, comments or concerns.