

Middle School Parents' Association December 2009 Newsletter

Dear Middle School Parents,

December has arrived quicker than we thought. Please look over the newsletter for it is full of important information. We look forward to seeing everyone at Winterfest which will be followed by a coffee and dessert gathering. If you have any questions or concerns, please be sure to contact us. Have a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year. We will see you in January.

Sincerely,

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

What's Going on this Month?

8th Grade FCD Parent/Student Event Thursday, December 3rd, 7:00 pm to approximately 8:30 pm

Light Refreshments will be available beforehand.

As part of our health education program and ongoing commitment to prevention and wellness, we have invited Glenn Hall of Freedom from Chemical Dependency (FCD) Educational Services to join our community for the week of November 30 - December 4. He will be meeting with 8th grade students in small groups during that week. At least one parent is required to attend the evening.

FCD is a non-profit organization based in Newton that provides alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention for schools and colleges in the United States and abroad. Since 1976, they have taught over a million students of all ages.

Their mission is to:

- Provide students, parents, teachers, and school administrators with up-to-date information on the physiological and psychological effects of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs;
- Empower young people to make healthy, responsible choices regarding alcohol and other drug use;
- Encourage and support the non-use of alcohol and other drugs during adolescence;
- Teach students and adults how to recognize the early warning signs of chemical dependency and to intervene appropriately.

There will be a short introduction by Glenn Hall and then we'll break into small group discussions with parents and non-related children. Come ready to participate as well as listen—it's important for all voices to be heard in the small groups.

Parental involvement is crucial to our efforts to reduce the risks that teenagers face. We want our students to hear from both school and home that we are concerned and committed to keeping them safe. The FCD program presents a perfect opportunity for discussing drug-related issues with your children. Encourage them to talk about what they have learned during their time with "Mr. G." You may be surprised by the enthusiasm of their responses. The course is known for its lively interaction, challenging discussions and high-energy fun. Most students find it extremely informative and thought-provoking.

16 in 60

Wednesday, December 9, 7pm

16 in 60 is a cabaret style show with 16 "acts" performed in 60 minutes. This is a collaborative effort of drama and music featuring a multimedia presentation comprised of videos, scenes, and singing with cameo appearances by members of the faculty. You will not want to miss this premiere performance of this student-created and performed production.

Winterfest/MSPA Holiday Dessert

Wednesday, December 16, 6 pm

Please join the MS students and parents for a wonderful evening of celebrating the Arts. There will be performances by the Jazz band, orchestra and chorus as well as art exhibits. Please stay for a gathering and share some holiday cheer with other families before the winter break. Hope to see you there.

Winter Break Begins

Friday, December 18, 2:05 pm pick-up at MS

Classes Resume

Monday, January 4

MS Ski Trip

Monday, January 25, 7:45 am

The MS students will be going to Loon Mountain for a fun day of skiing and snowboarding. All students of all levels are welcome. Bus transportation will be provided departing the MS at 7 am and returning by 6 pm. Financial assistance is available. Please contact Mary Dolbear directly for information. We hope everyone will come.

Sign-up packages for this event will be available later this month.

We need chaperones! Parents are needed for support on the bus ride as well as at the mountain. If you are interested, please contact Peggy Fitzgerald at fenchak@gmail.com.

Special Thank You's

Thank you to all of the MS parents who helped make OSOW such an enormous success - Kay Kane, Lucia Marshall, Stella Bissainthe, Ann-Marie Clarke, Val Talland, Nickie Phan, Mary Grenham, Yuriko Young, Ani Haney, Joan Rosenberg, Kate Kellogg, Junghee Ko, Jane Hamilton, Hong Ji, Sumalee Passeretti, Mary Palaima, Jing Zhang, Janine Cozier and Charmaine Tyler. Our gratitude goes out to Libby Maclaren and Rachel Nagler for coordinating and setting-up the wonderful MS artwork.

We would also like to extend our thanks to Beth Brooks, Libby Maclaren, Cathy Cuddy and all of the MS parents - Stella Bisainthe, Lynda Boyages, Hillary Brown, John Burnstein, Sara Cabot, Randi Cutler, Steven Dotolo, Erin Gilligan, Mary Grenham, Jane Hamilton, Ani Haney, Shams Karimi, Di Kirwan, Nancy McIntyre, Rachel Rock, Joan Rosenberg, Barbara Southcote and Joan Strodel – and MS faculty for their flexibility, generosity, and wonderful contributions to making Giving Thanks Day such a special event.

As always, a huge thank you to Shannon Hayden and Kevyn Fusco and their cast of parent volunteers for organizing the wonderful Faculty Luncheons.

Teacher/Parent Conferences Follow-up

Many of you have already connected with Mary Dolbear regarding your feedback on the teacher/parent conferences. Thank you. Since this was the first year for teacher/parent conferences, the school will be evaluating how it went overall. If you have any specific feedback or suggestions, please pass onto Mary at mary_dolbear@bbns.org or 617-800-2330.