

MMS NEWSLETTER

Mystic Middle School
October 2005

204 Mistuxet Avenue, Mystic, CT 06355

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT:

I want to personally thank everyone, staff, teachers and parents for your warm welcome during Open House.

Your PTO is off to a great start!

Our first meeting was held on Monday, September 26th with many parents, teachers and staff in attendance. If you've signed up to volunteer for an activity or event, the committee chairperson **will** be calling you soon. Thank you to all who have signed up. And please know that it is never too late to volunteer!

Without further ado, I want to let you all know that I will be staying on as your president and sharing the role with a wonderful and very energetic 5th grade parent Michele Crowley. We are still looking for a Secretary and a Family Night Coordinator.

Our Yankee Candle Fundraiser has been a great success again. Remember, 50% of this profit goes back to your children towards their DC Trip. I want to thank Sue Leahy and Liz Kawabata for chairing this fundraiser.

- **The Directory** is currently being worked on. Thank you to all who have submitted their orders.
- **Evergreen Sales** should be underway now. As you know all orders need to be in early to meet delivery just after Thanksgiving Break.
- **Citrus Sales** will take place this year! This fundraiser also provides a method for raising funds for your child's DC Trip. It gives 50% of the profit back to each child

ABOUT FUNDRAISING

There are currently two PTO fundraisers that support our children's DC account: The Yankee Candle and Citrus. At our last PTO meeting Natalee announced that the DC coordinators will accept direct donations to a child's DC account. But parents, please be aware that those funds cannot be funneled via the PTO. Be sure to send any direct DC payments to the trip coordinators.

**To arrive at the simplest
truth requires years of
contemplation.'**
Isaac Newton

Next PTO meeting: Monday, Nov. 7th at 7pm. Come meet my new co-chair.

Contact me with any concerns...
Terri Rathbun, Co-President

email terri_rathbun@comcast.net

SCHOOL STORE OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

The MMS store is now officially open every other Tuesday during lunch. Opening day was October 11th. Many fun (and handy) school supplies are available for sale including clarinet and saxophone reeds, unique pencils, fun pencil grips, exciting pens, locker mirrors, notebooks and much, much more. Please remember to send your child in with some extra money on these following dates:

October 25, November 8, 22, December 6 & 20.
All proceeds benefit the MMS PTO.

MMS FALL BOOKFAIR- OCT. 24-28TH

The MMS Fall Bookfair will be held in the Auxillary Gym from Monday Oct. 24-Friday Oct. 28th. Hours are 8am-2:30pm. Family Night will be Wed. Oct. 26 from 5:30-8:00pm. Our generous PTO will again offer FREE Pizza and Drinks during Family night hours. Any parent is invited to

browse the bookfair during all hours of operation. Start your holiday shopping early!! Questions or Volunteers, call Clare Sartor. Hope to see you there!



**WINTER BAND
CONCERT**

**Wednesday,
December 7, 2005**

The week of November 21, 2005, each band member will bring home an envelope containing a concert information/permission slip letter as well as three tickets for each family. The **Student Responsibility Slip** for the concert will be due on Wednesday, November 30, 2005. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

<p>Concert One 5:30 PM Seventh Grade Band Fifth Grade Band Jazz Band</p>

<p>Concert Two 7:30 PM Eighth Grade Band Sixth Grade Band Jazz Band</p>
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**2005-2006 MYSTIC MIDDLE SCHOOL
JAZZ BAND**

Congratulations to the members of the 2005-2006 Mystic Middle School Jazz Band:

- Saxophones** - Patrick B., Hartney D., Ryan K., Eddie R. and Molly R.
- Trombones** - Nisah F., Tad S., Devin W., Jeff P., and J.J. R.
- Trumpets** - Alex F., Bryan L., Geoffrey R., Eric W., and T.J. W.
- Rhythm** - Jim C., Caroline G., Michael M., Ben M., Fiona S. and Sam S.

**STUDENT TEACHER FROM THE HARTT
SCHOOL OF MUSIC**

Miss Ashley Crawford from the University of Hartford, The Hartt School, has been student teaching with Mr. Hilbie since the beginning of the school year. She has worked with all the band

students as well as spending observation time in the chorus classes with Mrs. Gilbert. Miss Crawford is an extremely talented musician/teacher and has a wonderful future in education. We wish her the best of luck and look forward to hearing about all her successes.

A NOTE FROM MISS CRAWFORD:

Dear Mystic Middle School Staff, Students, and Parents,

I would like to thank you all for welcoming me into your school. In addition to working with Mr. Hilbie, I have had the opportunity to observe several other great teachers. I found all of the staff to be very supportive of one another and the students. I also met several parents, all of whom were friendly and excited to talk about their students and the positive things happening in the music program. My greatest interactions here, of course, were with the students. I enjoyed not just teaching music and instruments, but also being part of a full arts experience that included singing and dancing. I have worked with, and listened to many individuals and it has been wonderful watching them improve over the short amount of time that I've been here. Mystic Middle School is, without a doubt, the type of learning community that I eventually hope to be a part of.

~Miss Crawford

STONINGTON SINGERS

Congratulations to the following students who make up the 2005-6 Stonington Singers:

- Cody A., Ian C., Avery D., Sarah G., Georgia N., Renee S., Asa S., Mitchell K., Ivan C., Matt C., Elizabeth H., Eddie R., Kyle R., R.J. Mc., Ethan M., April C., Megan Rose C., Averie D., Noelle H., Emily H., Eric L., Stacey M., Ellen P., Jeni S., Ford W., Caroline Z., Michelle A., Brittney B., Sarah B., Henry C., Sienna C., Stephen G., Didi H., Pat K., Maddy L., Justine N., Kyleen P., Sarah R., Erica S., Crystal S., Sarah S., Nicole V., Tori W.

Salt Marsh Opera's *La Boheme*

Congratulations to Megan Rose C. and Georgia N. who just finished performing in the production of "La Boheme".

Lantern Light Tours

The Mystic Seaport will be hosting it's annual Lantern Light tours. Several of our own MMS Students have auditioned for the tours. Let's support our students who will be in the show - Caroline Z. and Liz S..

Shakespeare's *Macbeth*

Maddy L. (8th) has been cast in the production of *Macbeth*. The shows will be taking place at the Flock Theatre. Look in our local newspapers for more info and ticket information.

American Choral Directors Eastern Division Junior High Honor Choir

Congratulations to Patrick K. who auditioned and was chosen to participate in this amazing opportunity. Patrick will be among 100 singers that were chosen from the entire eastern seaboard. The choral festival takes place in New York City with a final concert in Carnegie Hall.



MMS/SHS CITRUS SALE -IT'S BACK!!

MMS/SHS will be selling citrus this year. In years past, this great quality fruit has been delicious and very popular. The sale will be starting on November 1 and will end on November 11. The flyers and order forms will be going out to the students so please look in the backpacks. We will be looking for many able bodies (students can help too!) to help unload the trucks when the fruit arrives and for other jobs. If you haven't already volunteered and would like to do so or if you have any questions, please contact either Pam Mola or Paula Bovino. We will be contacting the volunteers that have already signed up.

LIBRARY NOTES & QUOTES

October is teen read month. Get a young person to talk to you about their favorite genre. Is it a mystery, horror, or historical fiction? All the genres are found in the library. The year has started off with a bang: more books and magazines than ever have gone out. Our new 5th graders love the magazine collection. They go out as soon as they come in. All 5th graders are in the library at least twice a week, once for class and a second time for a book chat and time to sign something out. They are currently working on index usage and using keyword search in class.

The 6th grade is doing an author study using the computers and keyword search. They will use their speaking and writing skills to present their author to their classmates. They too have been busy checking books out both to go with their country presentations and of course, mysteries for the month of October.

7th & 8th graders drop by to visit and to check out the newest additions we have.

Our web page is under construction but can be accessed from home via the school site. We are setting up easy access to all types of reference materials. One of the sites is www.noodletools.com, a bibliography site for anyone in the Stonington district to use for their citation purposes. Please go see it and use it. While on our page look at www.iconn.org, the Connecticut Digital Library. It is a wonderful reference for the entire family. The business and health sections are great resources for many of your needs.

Our volunteers are doing a wonderful job. They can testify to the numbers of collections for classrooms that keep going out to keep up with the various curriculum units. Thanks to our volunteers we can get items back on the shelves for the next group.

Please stop in and visit when you are in the building. We are open from 7:20 a.m. each day till the late bus three days a week (M, Tues. & Thurs.). However, if your student is staying after please have them double check with me to make sure that I do not have a meeting that I need to attend. Feel free to call me with any question at 536-3167.

-Karen Chapman, Library Media Specialist

Remember the Book Fair: October 24th - 28th.

HOLIDAY EVERGREENS

Please keep an eye out for flyers to come home the week of October 17th with the Holiday Evergreen Sale. Orders are due back by October 28th. This is not a fundraiser, but more a spirit of goodwill for our MMS families. If anyone has questions or would like to volunteer with distribution the week after Thanksgiving, please call Pam Mola.



STAFF APPRECIATION DAY

If you would like to help with Staff Appreciation Day please call Cindy Thibdeau.

Staff Appreciation Day is a parent or grandparent's way of saying "thank you" to all of the people at Mystic Middle School for helping the children in so many ways everyday. In the past, we have had people drop off muffins, breads, cakes, pies, cookies, cheese and crackers, fruits, appetizers, salads, soups, and casseroles. I will shop for basic supplies, beverages, paper goods, and set up and clean up. If you don't cook, a jug of cider or a bag of apples would be nice. It's a special day to honor a group of special people. I will call you in November. We are all busy (but should not be too busy) to say thank you.

Let's make it the best this year! -Cindy Thibdeau

MMS DIRECTORY

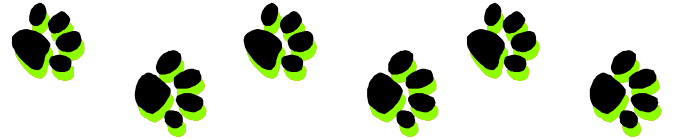
Jane Connelly is assembling the Mystic Middle School Directory this year starting from student registration information. If you filled out a directory update form with family information, the submitted information and updated material will be included. **The absolute deadline to submit information and place orders is Friday, October 21.** Please send in your information and orders to school in an envelope marked "MMS PTO Directory". Call Jane if you have any questions or additions. The directories cost \$5.00. We will only make a few extras.

YANKEE CANDLE

Thank you for your tremendous support. Our total sales exceeded \$17,000! Congratulations to all the students in Room 219, Ms. McGugan's class with 17 students participating in the fundraiser - - Pizza Party!!! As soon as we get a delivery date from Yankee Candle, we will soon send home a notice with the students informing you of the pick-up dates and times!

-Sue Leahy and Liz Kawabatas

ATTENTION 8th GRADE PARENTS:



The 8th Grade graduation party has been tentatively scheduled for Friday June 9th, 2006. We are looking for volunteers for the following committees:

Decoration

Food

Clean-Up

Set-Up

Entertainment

Bake Sales

Fundraising

Be on the look-out for informational flyers to be going home soon. In the past, about \$3,000.00 has been raised for the party. We have a lot of work ahead of us. We'd like to make this party very memorable for our graduating students!

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please call or e-mail:

Laurie Giordano at
lgiordano@tieronedevlopment.com

Carole Nossek at
cjossek210@aol.com

SHS OPEN HOUSE

Public invited to tour completed Stonington High School!

The Stonington K-12 School Building Committee invites the public to an open house at Stonington High School from 10am to noon, Saturday, October 22nd. As part of Stonington High School's Homecoming

weekend, tours of the completely renovated and expanded high school will be conducted and committee members and school administrators will be available to answer questions about the \$39 million building project that is now essentially complete.

The project, overwhelmingly approved by voters in April 2002, was designed by architects from Fletcher Thompson Architecture, Engineering, Interior Design of Shelton. Construction was managed by Gilbane Building Company of Providence, RI.

A two-story classroom wing was completed when school opened in 2004, and the rest of the project, including expanded athletic facilities, a renovated auditorium, new library-media center and a new music suite was complete for the opening of school this year. Construction of a parking lot north of the school building and landscaping are expected to be completed this fall.

COMING EVENTS

Oct. 17-28 Evergreen Sale

Oct. 24-28- Book Fair MMS

Oct. 22- SHS Open House 10am-noon

Nov. 1-11 Citrus Sale

November- Staff Appreciation Day

Nov. 7, 7pm – PTO meeting

Nov. 18,19,20 SHS Drama Performance

Dec. 7th- Winter Band Concerts 5:30 & 7:30pm

Dec. 20th Choral Concert Pawcatuck Middle School 7pm

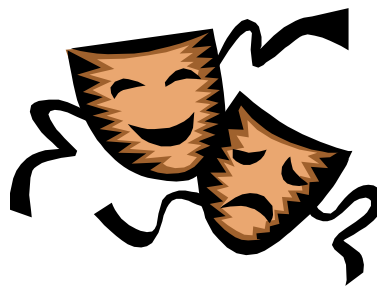
June 9th- 8th Grade Graduation Party

THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER...

Please use it!! **Deadline for material is the 15th of each month!** Please email any material for the newsletter to mkyffdodd@hotmail.com. Please just copy your file onto the email or type it as an email. Do not send your file as an attachment if it is not in Microsoft Word. I may not be able to open it. Material may also be put in the MMS Newsletter mail slot at MMS. Thanks!

-Marion Dodd, Editor

Look for your next MMS newsletter at the end of November. Submissions must be received by November 15th!!



SHS DRAMA SOCIETY PRESENTS:

Bull in a China Shop

A Mystery comedy written by C.B.

Gilford in 1958

Performances:

Friday & Saturday, Nov. 18 & 19 at 7:30pm

Sunday, November 20 at 2pm

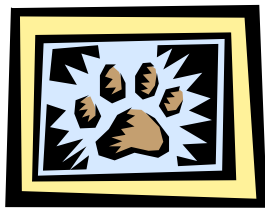
Tickets available at the door.

When a houseful of sweet, little old ladies discover that a handsome bachelor lives across the street, they are delighted. When they learn that he is none other than Detective Dennis O'Finn of Homicide, they are faced with the problem of how to attract his attention. The answer is simple: a nice, genteel homicide with a cup of tea as the murder weapon. When a brash young woman reporter begins to suspect the truth, she becomes the next target.

O'Finn is terribly embarrassed when, at last, he discovers that he himself is the motive for these madcap goings-on, and, in desperation, manages to solve the case. But, the dear old ladies are too fond of him, and in the end they turn the tables on him!

This script was first a short story in Ellery Queen's mystery magazine and later achieved success on "Alfred Hitchcock Presents". *Bull in a China Shop* is a classic of the mystery comedy genre.

Many thanks to Tuition Management Systems of Warwick, RI for generously donating the printing of this newsletter! www.afford.com



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