



# Keeping Pace With Nelson Place

Nelson Place School  
Parent Teacher Organization  
February, 2011



## Student Highlights

Congratulations to Madelyn Carnes for her essay published in the Worcester Telegram's Happy Times Pages!

### Madelyn Carnes, Grade 4

Many people like to do many hobbies. I have a few and my favorite is drawing. I especially like to draw pictures for my family. I love to draw puppies, hearts, peace signs, and a lot of other animals. I could draw all day if I wanted to. One day my mom told me I have a talent for drawing, and she also said I put a lot of passion into it. I knew that day she believed in me and that I could be a great drawer. I and a lot of other people like to draw and I was inspired to draw by some artists. I really hope when I grow up if I become an artist I will inspire other young drawers!

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From the desk of **Kathleen Murphy, Grade 5:**

I've visited and been in the hospital. It's not fun-needles being pricked in and out of you, tests being done, big teams of doctors coming in and out of your room all of the time. But worst of all, there is nobody to play with you! The Hole In The Wall Gang Camp has an outreach program right here in Worcester, Massachusetts at UMass Hospital. Volunteers from the Connecticut camp come to hospital rooms and entertain children, but there's a problem-they're always running out of supplies!

Miss Quitadamo and fourth and fifth grade parents are helping out the Hole In The Wall Gang Camp for the second year in a row. As you probably know last year the present fifth grade, who had Miss Quitadamo, put together a poetry book and all the proceeds went to the Camp. We raised enough money to pay for a sick child to go to camp for one week in the summer!

This year Miss Quitadamo has done a phenomenal job starting off another fundraising drive. Therefore, we kindly ask you and your family to donate arts and craft supplies. Miss Quitadamo sent a newsletter home about what the Outreach Program needs, so please donate! All items can be dropped off in the designated box in the front lobby of the school all year long! **WHEN YOU CONTRIBUTE, YOU WILL HAVE A WARM PLACE IN YOUR HEART FOREVER!**  
**THANK YOU!**

## Books and Beyond and TRRIP

Reading sheets were due Jan. 31st, so if you haven't turned yours in, do so quickly. February is the last station for Books and Beyond. TRRIP goes through April. The Books and Beyond Ceremony is scheduled for March 31st and the TRRIPP carnival is scheduled for May 13th. Six Flags reading sheets are due by Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>, but you can turn them in anytime to your teacher. If any parents are interested in earning a free ticket to Six Flags as well, we are looking for volunteers to enter the students' reading info online. If you are willing to do this for your child's class to earn a free ticket, contact Jill Andros at [jill@androsfamily.com](mailto:jill@androsfamily.com).

## Love your school week 2/14-2/18

Our school has been selected by *PTO Today* to participate in Bounty's Make a Clean Difference program! As a participant in "We Love Our School" week, we will receive an ample supply of Bounty paper towels and spray bottles of Mr. Clean to help spruce up our classrooms and show school pride. Please contact Deb Steigman at [dsteigo@verizon.net](mailto:dsteigo@verizon.net) if you would like to volunteer for our cleanup efforts.

**MORNING DROP OFF** In order to make morning drop off as effective as possible amidst cold weather and growing snow piles, there will be supervision at the school for students beginning at 8:30 am. Principal Kelley is asking for all parents to come early and drop students off in the turnaround in front of the gym. Parents should pull forward as much as possible in order for several cars to pull up at a time and students should be ready to exit the vehicle quickly.

## Upcoming Events

**February 21<sup>st</sup>-February 25<sup>th</sup>**  
No School - Winter Vacation

**Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup>**  
PTO Meeting - 7p.m.

**Library Notice** Due to the number of snow days we have had, we need to close the library for class visits until MAP testing is completed at the end of February.

### Enrichment Committee

The Enrichment Committee will be bringing in "Harriet Tubman" on March 3<sup>rd</sup> in observance of black history month (February) and women's history month (March).

**Mark your calendars! Spree Day** is scheduled for June 10<sup>th</sup>! We are looking forward to having many volunteers this year, as in the past, to make this a great success!

**Box Tops News** - There will be an upcoming Box Tops contest beginning mid-February to celebrate Dr. Seuss and reading. All you will need to do is bring in 10 valid Box Tops and you will be awarded a cool prize!! FYI - Brita has just joined the Box Tops team so please start looking for the logo on these products as well as all of the other products that carry the Box Tops logo. For an updated list of all participating products, just go to [boxtopsforeducation.com](http://boxtopsforeducation.com) and follow the link.

### Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair will be held **March 7-9** in the library. The theme this year is **Book Fair Carnival – Your Ticket to Read!** Posters advertising the book fair are up in the library, so please check them out! Children in K-6 will visit the book fair with their classroom teachers during the school day at scheduled times March 7-9. More information about exact times and order forms, which will highlight this year's featured books, will go home in backpacks the week before the fair.

The book fair will also be open one evening for our **Family Night Event**. Families can shop the book fair together on **Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-8:00 pm**. This year, to go along with the carnival theme, the PTO has hired a magician! Thanks to the generous donation from the Enrichment Committee and the PTO, the Stupendous Mr. Magichead ([www.mrmagichead.com](http://www.mrmagichead.com)) will perform that evening to entertain our K-4 children. He will be performing in the cafeteria for about an hour beginning at 6pm. The book fair will be open before, during, and after the show. Scholastic now accepts all major credit cards, along with cash and personal checks (made payable to Nelson Place PTO).

Along with the book fair, we will be collecting donations for One For Books. For every dollar donated, Scholastic matches that 100% in "scholastic dollars" which allows us to purchase more books for Nelson Place. Be on the lookout for information on how you can help out with the One For Books loose change drive. We will need help from parents to run the Book Fair store, so please look for Volunteer sign up sheets to come home in backpacks in mid-February. For more information on the book fair, please contact Amy Hurley at [ahurley@assumption.edu](mailto:ahurley@assumption.edu).

**LAST CHANCE!!! Save \$\$\$ When You Hit The Slopes!!** SAVE \$5 when you order lift tickets for Wachusett Mountain online! Enter code DON-NPS when you place your order at [www.wachusett.com](http://www.wachusett.com) through 2/28/2011. In addition, each time the code is used, our friends at Wachusett make a \$10 donation to our PTO! Pass on to family and friends!! A flyer for forwarding is on the PTO website!

**UPCOMING TESTING** As mentioned in the January newsletter, MAP testing will continue through February. In mid March, Massachusetts's Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) testing will begin for grades 3 through 6. This testing helps to assess where students are in the learning cycle and helps with planning lessons to meet current and future needs. As with any school day, a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast are always key components to a good day. The first week of both March and April MCAS testing will include a special breakfast for each grade! Exact dates will be included in the March newsletter.

**PARENT VOLUNTEERS WANTED!** Every Nelson Place parent and teacher is a member of our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). Volunteering at or for your child's school is rewarding for both parents and children. Please consider attending our monthly PTO meeting. In addition to our regular volunteer opportunities, there will be many fun chances to get involved this spring... assisting with the Scholastic Book Fair (day and evening hours), Teacher Appreciation Week, SPREE Day, Kindergarten Open House and much more!! Watch for more details coming soon or visit the PTO website: [www.nelsonplacepto.org](http://www.nelsonplacepto.org).

**PTO Meetings** will continue to be held on Mondays at 7pm through the remainder of the school year. Following are the remaining meeting dates for the year: February 28, March 21, April 25, and May 16. As always all parents and Nelson Place staff are welcome!!

### 2010/2011 PTO OFFICERS

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