

News from the students, staff, faculty and PTO of the George H. Potter School

George H. Potter School, 185 Cross Road, Dartmouth, MA 02747 phone 508-996-8259; fax 508-990-0250

Heidi Silva Brooks, Principal and Publisher

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State Mandated Testing - Next-Generation Testing

## MCAS 2.0

Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System

We participated in an Infrastructure Trial to ensure that our technology (computers and wifi) were up to the challenge. Our students also participated in practice tests and learned how to use the various tools available on the testing platform. So, fingers crossed...we're ready to go!

We have set our testing schedule as follows -

Grade	ELA	Math	Science
3	April 25, 27, 28	May 9 & 10	NA
4	April 3, 4, 6	May 4 & 5	NA
5	April 11, 12, 13	May 2 & 3	May 11 & 12

Please keep this in mind when scheduling appointments.

## PreSchool & Kindergarten News

- **Preschool** – Registration and Screening has taken place. Students selected through the lottery process will be notified by the end of April. If you are interested in the program but have not registered your child, you should contact Melissa McHenry, Early Childhood Director at Cushman School – 508-996-3926. A rolling waitlist will be available.
- **Kindergarten** - Registration continues! It is important that we have an accurate count so PLEASE encourage your neighbors and friends to register as soon as possible. Please contact Registrar Christine Oliveira at 508-997-3391 ext. 1108.



## Hats Off

to our Potter Community for donating \$1,126 to the Potter Plungers to benefit Special Olympics to 5<sup>th</sup> Grader Emma Carrier for challenging us to participate in this event

to our Potter Community for donating items for the Homeless in our area  
(Special Thanks to Mallaika Paine for delivering our donations)



## Join Us Sunday, May 7th 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Potter PTO 5K Road Race

This years Road Race will benefit our STEM programs across all grade levels  
More information is available on the official website –

<http://potter5k.weebly.com> as well as

the Potter School PTO and Potter 5K FaceBook.

Watch for additional paper notices regarding – Sponsorships; Race Registration; Raffles; and a Fun Run!  
Don't forget to cheer us on along the race course!

## ATTENTION PARENTS

These reminders have appeared in the Potter Pages previously. Notes have also been issued to folks as reminders. However, since our reminders have gone unfollowed, the Dartmouth Police will monitor our lot and will issue tickets accordingly.

### Parent Drop Off

- There is a clearly marked 'Drop Off' lane. This lane is to be used if you choose to drop off your child(ren) to independently walk to the front door.
- If you choose to walk your child to the front door, you MUST park in a spot in the lot.
- Everyone is responsible for monitoring the motion of their vehicle and being watchful of pedestrians big and small.

### Parent Pick Up

Our staff is working hard to ensure our students' safety during dismissal. Please help us by:

- Being visible to the adult dismissing your child
- Keeping your child with you once they have been dismissed to you
- Monitoring your children on the playground; the wooded area is off limits as it is not clear of hazards

### In addition

- Smoking and Dogs are NOT permitted on school grounds
- Thank you for following these requests and helping to keep everyone at Potter School safe!

**-REMINDER-**  
**EARLY DISMISSAL DAY**  
Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> - Dismissal at 12:55



*Making Music*  
 Mariel Zangari, Music Teacher

♪ It's all fun and games in music for grades 1-4 who are all playing the same game using different instruments. Grade 4 are using their recorders to play while grades 1-3 are using the xylophones to play the game. Students roll a dice and play the corresponding melody pattern on their instruments. The older students have the extra challenge of figuring out the note names on their pattern before they play.

♪ Kindergarteners are exploring musical steps in music so do ask us how to, 'tap a Do Re Mi'.

♪ Grade 5 chorus are also working on other musical steps called choreography for their Spring concert. Stay tuned! All are invited to our concert featuring our 5<sup>th</sup> grade band, strings and chorus on Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at DMS.

*At Your Service*

Paul Chouinard & Carrie Gregoire  
 Outreach Workers



Our weekly Second Step classes are focusing on Problem Solving. Our students have been taught to use **STEP** when faced with a problem.

- Say Problem
- Think of Solutions
- Explore Consequences
- Pick Best Solution

This is certainly a strategy that you can use at home as well. The more this strategy is practiced the easier it will be to recall it when needed.

Our next big celebration will be held on Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> – Cinco de Mayo! Our students are working diligently to receive Catch Me at My Best coupons. Our goal is 1700 coupons! We've done it before so we're confident that our students can do it again!

Although the weather hasn't felt very spring-like our student's behavior has certainly changed. Is it Spring Fever? Is it Cabin Fever? Call it what you will we have scheduled a Booster Week for the week of April 24<sup>th</sup>. We will review our school-wide expectations at that time hoping that everyone settles themselves back to school-mode. For your reference, here are our expectations:

- Follow Directions Promptly
- Keep Hands/Feet/Objects to Self
- Positive Language/Actions
- Staying in Own Space
- Being On Time/Prepared

Again, these expectations can be used at home as well.

Our lives are complicated and so are the lives of our children/students. In order to concentrate on schoolwork our students need to know that their 'world' is okay. Let us know how we can help – you may reach us directly at 508-996-8259 ext. 4718 (CG) or ext. 4730 (PC).



**Rx WATCH**



Paula Lassey, Potter School Nurse

- Flu season is still upon us! Please watch for signs and symptoms.
- Dress in **LAYERS**. The temperature fluctuates within our building. Some classrooms are warmer or cooler than others. Plus, the daily outdoor temperatures fluctuate as well. So we need layers so we can be comfortable whether we are inside or outside throughout the day.
- Spring also brings a rise in Head Lice and Ticks! Please check your child's head weekly for lice and daily for ticks.
- Please inform me of any health concerns or changes throughout the school year.
- Contact me directly at 508-996-8259 ext. 4604

**ATTENTION 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE PARENTS**

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Party Planning is underway!  
 Join us Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> 6:00  
 to hear about our theme and party needs!

**-REMINDERS-**

**EARLY DISMISSAL DAY**

Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> - Dismissal at 12:55

**NO SCHOOL**

Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>

**SCHOOL VACATION WEEK**

April 17-21

**REMEMBER TO VOTE - TUESDAY, APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup>**

Contested Races Include:

**Select Board (Vote for ONE)**

- Stanley M. Mickelson *Candidate for Re-Election*
- Lorri-Ann V. Miller

**School Committee Member (Vote for TWO)**

- Christopher J. Garth *Candidate for Re-Election*
- Carol Karafotis *Candidate for Re-Election*
- Kathleen A. Amaral

Plus remember to vote on the Ballot Question regarding building a new police station and elect Town Meeting Members from your Precinct!



## **HOT OFF THE GRILL**

**Susan Calvin, Cafeteria Manager**

- Free/Reduced Forms may be filed at any time during the school year if your financial situation changes. Reductions are allowed for both the breakfast and lunch programs.
- Remember – If you have any questions or concerns regarding any of these notices or if your child has any dietary issues please contact me directly (6:30-10:30 or 2:00-3:30 at 508-996-8259 ext. 4608)



### **April Community Service Project**



Potter School will team up with Texas Roadhouse to support Camp Sunshine. Camp Sunshine is a no-cost retreat for children with life-threatening illnesses and their families. The camp relies 100% on volunteers, donations, and sponsors. To learn more please visit [www.campsunshine.org](http://www.campsunshine.org)

We are asking students to donate their spare change during the month of April. Yellow coin buckets will be located in each classroom as well as the cafeteria.

We are hoping to beat last year's \$470.00 donation to Camp Sunshine!

### **LOOK AHEAD - MAY 2017**

*MCAS Testing Window April 3 – May 26 Grade 3-5*

- 1 Healthy Dartmouth Community Presentation – "Raising Kind, Confident & Capable Kids" 6-8 at DHS
- 2 Grade 3 Feathery Focus  
Grade 4 to the Z – "Ellis Island of Hope" show
- 5 P to the 3 Fiesta Day Assembly
- 7 PTO's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual 5K Road Race
- 8 6:30 School Committee Meeting at Quinn
- 9 Grade 5 Field Trip to New England Aquarium  
PTO's STAFF Appreciation Luncheon
- 11 PreK-12 Art Show at DHS
- 12 Paw Sox game (Reward for Selected Students)
- 14 Mother's Day
- 16 6:30 PTO Meeting in the cafeteria
- 17 Release Time Day-students dismissed at 12:55
- 22 6:30 School Committee Meeting at Quinn
- 25 Red Nose Day at Potter  
6:00 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Night Meeting at DMS
- 29 NO SCHOOL – Memorial Day

# **ART SMART**

Beth Neto, Art Teacher



*Happy April Potter Families!*

*With the warmer weather, I am inspired to share some great outdoor art ideas, sure to make great lasting memories.*

*Sidewalk chalk is a great way to add color to your day! Your children will love spending time with you as you all draw. Short on ideas, you can trace each other and see how much fun it is to color each other in. Another fun idea my children loved was when I would draw a gigantic road way. They would spend hours adding to the art, a duck pond, their dream house, an ice cream shop, a toy store etc. and riding their scooters and bikes on the "roads" we created! Don't forget to add a lemonade stop and a place to park your bikes.*

*Rock painting is so much fun and a great way to add color to your garden. All you need are smooth rocks (beach rocks are great), small paint brushes, and acrylic paint. Lady bugs, bumble bees, or anything you can imagine. When the rocks are dry, spray painted rocks with polyurethane to keep them from peeling.*

*Garden sticks are a fabulous accent to your garden. Name tags for the plants, words that make you happy, or any type of art will do. Free paint stirrers are great for this project. Design your sticks, allow them to dry, spray with polyurethane, and place them in your garden.*

*Hula Hoop weaving can be lots of fun. Take an old hula hoop, add strings to create a loom, working evenly around the hoop. After the loom is created, chose yarn remnants, old scraps of ribbon or strips of fabric to weave, starting from the center and working your way out. (Ask anyone you know that knits, if they have any yarn to spare) This project will take some time, but well worth the effort!*

*Pinecone flowers are easy and fun! Simply collect pinecones (short chubby ones work best), paint the bottoms and arrange in a basket. They look like beautiful chrysanthemum flowers.*

*Bird House painting is simple and fun! And our feathered friends will love it too!*

Happy Spring and happy creating! ♥Mrs. Neto

**SAVE THE DATE:** The Art show will be held at DHS, Thursday, May 11th. Mark the date! Every child at Potter School will have a piece of art in the show!

Thank you to everyone who came to Potter's Paint Night! We had a great time and everyone's frog came out great! Thank you also to contributing to our raffle.

\$175.00 was raised!!! WOW!



**TECH TALK**  
**Sandra Chicca**  
**INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY**  
**SPECIALIST**

§ Our final round of iSTEM clubs are up and running. Thanks to a grant from the district, all Potter students who were interested in the club were able to participate. The one unique feature to the iSTEM club is the multiage aspect (K-2;3-5) which allows students younger and older to learn from each other.

§ Many of the iSTEM activities are being duplicated in the classrooms as well so that all students may have a similar experience. This provides students to try their solutions with a tweak to their original design.

§ The Kindergarten team held a Family Night focused on STEM activities. Families traveled through four Fairy Tale inspired activities. Each family was able to take a bag of recycled materials to create their own STEM crafts at home.

§ If your child has loved STEM this year you may want to sign them up for -

**Camp Invention Registration is Open!**

June 26 - 30, 2017

8:30-3:00 at Dartmouth High School

Imaginations get their rocket fuel at Camp Invention! This summer's all-new curriculum allows children in kindergarten through 6th grade to experience real-world problem solving and creative thinking as they transform a distant exoplanet, take risks as future entrepreneurs, blast rockets and rubber chickens, and wire a circuit to create their own Spy Gadget Alarm Box! Local educators lead a week of hands-on activities that will launch your child's imagination.

Register your child at <http://inventnow-web.ungerboeck.com/programsearch/moreinfo.aspx?event=18296> or visit the district website for a direct link

**ATTENTION PARENTS**

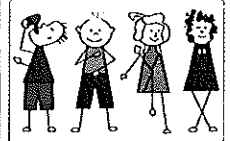
While this is good information for everyone, bus stops with frequent complaints have been issued a specific notice.

**Neighborhood Bus Stop Behavior**

- Parents need to monitor the behavior at the bus stop
- The bus driver will monitor the students' behavior once they board the bus
- Although students and drivers occasionally report issues at the bus stop, WE are unable to act on them. Therefore, your adult supervision is necessary.

**GYM JAMS**

Jodi Donahue, PE Teacher



Spring is finally here...unfortunately the weather is not so spring-like. We are all looking forward to getting outside for P.E. classes and enjoying a much larger playing area while basking in the sunshine and fresh air. Please dress appropriately with sweat shirts and jackets depending on the temperature.

In order to participate in P.E. class students are to have rubber soled shoes that either lace or Velcro across the top of the foot for good ankle support. Students who do not have the proper footwear will have to sit out of class. Shoes that are not acceptable are slippers, crocs, sandals, flip flops, cowboy boots, or any other shoe that does not support the foot and ankle as described above.

We will begin with cooperative games, team building activities and working more on how to be a good sport. Having good sportsmanship is a very important component in Physical Education and Life! Good Sportsmanship is emphasized and encouraged during every activity that we do. Students who play team sports outside of school...you will be given an opportunity to share with your P.E. class how you displayed good sportsmanship during your practices or games!

Happy Spring!!

Mrs. Donahue



**Math Magic**

**Dana Doucette, Math Coach**

Just a reminder that all students are enrolled in an online Math program entitled Mathletics. Your child has a specific username and password for Mathletics. If you are looking for skill reinforcement in math, this would be a great site to visit.

As April vacation approaching, keep in mind that math is everywhere. If you go away for vacation, your child can keep track of prices of certain items and compare them with those back home. If you are enjoying a 'stay-cation,' a trip to Target or the grocery store can lead into a math lesson. Give your child your budget and have them keep track of the items in your carriage. They should use estimation skills to keep track. At the end of the trip, did you stay on budget? Did you go over? (I usually go over.)

Reviewing addition and subtraction facts for the younger grades and multiplication and division facts for the upper grades is always a good idea. Fact fluency builds a solid foundation in mathematics.

# PTO NEWS

- Our next **PTO Meeting** of the 2015-2016 school year has been set for **Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30PM**. Please enter the school through the front doors.
- Our meetings will be divided into two parts – the **business** portion and the **education** portion. Our **agenda** for this meeting will include an overview of the **end of the year activities**. ☺

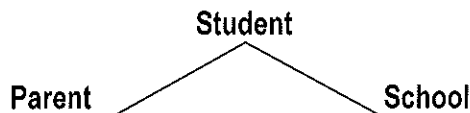
**PTO MEETINGS for the 2016-2017 School Year**  
Tuesday, May 16 (quorum needed)

## Remember –

**Every Potter parent is a member of the PTO!**

*The strength of our PTO comes from its members,  
not its treasury.*

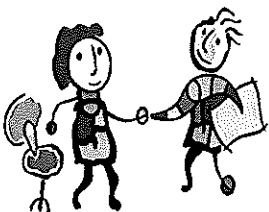
*Please take an active role in our organization.*



**Working Together We Accomplish Great Things!**

## ALL PTO NOTICES ARE ON GOLDENROD PAPER

*However in order to limit our use of paper we will be  
communicating most PTO information via email!*



Want to be kept up to date on  
PTO happenings?  
Join the Potter Parents  
**REMIND** group  
Join our Facebook Page  
Potter School PTO

## FYI:

Please register your card and identify Potter School as  
the recipient of your reward \$

## Stop & Shop

[www.stopandshop.com/aplus](http://www.stopandshop.com/aplus) Potter School ID # 08021

## See You at the PTO Meeting

**Wed., April 12<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30PM**

This meeting will be held in the cafeteria

# EXECUTIVE BOARD 2016-2017

President*	Tara Rose	508-567-3552
Treasurer*	Season DaSilva	508-962-2368
Vice President	Jen Heys	774-202-2946
Recording Secretary	Kim Berger	508-451-5121
Corresponding Sec.	Kerri Thibault	508-922-7894
Arts & Enrichment	Beth Neto	508-998-7654
Ways & Means		
Publicity	Laurie Dionisio	508-996-8259
Community	Beth Canniff	508-995-4607

*\*President & Treasurer are 2 year terms 2015-2017*

If you are interested in the Ways & Means position-  
Contact Mrs. Tara Rose (terose842@comcast.net or  
508-567-3552)

## UP-COMING PTO FUND-RAISERS & EVENTS:

### Direct Solicitation

(every dollar donated = 100% to the PTO)

### PTO Family Events – SAVE THESE DATES

**Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup> – SPRING FLING – 6:00-8:00**

Chairperson: Kristen Martinho (508-996-8259)

**Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> – 5K Road Race**

Chairperson: Dennis Leary (see front page for info)

### Staff Appreciation Luncheon

**Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>**

Chairperson: Season DaSilva (508-962-2368)

If you have questions regarding any of the PTO fund-  
raisers please contact the chairperson(s) directly!

## Looking for Kid-Friendly Activities?

*In an attempt to 'go green' many organizations are opting to  
post information rather than print flyers for distribution.*

Check the Dartmouth Public Schools website

<http://dartmouthps.schoolfusion.us>

Click on the FLYERS tab

*Check frequently as flyers are added weekly!*

*Watch for our PTO Executive Board Nomination Forms  
Our Election will take place at our May PTO Meeting*


## ATTENTION 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE PARENTS

**Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00**

We have a DATE; We have a THEME

Come here about our plans!

# April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
2	3 Grade 4 ELA MCAS	4 Grade 4 ELA MCAS <b>TOWN ELECTION DAY</b> 5K Meeting @ Potter 6:00	5 Release Time Day dismissal 12:55	6 Grade 4 ELA MCAS	7 Grade 3 Lloyd Center Field Trip  Grade 4 A&E Science Made Fun	8
9	10 Stay Paws-itive  6:30 Joint Committee Mtg @ Town Hall	11 Grade 5 ELA MCAS  <i>First Day of Passover</i>	12 Grade 5 ELA MCAS  6:00 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Party Planning Meeting  6:30 PTO Meeting	13 Grade 5 ELA MCAS	14 No School  <i>Good Friday</i>	15
16 <i>Happy Easter</i>	17	18	19	20	21	22
<b>SPRING VACATION WEEK</b>						
23	24 6:30 School Committee Mtg @ Quinn	25 Grade 3 ELA MCAS  Grade 2 to the Z Miss Nelson is Missing 	26 Grade 3, 4 & 5 to the Z Engineering Rules  Spring Picture Day	27 Grade 3 ELA MCAS	28 Grade 3 ELA MCAS  PTO Family Event SPRING FLING 6:00-8:00 <i>More information to follow</i>	29
30	May 1 Healthy Dartmouth Community Series 'How to Raise Kind, Confident and Capable Kids' 6:00 at DHS	2 Grade 5 Math MCAS  Grade 3 Feathery Focus  Grade 4 to the Z Ellis Island of Hope 	3 Grade 5 Math MCAS	4 Grade 4 Math MCAS	5 Grade 4 Math MCAS    P to the 3 Fiesta Day Assembly	6