

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

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Heidi Silva Brooks, Principal and Publisher

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## A Busy Place

Reading our calendar gives you some indication of how busy we are at Potter. However, the calendar included in the Potter Pages is general information for 'everyone;' there is a whole other calendar of events/activities happening in individual classrooms, behind the scenes meetings, etc. And although we are knee deep in this school year, we are already looking ahead at next school year. Hence, we include the following -

### Kindergarten Registration

In order to plan accordingly for our enrollment we are looking for an accurate count of in-coming Kindergarteners. IF you have a child at home who will turn 5 before September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, please notify the main office (Ms. Christine Oliveira at 508-997-3391 ext. 1108). Spread the word to family, friends and neighbors!

Kindergarten Registration will take place at Potter School on March 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> between the hours of 9:30-2:30.

### Preschool Comes to Potter

The School Department is pursuing the opening of a Preschool Classroom at Potter School in the fall. Currently all Preschool classes are held at Cushman School. This is an exciting opportunity for our community. IF you have a preschool aged child (ages 3 or 4), you may be interested in this program. Please attend our Preschool Parent Information Night on Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00.

Here are just a few details about the program:

- Full-day (9:05-3:05) Monday – Friday (no partial weeks)
- Tuition \$450 per month (10 months September - June)
- Multi-age Inclusion Classroom (ages 3 & 4 children with identified special needs and peer partners)
- Only students will complete registration packets will be eligible for screening.
- Students will be accepted through a lottery system.

Important Dates:

Information Night – Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup> 6:00 at Potter

Registration – Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> 9:30-2:30 at Potter

Screening – Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> by appointment at Potter



### P TO THE 3 CELEBRATION

We've earned 1750 Catch Me at My Best coupons!

Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> – PAW Day

## Boomerang Kindness

This month we are kicking off the 'Boomerang' Challenge. Each student has been given their own boomerang. On the inside of the boomerang they will write their full name (in order to identify the 'owner' of the boomerang). When they do an act of kindness, they hand their boomerang to the recipient of their kindness. The recipient then writes their initials on the outside of the boomerang. The boomerang continues to be passed along in this manner throughout the month of March. At the end of the month the boomerang will be returned to the original owner.

The boomerang will serve as a visual of how many acts of kindness were started by their simple act. This also reminds us to 'pass along' our kindness rather than holding on to it.

Watch the video at kindnessboomerang.com which the students have watched as a kick off to this challenge.



## Hats Off

### -Results of our Soup-er Bowl Challenge-

to our **Potter Community** for donating **2310** cans to the Council on Aging's Food Pantry

to **Mrs. Mantzavinos' & Mrs. Gallagher's Class** for donating **326** cans

to our **4<sup>th</sup> Graders** for donating **727** cans



### EARLY DISMISSAL DAY

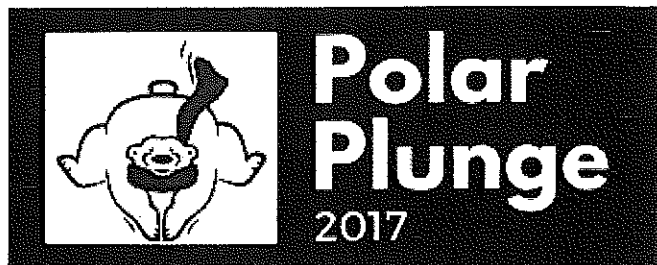
Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> - Dismissal at 12:55



### March Madness Activities

- Our March Madness activities will be linked to Dr. Seuss
- March 3<sup>rd</sup> Cuddle Up & Read *Bring in a Stuffy & your favorite Book*
  - March 10<sup>th</sup> Crazy Hat Day *Wear your favorite hat*
  - March 17<sup>th</sup> Wear Green Today *We'll read Green Eggs & Ham*
  - March 24<sup>th</sup> Wear Crazy Socks *We'll read Fox in Socks*
  - March 31<sup>st</sup> Wear Sunglasses *Shine bright & High Five*





# Polar Plunge 2017

## FREEZIN' FOR A REASON

Join the **POTTER PLUNGERS** on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> to benefit Special Olympics

5<sup>th</sup> Grade student, Emma Carrier, has challenged Mrs. Brooks and Mr. Porter to the Polar Plunge!

Please consider joining our TEAM and/or making a donation! Check us out at –

[www.NewBedfordPlunge.Kintera.Org](http://www.NewBedfordPlunge.Kintera.Org)

Come cheer us on!

**Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>** We plunge at **11:00 AM**  
East Beach - Rodney French Blvd., New Bedford



### COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

### DRIVE FOR THE HOMELESS

Please donate the following items to our cause. Items will be donated to local agencies that work with our neighbors in need –

- |                      |                         |               |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Brimmed Hats         | Re-Usable Water Bottles |               |
| White Athletic Socks | Sun Screen (any SPF)    |               |
| Sun Glasses          | Ziploc-type bags        |               |
| Tooth Brushes        | Tooth Paste             | Baby Wipes    |
| First Aid Supplies   | Hair Brushes            | Shampoo       |
| Tarps                | Soap                    | Hair Elastics |

Bring items to school and drop them into the bag nearest your classroom

You may also drop off items if you attend any of the following PTO Family Events –

- Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> – BINGO – 6:00 start time!
- Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> – PUZZLE PALOOZA – 6:00
- Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup> – PAINT NIGHT – 6:00
- Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup> – SPRING FLING – 6:00-8:00



## ART SMART

Beth Neto, Art Teacher



Happy March Potter Families!

This is a great time of year to share some fabulous sensory activities with you and your child/children! Children and adults can spend hours with a mixture of simple ingredients you already have at home!

My favorite new play dough is made from 2 cups of cornstarch and 1 cup of inexpensive hair conditioner. Mix well and you have this amazingly smooth play dough your children will love!

Next up, Sand Foam. Mix 3 cups of sand and 1 can of shaving cream. Another great sensory mixture that is guaranteed to bring your family great joy!

Fluffy Fun Stuff is just that! Mix 2 boxes of corn starch and 1 can of shaving cream and let the fun begin! You can add food coloring for a splash of color!

Who doesn't love bubbles? Try this fun family favorite! The Bubble Snake Maker. Simply cut the bottom off a plastic water bottle, take an old wash cloth and cut it into a circle about an inch bigger than the water bottle bottom. Attach with a rubber band to the end that you cut. Mix dish detergent and a little water. Dip the washcloth end into the soap mixture and blow gently into the mouth of the water bottle. You have an awesome Bubble Snake Maker! FUN, FUN, FUN! Warning, do not inhale! You may end up with soap in your mouth.

Do you have lots of little Mc Donald's toys laying around, or odds and ends of small toys. Do NOT throw them out! Collect them in a bag. These small toys are great for a game my children loved! Take turns lining up 5 little toys. Children study the toys, after a minute, have children close their eyes. Take one toy away. When they open their eyes, have them draw which one is missing. If 5 is too easy try 8 or 10. The older your child is the more challenging you can make the game. Our family took turns lining the toys up and taking one away. It is a no cost, great way to spend quality time with your family while building important memory skills!

Spending time stimulating their senses helps children develop cognitively, linguistically, socially and emotionally, physically and creatively!

Happy Sensory Time!

Mrs. Neto

#### ATTENTION PARENTS

#### SAVE THE DATE

**TUESDAY, MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup> 6:00 at DMS**

ALL parents across the school district are invited to attend the unveiling of the districts updated **Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan** Come learn the plans' highlights and the drills your children will participate

# At Your Service

Paul Chouinard & Carrie Gregoire  
Outreach Workers



Our weekly Second Step classes are wrapping up lessons on Emotional Management. Your children should be able to take you through their process – STOP; Name Your Feeling; Calm Down. Our next unit will focus on Problem Solving.

Additional resources –

- ParkPals is an on-line game reinforcing respect, responsibility, and relationship skills which focus on fair play and bullying prevention. Check out [www.parkpalsgame.org](http://www.parkpalsgame.org) for more information.
- Need to de-stress, relax and calm down? Check out [www.mindyeti.com](http://www.mindyeti.com) Mind Yeti is mindfulness for kids! As your child about 'Mindful Monday' – we kick off our week by waking ourselves up for learning!
- Yoga is another great strategy to re-focus ourselves. [www.cosmickids.com](http://www.cosmickids.com) has a multitude of video demonstrations. Make it part of your bedtime routine!

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).

## LOOK AHEAD - APRIL 2017

- MCAS Testing Window April 3 – May 26 Grade 3-5
- 3 Healthy Dartmouth Community Presentation – "Fighting the Stigma" 6-8 at TBA
  - 5 Release Time Day-students dismissed at 12:55
  - 6 Spring Picture Day
  - 7 Grade 3 Field Trip to the Lloyd Center  
A&E Grade 4 Science Made Fun
  - 10 6:30 School Committee Meeting at Quinn
  - 12 6:30 PTO Meeting in the cafeteria
  - 14 NO SCHOOL – Good Friday  
School Vacation Week – April 17-21
  - 13 K-5 Standards Based Report Cards Issued  
6:30 School Committee Meeting at Quinn
  - 15 7:00 Elementary Band Play-in at DMS
  - 21 7:00 Disney-themed Strings Night at DHS  
PBIS Booster Week – April 24-28
  - 24 6:30 School Committee Meeting at Quinn
  - 25 Grade 2 to Zeiterion – 'Miss Nelson is Missing'
  - 26 Grade 3, 4 & 5 to Z – 'Engineering Rules'
  - 28 PTO Family Event – Spring Fling 6:00-8:00

## ATTENTION PARENTS

Just a few items which need to be brought to your attention:  
**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.

### 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

### New Bedford Symphony Orchestra's Young People's Concert - Gravity in Space and Sound

Under the direction of Terry Wolkowicz, NBSO's Education Director, our fifth grade students have been learning about musical compositions as related to the gravity of space and sound. At the March 7<sup>th</sup> NBSO Concert our students may hear some of the melodies they created during their work with Mrs. Wolkowicz. This collaboration meets our STEAM initiative fostering integration across multiple curriculum contents.



*"This program is supported in part by a grant from the Dartmouth Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency."*

## 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

Register by March 20th and SAVE \$25.00

Enter Code: **CampInv25**

# P - T O N E W S

- Our next **PTO Meeting** of the 2015-2016 school year has been set for **Thursday, March 9<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 school's **FY2018 budget needs**. ☺

## **PTO MEETINGS for the 2016-2017 School Year**

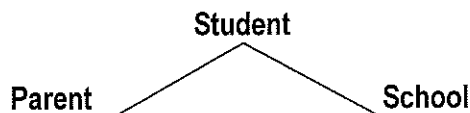
Wednesday, April 12    Tuesday, May 16 (quorum needed)

### **Remember –**

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

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

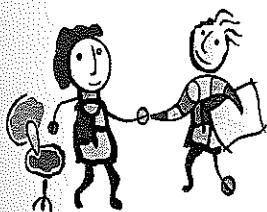
*Please take an active role in our organization.*



**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**  
**Thurs., March 9<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30PM**

This meeting will be held in the cafeteria

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD 2016-2017**

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

### **Dining for Dollars**

**Applebee's – Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> 4-9 PM**

Chairperson: Heidi Brooks (508-996-8259)

### **PTO Family Events – SAVE THESE DATES**

**Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> – BINGO – 6:00 start time!**

Chairperson: Kim & Scott Berger (508-451-5121)

**Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> – PUZZLE PALOOZA – 6:00**

Chairperson: Beth Neto (508-998-7654)

**Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup> – PAINT NIGHT – 6:00**

Chairperson: Beth Neto (508-998-7654) [Gr. 3-5 only]

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

Chairperson: Kristen Martinho (508-996-8259)

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!*

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

**Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30**

Join Mrs. Brooks to discuss the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Party  
and other end of the year events!

# MCAS 2.0

## Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System

This spring the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will unveil its latest installment of state wide testing. While this updated version is in infant stages there are some similarities to the previous MCAS and PARCC assessments which we have participated. As in the past, the content of the test will reflect the instruction in the classroom. Quality instruction aligned to the standards will support our student's success on MCAS.

The biggest change for the students at Potter School will be that this year the English Language Arts and Mathematics sessions will be taken on the computer. To prepare for this shift, Ms. Sandra Chicca, our Instructional Technology Specialist, will lead the students through a variety of activities which will mirror the MCAS experience. In advance of our actual test dates, the classroom teachers will also be able to access computer based practice tests as well as an opportunity to conduct an infrastructure trial to ensure that our technology will support the testing.

All three grade levels will participate in 3 sessions of English Language Arts testing and 2 sessions of Mathematics. MCAS testing is untimed. Although DESE (Department of Elementary & Secondary Education) provides us with an approximation of how long each test session should take, our students will not be constrained by time. However, no test session can be carried over to an additional school day; each session must be completed on the day it begins.

In addition to the English Language Arts and Mathematics tests our fifth graders will participate in 2 sessions of testing focused on Science & Technology. This year, these tests will be paper-based. We do anticipate that these sessions will eventually be computer based as well.

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.



## Making Music

Marief Zangari, Music Teacher

♫ March is Music in our Schools Month

Check out our concert schedule:

Wednesday, March 15—Elementary Band Play In 7PM @DMS

Tuesday, March 21 – Disney Themed Strings 7PM @ DHS



## TECH TALK

Sandra Chicca  
INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY  
SPECIALIST

§ Due to the popularity of the iSTEM club, the district has approved the funding to run an additional session for students who were placed on the waitlist. Just a reminder – If you received a notice via email regarding your child's status on the 'wait list' for the iSTEM club at Potter School PLEASE respond ASAP. Club enrollment is limited!

§ All things STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Art and Mathematics) will be the feature of Potter School's presentation to the Dartmouth School Committee on March 27<sup>th</sup>. We invite all of our families to attend this meeting and learn how your child is 'STEAMing into their Future' at Potter School.



## Rx WATCH



Paula Lassey, Potter School Nurse

- 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.
- Please inform me of any health concerns or changes throughout the school year.
- Contact me directly at 508-996-8259 ext. 4604

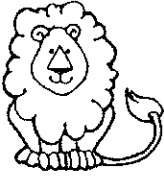














## HOT OFF THE GRILL

Susan Calvin, Cafeteria Manager

- Prepay checks must be sealed in an envelope with the following information printed on the front –  
**Student's Full Name, Grade, Teacher's Name**  
**PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH FOR PRE-PAY!**
- You may also use **mySchoolBucks** for on-line pre-pay – access to this link can be found on the DPS main page at [www.dartmouthps.schoolfusion.us](http://www.dartmouthps.schoolfusion.us)
- 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)

# March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	 March comes in like a lion...		<b>In-Coming Kindergarten Registration at Potter</b>  PAW Day 		<b>3</b> Lloyd Center presentation to Grade 5  PTO Family Event 6:00 start time!	<b>4</b> March Madness Cuddle Up & Read
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  6:30 School Committee Mtg @ Quinn	<b>7</b> Grade 3 Feathery Focus  Grade 5 to NBSO 	<b>8</b>  Release Time Day dismissal 12:55	<b>9</b> K, 1 & 2 to Z Cat in the Hat Show  Grade 4 People's Promenade 6:30 PTO Meeting	<b>10</b>  March Madness Crazy Hat Day  PTO Family Event Puzzle Palooza 6:00 start time!	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Turn Clocks ahead 1 hour	<b>13</b> Trimester #2 Report Card	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  Band Play-In 7PM at DMS 	<b>16</b>  Potter Preschool Parent Information Night 6:00	<b>17</b> March Madness Wear Green  <i>Happy St. Patrick's Day</i> 	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <i>Spring Begins</i> 	<b>21</b> Disney Themed Strings Event 7PM at DHS 	<b>22</b> PTO Dining for Dollars <b>APPLEBEE'S</b> 	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> March Madness Crazy Socks Day Grade 4 to Harvard Museum	<b>25</b>  <b>POLAR PLUNGE</b> Potter Plungers
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  6:30 School Committee Mtg @ Quinn Spotlight on Potter	<b>28</b> In-Coming Preschool Screening Day  6:00 CEMP Parent Night @ DMS	<b>29</b>  Kindergarten STEM Night 6:00  5th Grade Party Parent Mtg 6:30	<b>30</b> A&E Grade 4 Haffenreffer PTO Family Event Paint Night (3-5) 6:00 start time!  SEPAC Meeting Transitions 6:30 @ Quinn Open to ALL Parents	<b>31</b> A&E Grade 4 Haffenreffer Grade 3 to Lloyd Center  March Madness Wear Sunglasses	 ...and goes out like a lamb