



MARY SNOW NEWS & NOTES

OCTOBER 2010

Dear Parents:

We hope you all had a wonderful summer. Hopefully this newsletter finds your family well and settled into the rigors that a new school year offers.

Dress Code

Students are encouraged to take pride in their personal appearance. Dressing for success has multiple effects for students: maintaining respect, establishing credibility, ensuring safety, promoting a positive learning environment, and limiting distractions. Dress should reflect neatness, cleanliness, modesty, good taste and must not be suggestive, threatening, or intimidating. Additionally, dress must reflect the standards for both individual and schoolhouse safety. All dress should be weather appropriate. For example, wearing shorts during the winter months is not appropriate.

Footwear must be appropriate for school. Flip flops, and flipflop type sandals are strongly discouraged, as they are a safety concern. We encourage students to wear covered footwear because of wood chips, gravel, and wetness on the school grounds.

Voting

A reminder that voting is no longer an option at the Mary Snow School. Voting polls are at the Civic Center.

Safety and Security

Students should arrive at school no earlier than 8:40 a.m., as there is no adult supervision until this time.

Please drop off and pick up your child in the designated "orange cone" area, along the fence by the playground. Children should wait for their rides in the orange cone area. To help with this process, do not park in this area.

Walkers are to make sure they cross at the designated crosswalks where there is

a crossing guard. Crossing guards are on duty from 8:30-9:00 and 3:00-3:30. Please let the school know if there is an issue with the crossing guards or you can call Seaboard Security @ 991-9621.

Nurse's Corner
Jackie Ireland, RN

MEDICATION POLICY – The Bangor School Department has adopted a policy for those students who require medication. In general, medication should be given at home whenever possible. Generally school personnel should not become involved with the administering of prescriptions or over the counter medications. However, upon specific written order of a physician, and with a parent's permission, medications may be taken under the supervision of a designated school employee. In this case a medical permission form, available from the main office, must be filled out, signed by your physician, and returned with 24 hours of the beginning date for the medication.

A parent may choose to allow their child to carry a multi dose inhaler for asthma or allergies. This form needs parental completion and also a physician's signature for prescription medication. A copy of the complete policy on medications is available for review upon request.

Security Measures Now Implemented at the School.

1. The school doors will be locked while students are in the building.
2. All parents, volunteers, and visitors must report to the main office. Please do not enter classrooms when entering the building.
3. All volunteers must complete a volunteer application form and attend a training session before volunteering can begin. The application packet may be picked up in the office.

4. Children will not be dismissed to an adult if the adult's name is not on the emergency card or a note has not been provided beforehand by the parent of the child.
5. All bus transportation changes must be provided in writing. Please include in your note student name, parent name, address, phone #, bus letter, as well as where the child is being dropped off, their name, address and phone #.

Lunch Accounts

Please keep your lunch account up to date. Generally on Mondays, money is turned into the office for any lunches purchased. After two weeks, reminder notices of any outstanding balances will go home. If a significant balance remains after two weeks, parents will be expected to provide lunch for their child.

Monies to the Schools

We have been collecting and will continue to collect Boxtops for Education and Hannaford HELPS schools. Boxtops are found on a lot of General Mills' products. When you see them, cut them out and bring them to school. When you purchase participating products at Hannaford Supermarkets from Sept. 5 to Dec. 5, the school earns money. See stores for details. The monetary rewards we receive are used to offset the various programs we offer to students at Mary Snow.

Many Thanks!

To those who have made donations to our school. A reminder that all donations must be directed through the office, as there is a formal process for the acceptance of donations. Please do not make checks payable to specific classrooms or teachers. Again, thank you for your generosity!

Attendance

Absences from school cannot be prevented. When a child is sick, home is the best place to rest and recover. Studies show that school achievement is linked to school attendance. At the fourth and fifth grade levels, school curriculum is expanding both horizontally and vertically at a rapid pace. Missing classroom instruction can sometimes be overwhelming for a child when he/she returns to school. Many concepts presented by teachers in the classroom are building blocks of ideas that have been previously

taught. Catching up on missed work places additional pressure on students. We want our students to be happy, healthy and successful.

Agenda Books/Homework

Students should be bringing their AGENDA BOOKS home each day, as it is an important resource for you to see what there is for homework for the next day or week. Students are given time at the end of the day to record homework assignments in their AGENDA BOOKS. There is a section for notes if you wish to communicate with your child's teacher. The agenda book will help students become more responsible, and develop study skills for daily assignments as well as tests. If you are not seeing the agenda book come home please check with your child or his/her teacher.

Discipline Cards

If your child brings home a "step card" for an incident that happened in school, please discuss, sign and return the card the following day. Prompt return of this notice is important since your child will lose a recess everyday if it is not returned. Please help us to help your child.

After School Activities

The After School Program has started. It runs from Monday through Thursday with late buses dropping students off at their normal bus stops. Programs offered include Chorus, Musical, Cribbage, Newspaper, Homework Room, Spanish, Signing and Student Council. Students are dismissed at 4:00, and Mrs. Leyro supervises walkers across Broadway. We urge all students and adults to wait for Mrs. Leyro to stop the traffic. When picking up your children at 4:00 p.m., drive up to the fence alongside the playground. Children are advised not to run out to their vehicles. These precautions are taken for their safety.

Fundraiser

The annual fundraiser order has been processed and the orders should arrive in early November. The profits made on this fundraiser will help provide enrichment activities for students and resources for teachers that might not otherwise be available. We thank you for your support. We especially want to thank our PTO President Mrs. Ireland, and a group of volunteers who have done a wonderful

job organizing and overseeing this event again this year.

Music News – Mr. Paton

As we approach mid-October, classroom routines are becoming well established and the end of the first quarter is closing in on us. The following is a snapshot of what we have been doing in **music classes** at Mary Snow and what students can expect through December.

What to expect in class

GRADE 4 classes are finishing up their unit on "ingredients" of a song. In our next unit, students will concentrate on reading, singing, playing and possibly writing rhythms. This will take us up to the end of November when preparations for our annual Holiday Assembly will begin.

Composers are currently the primary focus in **GRADE 5**. A brief look into the lives of approximately ten composers will take place throughout the school year. Students will have selections of each composer's music played and will soon realize they are more familiar with this style of music than they thought. To help every student take part in this unit, each pupil will be assigned a small report about a composer. The composer unit is also being complemented with mini-lessons on a variety of musical topics – including writing lyrics to a song! Come mid-November, grade 5 students will also start preparing for the Holiday Assembly.

Grades

Music grades are based on three areas, overall understanding of the concepts presented in class, level of participation (effort) and behavior in class. Whereas ability will have some bearing on the grade, how hard the student tries to understand new information, how they participate in class activities and how much they volunteer information is all taken into account. Good behavior is certainly a key element in doing well in all areas.

Chorus

The Mary Snow Chorus rehearses each Monday afternoon from 3:00 – 4:00 in the gym. Although we're a little smaller in numbers than past years, the sound and dedication of these students has not been diminished in the least.

To insure we continue to develop musically, attendance at rehearsals is vital and students with unexcused absences risk not being able to perform at our concerts. Should your child be in school but miss a chorus rehearsal, please send in a note so the school knows you are aware of the absence.

Looking ahead – the spring session of chorus begins in January. The highlight of this session is the All-City Chorus Concert held at the Bangor Auditorium.

Holiday Assembly for Parents & Friends:

Wednesday, December 22 – 9:30 AM
Mary Snow Gym

The Musical Concert:

The 2010 fall musical is titled **I Need A Vacation**. We have about 38 students participating in this musical. The evening performance will be on Thursday, Dec. 16th at 7 p.m. for parents and Friday, December 17th at 1:40 p.m. for the students. We hope to see everyone there! If parents of students participating in the Musical have any questions or concerns, they may call Ms. DiEgidio at 356-3022 or e-mail her at hdiegidio@bangorschools.net

For a complete list of all Music Department performances, visit the Bangor Schools website and select the District Calendar. From there, you can view just the Music Department performances by choosing BSD Performing Arts Calendar view

John Hopkins University-Center for Talented Youth

CTY, a world leader in gifted education, conducts national and international talent searches to identify, assess, and recognize outstanding academic talent. For over 30 years, CTY has helped talent soar among the world's brightest young people. Through the Talent Search, high-performing students take a test designated for older students. This above-grade-level testing can reveal more about the academic talents of students who are topping out on grade-level tests.

To qualify, your child must be in the fifth or sixth grade and his/her achievement score must show 95th percentile or higher in Math, Reading, or Language. If you choose to have your child take this test, you as parents are responsible for all mailings, applications, fees, and transportation.

You may obtain further information by calling them at 410-735-6278 or send an e-mail ctyinfo@ihu.edu

Guidance News

Students have worked very diligently on the New England Common Assessment Program Tests during the weeks of October 4th through October 15th. Many thanks to our PTO for the snacks that were provided each morning to get everyone off to a good start.

National Association of School Psychologists:

Parents may struggle with the issue of how much independence to foster in children. The situation of an overly dependent child may be ignored because excessive dependence seems to pose fewer serious problems than aggression and noncompliance. However, dependency can interfere with the development of the skills and confidence necessary for decision making.

The attached article provides some background and suggestions for fostering independence. For information about these and other topics, visit the website of the National Association of School Psychologists at www.nasponline.org

Magnificent Mary Snow Students

Mary Snow School believes that integrity and good character really does matter in the successful social development

of our students. Magnificent Student awards recognize behaviors that display truthfulness, consideration for others, dependability, charity, and thoughtfulness. This award is given to show our students that we value their good efforts.

Any staff member can identify a Magnificent Student. Once a month we also recognize recipients in front of their peers during lunchtime. If your child's name appears on the bulletin board as one of the Magnificent Students, he/she has gone beyond the minimum standards of common courtesy. Please join us in applauding these behaviors.