



Beyond the Ordinary

Established 1998

September 18, 2008

Headmaster Breakfast for New Parents

Attention new parents of MSW: Mr. Houck invites you to a special New Parent/Headmaster breakfast on **Monday, September 29 at 9:00 a.m.** This is your opportunity to learn more about MSW's past, present, and future. Please **RSVP to the office by Thursday, September 25.**

Upcoming Events	
9/23	Picture Day
9/27	Peru Fair
9/29	New Parent/Headmaster Breakfast, 9 am
10/1	Half Day-Noon Dismissal/ Open House Spaghetti Dinner
10/10	Hike for Hunger

Let's Hike for Hunger!

Each year The Mountain School joins the *Vermont Campaign to End Childhood Hunger* and raises money by hiking at area parks or mountains. On **Friday, October 10**, MSW will hike at Jamaica State. We will leave the school at around 9:30 a.m., hike, and stay for a relaxing lunch at the picnic area. If you can drive and hike (we like lots of chaperones!) any of our 1st-8th graders, please contact Mr. Houck by **Wednesday, October 8.**

Early Dismissal and Open House Moved

Our Fall Open House has been moved to **Wednesday, October 1** at 6:30 p.m. Please mark your calendars, invite a friend, and join us on 10/1. Also, the **early dismissal for 9/24 has been moved to 10/1.** *Students will have a full day on 9/24 and a noon dismissal on 10/1.* Don't worry about dinner that evening...see below for more information!

Headmaster's Challenge and Annual Giving

Several gifts and pledges have been rolling in for both **The Headmaster's Challenge** (our six-year, \$1 million endowment drive) and the **Annual Giving Campaign** (our yearly \$20,000 fund drive). Please give or pledge today.

Development Help

The Mountain School continues to work to make our fundraisers more profitable. As an independent school, we must raise our own funds and effective fundraising helps us do that better. While volunteers at events are important, we also need talented, organized, and motivated individuals to help lead specific tasks. If development is your expertise and you want to take "point" in a specific area, let us know which role you can help with. If you are better as an assistant, please contact any of the event chairs

Kitchen Check

Did you forget something in the kitchen on the first day? Please be sure to check if you left any bowls, etc. the next time you're in.

Daren M. Houck, Headmaster
Carol A. Stachelek, Office Manager

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directly. Our development leadership areas include:

Develop. Directors:

Daren Houck and Betsy Wadsworth

Event Coordinators:

Annual Giving Campaign (Betsy Wadsworth)

Headmaster's Challenge (Daren Houck)

Grants/Other Fundraisers (Daren Houck)

Skate Jam (Brett Morrison)

Golf Tournament (Robin Apps)

Spaghetti Dinner (Alex Klemchuk)

Christmas in the Country (Susie Thiele)

Spring Event (OPEN... WE NEED YOU!)

Vendors: Tara Senecal

Food and Beverage: WE NEED YOU!

Partners/Sponsors: WE NEED YOU!

Enrollment/Outreach WE NEED YOU!

Promotions/PR: WE NEED YOU!

Town Liaison: WE NEED YOU!

Job descriptions for these areas were handed out at the last PAB meeting. You may contact Mr. Houck for more information. Together, we can make a difference!

CLASSROOM NEWS:

News From 5/6

The 5/6th graders are off to a great start! They have been writing about their Hopes and Dreams for the year and set some wonderful goals. They have also started learning about the mysterious brain! They are asking wonderful questions to launch our short unit. They are a wonderful group and are working hard and cooperating well as a group. We have a fantastic year of learning ahead of us!

Looking for...

- a neurosurgeon or someone whose profession is related to the brain to come visit us
- 2 lightbulbs
- a lampshade
- plants to freshen up our classroom

Thanks for your support!

News from the Art Studio

Welcome to the start of another exciting year in the Art Studio!

This year the curriculum will be varied and (of course!) integrated with the core subject areas for all grade levels. In the first and part of the second trimester, we will focus on the elements and principals of art and their specific importance in making an artwork. In the second half of the second trimester and the all of the third, we will focus in using those elements and principals in an expressive and meaningful way to create both individual and group works. The elements and principals are the building blocks of art, and their continued practice at every grade level will build the skills needed for the making of powerful and original work. Even professional artists practice these fundamentals throughout their careers! Additionally, we will be exploring art history, through examples of artists from different cultures, time periods and styles as well as, considering questions of aesthetics and the social context of art within the broader subject of visual culture. We will be covering both 2D and 3D work in a variety of media, and hopefully will be getting our feet wet in both simple computer animation and digital photography.

Once again I would like to remind parents that on days that your child has

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art class, to make sure they are dressed in appropriate (not their very best or new) clothing - including shoes! We have smocks and do our best to keep things clean, but getting messy is a normal part of art class!

This year we will be sharing the studio with the music program, which means there will be a little less space, but also exciting opportunities to integrate music and visual art! It also means that we will have to be extra careful about keeping the studio clean and organized. As it has been for the last couple of years, all students in grades 1-8 have their own portfolios and a place to store it. These portfolios are initially provided to every student by MSW. If your student, loses, destroys or simply wants a new one, it is the responsibility of the student/parent to provide a replacement, (please see me for details).

From time to time I will ask for small donations of materials (cardboard, tubes, various recycled objects etc) please let me know if you have a large amount if these stored up- before you bring them in! We are thankful for the donations but with space being tight this year – storage of these valuable resources can be a challenge.

I am looking forward to a great year ahead, and encourage you to be a part of your student's art education. Your support and encouragement at home is just as, if not more, important than what we do in the studio. Please feel free to call, e-mail, or visit a class.

See you in the Studio!
Paul Molinelli

Library News

Hello from the Library!. I am encouraging parents to come in and get a library card. We are trying to build a section just for you. We have some great choices for you to enjoy. You also might find a book that you would like to take out to read to your children. We have been getting some wonderful donations from families, who have been cleaning out and giving books that are no longer being read at home. It's a great way to increase our collection. Magazines are also welcome. We will be focusing on TOLERANCE through various books that have been written. We really want to work on treating all others with respect and compassion. Thanks to those of you who have shared your books with us.

Do You Have Extra Storage?

MSW **DESPERATELY** needs storage. Do you have a barn, shed, or garage that could use some filling? Please let us know ASAP. We do NOT want to pay for storage if there is space available. Call the office if you can help. Thank you!

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Don't worry about cooking on October 1...we have you covered! For much less than the price of dining out, you can join us for pasta, salad, bread, and dessert (drinks, of course, are provided, too!). The cost is **\$7/person or \$25 for a family of four or more**. We ask that you **PLEASE purchase tickets** in advance (**by 9/26**, if possible!) so we may plan accordingly. See the attached flier or call the office. Invite a friend and join us on 10/1 at 5:30 p.m., right before our Fall Open House.

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Peru and Stratton Fair

Fundraisers!

It's time for the Fall Fairs! We need your help for the Peru and Stratton Fairs. Please see the attached flier and contact the office to sign up on our sign-up sheet to help. We are also looking for quality **FACE PAINTERS** and **SAND ARTISTS** to help during each shift. Please lend your skills at the Peru and/or Stratton Fair!

We Need Volunteers!

Did you know research shows that children of parents who volunteer in school have better grades and behavior and are less likely to abuse drugs or alcohol? Well, here's your chance—we need volunteers! Please call the office if you can help in any of the following ways:

- *Receptionist*: Have a pleasing disposition and enjoy answering phones and applying bandaids to wounded students? We could use your help! Please contact Carol if you think you are the right person to assist with general office duties during the week. Days and times are flexible.
- *Pre-K/K*: If you enjoy working with our young students, especially during related arts classes, we could use your help on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 1:40 p.m.-3:35 p.m. Call the office if you are interested.
- *Morning Recess Supervisors*: Twice a month, MSW employees have a staff meeting in the morning. We are looking for two consistent volunteers (one on the playground for Ms. Linda, and one at drop-off for Mr. Houck) to

cover morning recess from 8:30-approximately 8:45 (or until the meeting ends). Mr. Houck will provide you with a schedule so you may plan. Please call the office if you can commit in this way.

- *Noon Recess Help*: We like to provide as many adults for supervision during noon recess as possible. If you can help from 12:15-12:45 any day of the week, please let the office know. A consistent schedule works best!

Lice Checks

There has been an outbreak of lice this summer throughout New England. Please be sure to regularly check your children at home over the next week or so as well. Remind your children to not share hats, pillows, helmets, etc. If your child has lice, keep them home and contact the office. Another all school check will be done on Monday 9/22. Thanks!

Soccer Swap

Need some equipment for our upcoming soccer season? Have some extra equipment you would like to get rid of? We have a bin in the entry foyer to drop off and/or pick up items. Please make sure donations are gently used items.

Soccer Season is Here

Practice Schedule:

PK/K & Middle School practice days are Monday and Thursday, 4:00-5:00 pm.

1/2 & 3/4 practice days are Tuesday and Friday 4:00-5:00 pm.

Soccer Sign-Up – It's not too late to sign up. A registration form is attached to this newsletter. Please complete and

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send into the office by **Monday, Sept. 22nd**.

There is no fee to participate. Shin Guards **MUST** be worn. We are always looking for volunteers. If you are available to help with snack, transport to games, etc., please contact Coach Hasaj at 874-4212. Real Sports in Manchester is offering MSW students a special package price for gear: soccer socks (green), shorts (black), mouthguards, etc. If you have any other questions, please call Carol in the office. We're looking forward to another great year!

Norse House Joins MSW for JISP

The Norse House has again agreed to join MSW for JISP rentals. If you are renting equipment this year, please go the Norse House and tell them you are an MSW student to receive a special discount price. Remember, NO student will be turned away for ANY activity. If you need assistance for rentals, please see Mr. Houck.

Ponderings for Parents (From the Vermont Principal's Association)

Improve your child's grades by eating meals together as a family. With today's hectic lives, it seems we are always on the go. Kate has to go to soccer at five. Mike has basketball at six. Suddenly, "meal time" turns into a quick bite in the car. But September 22, the official Family Day, reminds families to take a break and eat dinner together. Studies show that kids who eat meal regularly with their families earn better grades. They are more likely to talk with parents and are less likely to

use drugs and alcohol. Here are ways to make family meals an enjoyable part of your day: **Ask for help.** Get your child involved in planning and preparing the meal. **Turn off the TV** and turn on the answering machine. **Talk about everyone's day.** Ask each family member to share the funniest thing that happened that day. **Keep the conversation positive.** Don't use this time to lecture your child about something. Make dinner-time conversations something the whole family looks forward to. (Elementary Parents make the difference September 2008, Vol. 20, No.1, p.3.)

Help your preteen create habits for a successful year in school

The beginning of the school year offers your child an opportunity to start off fresh. Help your preteen shine in class this year by establishing habits that will help her succeed in school and in life. Make sure your preteen will: **Get enough shut-eye.** Preteens won't succeed if they're snoozing at their desks. So make sure your child gets to bed at a reasonable time each night. And have her unplug before lights-out. That means no TV, loud music, or computer in the hour leading up to bedtime. Also, make sure her alarm clock plays soothing music. No one likes to be awakened by a loud, annoying alarm! **Eat a healthful lunch.** It's great that your preteen eats breakfast every morning, but don't forget about lunch! After all, she'll need the midday fuel. So send her to school with a nutritious meal-not a sack full of chips, cookies and soda. **Use the right workspace.** Be sure your preteen has a place to do her homework-a desk, her bedroom floor or the kitchen table. It should be quiet, comfortable and well-lit. It should also be as free from

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distractions as possible. Make sure it's stocked with plenty of paper, pens and pencils. **Study ahead.** Don't let your preteen get into the "cramming" habit! If she knows there's a test coming, remind her to review the material a little bit each day. This is much more effective than trying to memorize tons of material the night before the exam. (Middle School Parents still make the difference! September 2008, Vol.12, No.1, p.1.).

Visa & Mastercard Accepted!

Looking for points or miles with your favorite store or airline? Just remember that we accept credit cards for your convenience!

Kids Kreations

Keep a look out for Kids Kreations.

COMMUNITY NEWS:

Please take a look at the attached flyers. The community has been reaching out to us and included us in their flyer distribution. There is information on ice skating, Northshire Hockey Association, Equipe Sport Exclusive Sale, West River Tennis, and Bromley season pass information.

Procedures for public participation at Board meetings:

Individuals wishing to address the Board must contact the Board Chair at least 3 days in advance of the Board meeting. The contact should include the subject of the presentation and the approximate time needed to speak. Board meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month.

The Mountain School Board of Trustees:

Debbie Peretz, Chair * Betsy Wadsworth, Vice Chair * Thom McMahon, Treasurer * Robin Apps, Secretary * C.J. King * Virginia Morgan * Chuck Scranton* Norm Stachelek * Ric Swenson *