

Horace Mann Elementary School PTA Newsletter

February 2010



3745 South Broadway
Springfield, Missouri 65807
<http://sps.k12.mo.us/mann>

From the Acting PTA President

Hello, my name is Juli Manis. I will be Acting PTA President for the remainder of the 2009-10 school year. Darby Bowler stepped down as PTA President earlier this year. We thank Darby for all her hard work with the PTA and wish her the best!

Mark Your Calendars! DANCE, DANCE, DANCE!!

The last dance was such a huge success that we've decided to have 2 more dances, however, they will be split into 2 different grade levels:

VALENTINE'S DANCE
FEBRUARY 12TH
4th & 5th GRADE ONLY!
3:30 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

ST. PATRICK'S DANCE
MARCH 12TH
K-1st-2nd-3rd GRADE ONLY!
3:30 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

For 4th & 5th grade students. Admission is \$3.00, which includes a snack and refreshments. Permission forms and money must be turned in by 8:00 a.m. on Friday, February 12th for your child to attend. If your child is in ISS or OSS between the start of 3rd quarter (Jan. 19th) through the date of the dance (Feb. 12th), your child will not be allowed to attend.

For Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, & 3rd grade students. Admission is \$3.00, which includes a snack and refreshments. Permission forms and money must be turned in by 8:00 a.m. on Friday, March 12th for your child to attend. If your child is in ISS or OSS between the start of 3rd quarter (Jan. 19th) through the date of the dance (Mar. 12th), your child will not be allowed to attend.

If you have any questions, feel free to call a student council sponsor (Mrs. Montgomery, Mrs. Feistner, Mrs. Burton, Mrs. Lala, Mrs. Prince) at 523-4400. Pictures will be taken at the dance. Students may order pictures the night of the dance, but must prepay \$2.00 for each picture.

Important Numbers:

PRINCIPAL	523-4400
Teri Peterson	
SECRETARY	523-4400
Candi Spann	
NURSE	523-4430
Myra Quick	
COUNSELOR	523-4460
Sharon Feistner	
CAFETERIA MGR	523-4490
Lisa Rice	

FEBRUARY 2010 CALENDAR

- 2-2 (Tue): Professional Learning/Early Release @ 1:30pm**
2-3 (Wed): Change for a Change!
2-11 (Thu): PTA Planning Meeting @ 6pm
2-12 (Fri): Student Council Valentine's Day Dance, 3:30-5:15pm
2-15 (Mon): NO SCHOOL— Presidents' Day

LOST & FOUND
clothing will be picked up the first Friday of each month and sent to the Clothing Bank. Please be sure that your child has checked the bins in the APR hallway!

In order to be proactive in keeping our rooms as germ free as possible, we are asking for donations of Lysol wipes for the classrooms. If you can help us out with this, it would be greatly appreciated. As always, thank you for all you do for our Mann students and staff!

Wonder Years Preschool

What: A pre-academic preschool program that prepares your child for kindergarten. The program emphasizes language development, literacy, math, and social interaction. The program is FREE. Supplies are provided. **Parents must provide transportation.** The maximum class size is 15 students per class.

Who: Children who live within the Springfield Public Schools attendance area, will be four-years-old before August 1st and who will attend kindergarten the following school year.

Where: Bingham, Cowden, Fremont, Holland, McBride, McGregor, Pittman, Robberson, Shady Dell, Truman, Twain, Weaver, Weller, Westport, Williams, York and other possible sites to be determined

When: The program follows the Springfield Public Schools calendar.

If your child has **NOT** been screened, contact Parents As Teachers to schedule a screening appointment: 523-1160.

Please call to setup a Wonder Years screening BEFORE April.

*NOTE: Your child must first be screened for the Wonder Years program. Enrollment into the program is based upon the screening results. Screening does not ensure placement in the Wonder Years program. In May, pre-enrollment forms will be mailed to families whose children have a qualifying screening score. Families will receive an acceptance letter in June if their child is offered a placement.

For more information contact the Wonder Years office at 523-1300.

Dear Mann Community,

Recently, my counselor, Mrs. Feistner and I attended a conference to be trained in a new leadership program called SAM or School Administration Manager, a strategy designed to change the role of the principal from the managerial leader to the instructional leader, resulting in an increase in time spent on improving teaching and learning.

What is "SAMs"?

- « SAMs is a process to focus principal time on instructional leadership, teaching practice, student learning, and school improvement.
- « SAMs is primarily a change process where the principal uses daily time/task data and reflection to influence her own practice.

Who is the SAM?

- « Mrs. Feistner, counselor will serve as the SAM.
- « She will help the principal use time/task data to reflect on her instructional leadership time.
- « She will help the principal increase the time she spends as an instructional leader.
- « She will help the principal strengthen relationships with teachers, parents, and students to improve teaching and learning.
- « She will help the principal distribute management responsibilities.
- « She will continue to be a full-time counselor first – those responsibilities will not change!

How will SAMs affect teachers, students, and parents?

- « The principal's instructional time will not be interrupted unless it is an emergency.
- « If you have a question or concern, your question/concern may be directed to the SAM first.
- « A first responder card will be provided in the near future (and on the Mann website) that will direct you to the person to call/visit regarding a particular question/concern.

This project was started to help me increase my time instructionally to better support the best practices that are already in place here at Mann. During the week of December 7th, I was shadowed by a time tracker to determine how each day was spent. Results of that baseline data showed that as a principal, 57.3% of my day was management, 36.4% of my day was instructional, and 6.2% of my day was personal. Putting the SAMs program in place is a way for me to change my practices as the building leader. My goal is to increase my time as an instructional leader, which in turn will result in a school-wide culture dedicated to instructional improvement.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me (523-4400) or e-mail me (tpeterson2@spsmail.org). The SAM, Sharon Feistner, can also answer any questions or concerns you might have (523-4460; sfeistner@spsmail.org). I look forward to working with you as I make my changes to becoming an instructional leader for students, teachers, and parents.

Teri Peterson
Mann Principal