



PTO Notes

Friday, January 28, 2022

WHAT TO KNOW THIS WEEK:

NEW & UPCOMING: • M-R Online Auction • Principal Coffee • Winter Walk / Roll / Bike / Bus to School Day • Winter Gear Drive • Spiritwear • FORJ • ELPAC • 5th Grade Brown Parent Night

REMINDERS & UPDATES: • Calendar Reminders

** New & Upcoming **



The Mason-Rice Auction Closes this Sunday!

Have you placed your bid? Are you the high bidder? Now is the time to check in as the **auction closes on Sunday, January 30th**. We appreciate each and every bid that has come in, and look forward to enjoying the treats and experiences offered by so many families and local supporters! If you haven't bid yet, click here:

Mason-Rice Auction

Here are some listings to check out:

- **Teacher experiences** - Each class teacher is offering a unique experience so be sure to check yours out! And there are now FOUR extra recesses to bid on!
- **Camps and classes** - We have great deals (and new prices) on day and overnight camps, music classes, and more!
- **Mason-Rice Only treats and experiences** - Get tickets to fun events like Capture the Flag, Craft Beer & NCAA Basketball, and I Like to Move It, Move It Soccer Edition. Or gift someone special a custom message from the broadcasters at WBZ-TV or a private airplane flight!

What's your bidding strategy for these great items? Are you a steady bidder or will you come in to win your item at the last minute? Bidding for Good has you covered! Did you know that you can make a "Proxy Bid"? Win your auction item at the lowest possible price! Allow Bidding for Good to place bids on your behalf at the lowest possible increments up to a **maximum amount** you set. Simply enter the highest amount you are willing to pay and the system will bid for you as prompted by other bids. You will be notified by email if your maximum bid is outbid.

Be sure to get your bids in by **10pm on Sunday!** Please email us with questions [here](#).



A conversation with Superintendent David Fleishman and members of the School Committee - Mon. Jan 31

When: Monday, January 31, 8:45 - 9:30am

The Mason-Rice community is **strongly encouraged** to attend the next **Principal Coffee on January 31**, when David Fleishman and members of the School Committee, Anping Shen and Kathy Shields, will be available to share updates from the school district. [Join here](#) and listen and/or ask questions.

To ensure that David, Anping, and Kathy are able to address all the questions that are on the minds of the Mason-Rice community, we invite you to submit your questions in advance, [here](#). We acknowledge that some parents may want to submit their questions or concerns anonymously. In this case, please feel free to email your thoughts directly to the [PTO presidents](#) or contact our co-presidents, [Danielle Boudreau](#) or [Rebecca Diamondstein](#), before Sunday evening. We will present your questions on Monday on your behalf without identifying specific names.

Interpretation for this meeting can be available. Please complete this [Google form](#) at least three days before the meeting if you require interpretation.

Meeting Link: [here](#)
Meeting ID: 898 2807 9185
Passcode:



Winter Walk / Roll / Bike / Bus to School Day - Wed. Feb 2

Join us in celebrating Safe Routes to School's Winter Walk 2022! Warm up with a walk (or bike, or bus ride, or roll to school) this coming Wednesday. We're cheering on students who walk, bike, or roll to school (or at school) with our annual Winter Walk. Be a part of the excitement together with students from all over Massachusetts by heading to school ~not in the car~ on Wednesday, February 2, if possible for your family.



Newton Food Pantry Winter Gear Drive

As a way to help families in need during the winter months, the Teen Ambassador Program (TAP) of the Newton Food Pantry is running a donation drive. They are looking for winter gear for children and adults. Please bring "new" socks, hats, and hand warmers, and new or gently used mittens, gloves, and scarves. **Donation boxes will be outside the front doors to the main office at drop off and dismissal through January 31.**



Mason-Rice Spiritwear - Now Available Online!

Still need to get your cozy fleece-lined pom pom hats? Order online at the link below!

In-person pop-up tables will also be around:

- at drop-off on Feb. 2nd and 7th
- at pick-up on Feb. 8th
- on Saturday Feb. 12th from 2-4pm

So plan to check out / pick up your items then!

Mason-Rice Spiritwear



Upcoming M-R FORJ Meeting - Mon. Feb 7

When: Monday, February 7, 7:30pm (via zoom)

FORJ (Families Organizing for Racial Justice) will be discussing how they can support the Mason-Rice community and activities for the year. If you are interested in learning more about FORJ or attending the meeting, please email [Molly Perencevich](#) or [Janelle Phillips](#).



ELPAC Meeting - Thurs. Feb 3

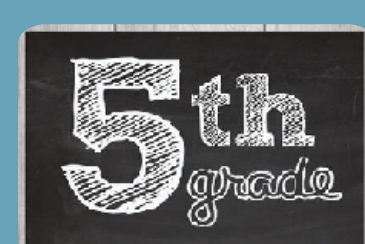
When: Thursday, February 3, 6:30 - 8pm (via zoom)

English Learner Parent Advisory Council (ELPAC) supports ELL and former ELL families districtwide and collaborates with schools and the district to improve programming. ELPAC is a way to meet other multilingual families and learn about community programs as well as ways to support your children. All families are welcome!

February's meeting topics are:

- Newton Free Library Resources (Presenter: Andrew Shapira, ELL and Literacy Coordinator at Newton Free Library)
- ACCESS testing (Presenter: Allison Levit, Director of ELL Programs in NPS).

Interpretation will be provided with RSVP by January 31. Please [RSVP here](#). The remaining meeting dates this year are April 7 & June 2.



5th Grade Brown Parent Night - Thurs. March 10

Fifth grade families, please hold Thursday, March 10 from 7:00 - 8:30pm for a zoom with Brown Middle School Principal, Kim Lysaght. A link for this virtual meeting will be shared as we get closer to the date.

** Reminders & Updates **



Access NPS' calendar [here](#).
Access Mason-Rice's PTO calendar [here](#).

Upcoming Important M-R Dates

- 1/20-30: M-R Online Auction
- 1/31: Principal Coffee
- 1/31: Last Day for donations to the Winter Gear Drive
- 2/2: Winter Walk / Roll / Bike / Bus to School Day
- 2/3: Early Release @ 12:10pm
- 2/3: ELPAC Meeting
- 2/7: FORJ Meeting
- 3/10: 5th Grade Brown Parent Night

** Support the Businesses that Support Mason-Rice **

Your usual shopping can support PTO-funded activities (such as teacher classroom allowances, appreciation lunches, and curriculum-enhancing programming for all our students).

Note that these programs/partnerships, below, run year-round!



1. Go to [Mabel's Labels](#) and click "Support a Fundraiser".
2. Type
3. Shop your order and check-out as usual.
4. 20% of your order will be donated back to the PTO.

Enjoy 20% off [Minted](#) cards & gifts with promo code . 15% of each order will be donated back to the PTO.
Disclaimer: This code was created exclusively for our M-R PTO community. It is not to be shared publicly.



Select 'Mason-Rice PTO' with AmazonSmile and the PTO Benefits from Your Everyday Purchases. Set it up once and never again!

#1: Select Mason-Rice as Your AmazonSmile Charity-of-Choice

1. Visit [AmazonSmile](#).
2. Select Mason-Rice Elementary School PTO as the charitable organization.
3. Start all of your Amazon shopping at the [Smile homepage](#), versus amazon.com. The shopping experience is the exact same, but your purchases will qualify for Smile commissions to the PTO.

#2: Turn On AmazonSmile on Your Amazon Shopping app

1. Make sure you're signed up for AmazonSmile in web browser.
2. Open the Amazon app and find "Settings" in the main menu (≡).
3. Tap "AmazonSmile" (under "Programs & Features") and follow instructions to turn on AmazonSmile in the app.
4. Shop as usual!

(Hot Tip: Anyone can participate, so be sure to share with grandparents and other friends/family!)

How to Translate this Newsletter

At the top left of each newsletter, there is a link to view as a webpage. Open the link and find a Google Translator drop down menu at the top right corner!

* Stay in touch. Stay informed. Get involved! *

