



COMMITTEE & TOWN-WIDE GROUP UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2008

CULTURAL ARTS & SCIENCE – Aileen Zogby & Annette Pein

On Friday, October 31st, **David Zucker** thoroughly entertained children during his **Poetry in Motion** presentations for K-1 and 2-4. Donning various costumes and introducing a sassy sock puppet, Mozart, and Hip Hop music among other surprising props, David truly brought the magic of poetry to life. Thanks to the generous support of the Natick Fire Department and the Natick Cultural Council, Mr. Zucker's unique program was presented at all elementary schools in Natick during October. Visit his website for a more in depth introduction to his programs, www.poetry-in-motion.com.

On Monday, November 3rd **Andrew Green** of **Potato Hill Poetry** returned to our school to lead poetry writing workshops – this time with the 3th grade. During individual classroom sessions, Mr. Green lead the students through a variety of creative writing exercises which introduce poetry as a distinct literary form. We are very fortunate to be able to provide Potato Hill Poetry's grade-specific workshops to our 2nd, and 4th graders throughout the year as well. www.potatohill.com.

On December 10th, fourth graders will have an informative and lively discussion with "**Caroline Ingalls**" (**Marcia Estabrook**) about her life as a pioneer woman during the mid-late 1800s. Caroline will reminisce about family and community customs, Indian lands, children's manners, primitive living conditions, and even personal encounters with wild animals. http://www.yamass.org/edматы/CharactersEducationalTheater/CET_ci_35.pdf

Later in the month, on December 18th, young adult dancers from the **Impulse Dance Center** will lead the second grade through an interactive exploration of how the timeless story of **The Nutcracker** is so effectively conveyed through the integration of dance, music and staging.

Cultural Arts and Science enrichment programs are funded primarily by our PTO. Parental and community support of PTO fundraising initiatives provides the means for us to reinforce and enhance classroom learning with memorable, interactive activities such as these. CA/S programming is a collaborative effort between faculty and interested parent volunteers. If you have a hot tip on a quality program you have seen, please share your suggestion with Aileen Zogby at azogby@comcast.net or Annette Pein at agpein@aol.com

COMMUNITY ACTION – Jodi Franklin & Lynne King

The next event for the Community Service Committee will be the Toy Drive to benefit Natick families served by Natick Service Council. Collection of new, unwrapped gifts, gift cards,

twin sheet sets and small electronics will take place from December 8 through December 17 in the school lobby. If anyone is interested in helping out, please contact Lynne King (508) 655-7258 or lynnemking@comcast.net

PCC – Kris Gaziano & Heather Chase

The Parents' Coordinating Council has announced a town-wide "Taste for Technology Fundraiser" to be held on Saturday, February 7, 2009. The idea is that individuals all across town can host / co-host a get-together of any sort on that day or evening, inviting whomever they would like with invitations provided to them, and with proceeds of \$35 per person going to the Natick Technology fund. A flyer with more details is available on the Memorial server website and any questions can be directed to either Heather Chase or Kris Gaziano.

LEARN – Kris Gaziano

LEARN's October meeting was incredibly successful with over 35 people attending to hear Dr. Sanchioni and Dr. LeDuc discuss the current state and future opportunities for meeting the needs of advanced learners in the Natick Public Schools. Their response to parents' requests for better identification, flexibility for enrichment and a shift in the culture to embrace advanced learners was very encouraging. They will be working this year towards addressing these areas and have committed to creating a system for assessment / identification by June, 2009. We plan to hear from them again in the spring!

Our next meeting monthly will be held:
Monday, November 17, 2008
7-9 pm
Whitney Place, 3 Vision Drive, Rt. 9 West, Natick

This meeting will be a "working session" on the topic of 'Enrichment -inside and outside the classroom', and we encourage anyone to attend with their ideas, past experiences (both successes and failures), concerns, etc. as we work to develop both our LEARN plan for maximizing enrichment opportunities and specific recommendations to be made to the Superintendent's Office.

If you would like to get more information regarding the group, current enrichment opportunities and other MA resources, please check out our Yahoo website at: www.GROUPS.YAHOO.COM/GROUP/NatickLEARN. Or you may contact Kris Gaziano directly at kegaziano@aol.com.