



COMMITTEE & TOWN-WIDE GROUP UPDATE

OCTOBER 2008

BOX TOPS – Sally Sass

Greetings from Box Tops central! Thank you to all the families who have so diligently clipped and contributed their Box Tops so far this year to the Memorial School fundraising cause. I have just finished sorting, counting, and bagging the latest take for the Oct. 31 deadline, and it looks like we will be receiving a check for over \$500.00 by mid-December! Keep up the great work - our next deadline is Feb. 28, for a check to be cut by April 15.

CULTURAL ARTS & SCIENCE – Aileen Zogby & Annette Pein

9/17 Barbara Barbieri McGrath, children's author - Kindergarten
9/24 Madeline Champagne, The Butterfly Lady - science - grade 2
10/20 Andrew Green, Potato Hill Poetry - literacy - grade 4
10/31 David Zucker, Poetry in Motion - literacy/theater arts - all school

Town-wide NCAC report: (Natick Cultural Arts Committee)

Annette and Aileen have attended 2 monthly meetings of the town-wide NCAC committee. At these meetings, CA reps from all 8 Natick schools share information on their individual school's bookings, learn of previewing opportunities in town and around the state, and discuss grant/funding opportunities.

Memorial is taking a turn at making a contribution to the town-wide programming effort by handling all booking arrangements for Marcia Estabrook (character actor/Caroline Ingalls, Mother Goose, Mdme. Curie, Beatrix Potter) at all 5 elementary schools.

Natick is also a member of the Metrowest Cultural Arts Committee - an information-sharing and advocacy group. Aileen will be a NCAC rep to this committee in the coming year, which requires attendance at 3 MWCAC meetings and program showcases followed by a report to the NCA at their next meeting.

COMMUNITY ACTION – Jodi Franklin & Lynne King

The Community Action Committee would like to thank all of the Memorial families who helped to make our first charitable drive a success. A Place To Turn received more than 10 bags of food including snacks, pasta and soups. My thanks to Jennifer Lawrence and Rob Schlesinger for help with food deliveries.

Even though the Community Action Committee is not doing another drive yet, please continue to keep the Natick Service Council and A Place To Turn in mind. Local food pantries are having a hard time keeping up with demand.

If you have any interest in assisting with the annual Toy Drive this December or if you are interested in "stepping up" your family's holiday-time donation by donating more items to one child or teen through Framingham D.S.S., please contact Lynne King lynnemking@comcast.net or (508) 655-7258.

HOSPITALITY – Michelle Parven, Shirley Toumayan-Miller & Lisa DeLuca

The hospitality committee met a few weeks ago to discuss responsibilities. Michelle Parven is in her final year of chairing Hospitality. Shirley Miller is overseeing the Sunshine Fund this year and has had an active month with a lot of students needing a little cheer with broken limbs. Lisa DeLuca is overseeing coffee and water service for staff. Christina Connolly is responsible for assessing supplies and keeping the PTO closet neat and organized. We respectfully ask that anyone running an event do their part and please store things neatly and add/subtract items to inventory boards. No brown boxes or bags - everything must be in clear storage and neatly labelled! Rob Schlesinger is the "floater" and is available to help out where needed. The next event will be the Valentine's breakfast for staff on Friday, Feb 13. We are also hoping to plan some sort of welcome activity this fall for parents new to Memorial. Anyone else interested in the Hospitality committee, please contact Michelle Parven at mparven@hotmail.com.

NATICK EDUCATION FOUNDATION (NEF) – Deb Streeter

The Natick Education Foundation is an independent nonprofit membership organization that stimulates excellence in the Natick Public Schools by awarding grants for projects and purchases that support the curriculum, by funding scholarships and professional development for educators, and by raising the profile of public education in Natick.

What We Do:

The Natick Education Foundation is composed of a network of business, individual and community support. This broadly based effort will make programs available to our students and teachers that add richness and excitement to the school program. The Natick Education Foundation:

- awards competitive program grants to Natick teachers, administrators, students and others
- provides staff development/training grants to support new or established curricula

- sponsors public information sessions
- provides scholarships to NHS graduates pursuing careers in education
- sponsors community events such as the NEF Spelling Bee to raise funds, and to provide visibility and support for Natick's public schools and the NEF
- recognizes volunteers in our community, through the Shining Light Award, who have improved Natick's quality of life while supporting our public schools

We are always looking for new members. We meet once a month at the Natick Town Hall. The public is welcome to attend the meetings.

More information is available on our web site: **Natickedfoundation.org**

PCC – Kris Gaziano & Heather Chase

The major current initiative of the PCC is to help coordinate the enhancement of technology in the Natick Public Schools. The committee is looking to assist this process through both education and fundraising. See below for the two upcoming “Technology Update” opportunities and stay-tuned for town-wide fundraising efforts to support continuing technology needs:

On Wednesday 10/15 @ 7:30, please come to Natick High School to see a demonstration of whiteboard technology, one of the pivotal teaching tools we would like to make available in each school THIS YEAR. Dennis Roche will prepare a technology demonstration, as well as Dr. Peter Sanchioni, our new Superintendent, will be attending to speak to technology as well as to his initial months here in Natick and his future plans for our school system.

LEARN – Kris Gaziano

LEARN (Leadership for Educational Advancement using Resources in Natick) is a parent based advocacy group whose goals include identifying, enhancing and communicating additional challenges and enrichment needed inside and outside of the classroom for children who are advanced learners or gifted and talented. If your child is highly intelligent, enjoys learning, has an extensive vocabulary, is very creative, has an advanced sense of humor and / or needs additional challenges in school, you may be interested in learning more!

LEARN’s next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, October 27th from 7-9 pm** at the Whitney Place on RTE 9. This meeting will be an exciting one, as both Dr. Sanchioni and Dr. LeDuc will be presenting that night. They will be sharing with us the existing programs in the Natick School System that support the advanced learner and will be discussing their plans for the future.

For questions or additional information, feel free to contact Kris Gaziano at kegaziano@aol.com or (508) 650-5806.

SEPAC – Wendy Miller

The Natick Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) serves as a parent resource and a conduit between parents and the administration. It provides a forum for parents to meet each other and with school department staff to discuss special education concerns, strategies and programs. For more information, go to www.naticksepac.org <<http://www.naticksepac.org>> . The Memorial representative to SEPAC is Wendy Kaplan Miller, email admill1@comcast.net <<mailto:admill1@comcast.net>> and phone 508-647-1947. One of the SEPAC cochairs is our own Carla Binswanger, email Carla@planaorg.com <<mailto:Carla@planaorg.com>> .

The October SEPAC meeting is October 30 from 7-9 PM at Town Hall, 3rd Floor. The topic is Basic Rights presented by the Federation for Children with Special Needs. This workshop provides families with an introduction to their rights and responsibilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Massachusetts Special Education Law, and No Child Left Behind. It is designed to help parents learn how to be effective partners with the school, to decide the child,s eligibility for special education, to plan, make decisions and to monitor the educational progress of their child.