

MANCHESTER EDUCATION ASSOCIATION-EXTENDED VERSION

January 2012 Vol. 3, Issue 5



THE MESSENGER



Our goal is to build confidence in public education and increase support for the Manchester School District

Our strength is in standing together to work for positive change

**What You Need To Know About Your Health Insurance: Be an Informed Consumer
COMPASS SMART SHOPPER**

www.compassmartshopper.com 1-800-824-9127 (non-emergency services, Monday-Friday, 8:30 am- 5:00 pm)

UPDATE: AS OF December 12th, lab services are now available to members to use with Compass. The lab services eligible are those that would be considered "standard" (CBC panel, etc). Call in to "shop" for your service site. Physical therapy should be the next eligible service that is added to our eligible service list. Currently there are 35+ services eligible for us to "shop".

NH Food Bank Activities: Support Hunger Relief in New Hampshire

Every month, the members of MEA continue to be very generous with their food donations for the NH Food Bank. During the month of December, our three bins at Brady Sullivan overflowed! Please continue to support the NH Food Bank.

**January is canned or sealed bags of TUNA month
SOUP month**



February is canned



All January: Visit the [NH Housing Finance Authority](#) on Facebook to help the Food Bank

From January 1st to 31st, the [New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority](#) will donate 1 can of food for every new "Like" of their Facebook page! Search for them on Facebook and help to feed the hungry this winter. Last year they raised nearly 300 cans of food for the Food Bank – this year's goal is 500 items! With just one click, you can help feed hungry families and individuals across the Granite State and help them continue the generous spirit of holiday giving into the New Year.

November 28 to January 20: [Harris Family Furniture](#) Food Bank Fundraiser

Harris Family Furniture is helping to raise money for the NH Food Bank this winter! From November 28 to January 20, save \$200 off your purchase of a Stressless Recliner when you make a \$50 donation to the Food Bank (collected at the Harris Family Furniture store). On top of

that, Harris Family Furniture will match your \$50 donation! Visit any of the stores in Chichester, Laconia, or Plymouth to check out this amazing line of ergonomic chairs and help feed the hungry. Visit them online at www.harrisfamilyfurniture.com to see the products they offer ahead of time!

Monday Nights are Community Charity Nights at Joker's Sports Bar & Bistro in Manchester

Every Monday night, [Joker's Sports Bar & Bistro](#) at 1279 South Willow Street in Manchester will give you a 10% discount on your total bill and will also donate 15% of your total bill to the charity of your choice when you bring in their Community Charity Night flyer! The NH Food Bank is a receiving non-profit, so [go to http://nhfoodbank.org/images/stores/events.photos/jokers.pdf](http://nhfoodbank.org/images/stores/events.photos/jokers.pdf) and download the flyer to bring into Jokers.

December MEA Community Donations

▪**Walk A Mile in Their Boots–Liberty House:** MEA members donated three car loads of blankets, coats, hats, gloves, sleeping bags, toiletries, movies, books, and other needed products to this very worthy cause. Do you want to continue to support our veterans that are homeless? Monetary donations are also welcomed. Contact WalkAMileinTheirBoots@yahoo.com for information on needed donations... there is a year-round need for supplies for these men and women that have served us and our country.

▪**Toys for Tots:** Seven schools participated as MEA–Schools. All of the schools filled their collection boxes to overflow. Many thanks to all of the educators that supported this worthy program.

▪**Santa Fund:** Congratulations, a check for \$1095.00 was given to the Santa Fund on behalf of the members of MEA.

January MEA Community Service Activities

✓**Recycled Card Program–St. Jude's Ranch for Children:** For over 30-years, this program has been operated by Kids Corporation, a program for the children at St. Jude's Ranch that teaches entrepreneurship skills. Patients take the front cover of any occasion card and attach a new back. What a way to promote "going green". Over one million cards are sent to this program annually and MEA members joined the effort one year ago.

All types of greeting cards are used. Only the card front can be use and there must be **NO** writing on the back of this. Cards that are American Greeting, Disney, and Hallmark **CANNOT BE USED.**

Please go through your holiday cards and recycle for a good cause. We will be collecting occasion cards starting NOW through the end of March of 2012. Your cards can be given to any of your building representatives or sent through interschool mail to Maxine Mosley at McLaughlin Middle.

✓**NHFTL (Children's Fund):** NEA–NH's Human and Civil Rights Committee is sponsoring a book sale on the topic of children and poverty. A portion of the sales is being donated to the NHFTL. You can go to [www. NHNEA.org](http://www.NHNEA.org) to find the book summaries and order form. This sale is going on through the end of March 2012.

2012 Horace Mann Abraham Lincoln Fellowship Program

Each year 50 educators from around the country are selected for the Horace Mann – Abraham Lincoln Fellowship program. Fellows spend a week of their summer walking in Abe's footsteps by touring various historical sites in Illinois, including the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site, Lincoln's home, Lincoln's tomb and the Old State Capitol State Historic Site. This year Horace Mann is making the entry process fun. They are selecting 10 of the Lincoln Fellows from their Abe Across America Photo Contest on Facebook. [Submit your original photo with Abe on our Facebook page](#) and then get your friends and family to vote for your photo. The top 10 vote getters will receive a Fellowship entry. Don't have a Facebook account? Don't worry. You can also [submit your photo through the Horace](#)

[Mann website](#). The fellowship is open to all active K–12 teachers and administrators in schools served by a [Horace Mann agent](#). Winning fellows will travel to Springfield, Illinois either the week of June 18–22, 2012 or July 9–13, 2012.

Go to www.horacemann.com for more information

Donors Choose.org Horace Mann Teachers Insurance Company has supported educators in and out of the classroom for more than 65 years. They are committed to seeing teachers and their students succeed and are a national sponsor of [DonorsChoose.org](#), a not-for-profit organization that connects donors with teachers who are looking for help funding classroom supplies, equipment and technologies. It's easy! Teachers register with [DonorsChoose.org](#), submit a project that describes what material is needed and how students will be impacted, and tell their friends about the project through social media sites – like Facebook and Twitter. Donors from around the country can then choose to support it. Once the project is fully funded, teachers and students write “thank you” messages to donors to show their appreciation. It's that easy!

What type of projects can be submitted?

[DonorsChoose.org](#) has helped teachers fund a variety of projects – from pencil sharpeners to books to projectors, and everything in between. Project requests can vary but all have a common theme – all help students succeed in the classroom. Several Manchester teachers and specialists have received funding for projects through this national program. Check it out; it may be just the way to start 2012 for you and your students.

2012 Scholarship applications are now available on the web page at www.meanh.org, or a hard copy can be picked up in the MEA office between the hours of 8am and 4pm. Please spread the word that Scholarships are available to students who are currently in their senior year of high school and who have a parent in the MEA, or a retired grandparent. Application deadline is Wednesday, March 14th, 2012.

Stress in the Workplace– Do any of these Apply to You?

- *Lack of recognition and appreciation
- *Relationships with others—especially “higher ups”
- *Lack of structure and poor management
- *Lack of fun and enjoyment on the job'
- *Having more to do than you can do well
- *Getting behind
- *Using comparison tactics to determine effectiveness
- *Working with stress-prone or negative people
- *Lack of direction and predictability
- *Lack of control over your situation

Be a problem solver– not a problem highlighter

(Pacific Training Associates, Seattle)

Do some fun and relaxing activities with family and/or friends...ENJOY LIFE

January 27–29 New Hampshire Sanctioned Snow Sculpting in Jackson: Teams of sculpture will compete by creating works of art from snow. There will also be sleigh rides and a parade. Black Mountain (603) 383–9356; jacksonnh.com

January 28th Bag Book Sale at the Manchester City Library, 10 am –1:30 pm: Buy books for children and young adults for \$5.00 per filled book bag. VHS tapes, DVDs, audiobooks, etc.

January 28th Winter Book Sale at the Merrimack Public Library, 9 am–3 pm
January 29th Winter Book Sale at the Merrimack Public Library, 1 pm–3 pm: Donations needed for children's books, current fiction, non-fiction, audio tapes, compact discs and DVDs for the sale. Donations will be accepted through Thursday, January 26th.
Call 424-5021 or go to www.merrimack.lib.nh.us

February 10–12 Laconia World Championship Sled Dog Derby: The Lakes Region Sled Dog Club presents this 83rd race of sleds pulled by one, three, or six dogs. Race starts on Main Street (603) 524-4314; Irsdc.org

McIntyre Ski Area Kennard Road, Manchester 622-6159
Skiing, riding and tubing. Ski and snowboarding programs available

March 17–25, 2012 4th Annual NH Jewish Film Festival
Watch for more information in February

May 19th & 20th, 2012 **Breathe New Hampshire 27th Annual Seacoast Bike Tour**
Ride one day or two, various route for all ages and ability levels, Portsmouth, NH to Ogunquit, ME
Form a team and celebrate a healthy new year. Go to www.breathenh.org/biketour or call [1-800-835-8647](tel:1-800-835-8647) for additional information.

ARTICLES AND SITES OF INTEREST

Teaching Tolerance (free materials for educators, magazine available on-line)
www.tolerance.org

SERESC Workshop Offerings www.seresc.net

FREE for teachers <http://www.monthlyteacher.com/newsletters/feb.html>

Soldiers Helpers

This group is collecting old cell phones that will be recycled. The monies go to the purchase of phone cards for our military personnel to use. ANY condition will be accepted. You only need to donate the phone and battery, take the sim card out prior to any donation. Please give your old cell phones to any of your building representatives to bring to the monthly MEA representative meetings.

NEA Click & Save

Free access to great deals in travel, electronics, apparel, restaurants, theme parks, movie tickets, and more

- Receive advance notice of upcoming sales from your favorite stores
- Invite up to four family members to join at no charge

VISIT neamb.com to start saving now

NH FOOD BANK: Internship opportunities are now available for high school and college students and those working towards credits.

Do you know of a student that likes to meet new people and wants to make a difference in our community? They need to have a valid driver's license. Have them contact Sara Beaudry at sbeaudry@nhfoodbank.org

Horace Mann Teachers Insurance Company

www.horacemann.com

Once again, Agent Chris Ruggeiro is offering \$5.00 to the MEA Scholarship Fund for every auto requested by a Manchester employee. If you would like a FREE auto quote (see if you can save money by changing to Horace Mann), go to our web site (meanh.org) and click on to the PARTNERSHIP tab to access the quote form.

The NHHEAF Network: NH Higher Education Assistance Foundation

www.nhheaf.org

During November, and throughout the year, the "Get on the Bus" program for fifth graders is available. An hour-long presentation travels the state to work with fifth graders. Go to www.nhheaf.org/events.asp for expanded information.

NHHEAF offers evening workshops for elementary and middle school parents called "Early College Planning for Parents K-8".

Would you like to schedule a parent event? Go to nhheaf.org to get more information and to schedule.

NH Connections

www.nhconnections.org

Brochures and other information related to connecting families with organizations and groups.

The Cinderella Project

JoAnn at 472-4425

The Cinderella Project is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to promoting confidence and self-esteem in financially challenged young women. The project provides with free quality formal and semi-formal attire and accessories. "Boutiques" are set up on specific days during the weeks prior to special events so that girls may try on and pick out the dress of their dreams.

If you have any gently worn or new formal dresses and accessories, please contact JoAnn to arrange to make a donation.

January 1-31 National Mentoring Month

Sponsored by the Harvard Mentoring Project, this observance encourages volunteer mentors to help young people from under-privileged backgrounds reach their full potential.

January 1-31 National Radon Action Month

Radon is an extremely toxic, colorless gas. Test your home. Protect your health. For more information, [see the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency website](#).

January 13 Amber Alert Awareness Day

Learn more about Amber Alert at the [Amber Alert website](#) and [The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children](#). See also [The Beginning of Amber Alert](#) (2004) (PDF, 12pp).

January 15 World Religion Day

The aim of celebrating this day is to promote interfaith understanding and harmony by emphasizing the common denominators underlying all religions. See the [World Religion Day website](#).

January 16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Day of Service

Always celebrated on the third Monday in January, this federal holiday honors Reverend King's life and commitment to equality and unity. The Day of Service encourages citizens to follow King's words: "Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve." Read more at the [Martin](#)

[Luther King, Jr. Day of Service site](#). Volunteers of all ages work on projects in their communities to honor King's dedication to community service. See also [NEA's Classroom Resources for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day](#).

January 19 Robert E. Lee's Birthday

Learn more about [Civil War General Robert E. Lee](#).

January 23 Chinese New Year (also called Lunar New Year)

It's the Year of the Dragon! To prepare for this major holiday, people clean their homes, buy new shoes and clothing (especially in red), and get new haircuts. The biggest event is the New Year dinner, an elaborate meal that celebrates family ties. The Lunar New Year is celebrated by Chinese, Koreans, and Vietnamese, among others, all over the world with music, dance, costumes, and firecrackers. Learn more at the [Chinese New Year page](#).

January 23-27 No Name-Calling Week

Hundreds of schools across the country participate in [No Name-Calling Week](#) by engaging in educational activities aimed at ending name-calling and verbal bullying of all kinds. This week is aimed at ending name-calling of all kinds and providing schools with tools and inspiration to launch dialogues about ways to eliminate bullying. Learn more at the [No Name-Calling Week website](#). See also [NEA's Bully Free: It Starts With Me web page](#).

January 28 Christa McAuliffe Day

Sharon Christa McAuliffe, the first teacher to fly in space, was selected from among more than 11,000 applicants from the education profession for entrance into the astronaut ranks. She was planning to conduct experiments and teach two lessons from Space Shuttle Challenger. On January 28, 1986, her spacecraft disintegrated 73 seconds after launch. Learn more about [Christa McAuliffe](#).

March 2, 2012 NEA's Read Across America: Building a Nation of Readers



NEA Partners with the Lorax in 2012

The theme is green for a very special 2012 Read Across America celebration. NEA's Read Across America campaign will showcase the Lorax book as well as NBC/Universal's The Lorax (featuring the voices of Taylor Swift, Zach Efron, Danny Devito and Betty White). For a sneak peek, here's the latest [trailer](#). The film opens nationwide March 2, 2012 and Universal, Dr. Seuss Enterprises, and Random House have joined NEA's Read Across America, creating new posters and classroom guides for the campaign. Read Across America will also develop new event ideas and materials to help you make this a Seussational celebration.

Join our Facebook Page

Don't forget to join NEA's Read Across America Facebook page and share your ideas for celebrations whether you're creating lessons from the Lorax or sticking with the Cat in the Hat. In January, we'll be relaunching the Read Across America pledge site, featuring a link to the Facebook page and Google Map locations for readings.

Looking for books to recommend?

How about choosing from teacher favorites? The International Reading Association has released its [2011 Teachers' Choices List](#) of outstanding books, from picture books to nonfiction to graphic novels.

YALSA Invites You to Geek Out your Library

This Teen Tech Week™ (March 4–10, 2012), YALSA invites you to <http://teentechweek.ning.com>! This year's theme encourages libraries to throw open their physical and virtual doors to teens and showcase the outstanding technology they offer, from services such as online homework help and digital literacy–focused programs to resources like e–books, movies, music, audiobooks, databases and more.

Reading Rockets Goes Mobile

How can you make a reading resource even better? By making it mobile. [Reading Rockets mobile](#) offers mobile format versions of its website, videos and resources for the educator and parent on the go.

What's in a Name?

If the name is [Learning Ally](#), the new moniker for Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic, the name means an expanded mission, vision, and positive feedback from volunteers and students alike, plus a new opportunity to work with NEA's Read Across America as our newest partner.

Don't Forget to Pledge

Check out the Read Across America [Pledge site](#). You'll find readings large and small, readers tiny, readers tall. And don't forget to add your own, whether it's a school, library, classroom or home.

Join our Cause page on Facebook

You'll be able to share photos, videos, and ideas, plus hear the latest news from NEA's Read Across America and its partners.

Send Your Video to SchoolTube

Looking for your 15 minutes of fame? SchoolTube has created a Read Across America channel designed to showcase student and educator videos from around the country. To sign up and share your videos, go to [SchoolTube](#).



www.nea.org/readacross



About NEA's Read Across America

The National Education Association is building a nation of readers through its signature program, NEA's Read Across America. Now in its thirteenth year, this year–round program focuses on motivating children and teens to read through events, partnerships, and reading resources.

NEA's Read Across America Day, NEA's national reading celebration takes place each year on or near March 2, the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Across the country, thousands of schools, libraries, and community centers participate by bringing together kids, teens, and books, and you can too!

On March 2, the National Education Association calls for every child to be reading in the company of a caring adult.

