

TIGER TALES

April 2021



Volume 35, Issue 7

Letter from the President:

Dear Matthew Thornton Families,

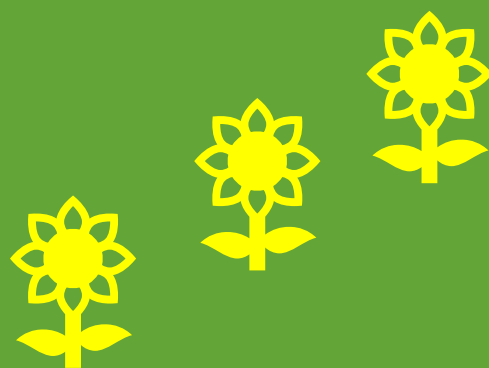
Happy Spring!! It's so nice to have some warmer weather and think of warmer days ahead! Normally, in the spring the PTA hosts our major fundraiser, Boosterthon. We put a lot of thought into whether or not to host it this year and came to the decision to hold off and continue with our 2nd annual Boosterthon next April. We would like to take this time to thank all of you who have helped the PTA this year by purchasing books through our virtual Book Fairs, bought raffle calendars in the fall, or donated to our Staff Appreciation Week coming up. We truly would not be able to give back to the amazing staff we have, or the students, without your help. We are so fortunate to have so many wonderful families in our community!

There is still time to purchase some new books for your at-home library through our virtual Scholastic Book Fair! The book fair will wrap up on April 3rd. We also created a signup genius for each teacher's classroom if you'd care to purchase a book for their classroom library. Those classroom libraries are getting a lot of use this year with students staying in the classroom and not visiting the library as often, so they could use some new books! A HUGE thank you to Susan Fletcher for creating our online book fair, and for all of her creativity in making it happen!!



Welcome
Spring!

[Book Fair Link](#)



Staff Appreciation Week will be happening the week after April vacation. The PTA is planning something to surprise our wonderful staff each day to remind them how much we appreciate all they do for our children. If you would like to contribute, please let [Laura McElroy](#) or [Krista Dembkoski](#) know.

Thank you to all the families who participated in our **Turn Up the Fun Week!** It was fun to see the slideshow of all of the scavenger hunts, games and arts and crafts, and kitchen helpers! A BIG thank you to Mr. McCarthy for being the PTA's resident Google form master!!

Finally, if you are thinking of joining the PTA next year, or have any questions about what we do, please feel free to email [me](#). I'd be happy to talk to you! We are still looking for two board members, our Secretary and Treasurer positions for next year.

We hope you can join us for our next PTA meeting being held via Zoom, on Thursday, Apr. 8th at 6:00 pm.

Jen Rich, President

List of open positions for next school year:

Secretary
Treasurer
Books & Beyond
Lunch/Recess Coordinator
Small & Tall Dance
Field day Coordinator
Turn Up the Fun Week
Staff Appreciation Week
MT Beautification
Art to Remember



Art to Remember

SECRETARY



Tall & Small Dance



Principal's Corner:

Dear MT Families:

I am so excited to welcome April as spring brings a time of hope, which is needed more than ever as we make our way through Covid. I am continually impressed by the staff and students' ability to bounce through challenges and focus on the good. We had fun in March celebrating reading and changing our Turn Off the Screens Week to Turn Up the Fun Week. I loved seeing students enjoy Ms. Sarbaugh's virtual read alouds, PTA scavenger hunts, dinner making, games, crafts, dancing, and the virtual book fair and favorite characters. We are still able to enjoy fun with our school and family, and we couldn't be happier that the PTA makes these things possible. We are well into third trimester now, and there is a lot of learning going on in classrooms. We are also beginning to plan for next year's placement, and we are hoping for a more normal year. We round out this month with a much needed spring break that I hope we can all enjoy while still practicing our safety procedures.

Have a great day,
Amity Small, your proud Principal

Remote Learners

MT remote learners had a great March. They have been working hard and taking on academic challenges!

In April we are looking forward to our first in-person event! Each class has scheduled a playground visit. Remote learners are looking forward to an afternoon on the playground with their classmates!

Kelly Juster

Remote Teacher





Staff Appreciation Week

Chaired by Laura McElroy & Krista Dembkoski

Staff Appreciation Week is coming up immediately following April vacation, the week of May 3rd. Thank you to everyone who has contributed already to making this a very special week for our wonderful MT staff! If you are still hoping to contribute there is still time and can be done via check to MT PTA or Venmo to PTA Treasurer Susan Fletcher: @Susan-Fletcher-23.

Please keep your eye out for a reminder email coming mid April. This will include an invitation for your child to show their appreciation to the staff. Again, thank you to our generous MT community! We are certain that the staff will feel the gratitude this year because of all of you!

Please contact Laura: lhmccl@icloud.com or Krista: k-rista@comcast.net if you have any questions



Books and Beyond

Next collection date is April 7th

[Books and Beyond Info Sheet](#)

[Books and Beyond Log Sheet](#)

Thank you to all of the families who are submitting hours read for our Books & Beyond program! Congratulations to Mrs. Stottlar's class for having the highest number of hours read last month with 189 hours!





Merchandise

Chaired by Julie Gallagher

Our Spring mask sale is still going on. There are a handful of masks left of each color. Also, show your Matthew Thornton pride driving around town with our car magnets. To order either one, contact Julie Gallagher @ Julie.Gallagher@hotmail.com. As always, thank you for your support.



Chaired by Amy Wheeler

Thanks to our wonderful art teachers, MT students have completed their artwork! Personalized order forms with your child's artwork are being created and will be sent home in the next few weeks. This is a great fundraiser that allows you to purchase keepsake products customized with your child's artwork so keep an eye out. We are expecting the final products to be received mid-May.

If your student is remote, and you cannot pick up the personalized order form from school, we will send out separate information.





Friendly Reminders from the Nurses Office

While we are optimistic regarding NH recommendations on travel and social distancing, guidelines and requirements are constantly changing. Please keep in mind that COVID19 transmission continues to occur in our community. It is important that we exercise appropriate caution and judgement when planning travel and social gatherings and follow CDC recommendations such as wearing masks and social distancing. It is our goal to keep Matthew Thornton students and staff healthy and to continue in person learning to the greatest degree possible.

Allergy season is upon us. If your child suffers from seasonal allergies, please contact their doctor to discuss proper documentation. Children with unexplained or undocumented allergy symptoms (runny nose, nasal congestion, mild cough) will be sent home and will require a negative COVID19 test or documentation from their doctor to return to school.

Finally, if your child has been absent or dismissed from school due to illness, we will be in contact regarding what is required before their return to school.

The following requirements must be met in order to return to school after illness:

- Child has been symptom free for 24 hours (without fever reducing medication)
- NEGATIVE COVID19 test
- Nurse has reviewed test results AND has cleared student to return

Please do not send your child to school until they have been cleared to return by the school nurse.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

As always, we appreciate your cooperation in keeping our community safe and healthy!

Kristen Hughes, Sarah Brown, & Marilynn Sullivan

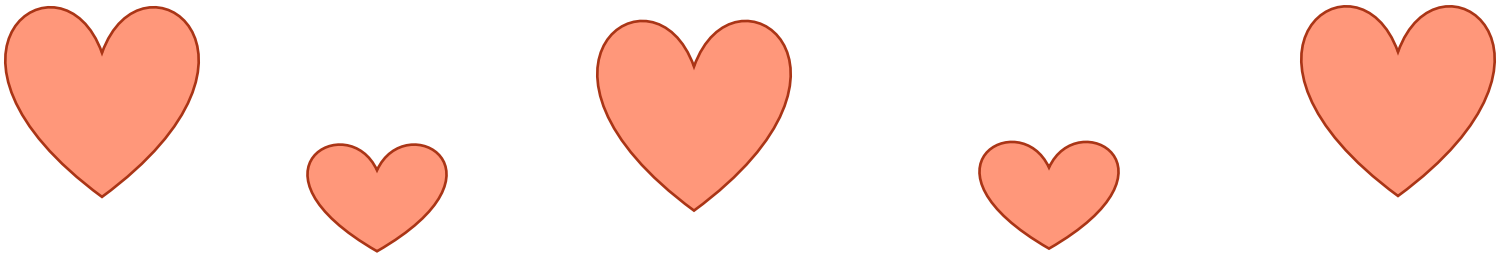




Choose Love Formula (Courage + Gratitude + Forgiveness + Compassion-in-Action = **Choosing Love**).

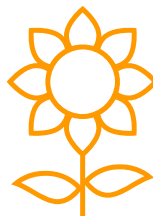
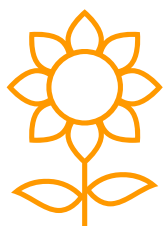
As the world continues to change in a more positive direction, I've been thinking of the social emotional learning that happens with routines and traditions. The psychologist, Barbara Fiese explains, that routines communicate "this is what needs to be done," while traditions symbolically communicate the idea, "this is who we are" providing community and belonging. Despite the challenges this year, I'm incredibly proud of our teachers as they have had to creatively problem-solve how to manage routines and continue to create community in their classrooms to set a positive tone for their student's day. Our 2nd grade teachers stand in the hall as they always have with safe contact greetings, all the teachers invest a few moments in the morning to check in with their students, and Choose Love is incorporated in the school culture. I hope that spring brings a welcome change in your routines and traditions that are important in your family.

By Nancy DeLew



April Calendar

April 1	Wear Red Sox gear to support their opening
April 2	Friday Dress Day: Spring Color Dress Day
April 6	Pictures for Band/Orchestra 8:45
April 6	Library Appreciation Day
April 7	Books and Beyond Collection Date
April 8	PTA Meeting from 6-7—virtual
April 9	Friday Dress Day: Favorite Sweatshirt
April 14	5th Grade Class Picture and Club pictures 9-12
April 14	Virtual Incoming 1st Grade Parent Meeting @6:30
April 16	Friday Dress Day: Sports Attire
April 20	Bill Atwood Visits 4th and 5th grade
April 19-23	Volunteer Appreciation Week
April 21	Administrative Assistants Day
April 23	Friday Dress Day: PAWS/MT Colors
April 26-April 30	Spring Break



Tiger Tales is a monthly publication of the Matthew Thornton PTA and is sent out to parents and guardians of every student.

To advertise in the next Tiger Tales, there is a \$15 monthly charge. If you're interested in advertising in next month's or every upcoming issue for the scholastic year (discounted price!), please contact me at my [email](#).

Jenn Brooks, Editor, Tiger Tales