TIGER TALES

March Issue

Volume 34, Issue 6

Letter from our President

Dear Matthew Thornton Families,

We hope you all had a relaxing and fun February vacation! The PTA has been busy planning our big spring fundraiser, our Boosterthon Fun Run! It will be held on Friday, April 24th so mark your calendars now so that you can come and cheer on your child(ren) as they walk and run during this fun event. We would also welcome any parent or family volunteers to help pass out cups of water to the students during the event. The money raised for this fundraiser will go directly to the school. Stay tuned for more information about this exciting fundraiser coming up!

In March, we also have the statewide Reflections Art exhibit being held. We are so proud of our MT students who advanced to the state level and are representing our school! They are:

Primary Excellence (K-2), Visual Arts: Avery Ackernecht, Logan Chagnon, and Maeve Duncan

Celebrating the 100th day!

Intermediate Excellence (3-5), Visual Arts: Allison Dinovo, Lillian McKinney, and Sophia Shuman

Intermediate Excellence (3-5), Dance Choreography: Gabriella Craigie

A BIG thank you to Deb D'Amore for making sure our students had the opportunity to participate in this program. We hope that you will come out to support these students and others at the Reflections Art Exhibit on March 11th at the Gilbert H. Hood Middle School in Derry from 5:30-7:30pm.

Matthew Thornton's annual Turn-off-the-Screens Week will be the week of March 23rd-27th. There will be fun-filled, screen-free events each night offered at our school. There will be a Story Night, PE Night, Game Night/STEM Night, and on Thursday we will have our Spring Book Fair in the library and Beach Party in the gym. Be on the lookout for more information to come with more details! We hope to see you there!

Our next PTA meeting will be held in the library on Thursday, March 12th from 6-7pm. Free pizza and childcare provided. We hope to see you there!

Jen Rich — President
Laura McElroy — Vice President

100th day photos courtesy of Amity Small

Principal's Corner:

Dear MT Families:

We hope everyone had a restful and lovely February vacation—it was great to recharge. We have 8 weeks until our next vacation, and in that time, we have much to look forward to. In addition to being full of learning, March is an exciting month of events and traditions. We will celebrate a spirit week for Read Across America as well as No Screens Week, which has some fun screen-free events for families to come out and enjoy. Our Drama Club's performance of *The Little* Mermaid and the District Strings Concert will wow us all. Girls on the Run will start their practices, and with any luck, spring will hit in full force soon, as the days get longer, and we get more Vitamin D in our days. Thanks for supporting our school so we can give your children the best experience we can at Matthew Thornton School.

Sincerely,
Amity Small, Your Proud Principal

School Store

Chaired by Jennifer Rich

Hello MT Families!

The next School Store will be on Friday, March 13th! We will have an assortment of pencils, erasers, highlighters, pencil sharpeners, and other fun items for the students to purchase. We will also have our Matthew Thornton water bottles for sale for $8.
We hope to see you there!

Books and Beyond

Chaired by Lisa Burns

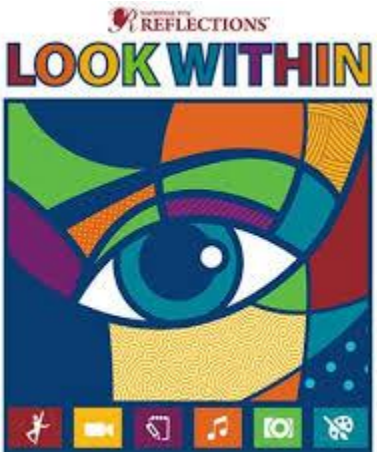
Books and Beyond readers have been busy! We have passed the halfway point of the program. We have 75% of all students participating in the program so far - it isn't too late to start! Our students have read over 13,000 hours! One-third of our participants have already earned a gold medal that they will receive in the special Books and Beyond assembly at the end of the year.

Our fourth graders earn the gold star for the most time reading with over 3,945 hours read. Second graders are on their heels with 3,115 hours read. Third and fifth graders are doing well, each with around 2,500 hours read. First graders, bring in those log sheets - we know you are reading at home! Keep up the great reading and remember to bring in those log sheets!

Children earn prizes after reading for a total of 5 hours, 15 hours, 25 hours, and 35 hours. For every 5 hours of reading after that, they earn an extra entry in the end of the year raffle, which has some great prizes.

Our next log sheet pick-ups are **Wednesday March 4th and Wednesday April 1st**. Additional log sheets are available here and on the school's website.

Books and Beyond sheets link



Reflections

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
TO ATTEND

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PTA REFLECTIONS EXHIBIT
2019-2020

Wednesday, March 11, 2020
5:30 to 7:30 PM

Gilbert H. Hood Middle School
5 Hood Road, Derry, NH 03038

Snow date: Thursday, March 13, 5:30 to 7:30 PM
Postponement will occur if school is cancelled in Derry on March 11 or if poor driving conditions are expected, and will be announced on the NHPTA Office phone (603-965-4942), on the NHPTA Website (www.nhpta1.org), NH PTA Facebook page, and email will be sent to Reflections Chairs and PTA Presidents.

Please extend this invitation to the families of all students who participated in Reflections at your school.
Students winning at the state level will be announced by email to Reflection Chairs and PTA Presidents in February.

News from the Matthew Thornton Library

Greetings from library land! If you have a 4th or 5th grader, ask them if they are reading any of the Great Stone Face books. These are twenty middle-grade titles chosen by librarians from the Children's Library Section of the New Hampshire Library Association. Students from all over New Hampshire in grades 4 through 6 have the opportunity to vote for their favorite. Voting takes place in April. Previous winners include ***Wonder*** by R.J. Ralacioo and ***Because of Winn Dixie*** by Kate DiCamillo.

Also, **Mrs. P is looking for photos of parents/guardians, grandparents, big brothers or sisters reading to MT students.** We are hoping to post them in the hallway outside the library. There is no better way to raise a reader than to take a few minutes a day to read to your child. Please send photos to Mrs. Pisinski at tpisinski@londonderry.org. Thank you!

PAWS Behavioral Expectations Program

Chaired by Kristina Mahn

The PAWS program at Matthew Thornton is a program to maintain and support positive school behaviors. If your student arrives home with “PAWS” stickers, it indicates that they were observed demonstrating a positive behavior in areas such as the hallway, cafeteria, classroom, library, etc.

The winning class from each grade level who received the most “PAWS” stickers had the opportunity to choose their reward from the Reward Menu!

Winning classes announced at the beginning of February were:

1st grade	Mrs. Maloney & Mrs. Vernet	4th grade	Mrs. Allen
2nd grade	Mrs. Dussault	5th grade	Mrs. Memmolo
3rd grade	Mrs. Forziati		

Congratulations to all of the winning classes and keep up the PAWS behavior!

Additionally, “PAWS” stickers are given in the cafeteria to 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade tables who demonstrate appropriate cafeteria behavior. When a table receives fifteen stickers, that class receives an extra fifteen-minute recess. Other special awards will be given as tables accumulate more cafeteria stickers. 4th and 5th grade classes receive golden spatulas as they demonstrate PAWS behavior. When they receive 3 golden spatulas, they earn open seating in the cafeteria. They have already earned this reward multiple times!

Be on the lookout for future PAWS information and please continue to reinforce with your children at home.

PAWS:

Positive Attitude, **A**ct Responsibly, **W**ork and Play Safely, **S**how Respect

Friendly Reminders from the Nurses Office

Medications:

Medication may **not** be sent in with students and must be delivered to the office by an adult, per school policy. Students with significant health issues must have medications and doctors' orders in the health office each school year. In order for us to give commonly used over- the- counter medications, a medication authorization form must be completed and signed by a parent. (this was sent home in the first day packets)

Injuries/Surgeries:
All devices (crutches, walking boot, casts, splints, etc.) require a note from the doctor with any restrictions, and when they can return to activities. After surgery, a note must state that student is cleared for return to school as well as any required activity restrictions. Notes must be faxed directly to office (603-425-1005) or sent in with student.

Rashes:
If your child has seen the doctor, please provide a doctors' note that states the rash is not contagious. If you are aware of a rash, please notify us even if your child has not seen a doctor.

Illness/Absences:
During winter months we spend more time in close quarters. Please remember to keep your child home when they are ill-at least 24 hours after vomiting or fever breaks (with no fever reducing medication). If students develop a fever of 100 or higher, a parent will be called for pick-up. Please call absences in to the main office and be clear about the reason for absence. If illness is the reason, please provide brief details about the symptoms so we can track illness in school.

Thank you for your help in keeping the Matthew Thornton community healthy!!

Sarah Brown, RN (Ext. 6509)

Kristen Hughes, RN (Ext. 6029)

Marilyn Sullivan, RN (Ext. 6550)

Fundraising

Chaired by Regan Sochanek

Hello MT Families!!

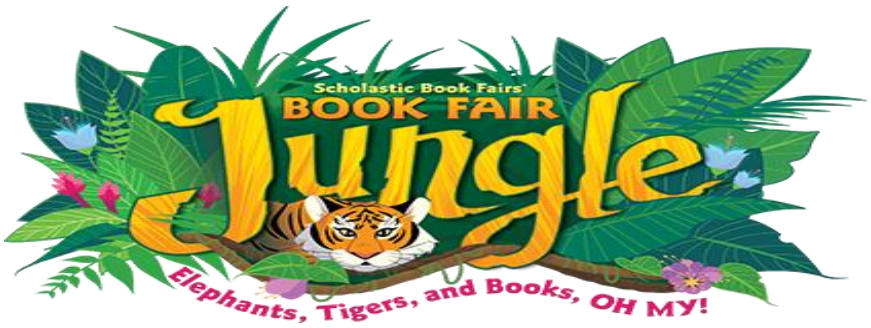
This year's main fundraiser is the **Matthew Thornton Fun Run**! This two-week program kicks off with a Pep Rally on April 15th. Families will then gather pledges for every lap your student runs. The Fun Run date is **April 24th!** This year our goal is to raise funds for special projects such as our Outdoor Classroom, and we need your help! We've asked the experts at Booster to partner with us again this year. We worked with them for last year's Fun Run and they've also sent the DJ's for our last 2 Winter Dances, most recently, "The Tall and Small Dance". Our students love these energetic role models!

Over the 2 week period, students will also experience an amazing character theme, MINDSPARK: WILD WEST! This theme combines S.T.E.A.M. skills (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) with character-building. While teaming up with the program's MindSpark Kids to save Dr. Shock, our students will learn five character traits to help strengthen themselves and our world.

Donations will go to Matthew Thornton projects and the entire two-week experience. So please help our school by getting pledges from family and friends. Also, all families are invited to come out and cheer students on during this fun, all school Fun Run. **Thanks so much for your support!**

Be on the lookout for **more information and details coming out mid-March.**

Photos from 2019 Boosterthon



Be ready for our greatest reading adventure yet!

In connection with Turn off the Screens Week, the Book Fair Jungle is coming to Matthew Thornton on March 25th and 26th. Classrooms of jungle explorers will be visiting during the day(s). Parents and grandparents may want to get in on the jungle exploration on March 26th from 6pm – 7:30pm. Flyers, volunteer opportunities and information on E-Wallet will be coming home soon!

March Calendar

March 3	Iditarod Vet visits Iditarod classes 12:30-2:30
March 4	Books and Beyond Collection Date
March 5	Popcorn Sale during lunches
March 6	Friday Dress Day: Favorite Sweatshirt Day
March 10	Teacher Workshop Day
March 11	District String Festival
March 11	5th grade LMS MT Parents Night at LMS from 6-7
March 12	PTA Meeting from 6-7 in Library
March 13	Friday Dress Day: Wear something Disney
March 13	School Store
March 13	Drama Club: @9am in Gym
March 13 & 14	Drama Club Public Performance @7 in Gym
March 14	Drama Club Public Performances @ 12 and @7 in Gym
March 16-20	MT Read Across America Spirit Week
March 16	Decorate your door with a reading theme by Friday
March 16	Crazy Sock Day--bring a pair to donate if you can
March 16	Girls on the Run starts grades 3-5
March 16 & 17	Dental Presentations for grade levels
March 17	Crazy Hat Day and Wear Green for St. Pat's Day
March 18	Wacky Wednesday--wear a wacky outfit!
March 19	Read Your T-Shirt Day--wear a shirt with a fun saying for others to read!
March 20	Friday Dress Day: PAWS/School Colors day
March 20	Celebrity Readers Visit Classes
March 20	Doors are judged today!

March 23-27	Turn Off the Screens Week
March 23	PE Activity Night with Mr. W and ALC from 6-7 in Gym
March 24-27	Scholastic Book Fair
March 24	Family Game Night from 6-7 in Gym
March 25	Reading Dept. Story Night from 6-7 in the Gym
March 26	Book Fair in Library / Beach Dance Party from 6-7:30pm in Gym
March 27	Friday Dress Day: in honor of World Theatre Day, wear a shirt that celebrates the arts.

Facebook: Matthew Thornton PTA

Web site: MTPTA.net

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