

# TIGER TALES

October 2020



Volume 35, Issue 1

## Letter from the President:

Dear Matthew Thornton Families,

On behalf of the MTPTA, we would like to welcome you to the 2020-2021 school year! We hope you had a relaxing summer and have had a smooth transition back to school. A big welcome to our new teachers and staff members, incoming 1<sup>st</sup> graders, and new students! We are so thrilled to have you as part of our Matthew Thornton community!

We understand that back to school has taken on a different meaning for all of us, whether we are back in the building, but adjusting to new ways of learning; or whether we are learning remotely from our homes. One thing we can count on to remain the same is that the PTA is dedicated to continuing our support of our teachers and staff and that we aren't going anywhere! We are looking for creative ways to fundraise during this unique year, as well as continuing to provide educational opportunities for our students. One way you can help us do that is to become a member of the PTA. Forms were sent home on the first day of school with the back to school paperwork, or emailed by Mrs. Small for our remote families. You can return the forms by scanning them and emailing them to our Membership Coordinator, Laura McElroy, at [lhmccl@icloud.com](mailto:lhmccl@icloud.com), or sending them into school with your child.

You can find this newsletter as well as other information about the PTA and how you can join or volunteer at: [MTPTA.net](http://MTPTA.net)



New Paws graphics courtesy of:  
Scott Sicard



Our membership drive will continue until the end of October. Also, please like us on Facebook: [Matthew Thornton PTA](#). Our Facebook page is a great way to get updates and reminders of happenings in the school; make sure to choose to receive notifications on our posts.

This year, we are limited to what we can do for fundraisers, but we are still working on ways to raise money for virtual field trips or in other ways. We were able to provide brand new playground equipment for each grade level for recess for the start of this year. We are currently holding a shoe drive as well, to help raise money. We have two green bins in the front of the school where you can drop off and donate any gently used shoes, boots, cleats, etc. If you are cleaning out closets before the cold weather comes, please consider donating! All fundraising efforts go directly to the PTA and **help to fund every grade level program, assembly, field trips, MT indoor and outdoor beautification projects (we really want our learners to feel proud of and responsible for their learning environment), playground equipment, and so much more.** If you are not interested in fundraising, you can also contribute directly to the PTA! Please also know that when you see notes such as "childcare and pizza provided for PTA meetings", these are all typically donations. We are very frugal with the money we all raise together.

We would love to have you join us at our next PTA meeting on Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup> from 6-7pm.....We will be having our meetings via Zoom and would love for you to join us! PTA meetings are a great way to become involved and learn more about what happens behind the scenes. Come and check out all the great happenings and opportunities with the MTPTA. If this meeting or others do not work for you but you have questions or input, please do not hesitate to email me.

**Thank you** to our volunteers for all you do to support our children and our school community! We look forward to another great year!

**Jennifer Rich**  
**MTPTA President**



Photo courtesy of Amity Small

### Attention Amazon Shoppers!

Matthew Thornton is now registered for Amazon Smiles,

which donates 0.5% of orders to our school.

Use this link to shop and save it to ensure future

orders qualify for donations!

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/02-0428596>

## **Principal's Corner:**

Dear MT Families:

Despite the year's challenges, I am so very happy to welcome all students, virtual and remote, back to school! I have to thank everyone in sharing the burden of this new type of school year—parents, students, teachers, case managers, support staff, specialists, therapists, administrators, custodians, IT, dining services, and the list goes on and on. We could not have opened this fall without everyone's collective commitment and hard work on behalf of children. This is what will keep us going as the year moves forward.

I am sad knowing some of our most cherished traditions are not possible this year due to safety regulations, but when it is safe, we will work together to get these events back up and running. In the meantime, we will look for new ways to engage and celebrate our learners, who are doing such a good job following safety guidelines and remote routines. We continue to tweak things as best we can. If you have any questions or concerns, my ear is always open to you.

Be well!

Sincerely,  
Amity Small, your proud Principal

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## **Remote Learners**

MT remote learners have had a great start to the year! We have enjoyed getting to know each other and getting accustomed to our new way of learning. MT remote learners are resilient! We have a great year ahead!

Kelly Juster

Remote Teacher



**Welcome to our newest  
TIGERS**

# Look king For Room Parents

Hello MT families,

I will be your Room Parent Coordinator this year. We are asking for a parent from each class to volunteer as Room Parent. In this role, you will be the contact person for the teacher and will help with facilitating classroom needs to the larger group.

Thank you to the parents who have volunteered so far! If you have not volunteered yet and are interested, please contact me or your teacher directly.

Thank you in advance for your help this year!

Laura McElroy

[lhmcel@icloud.com](mailto:lhmcel@icloud.com)



## Ski Club

Chaired by Regan Sochanek

It may feel early, but the ski season is quickly approaching, and McIntyre Ski Area will be running Ski Club this year! As in the past, Matthew Thornton students who choose to participate will be skiing/riding on Thursday afternoons with lessons beginning at 4:30. January 7th will be the first of 5 consecutive Thursdays.

More information will follow, but we do want to inform families that **we will NOT be offering transportation** this year as we have in the past.

Hope to see you there!!





## Fundraising

Chaired by Regan Sochanek

### The Extras for our kids!!

We are thrilled to announce our **Raffle Calendar Fundraiser**, made possible through the generosity of local businesses who have graciously donated to our school. For every day during the month of November, a winner will be chosen to receive that day's prize(s). Each day's prize is valued at a minimum of \$50, with many days valued at well over \$100!

**What to do?** Purchase calendar raffle tickets! Coming soon! Also, ask friends and family to purchase calendar raffle tickets for **\$10 each or 3 for \$25**. The prizes are amazing!

Due to Covid, this may be our only fundraiser for the year. As a PTA, we have so much good to do for our students and teachers.... support we are not pulling back on, and this calendar is our means of making that support a reality.

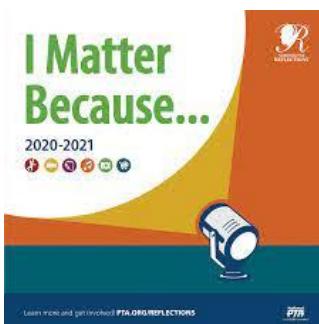
Also... do you have a business you'd like to promote? By donating your product and/or service to our raffle calendar, you will be seen by thousands of local families! To do so, [email regan.sochanek@gmail.com](mailto:regan.sochanek@gmail.com)

Most importantly...please consider patronizing the local businesses who so graciously donated to help ensure our success in this fundraiser. These are businesses who have decided to support our children with the many PTA funded extras they deserve.

Be on the lookout!

Raffle Calendars will be coming home in back packs soon!!!





# Reflections

Chaired by: Deb D'Amore

Would your child enjoy having a piece of artwork hung in an art exhibit? How about performing on stage? Then take part in Reflections! Students are encouraged to create and submit original works of art in one or all the available arts categories. Students may enter in any of the seven categories: visual arts, photography, literature, film production, musical composition, dance choreography and special artists. All entries must be an original work of art created by the student based on the current theme. This year the Reflections theme is "I Matter Because..."

The Reflections program will accept entries beginning in October and running through mid-November. All entries will be included in the Town-Wide Cultural Exhibit being held in January of 2021 as well as a State-Wide Exhibit in March at the Gilbert H. Hood Middle School in Derry. Some entries may even move onto State or National Level! Matthew Thornton had a 1st Place entry in the State in Dance Choreography just last year!

Please contact the Reflections chairperson with any questions: Deb D'Amore, [debellben1315@gmail.com](mailto:debellben1315@gmail.com). And keep an eye out for entry forms going home in early October.

For a history of the program and detailed rules in each category, visit the [NH PTA](#) website





## Red Ribbon Week

Since 1988, we have been celebrating Red Ribbon Week across the country. The goal of Red Ribbon Week is for all of us to make healthy choices about alcohol and other drugs. Courtesy of our PTA, all students will receive a red bracelet to wear that week, as a reminder of the importance of being healthy. Mrs. Small will make announcements each day about healthy choices over the intercom, in addition to some statistics about substance abuse. Classroom teachers will have a variety of activities to engage their students in discussions about how to make good choices. All staff and students are encouraged to wear red clothing on Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. Please ask your child about their red bracelet!

By Kathleen Wuorio,  
School Counselor

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## Merchandise

Chaired by Julie Gallagher

2020 merchandise orders are underway! Thank you to all the families who purchased shirts in September! This is a great way for kids to show their school pride on Paws day AND around town! If your family needs Matthew Thornton merchandise and you didn't see the order form come home with your child, please reach out to [Julie Gallagher](#).





## Matthew Thornton Fall Book Fair

The theme of this year's book fair is Time Machine: Reading can take you anywhere! What a perfect theme for 2020. Books are the ultimate time machine: Past, Present or Future, books can take you there. It is hard to believe our book fair will not be in person this fall, but we will still have an **online book fair**. Beginning on October 26<sup>th</sup>, the fair will be open and there will be ways that we can all celebrate reading. Look for more information coming soon! Also, if there is anyone interested in becoming the Book Fair Chairperson for Matthew Thornton for the 2021-2022 year, please let us know.

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### Box Tops

Chaired by Abigail Burton

Hello and happy back to school!

You all did such an amazing job submitting Box Tops last year that you brought our PTA a donation of \$734.80. We are already off to a great start with our new donation platform and have already raised \$31.90. This money is such a wonderful way for the PTA to do fun things for students and staff alike throughout the year.

This year, Box Tops has made it even easier to submit by going all digital! No more clipping, storing, saving, and submitting to the school, now you just download an app and scan in your receipt. Participating brands have already started to change their packaging from a traditional Box Tops clip to the new Box Tops label.

Now, if you see this label, use the new Box Tops app to scan your receipt. **Box Tops are still worth 10¢ for your school.** The app will find participating products purchased at any store and instantly add cash to your school's earnings online.

Thanks again for everything you have done and continue to do for the MT PTA and Box Tops for Education!





## Friendly Reminders from the Nurses Office

### SCHOOL HEALTH DURING COVID-19

School nurses are working in partnership with NH DHHS as well following the CDC guidelines and recommendations.

**Daily Screening is an important layer of protection:**

Please screen your child **DAILY, BEFORE COMING TO SCHOOL.**

- Parents/guardians should take their child's temperature daily and screen for the following symptoms:
  - Fever of 100.4 F or higher or chills
  - Cough (not due to other known cause such as chronic cough)
  - Difficulty Breathing or Shortness of Breath
  - Sore Throat
  - Nasal Congestion or Runny Nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) ***when in combination with other symptoms***
  - Fatigue ***when in combination with other symptoms***
  - Muscle or Body Aches
  - Headache ***when in combination with other symptoms***
  - New Loss of Taste or Smell
  - Nausea, vomiting or Diarrhea
- If a child has a fever of 100.4 or above or has ANY symptoms, even if mild, they should not come to school and their parent/guardian should contact their healthcare provider
- Students should stay home if they have had close contact with someone who is confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19 in the past 14 days

The NH DHHS has a **LOW THRESHOLD** for sending children home from school. This includes for **mild symptoms**. If a student is sent home from school, follow up with their PCP is advised. A negative COVID-19 test OR written documentation from a healthcare provider that the student's symptoms are not COVID-19 related will be required in order to return to school prior to the 10-day waiting period.

**MANGEMENT OF HOUSEHOLD CONTACTS:** If a symptomatic student has been tested, siblings may continue to attend school as long as they are asymptomatic and do not possess any risk factors including travel outside of New England OR close contact to a person with COVID-19.



Working Together for Healthier Kids

The staff at the Children's Dental Network hope you and your families had an enjoyable summer! Our dental program is operating in alternate locations this fall as our schools manage the restrictions of Covid-19. If your child needs dental care due to lack of a current dentist, no dental insurance or lost employment, please consider completing a dental permission form. Your child may qualify for free dental care. Our school-based dental program has provided dental care in the community for 27 years. We are supported by the Department of Health and Human Services and funded by the Alexander Eastman Foundation. If you would like to learn more about our program and access a permission form please visit: [www.childrensdentalnetwork.org](http://www.childrensdentalnetwork.org) or call us at 603-434-2327.

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## News from the Matthew Thornton Library

Hello! This is going to be a different year for the MT Library. While visits to the library are on hold, your students will have the chance to request books and have them delivered to their classrooms. Student book sign-ups begin the week of Oct. 5th. Initially, students in first through third grades can choose **one** book. Fourth and fifth graders can choose **two**. Check out is for a two-week period, but a book can be renewed. Or a student can return their book to choose another. This is a work-in-progress, so we appreciate your patience as we navigate this new library reality!

Thank you to those who returned all their library books from last school year! We are so pleased to receive as many as we have. Please check with your student to see if they have any books from last year.

As always, do not hesitate to call me or email me with any questions or concerns.

Tonya Pisinski  
Library Media Specialist  
[tpisinski@londonderry.org](mailto:tpisinski@londonderry.org)  
(603) 432-6937



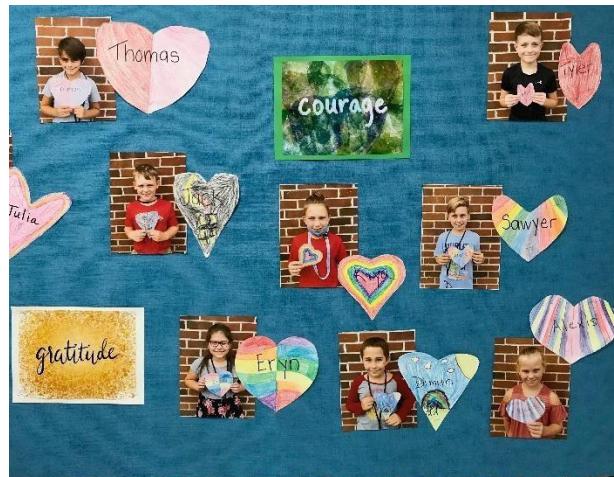


## Why Choose Love?

Governor Sununu made implementing Choose Love a state-wide initiative for social emotional learning. New Hampshire is the first state to tackle this initiative with 46% of all New Hampshire schools using the program.

The Choose Love Movement empowers children and young adults to develop lifelong skills to care for themselves and others. The Choose Love formula that your child has been learning is Courage + Gratitude + Forgiveness + Compassion in Action = Choose Love.

Although the lessons are designed by grade level, all students have been talking about Courage this month. According to the founder of the program, Scarlett Lewis, “Courage is the foundation for the other values; it takes Courage to practice Choosing Love.” You may want to ask your child to show you the brave pose, how to take a brave breath, or when they may have noticed how they were brave in big or small ways.



# October Calendar

October 1	Trimester 1 POP Assembly - virtual
October 2	Friday Dress Day: Football
October 2	School Custodian Appreciation Day
October 8	PTA Meeting from 6-7—virtual
October 9	Friday Dress Day: Favorite Sweatshirt
October 12	No school / Columbus Day
October 15 & 16	School Pictures
October 15	Cross country team picture 8:50
October 16	Friday Dress Day: Fall Colors / Scarf
October 19-23	Bus Driver Appreciation Week
October 21	Elementary Cross country Meet afterschool @ LHS Track
October 23	Friday Dress Day: Patriots or Football
October 26	Book Fair starts online
October 26-30	Red Ribbon Week
October 29	Wear Red to Support Red Ribbon Week
October 30	Friday Dress Day: Halloween Costumes / Fun



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