



Calendar of Events

- Fri 1/29 Skating Day, all grades, 12:30-3:00
Please make sure your permission slip has been returned
- Mon 2/1 Guild Meeting, 2:15, Agenda on page 2
- Fri 2/5 Public Speaking Assembly; 1:30 pm
- Sat 2/6 SIG Program
- Fri-Mon 2/12-15 NO SCHOOL, Presidents' Weekend

From the Head of School

Living the Melrose experience, we all know just how much is always going on here at school. While most of it is appropriately focused on our students, we are also an active community involving the entire family. But how do we share this picture with others, with prospective families? Right now, it falls to Tom Burns to talk and invite. The suggestion has been made before that we put our newsletter on the website in order to provide a glimpse of Melrose life. After all, we provide information on a weekly basis covering news and upcoming events. Yesterday, we added the first newsletter to the *Recent News* column of the website – the January 20th issue. We would like your feedback – on this and any other steps you would recommend for communicating the vibrancy that is Melrose.

Thank you to everyone who helped organize, supported, and attended our weekend events on January 22nd and 23rd. The family art show, *Our Creative Families*, is amazing! What incredibly talented people we have within our families. The variety of items shared showcase creativity in its many, many guises. What a celebration of the arts and such an inspiration for our children! We would like to keep the exhibit up for two weeks, but then the items are best returned – except maybe the T-Rex. May we keep that awhile longer? If anyone prefers to pick their artwork up sooner than Feb. 5, feel free to do so. Special thanks to Mr. Tanneberger, our Art Instructor, for leading this effort.

Then on Saturday we had our 8th Annual Pasta Dinner. We had a marvelous turnout. We greatly enjoyed Mrs. Bartholomew's culinary talents and then had many laughs as we competed at Pictionary, organized by the Holloway Family. Thank heavens I did not have to draw, but I surely enjoyed trying to decipher others' drawings. Thank you to the Guild for leading this effort, to our older students who provided their efforts to the set-up, serving, and clean-up, and especially to the Bartholomews and Holloways.

The 2009-2010 school year is at the half-way mark and progress reports will soon be sent home. It is a good time to pause and look back over how far we have come. Sometimes I obsess over how much more I want to accomplish, how much more I want to teach – and yet here we are on page 414 of our Algebra text. Perspective is so important. I invite you to take a moment to celebrate all that has already been done and then with renewed purpose look forward to all that is yet to come. Our experienced Melrose families know only too well that it just gets busier and busier, with many extra activities to anticipate, such as Public Speaking, Variety Show, Science Fair, Sports Awards Banquet, School Play, Student Art Show, Ice Cream Social, Book Fair, Spring Concert, Special Persons Day, Field Days, and Graduations. Hold on – it is a marvelous ride.

And, of course, that isn't all – because there is still all the activity within each classroom, the sports program, and other clinics. So please read the rest of this newsletter and plan to join in on all that you can. I look forward to seeing many of you at our All-School Ice Skating Extravaganza this Friday afternoon. Ice time is 1:30-2:30, extra time is provided for those who need to rent skates.

P.S. My sincere thanks to all who helped to spread the word about the power outage! Thankfully, we did not need to take any particular action, but our preparation was important.

Looking Ahead

In the coming weeks, we will be holding a number of events meant to provide our currently enrolled families with information about the coming year. We have open houses to excite potential new families, but keeping you abreast of what you can expect as your child graduates from their his/her current class is just as important. We invite you to join us and look forward to seeing you.

Guild News

Family Pasta Night--Thanks and More Thanks!
Chef Judy Bartholomew cooked up her eighth annual pasta dinner for a gym full of hungry parents and students on Saturday night. Many thanks go to Judy for her time, effort, and delicious dinner. Thanks also go to the Westphalen-Holloway family for organizing rousing games of Pictionary and treating participants to the delights of smencils (Google it!). The Parent Guild is grateful once more for the spirit of community and generosity that make memorable Melrose events.

Cookbook Submissions

Some interesting dishes have already been submitted but not enough for a book! Send now and send often to office@melrose.edu.

The Gala is coming... The Gala is coming...

And the first step is to acquire items for the wonderful silent auction. You should have already received a solicitation letter and donation form (grey paper). If you are interested in soliciting/collecting donations from friends, family or even local businesses, there are additional forms located in the school office.

Notes from Bluestone Farm

We've been enjoying the mid-January thaw over here at the farm. The chickens and ducks have been busy rooting around for bugs and worms in the newly exposed and thawed soil, and even a few hardy bees venture out on the sunny days. Donald (the large white drake) suffered some frostbite during that chilly cold snap, though. If you see him you'll notice a nasty-looking black lump on the bridge of his nose. This is part of his "caruncles", the somewhat off-putting red bumpy skin around a Muscovy duck's face and neck. Muscovies are originally South American ducks, so they aren't quite as resilient in cold weather as some other birds. We kept him inside (with a duck and chicken companion, and wasn't that fun) for about a week, and he'll probably be incarcerated a few more times as temperatures begin to drop again. But winter also brings the sugaring season, and you've probably noticed some of the "Melrose buckets" already up on a few trees. It won't be long before the evaporator is running once again, hidden by a protective tarp, and steam is puffing out all the gaps!
Catherine Grace, CHS

3rd Annual Melrose Men's Night Out

Invitations have been mailed and responses rolling in! Please consider joining us for the 3rd Annual Melrose Men's Night Out to be held on February 19th at Jim Barbaries Restaurant in Danbury. The event is open to all the men of our community. So far we are expecting about 22 to attend and it will be a great evening.

Tennis Clinics At Hardscrabble Club

The next session of tennis instruction is February 8 through April 15. The flyer describing the program is part of this issue. If your child is interested in participating, please print the registration form, complete it, and return along with payment to the Office. As in past sessions, the Club will provide transportation from Melrose to the lesson; parents must then pick up their children at the Club at 4:00. Please note that even the younger children are now invited to an hour-long lesson – a compliment to their past work. New participants are absolutely welcome. If sign-ups are particularly light for a group, we will consider doing some combinations, but this will be communicated.

Flyer pages 4 & 5

High Schools

While only the seniors are involved – and oh, how involved – in the process of what comes after Melrose, the rest of us are just as interested in their experience. Our eighteen seniors have applied to sixteen different independent high schools, seven different parochial schools, as well as a few public schools. The latter two categories of schools have already spoken, and our students have been accepted into all the schools to which they applied, including one student to the prestigious Regis High School in NYC and one to the highly competitive Bergen Catholic in NJ! Iona Prep, Immaculate, Kennedy, Our Lady of Victory, Montfort Academy, Bergen Catholic, and Regis have welcomed our students with open arms. The independent schools will begin announcing their acceptances next month and extending through the second week in March. Our sincere congratulations are given to all who have already received acceptances.

Shakespeare Returns to Mel rose

The 8th grade language arts students recently completed a Shakespearean unit on *Julius Caesar* and also wrote a sonnet. The students discovered the differences between an Italian sonnet and an English sonnet. They learned about meter, rhyme, and many poetic devices such as alliteration, allusion, simile, repetition, metaphor, personification, and onomatopoeia. Students were surprised to learn that even more recent poets such as Robert Frost wrote sonnets because he liked the challenge of writing poems to fit the specific sonnet rules. Students wrote their sonnets to include 14 lines, iambic pentameter, and a rhyme scheme of ABAB CDCD EFEF GG.

7th grade will soon begin reading a comedy, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* while 6th grade reads an all-time favorite, *Romeo and Juliet*.

We hope you enjoy these sonnets from our 8th graders!

I Am Not a Writer

I am not a writer; I'm a reader
I'd love to be a writer, but I'm not.
I'm useless when it is rhyme and meter
Even worse when I must devise a plot.

The words look more like canvas than a page
In a book with rows of black printed lines.
Or maybe more like actors on a stage
Flaunting themselves as the spotlight does shine.

Some express themselves with paper and pen
And musicians put their words to a song.
I see the world best through a camera lens
And in that I see nothing that is wrong.

Except that now a writer I must be,
Or I am since this was written by me.

Sean

Characteristics of Nature

Through the woods by the streams nature is all.
Mighty and strong through its dangerous paths.
Flowers and weeds line its majestic halls
Terrible furies only it can hath.

Nature tenderly treats tranquil tame beasts,
Regal stags wonder in nature's glory.
Nature's love towards its creations won't cease,
Its love is shown as an allegory.

Water laps at parched mouths, fruits feed tummies.
Little gentle animals lead the way.
Gentle birdies dance with happy bunnies
They sing and play on a fun summer's day.

Flowers bloom and wither like the seasons.
Nature is beautiful for God's reasons.

Nick

Surprise

The swirling leaves engulf the complete house.
The windy world lets out a mighty roar.
The sleeping trees are quiet as a mouse.
Before the cold comes in, I shut the door.

Safe and warm I sit with a cup of tea.
The firelight dances across my small room.
To my surprise, the doorbell calls to me,
My heartbeat answers with, boom, boom, boom, boom

Who could that be, I quickly ask myself.
No visitors or friends are expected.
I timidly tiptoed nearby the shelf.
Who is there and I then recollected.

Surprise, they yelled. I totally forgot.
It is my birthday! I forget a lot!

Jessica

The Ocean

Listen to the loud waves smash on the rocks.
The fish fly fast into the deep blue sea.
Hear the boats move at the ocean's wide dock.
Watch people be as happy as can be.

Smell the strong scent of salt filled in the air,
Walk by and see the boats soar through water.
Observe beauty and freedom everywhere,
The sun causes water to feel hotter.

Creatures stay still as predators will come.
Treasures found each day and many more made.
Each day people arrive from here and from
Watch as the sea turns dark and the sun fades.

The ocean breeze sways the trees like dancers,
The ocean gives the world many answers.

Sophia

Winter/Spring 2010

MELROSE “After-school Tennis Club” *for 1st thru’ 8th Grade*

at Hardscrabble Club, 22 Sutton Place, Brewster, NY 10509.



Hardscrabble Club’s non-competitive, beginner programs are great for kids just being introduced to these sports. The emphasis is on learning correct technique and stroke production, while your child’s hand-eye coordination and agility will also be awakened and improved.

Sign up Now!
Limited enrollment per day.

Dates: **9 weeks: 02/08 – 04/15/2010**
(no tennis week of: 3/15 – 3/21: Spring Break)

- **7th & 8th Grades: Tuesdays: 3:00-4:00pm (1 hr)**
- **5th & 6th Grades: Wednesdays: 3:00-4:00pm (1 hr)**
- **3rd & 4th Grades: Thursdays: 3:00-4:00pm (1 hr)**
- **K, 1st & 2nd Grades: Mondays: 3:00-4:00pm (1 hr)**

Cost: **\$315 for 9 weeks**
price includes one-way transportation from school to club via club’s minivan.

...if interested, please complete the application form on the reverse side and return to Hardscrabble Club....

Winter/Spring 2010
MELROSE "After-school Tennis Club"

1st thru' 8th Grade

Please enroll my child in:

- 7th & 8th Grades: Tue: 3-4 pm 3rd & 4th Grades: Thu: 3-4 pm
 5th & 6th Grades: Wed: 3-4 pm K, 1st & 2nd Grades: Mon: 3-4 pm

Note: In case of low enrollment numbers, certain groups/days may need to be combined.

Cost for 9 wks (02/08 – 04/15/2010): \$315
(No Tennis week of 3/15 – 3/21/2010: Spring Break)

Child Name: _____
Parent Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell (Mom/Dad): _____
Mom/Dad Email: _____

Policies: Full payment due with this application. No make-ups, refunds for missed classes. A parent/guardian must pick up the child at the end of the program – Hardscrabble Club will not be responsible for supervising unaccompanied children once the program is over. For any 'official school holidays' during this time – the program will be on as usual and kids are encouraged to attend. However, one 'make-up day' will be scheduled for those who do miss.

Waiver and Consent: I understand and acknowledge the risks of injury inherent in any program involving physical activity and transportation and as the parent/guardian of the child enrolled herein I do waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages due to injury or loss of personal property that my child/ward may sustain while participating in this program and agree to hold harmless Hardscrabble Club, its employees, directors, owners or other representatives. Also, I do hereby give my consent for medical care, emergency or otherwise, including necessary transportation, in the event of injury or other illness with my child. I have no objection to photographs taken at the program being used in advertising or other media.

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please find attached my check in the amount of \$ _____ in full payment for the program selected.

Please make check payable to: **Hardscrabble Club**
return to: 22 Sutton Place, Brewster, NY 10509
phone: 914.669.9500
email: info@rmta.com
website: www.hardscrabbleclub.com