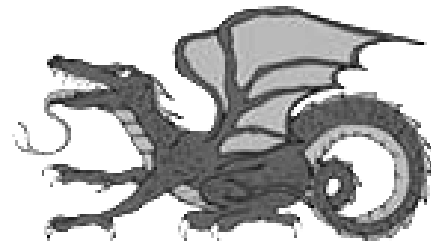


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# mastermanhsanews

Newsletter of the J.R. Masterman Laboratory and Demonstration School

Philadelphia, PA

## PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE:

We are almost at the halfway point in our school year. It has been an exciting first semester. Our rotating schedule appears to be working effectively. However, it has put a strain on some programs. We will evaluate in February and look at the pros and cons of this change with an eye to next year's schedule.

The School Council has been active in looking at issues related to improving the Masterman experience. A committee has formed to look at the issue of overcrowding at Masterman. If you are interested in exploring various options for addressing the problem, please contact Ms. Marazzo, who will put you on the committee's e-mail list. We are also looking at academic integrity, opportunities for accelerated learning for students and ways to increase technology access at school. The School Council meets once a month and all members of the school community are welcome to join us.

Our new teachers are now fully involved in the life of the school. Each one has added to the Masterman experience with the skills and talents which they bring, in addition to the excellent instruction they provide. We are now in the process of recruiting for next school year. If you know any dynamic teachers who would enhance our instructional program, please ask them to call me. We are particularly in need of high school teachers across all subject areas. We want to have a "go-to" list that allows us to fill vacancies quickly with high-quality teachers. Our recruiting flyer is going out to several internet education job boards and will be posted on our website.

I could probably fill the entire newsletter with our successes in academics and athletics. Hopefully you have seen the notices on our website. We have been identified by *U.S. News and World Report* as one of the top 100 public schools in the nation. We were #53 on the list. It is through the hard work of our students, staff and parents that we have received this recognition. My thanks to all of you!

- Ms. Neff

## ATTENDANCE AND TRUANCY COURT

This is a reminder to all families that absence notes must be sent to school for an absence to be excused. Students with more than seven unexcused absences are automatically scheduled for appearance in Truancy Court. This is done through the School Computer Network and is not based on a request by the school.

Masterman's office staff recently realized that our report cards no longer reflect excused and unexcused absences so that parents would know at report card time that absence notes were not received. We know that sometimes those absence notes leave your house but don't make it to school, so we will be sending a monthly notification home with students if your child has unexcused absences.

## CONGRATULATIONS:

Mr. Myron Goldman – Outstanding Math Teacher of Philadelphia. His name will be submitted to the Delaware Valley award!

Max Weber (6-2) and Isabel Ramos (8-2) – winners of last year's Young Playwrights' Festival Competition. Max's play, *My Best Friend the Loch Ness Monster*, was included in the Philadelphia Young Playwrights' Staged Reading at the Philadelphia Art Alliance in January. Isabel's play, *Me Name-o Eduardo*, was read at Barnes & Noble in February.

Amanda Stuhl (8-4) and Emma Hohenstein (8-4) raised donations for "Feed the One" which is an organization that provides meals to starving children. They were able to raise \$159 which will provide 568 meals to starving children. Bravo Amanda and Emma for all your hard work!



## MASTERMAN DECALS

The athletics department is running a fundraiser. Please support us by ordering Masterman Decals. They are 4" round decals with a white background and a large "M" centered in the middle with "Masterman" printed across the big "M". Purchase through order form distributed to team members or at the gym office. A great buy at only \$3 each!

## NHS COMMUNITY SERVICE

The National Honor Society, led by President Raffi Greenberg (12-2) and Vice-President Gia Mancini (12-3) has so far this year raised money for AIDS research, collected more than 50 bags of warm clothing for disadvantaged Philadelphians, and organized a fabulous winter formal, the Jingle Ball, which raised close to \$3,000 for charity.

## SAVE THE DATES

**March 6, 7, & 8-**

J. R. Masterman proudly presents  
*"Fiddler on the Roof"*

**March 28th-**

Masterman's 3<sup>rd</sup> annual  
 auction and fundraising event:  
*"Auction to Achieve"*

## CLASS ACTIVITIES

The students of 6-3 have decided to adopt a pet at the Philadelphia Zoo. They are seeking financial donations to adopt the Humboldt Penguins. Thus far 6-3 has raised approximately \$125. The students of 6-3 will visit the Zoo on April 30th to meet their newest friends!

6-4 is starting a website called "6-4 News". The first entries on the website will be poetry and informational writing. Class president, Zeeshan Huque, vice president, Nicholas Anderson, Katie Buck, and Aimee Wright will manage and edit the site. It is open to everyone, so come check it out! The website is:  
[www..freewebs.com/64news](http://www.freewebs.com/64news).

6-4, 6-5, and 6-6 participated in a "Smells of the New World" activity to introduce the North America to the students. The students carefully smelled the items and tried to identify them. This helped motivate the students and create interest in our new area of study.

6-5 dissected owl pellets to wrap up the novel HOOT. It was very interesting to try to piece together the bones of the owl prey. They are on display in the second floor hallway.

6-5 raised \$400 to send to The Universal Pre-Cadet School a school in Bangladesh destroyed by a cyclone in November.

6-5 also won the pig race sponsored by the Reader's Digest magazine sale and donated part of their \$100 prize to The Universal Pre-Cadet School in Bangladesh.

Students in 7-1 are solving challenging problems presented by The Math Forum at Drexel at [www.mathforum.org](http://www.mathforum.org). Students read and then submit answers to the problems. Mentors respond and give feedback. Each problem is posted for two weeks and at the end of that time, staff from the Math Forum post the answer, comments about strategy and highlight some of the best student responses. Eleanor Carpenter of the 7-1 Algebra class had her answer selected for "Tangrams" and Sienna McDowell had her answer selected for the problem "Pumpkin Carving for Charity."



Eighth and ninth grade students in Ms. Marranzini's class are developing leadership capacity through collaborative and cooperative learning. Every two weeks students meet for committee work, ranging from creating publications to addressing issues of diversity and social justice. The students initiate every aspect of the planning, organizing, and creating; their process is shared on the class' forum site. Some current projects include creating a literary magazine, compiling a diversity cookbook, and teaching technology.

Students in one of Carolyn Cohen's 10th grade English classes are participating in the Phila. Young Playwrights Festival again this year. They are working with teaching artist, Kate McGrath, to craft their own plays to submit in PYP's yearly competition in May. Any Masterman student may submit a play.

Carolyn Cohen's ninth and tenth grade English classes are participating in Phila. Theatre Company's Education Program this year. They saw the show "Being Alive" (starring a former Masterman student, Leslie Odom), and both grades will see "Third" by Wendy Wasserstein, and "The Happiness Lecture" by/with Bill Irvin. Tenth grade students will also see "M Butterfly."

Theatre artist, Leigh Mallone, is working with all students to prepare them to see each show and returning for a closing experience after the show.

In addition, tenth grade students are participating in a program called "Philly Reality" by writing monologues, many of which will be performed by our students on the main stage at the Roberts Theatre. Students not involved in performance will be involved in lighting, costume, and technical detail.

Mrs. McGeary's sixth grade MG class is busy studying the visual arts. On December 3rd they spent the day touring the University of the Arts and CAPA. On December 19th they had book illustrator, Matt Phetan, as a guest speaker.

## CLUBS

On Nov. 21 Masterman held the 2nd annual induction of students into the **Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica** and **La Societe Honoraire de Francais**.

Ms. Thomasina White, curriculum coach of World Languages for the Philadelphia schools, announced that our principal, Ms Marjorie Neff, won an award for her support of World Language study in the district.

The program included performances by the choir, HOLA, the Hispanic cultural heritage club, and our talented opera-singing assistant principal, Ms Mary Ann Tancredi. The program concluded with the viewing of the German film (with subtitles), "Mostly Martha."

Criteria for this honor included high grades in their language classes, evidence of love for the language and culture, over-all good grades in other subjects, and community service.

## NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The National Honor Society recently invited 10 additional seniors into the Masterman chapter. NHS promotes leadership, scholarship, and character in its members, and is above all, a vehicle for community service. NHS is also involved in the peer tutoring program at Masterman where every NHS member tutors at least one Masterman student. (Contact Mr. Meketon, if interested.) NHS will continue to spearhead many other projects for the remainder of the '07-'08 school year, including Career Day and Masterfair.

## MATH COUNTS

The 20-member club meets each Wednesday to solve challenging mathematics problems. Three former members - Healy Ko (12-2), Manjima Dhar (11-1), and James McTeague (12-3) - help teach them techniques to prepare them for competitions. Students are preparing for the local Math Counts competition in February.

## CORK

CORK is a new student club that is dedicated to the betterment of the environment. Contact Isabel Ricker (12-3) or Sarah Fink (12-2) for more information.

## BWB (Books Without Borders)

We have had several successful fundraisers so far this year, including dinner at the Trolley Car Diner and our "Buy a Brick" campaign. Construction paper bricks, windows, and roof shingles were sold to raise money for the construction of a school in Nepal. Our paper school is on display in the main hallway. Students have also been involved in numerous service projects throughout the city.



## MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS:

All 16 of our students who auditioned, were accepted to the All-City Orchestra and Band. They will perform at the Kimmel Center on Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, along with many of our vocalists who will be a part of the All-City Choir.

Our winter concert was a huge success! The High School Orchestra, Mastersingers, High School Jazz Band, Gospel Choir, Middle School Orchestra, Middle School Band, Middle School Jazz Band, Middle School Choir, Percussion and Resonator Bell Ensembles all performed at their best.

Masterman's Middle School Spring Concert will be on May 22nd, and the High School Spring Concert will be on June 5th.

### MLK CONCERT

Several members of the high school choir (Mastersingers) performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra and the All-City Choir for the annual Martin Luther King Tribute concert on Monday, January 21. Representing Masterman were Michael Reed (12-3), Randy Lyde (12-3), Ebonee Poindexter (12-3), Robert Johnson (11-2), Gregory Jordan-Detamore (10-2) and Abria Hollinger (10-2). Congratulations to our fine singers who contributed to an outstanding concert. Further congratulations go to Ebonee Poindexter who was selected as a finalist for recognition by the Philadelphia Orchestra Society.

### DISTRICT CHOIR

Congratulations to members of the Mastersingers who were selected for the PMEA District 12 Choir. The choir is comprised of the top singers from Philadelphia, Chester and Delaware Counties. Participating for Masterman will be Randy Lyde (12-3), Michael Reed (12-3), Allie Beik (11-1), Rachel Johnson (11-2), Belinda Pang (11-4), Nick Biddle (10-1), and Catharine Haak (10-2). The District 12 Concert took place on Saturday, February 9 at Downingtown West High School.

## FALL SPORTS RECAP:

The fall of 2007 was remarkably successful for the Masterman High School Athletic program. We were the PIAA District XII representative in state playoffs in boys' soccer, girls' tennis and girls' volleyball. We were the City Champions in boys' cross country and girls' volleyball. We had a winning record in every winter sport and numerous all-league selections on every team.

### High Lites:

The boys' cross country battled back after a tough race in the PIAA District XII Class AA runoff to win the overall Boys' Public League title and the City Championship for the first time in Masterman history. Individually, Beau Feeney (11-2) and Reuben Hampton (11-2) placed in the top 50 in the PIAA state champs for Class AA schools. Seven runners made the all-public teams.

The girls' varsity volleyball team was also very successful. They completed their fifth straight undefeated regular season (55 wins in a row) and swept the playoffs to win their second consecutive Public League/City Championship. They lost a tough match, 3-1, to Reading Central Catholic (eventual PIAA state champ) in their quest for the PIAA championship in Class A. A record eight girls were on the all-public team this year and senior Mikecia Witherspoon (12-4) is being considered for selection to the All-State team in Class A competition.

Individually, our girls' tennis team sent senior Jen Wong (12-4) to Hershey, Pa. to represent District XII in state competition. Jennifer played a wonderful match. She lost a tough two-set match. The second set went to a tie-breaker.

### WINTER 2008

The following teams are currently competing: boys varsity and JV basketball, gymnastics, bowling, girls varsity and JV basketball, and swimming. The Athletic Team Schedules are posted on the Masterman website under News and Events.

### SPRING 2008

Attention all High School Athletes: Spring Sports will begin the week of March 3rd. You must have all your paperwork (physical included) completed to participate. Baseball and softball teams will turn in their forms to Mr. Lieber. If you have already competed in sports this year, that physical is already on file.

## ALL-PUBLIC TEAM SELECTION BY SPORT:

### Boys' Soccer

1<sup>st</sup> team Mathew Coin (12-1)  
2<sup>nd</sup> team Burt Auslander (12-1)

### Boys' Cross Country

1<sup>st</sup> team Reuben Hampton (11-2)  
1<sup>st</sup> team Beau Feeney (11-2)  
2<sup>nd</sup> team Robin Carpenter (10-1)  
2<sup>nd</sup> team Eli Siegal (11-4)  
2<sup>nd</sup> team Miguel Ruiz (9-3)  
2<sup>nd</sup> team Jack Denison (10-2)  
2<sup>nd</sup> team Michael Fernandez (11-2)

### Girls' Cross Country

2<sup>nd</sup> team Caroline Carney (12-1)  
2<sup>nd</sup> team Alyssa Lott (9-2)  
2<sup>nd</sup> team Tuyen Nguyen (11-3)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Marissa McGarry (10-3)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Ogadi Anyanwu (11-1)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Angelique Caraballo (10-1)

### Girls' Tennis

1<sup>st</sup> team Jennifer Wong (12-4)  
2<sup>nd</sup> team Samantha Beik (12-1)  
2<sup>nd</sup> team Aura Mastraghin (12-3)

### Girls' Volleyball

1<sup>st</sup> team Mikecia Witherspoon (12-4) \*  
1<sup>st</sup> team Kate Steiker-Ginzberg (12-4) \*  
1<sup>st</sup> team Melissa Whitaker (12-4) \*  
1<sup>st</sup> team Megan McFadden (11-3) \*  
1<sup>st</sup> team Vincensa Mucanj (10-3) \*  
2<sup>nd</sup> team Helen Levins (10-3) \*  
2<sup>nd</sup> team Christine Dancy (10-1)  
2<sup>nd</sup> team Valerie Bannan (11-1)

\*first team PIAA District XII



# Fiddler on the Roof

March 6\*, 7 & 8

\* Interpreted in American Sign Language

J. R. Masterman proudly presents "Fiddler on the Roof." We have a cast of nearly 150 students, a full Orchestra, Stage Crew, Production Crew, and Sound Crew.

If you missed out on placing ads in our playbill, you may still contribute to our "Curtain Fund" which hopes to replace or repair our deteriorating curtains. Please make checks payable to "J.R. Masterman, Principal." Any support will be greatly appreciated.

A Friends of Masterman Musical group has been formed and parents are welcome to volunteer. Email Beth Haak at [bhaak143@aol.com](mailto:bhaak143@aol.com), or call her at (215) 242-8134 for more information.

Don't miss this very exciting event!



# Auction to Achieve

## March 28th

The hustle and bustle of preparing for the holidays is over and we're entering a new year. Let's make it great in '08.

Save the Date -- The Home & School Association is just hoping you'll join them for Masterman's 3<sup>rd</sup> annual auction and fundraising event. "Auction to Achieve", which will be held on March 28, 2008, will include a night of food, fun and shopping at both the silent and live auction.

The event will be held at Masterman School. Tickets cost \$20/person and \$30/couple. There is something for everyone. Come bid on the opportunity to spend the day with Mayor Michael Nutter. Follow him through his day and learn about the election and what life is like for the man overseeing the City of Philadelphia. We may just be offering dinner at your favorite restaurant, a trip to your favorite amusement park or theater tickets. There's only one way to find out - come join the fun on March 28<sup>th</sup>!

This is the single largest Home & School fundraising event of the year. Our goal is to raise at least \$30,000 for the purchase of new computers and printers for use by our 1,200 students who "dare to be excellent". With an average of only one computer per 10 students, Masterman has always been chronically short of technology resources. This deficiency has become even more acute, as the few computers Masterman does have are now an average of four-years old and will require replacing soon.

If you would like to support this event by making a donation of an item, expertise or time, please contact Amy Ashbridge at [amypash@comcast.net](mailto:amypash@comcast.net) to obtain more information. The Home and School is a 501c(3) organization so your donation is tax deductible.

### PENNIES FOR LEUKEMIA

The penny drive has reached the halfway mark in its goal of raising \$3,000. Continue to contribute and remember that the school winner receives lunch at Olive Garden. Contact Ms. Tait for information.

#### Executive Committee Meetings

6:45pm IMC: All welcome!  
- March 13

#### School Council Meetings

4:45pm IMC: All welcome!  
- March 25

#### Early Dismissals

Friday, February 29, 2008  
Friday, March 28, 2008

#### School Holidays

March 17-21, 2008

### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Congratulations to Ms. Conzelman and Section 6-3! They are the first class to reach 100% in the 2007-2008 Home and School Membership Drive. Every family in that class as well as their teacher has joined. Ms. Conzelman will receive a \$50 grant for classroom supplies and the class will be treated to a pizza party.

### BOOK FAIR SUCCESS

The library benefited with more than \$1,000 in cash and books from the Scholastic Book Fair held in December including a cash profit of \$735 and books worth \$368. Ms. Kearney is looking forward to buying a long-arm stapler, manual binding machine and perhaps two comfortable reading chairs with the proceeds. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the book fair.

Library volunteers are needed to help cover and shelve books from 8 to 10 am or after 2 pm. Please contact Ms. Kearney at [bcookekearney@phila.k12.pa.us](mailto:bcookekearney@phila.k12.pa.us).

### COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

All high school students have received a copy of *Step Up To College*, a guide compiled by Philadelphia Futures that includes grade by grade time lines as well as information about the college application, admissions, and financial aid process.

The Counselors section on the Masterman website has specific information regarding pre-college testing, financial aid and college planning seminars, scholarships, and summer opportunities, as well as a College Admission Handbook, *getin2college*. We encourage you to check this site regularly since new items will be added as they become available.

### RESOURCES

Two resources for high school students who have documented family financial need.

- The White Williams Scholars program offers monthly stipends to honor roll students whose families meet the income guidelines.
- The Charles E. Ellis Scholarship Fund is designated for girls whose families meet that program's guidelines. These funds may be used for school needs as well as after-school, extra-curricular, or summer programs.

### SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

#### PA Institute of Certified Public Accountants Scholarship 3/7/2008

This essay contest is open to high school students. Prizes ranging from \$200 - \$1000.

See your counselor for details.

#### Viriva Community Credit Union Scholarships 3/12/2008

Application must include an essay and a copy of a current report card. Must be member of the credit union.

[www.viriva.com](http://www.viriva.com)

#### 2008 Hispanic Heritage Youth Award 3/14/2008

Offers educational grants of \$1000 - \$3000 for Latino students.

For details, go to:

[www.HispanicHeritagr.org](http://www.HispanicHeritagr.org)

### SAT PREP

There are numerous opportunities for SAT prep through Masterman. Contact Ms. Dopkin for information.

