



J.R. MASTERMAN HOME & SCHOOL  
SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL, FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

Tuesday NewsDay



## HSA Newsletter January 28, 2020

### Dates to Remember

#### **THURSDAY, January 30**

Latin Dance with Ms.  
Diffenderfer

5:00 p.m., GYM

**Stay for the POTLUCK!**

#### **THURSDAY, January 30**

Annual International  
Potluck Dinner

**NEW DATE**

6:00 p.m., Cafeteria

#### **Monday, February 10**

SWAP PARTY

5:00 p.m., Library

#### **Monday, February 10**

HSA Board Meeting

6:00 p.m., Library

#### **Wednesday, February 19**

Generation Stress: Drugs

6:00 - 8:00 p.m., Library

#### **Monday, February 24**

Bollywood Dance Class

5:00 - 6:00 p.m., TBD

#### **Saturday, March 21**

**Masterman Auction**

5:30 - 10:00 p.m.

Rodeph Shalom

### From HSA Executive Board

#### **Dear Masterman Families,**

Yesterday marked the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. **International Holocaust Remembrance Day** allows us to reflect upon the profound tragedy of the Holocaust and come together to share a moment of peace and our intention to safeguard the dignity and human rights of all people everywhere.

The upcoming weeks are packed with exciting HSA events. All are invited and I encourage you to sign-up and attend!

THIS THURSDAY is the eagerly anticipated **Salsa Dance Lesson** in the gym from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. immediately followed by the **International Dinner** in the cafeteria. Sign up for both events if you have not already done so.

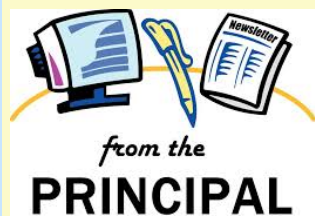
Our **February 10 HSA meeting** is from 6:00 – 8:00 and will include a small, tasty Lunar New Year celebration menu. We hope to see you there. Sign up [HERE](#) so we can plan for the food. The meeting will be preceded by a mini **swap meet** in the library. Find out how you can sign-up and participate below.

Drug use is concern to the parents of many teens. Join our HSA Academic Affairs Committee on Wednesday, February 19 in the library from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. for our **Generation Stress talk on Drugs and Teens Today** with Dr. Krishna White.

As part of our Fun, Family and Friendship series we're offering a **Bollywood Dance** class on Monday February 24. Sign up and bring friends. Light refreshments and conversation will follow.

Last but certainly not least is the biggest party of the year - the **Masterman Auction** on Saturday, March 21 from 5:30 – 10:00 p.m. at Rodeph Shalom Synagogue at Broad and Green Streets. There are only a few days left to buy early bird tickets for just \$45. Don't miss a fun and rewarding way to support our kids!

**See you all on Thursday!**  
Barbara Dallao, HSA President



## Masterman Parking Lot at Dismissal

Out of concerns for the safety of our students during dismissal we ask that parents do not park in the Masterman lot at pickup. Staff members leaving the lot have reported unsafe conditions as a result of children walking into the lot to meet parents. We thank you for your cooperation regarding this matter. As always, safety is our primary concern.

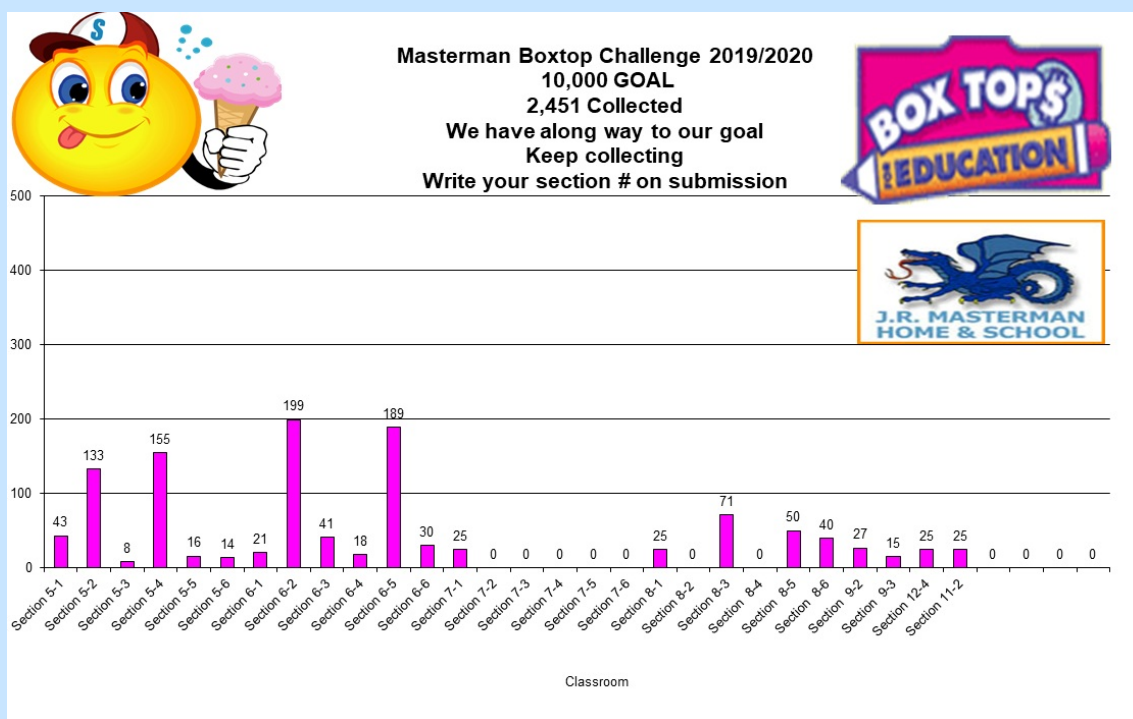
## Membership Drive Participation

The 2019-2020 Home & School Association Membership Drive resulted in 529 family memberships and raised over \$90,000 for Masterman! THANK YOU! The following classes were rewarded for 100% participation and will receive \$125 towards a class party and \$50 for a snack day: Ms. Brunner's 5-2, Ms. Romeo's 5-3, Ms. Conzelman's 6-3, Ms. McGeary's 6-5 and Ms. Fox-Jones 6-6. A special shout out to Ms. Geiger's 6-4 who will receive the \$50 snack day.

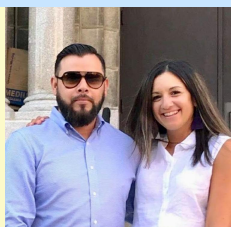
## Step Up To College

This week school counselors are distributing "Step Up To College" booklets to 9th grade students. This is a wonderful resource to begin the college planning process. Please review the booklet with your child.

- Masterman Counselors - Ms. Marcus, Mr. Allen and Ms. Abney



# Events



## Latin Dance with Ms. Diffenderfer! Thursday, January 30, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m., GYM

Baile! Baile! Want to heat up the dance floor with your salsa moves? You can learn from our own Ms. Diffenderfer! With a BFA in Dance from Temple, and experience dancing with la Compañía Estatal de Danza Contemporánea de Oaxaca - Ms. Diffenderfer is the perfect salsa instructor for staff, students and parents. She will be joined by her husband Christian Sosa Garcia of Oaxaca, Mexico, who has been

dancing salsa for more than 20 years! Signup [HERE](#).

**And after you've worked up an appetite head to our International Dinner which follows this event! Please sign up for each event seperately.**



**Annual International Potluck Dinner  
Thursday, January 30, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Cafeteria**

Don't miss your opportunity to attend the Masterman Home and School Association's first social event of the new year, our *Annual International Potluck Dinner Night!*

**SPACE IS QUICKLY FILLING, WE HAVE LESS THAN 50 SPACES AVAILABLE. LAST YEAR, WE HAD TO TURN PEOPLE AWAY SO SIGN UP NOW!**

Experience exciting student performances including a ukulele player, a junior class dance group and the Step Club! Participate in cultural activities including Henna Tattoos! You won't want to miss it.

**Join us for a celebration of our school and its rich diversity** with entertainment, dinner, games and more. It's a Masterman tradition for families to bring a dish that spotlights their cultural heritage. You can share some history about your culture or just bring a dish you love to make and share. If you haven't signed up yet consider bringing a dessert!

Admission is **FREE** for all Masterman students, families, faculty and staff! Signup [HERE](#) to indicate the type of dish you plan to bring. You can also signup to bring a game.

Want to volunteer? Contact [social@mastermanhsa.org](mailto:social@mastermanhsa.org).

**We are looking forward to seeing you there!**

Michelle H. Brown-Nevers  
Chair and the MHSA Social Committee



**Masterman HSA New to You Swap Party  
Monday, February 10, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m., Library**

To celebrate the new year and early spring cleaning - please join us for our **NEW TO YOU SWAP PARTY!** It's a great opportunity to clean out some closets, help a well-intentioned gift that just doesn't suit you find a new home, or lengthen the lifespan of a perfectly usable item.

Swappers should arrive between 5:00-5:15 pm to arrange items and receive tokens. We'll swap from 5:30-6 pm when the monthly HSA meeting will begin. We hope you'll stay for light dinner and the meeting!

- **NO CLOTHING**
- Clean goods in gently-used or new condition and of small, portable sizes
- Swappers will shop for the number of items they bring
- All items remaining at the end of the swap **MUST** return home with the original owner

We're looking forward to seeing you then! Sign up [HERE!](#)

**HSA Meeting  
Monday, February 10, 6:00 p.m., Library**



HSA Meeting

Please join us to learn what's new at Masterman and enjoy our Lunar New Year celebration. Sign-up [HERE](#) for an accurate headcount for the meeting. All are welcome



**Generation Stress: Drugs and Teens Today**  
**Wednesday, February 19, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Library**

*Just say NO!*  
*This is your brain on drugs.*

These simplistic slogans were what passed for drug deterrence when most of us were teens. Today, we know more about how the adolescent brain works, but the landscape our kids navigate is far more complex and is changing rapidly.

**Sign-up** now to join us for the second event in our “Generation Stress” series: a discussion with Dr. Krishna White, who is developing a Substance Abuse Disorders Clinic within CHOP’s Division of Adolescent Medicine. Adults only. Casual dinner will be provided.

**Dr. White will address concerns about vaping, alcohol and drugs:**

- Differences in substance use today vs. when we were teens -- products, availability, culture, etc.
- How stress and anxiety affect kids’ use and experimentation
- Myths (culture) vs. science (adolescent brain development)
- Parents' role in helping adolescents make better decisions for themselves

Please use the [sign-up genius](#) to let us know that you are coming.



**Bollywood Dance Class**  
**Monday, February 24, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m., TBD**

Join us for this high energy class combining the tradition and the beauty of Indian dance with upbeat modern rhythms. Bollywood beginner? Then this class is for you! Parents, guardians, students and staff are welcome to this fun event. Light refreshments will be served after this class! **Sign up** and invite a friend!

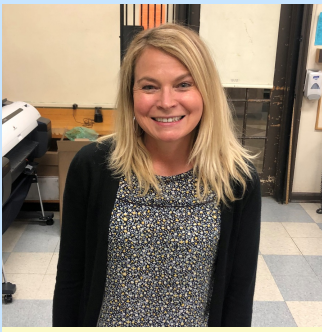


**Masterman's Annual Spring into Auction**  
**Saturday, March 21, 5:30 - 10:00 p.m.**  
**Congregation Rodeph Shalom, 615 N. Broad St.**

**Friday is the LAST DAY for DISCOUNTED Early Bird Tickets!**  
We SELL OUT – so don’t miss your opportunity to join us for our biggest fundraiser and social event. Tickets are only \$45.00 through January 31. Purchase them online [HERE](#). Ticket forms are available [HERE](#) and also available in the office.

**Masterman families like supporting businesses that support our school.** Families can also make charitable donations to the Auction and be listed as a benefactor in the program. Details [HERE](#).





For numerous reasons, LeeAnne Fox has garnered a reputation at Masterman as an educator of the 21st century, even though this is only her fourth year here. A forward thinking 6th grade Literacy and Science teacher, she is constantly adapting her lessons to prepare her young students for the ever-changing real world.

“A typical day is crazy for me!” Ms. Fox laughs. “I have kids coming in in the morning about middle school debate or coming in at lunch about a book blog they want to start... We could be trying to do some crazy 3D printing stuff...” she goes on. “There are Lego parts all over my room and there is design-thinking stuff that we are working with. It looks like chaos - but it is organized, very well-planned chaos!” Design-thinking, Ms. Fox explains, is an established method she utilizes in the classroom to get students to identify, define and solve problems using Tinkercad, a 3D CAD design software that prepares students for a multitude of real-world applications. This gets them to “think out of the box.”

“What would they want to do if they could pick their own activities?” she asks herself when planning her students’ lessons. “No one ever asks them what they want to do!” Accordingly, Ms. Fox has experimented with many things like 3D printing, Lego bots, and simply taking things apart and putting them back together. She is a proponent of helping her students create their own “TED Talks,” allowing them to “become an expert and then find something that is compelling enough that they would want to share it in a forum.” The goal, she continues, is to get the audience to think about something in a different way. Keeping the balance between Literacy and Science, Ms. Fox regularly contributes to her expansive classroom library.

Many experiences contribute to Ms. Fox’s unique philosophy. She was in marketing at a major candy company for years before she was inspired to change careers thanks to her own daughter. “My daughter started to read, and it was so awesome!” she exclaims. “I decided to go back to school for reading. Then I ended up picking up science classes during my student teaching,” she explains. This has taught her to ask important questions such as “*What do I need to look at in the real world?*” and “*Where are we going?*”

While her official rosters are filled with 6th grade classes, her extracurricular duties allow her to follow the progress of her former students. “No student and no class is ever the same,” she says. “I love that every year is different, however, it’s a bit like being dumped again and again!” she jokes. “I have a lot of kids that come back and talk to me about books. Then I love having Middle School Debate so I can see my students change. That’s what I like the most. You never know where they’re going to take you!”

Every year, Ms. Fox’s classes design a ceiling tile for room 302 that incorporates elements of the curriculum from their year together. This serves as a reminder of her years on the job as well as the impact that she has on her class and they on her. Undoubtedly, her methods help put the *demonstration* in *J.R. Masterman Laboratory & Demonstration School*. No matter the trending software 20 years from now, we thank Ms. Fox for preparing our youth for a world that we can’t yet imagine by planting the seeds of curiosity.

## News

### Loving our Library

Masterman students featured in [Philadelphia Inquirer article](#) on Friday’s Rally to Restore

## General Information

### Masterman HSA Forms

[Directory Form](#)

[Membership Form](#)

[Reimbursement/Payment Form](#)

### Masterman Student Handbook

Questions about Masterman?  
Absences, bullying, counseling, drills,  
library, lunch, testing AND MORE!  
[Check out the Handbook!](#)

### Volunteer Resource Center

[Information on clearances  
required for all volunteers](#)

### Masterman HSA Committees

Review our [HSA Committee Guide](#) and find ways to get involved! You can use the clickable email addresses listed under each committee description to connect directly to our committee chairs.

### Shop for Masterman

Details [HERE](#) on how Boxtops, Amazon Smile, Shoparoo, United Way and classroom donations can make a difference at Masterman! Thank you!



[Apply for a Grade Level Grant](#) to promote spirit, bonding, fun and wellness for every student of a school grade. Apply for a Grade Level Grant [HERE](#). Questions? Email us [HERE](#).

Nicole Eggerts, Newsletter Editor



### 2019/2020 HSA Executive Board (clockwise from top left)

Barbara Dallao, President  
Michal Leventhal, Vice President  
Dawn Baker Levi, Vice President  
Alecia Burke, Recording Secretary  
Tuong Van Mahlab, Treasurer