

THE 12 GIFTS OF MASC

A project idea from each MASC student e-board member to you!

Happy Holidays!

A great project for a council to do is a Penny War. It is an awesome way to raise money and starts some fun competition between the different grades in your school. The only things you need in order to have a Penny War is a jar for each grade. The way it works: one penny equals one positive point, one nickel equals negative five points, one dime equals negative ten points, etc. Therefore, you want to put all of your pennies into your grade's jar to add to your points and put all of your silver coins and dollar bills into the other grades' jars to take away from their points. After all the adding and subtracting is done, the winning grade is the one who has the most points. (In really intense Penny Wars, the winner is the grade who has the least amount of negative points.) Marshfield High School just held its first Penny War ever and raised nearly \$1500 - all of which is being donated to the Marshfield Community Christmas Charity. Whether you're raising money for Community Service or just holding a council fundraiser, Penny Wars are fun, easy ways to rake in the cash.

- **Mike Litchfield, MASC President**

My gift for you this holiday season is my schools Giving Tree. At West Boylston High school, every year we put up a Giving Tree in the lobby on December 1. On this tree there are paper ornaments which students, faculty, or members of the community are encouraged to take. On these ornament there is a name, an age, and a gift that a child or person in need would like this year for the holidays. After the gift has been bought, it is wrapped and returned underneath the Giving Tree and later given to the person it was intended for. Some tags have larger gifts on them, and generally each organization in my school pitches together to buy the larger gifts. The tags on the tree are usually gone by the end of the first day, and people in the community look forward to this project every year. It's my personal favorite because not only are you helping those in need, but making their holiday a little brighter, and giving them something they probably never would have had without you! I hope you can bring this idea back to your school! Happy Holidays MASC!

- **Sarah Fisher, MASC Vice President**

Every year at the end of December Medway Student Council hosts a holiday party for the children who live in our local homeless shelter. There are usually about twenty children between the ages of 1-9 years old. When the children arrive we have stations for them. They can make Christmas ornaments, decorate holiday cookies, or color pictures. After some snacks the children all sit around and we read them a story, last year we read The Polar Express. The kids all enjoyed the story. Afterwards the kids sat around one of our council members who was dressed up as Santa. Every child got a chance to sit on Santa's lap and they each got a present. The whole party was a great time and it was worthwhile to see how happy the kids were.

- **Danielle Giacobbe, MASC Secretary**

Hey MASC! As you all know, the winter season has approached and it has gotten to be really cold! As you all go into our closets to dig out our winter coats and jackets, you are going to notice that some of them are not going to fit. A good way to give back to the community is to have a coat drive! Not everyone is fortunate enough to have the money to buy a new winter jacket. What you do is simply contact your local charity and ask if they would be interested in your school having a coat drive. When they accept, simply start collecting coats and jackets from each homeroom and be sure to include an incentive. A nice incentive is for the class with the most jackets gets a free breakfast. With everyone wanting a free breakfast, they'll be sure to dig out all the jackets that do not fit them anymore!

- **Kyle Clark, MASC Webmaster**

Right before Halloween, Taunton High School's Student Council hosted "Tiger Treats," a city-wide event for children from ages 3-9. Although this was Taunton's first time running such an event, the turnout and feedback from parents were amazing. Their children enjoyed such activities as face painting, pictures with the tiger mascot, pumpkin painting, Halloween bingo, pin the tail on the cat, Halloween Twister, and the moonwalk. Parents remarked that their kids not only had a wonderful time, but they felt comfortable in such a safe and friendly environment. Many local stores and businesses donated items such as pumpkins and pizza. Half the proceeds for this event were donated to UNICEF and Tiger Treats made the front page in our local newspaper. Taunton High School Student Council looks forward to making Tiger Treats an annual event that will continue to grow over the years and bring the entire community together around Halloween!

- **Shawn Medford, MASC Delegate**

As your MASC Delegate, I would like to present an idea or "gift" this season to all the MASC councils. My gift is a project that my council holds each year around the holidays. We contact a local assisted living center to come to our school. Our council shows them around the school and serves the senior citizens our cafeteria's renowned turkey slop for lunch. Also, the chorus and band plays their annual *Holiday Concert* for them. When they leave we give them a trinket to remember the day. Last year they all received a snowman ornament! This project is my favorite to do of the year!

- **Elizabeth Sussky, MASC Delegate**

This is an easy project for any council to tackle. It is a basic canned food collection activity that includes the entire council and town. With cooperation from local supermarkets or stores, paper bags are needed for this event. Make sure to send a formal letter requesting a donation or go in and personally talk to a manager. Also, remember to get in touch with the local food pantries to ensure that they are accepting donations. To begin you must make a flyer, which is to be stapled on to all the bags. This flyer tells people exactly what you are doing and who you are donating to. Remember to include that you will be picking up the canned goods on the night of trick or treating. These bags need to be handed out door to door by the students, but

remember not to place anything in post office boxes to avoid conflicts with the postal system. Place ads around the town on a town marquee or put flyers in local shops to market the event. You should set different routes up around the town so that you can collect the most canned goods in the limited time. Designate one group in a car for each route and they should be responsible for collecting all the bags on that specific route. Bring all the canned goods to one place after collecting them and ready them for distribution to the food pantries in your town. This activity is a great event, and benefits a lot of people that need food in this time of the year. Remember to stay together and be careful when driving the routes, but as always have fun with it.

- **Danny Waugh, MASC Delegate**

The most successful fundraiser that I have done with my school was a dodge ball tournament. We have students organize teams of six students; five students are “on the field” whilst the other one was a substitute. Each player had to pay two dollars with a total of twelve dollars per team. Each team had a requirement of a uniform or team color to show team unity, also each team had to submit a song that would be played upon their entrance to the court. This is an amazing fundraiser because everyone loves to participate or watch it. My school usually sends everyone down after the last lunch and we spend the rest of the day with the tournament. The tournament brought in about \$300 – \$400 with our small school, imagine how much a large school would make. If you would like to run a dodge ball tournament in your school, feel free to contact me for more information. I’ll give you necessary supplies list and entrance forms so your school can run one too!

- **Steve Krupa, MASC Delegate**

Of all the amazing community service projects Stoughton High creates annually, my favorite would have to be the senior citizen banquet. Though simple, it requires a lot of time and participation. Two months prior to your event date, one must advertise and contact your local council on aging. It is also necessary to go out in the community and ask for donations. Donations such as flower and table arrangements, sugar free desserts, utensils, balloons, etc. At my school, we decide to have a pasta dinner. So we ask around to local Italian restaurants and ask for donations like pasta, sauce and bread. To add a special touch to this event, we ask our school jazz band if they are able to play for a couple hours. There is always great feedback by our attendees about the band. Lastly, always make sure you have the enthusiasm and support from your council. Well, MASC, here is my holiday gift to you! I hope you enjoy! Remember: Lead as One! Happy Holidays!

- **Bryanah Bascon, SEMASC President**

At Tewksbury Memorial High School we do so many amazing activities it is so hard to choose one that is the best one out of them all. I think the most successful fundraiser that we do in our school is The Holiday Charity Drive. First many of our student council members call the local organizations that we work with every year. The first organization

we work with the House of Hope, which is a homeless shelter in Lowell. The next organization is the Alternative House located also in Lowell which is a shelter for battered women and their children. The last organization that we help out is the Tewksbury State Hospital which is located in Tewksbury. All of these organizations are contacted in the middle of November by a student council member so that they can give our student council a list of what presents are needed for people who are currently living in these amazing facilities in order for these people to have a happy holiday season. The members of stuco then make index cards of the age of the person and what the present is. We hand these out at lunch to students in our school and these students go and buy the item for the people in the shelters. I feel this is our best event because it is the one time in the school year that every single student comes together to help someone else and not just think about themselves. Hope this will help you and have a great holiday!

- **Steven Shinker, NEMASC President**

Every year at Mohawk Trail Regional High School, our homecoming is organized almost entirely by our school's student council. We call it Booster Week rather than homecoming, and it almost always takes place during October. We start the week with a "day" of which we dress according to a theme. The theme is planned ahead of time by the student council and they plan a week full of days to dress-up for. We always have Royalty Day (seniors = Kings/queens, juniors = prince/princess etc.), Class Color Day, and School Color Day. The other two are decided by the student council committee. Throughout the week we have a competition between the classes (seniors/juniors etc.) by taking the percentage of classes who dressed up for the days, we have an Olympics where the classes join together to get as many first place victories as possible to win the Olympics (which is planned by StuCo), we have each class build a float for the Booster Day football game, each class must decorate a section assigned to them in the gym promoting school spirit and your class, and we also have two pep-rallies (Monday and Friday), a bonfire (Thursday night), and a lot of fun! This is the week most Mohawk students look forward to and our school's student council makes it all happen. This includes many projects and a lot of time and cooperation, but please feel free to use them in your own schools! Happy Holidays!

- **Zack Petko-Sands, WMASC President**

My favorite student council project is Christmas on the Common. The North Brookfield High School Student Council in conjunction with the town Playground Committee puts on an annual event for the children of our town. The event is held on the Saturday before Christmas. In the weeks prior to Christmas our student council decorates the town common with decorations we own, or that are purchased by the playground committee. Student Council members put on games, like Santa Says, or Wrap the Present. Other members read books to children, help with arts and crafts, or serve hot chocolate and hot dogs to everyone attending. Each child gets a stocking when they arrive, filled with candy, fruit, and other treats. There are door prizes and giveaways throughout the day. The day acts as a chance for parents to either spend time with their children during the

holiday season, or to drop them off and spend their time getting ready, buying Christmas trees and presents. The event has been very successful and we continue to put it on yearly.

- **Dylan Hulser, CDMASC President**