

MSAD 51 PTO Newsletter

September 2008

WELCOME to the MSAD 51 2008-09 school year! We hope you enjoyed your summer. The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is a part of the MSAD 51 community. We work hard and have fun while raising funds to provide educational programs that enrich our children's lives.

It is important to note that you will automatically become a member of the MSAD 51 PTO. In fact, all parents or guardians of children attending our district, as well as each member of the professional staff, are members of the Parent Teacher Organization and are encouraged to participate in it's activities. There are no membership dues. We are an independent organization and we do not belong to any state or national affiliation, or support any political platforms.

The PTO's mission is to promote communication and cooperation among the parents, teachers, and administration of MSAD 51 in order to provide the best educational experience for the children of the district. Enrichment will continue to be our main focus, but we will also have fun events and celebrate the successes that happen every day in our schools.

Volunteers are always needed. To participate in any school activity as a volunteer, our district requires that you complete the **MSAD 51 Volunteer Application**, which includes a personal reference and criminal background check. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please fill out the application and return it to your child's school office. A list of approved MSAD 51 volunteers will be provided to each school. For more information, please visit <http://www.msad51.org/Pages/volunteer>

We look forward to seeing you in the halls and in the classrooms throughout the year. Please contact us or members of the PTO board at any time with questions, suggestions or words of wisdom.

Heather Giandrea
MSAD 51 PTO Co-Chair
829-8051, hrg@maine.rr.com

Gloria Nicholson
MSAD 51 PTO Co-Chair
846-3032, glrnich@maine.rr.com

Fundraising

[Beth Smith, gsmith@maine.rr.com.](mailto:gsmith@maine.rr.com)

[Dava Davin, davadavin@hotmail.com](mailto:davadavin@hotmail.com)



It's that time of year again! The PTO Sally Foster Gift Wrap Fundraiser will run from **Sept. 12 – 26**. Sally Foster is the primary fundraiser for the PTO each year with 50% of every purchase coming directly to our schools. Last year we raised over **\$20,000!** These proceeds are used to support enrichment opportunities for grades K-8. Previous programming has included visiting authors, singers/songwriters, environmental presentations, trips to the theater, ballet and museums as well as supplementing busing costs to attend these events.

We are once again promoting the on-line sales option so please visit our website for more details as well as the link to Sally Foster.

Thank you for your support of this critical fundraiser!

You Can Make a Difference for Our School with Box Tops!

- **Clip** Box Top coupons from favorite products and send them to our school. **Note:** When clipping the box top be aware that each one has an expiration date. This date must not be clipped off or expired for the submission to be valid.
- **Shop** at your favorite online stores through the Box Tops MarketplaceSM (btf.com/marketplace), and up to 8% of your qualifying purchase will **automatically be donated to our school with no additional cost to you!**

- **Purchase books** through the Box Tops Reading RoomSM at Barnes & Noble

For further details on contests and promotions please visit <http://www.msad51pto.com/Box%20Tops%20for%20Education.htm>

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Events

Brenda Pitcher, brendalpitcher@msn.com,

Sara Perfetti, sara.perfetti@gmail.com

September 23 – Kindergarten “check-in” 10:00am at Prince Memorial Library **OR** 6:30 PM at MIW.

Kindergarten parents are encouraged to come meet with the Guidance counselors from MIW and give feedback about their child’s entry experience into our school system.

Volunteer

Deb Regan, deborah@maine.rr.com

ARE YOU CREATIVE? We are looking for volunteers to maintain the bulletin boards at each of the schools. We will provide you with a schedule of events and happenings and you update them accordingly.

Our **Boxtops Coordinator** needs assistance collecting and sorting Boxtops, organizing raffles, and procuring donations at various times throughout the year.

Wish list

The PTO has compiled a wish list from the teachers with in our district. Once the year is fully underway we will update as needed. Take a look at the list on our website. You may have something that your child’s teacher needs or perhaps a teacher in another grade.

Enrichment

MIW – Amy Saffian, saffian7@verizon.net,

DRS/NYMS - Becky Sledjeski, esledjeski@maine.rr.com,

GMS/GHS – Deb Regan, deborah@maine.rr.com

Month long Celebration of the Arts, Author visits, Planting Supplies, Theatreworks USA, Sparks Ark, Audubon field trip, Bradbury Mountain, Magician, Desert of Maine, Chebeague Island Historian, Bare Books journals, Maine Historical Society, Chewonki Foundation, Planetarium field trip, Funtown, Gordon Corbett, Maine Maritime Museum, Crescent Beach, Wassamski Springs, Science Kits, Peabody-Essex Museum, Substance Abuse programming, The Leadership School

What do all of these have in common? They are enrichment activities made available by you! We spent a little over \$21,000 to provide students with experiences above and beyond the classroom setting. Because of your generosity the students in grades K-8 were afforded opportunities that the school district does not include in its budget. Many of these programs are perennial favorites or one time opportunities that allow a deeper understanding of a subject and others are just plain fun! Whatever the purpose, our children’s lives are enhanced. Thank you to those of you who continue to contribute and make these programs available to all students.

Meetings

The PTO meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7: 00 PM at MIW unless noted otherwise.

FMI please visit the PTO website at www.msad51pto.com