

Dear Parents,

The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) has existed in some form for nearly 32 years now! While over the years the focus has changed to meet current needs and many programs have been added, the mission has remained the same. The MSAD 51 PTO is an organization whose purpose is to promote communication and cooperation among the parents, teachers, and administration of MSAD 51 through fundraising and volunteer activities in order to provide the best educational experience for the children of the district.

It is our hope that you will be active in the MSAD 51 community. All parents or guardians of children attending our district are automatically members of the PTO. The PTO Informational meetings hosting administration guest speakers will be the second Tuesday of every month at 7p.m. in the MIW Library unless otherwise noted.

Each year the PTO spends approximately \$20,000 to provide students with experiences above and beyond the classroom setting. Our K-8 students are afforded opportunities that the school district does not include in its budget. We thank you for supporting our primary Sally Foster fundraiser.

The PTO has many events planned this year. You can help support your school by attending and assisting with our family-oriented events. It's a great way to meet other parents, make a difference in your child's education, and contribute to the success of our schools. Please visit our website at [www.msad51pto.com](http://www.msad51pto.com) for more information on enrichment activities we offer our students. Another way to stay informed is to read the monthly PTO newsletter that is sent via email the first Friday of every month. Occasionally, we will send home flyers and letters with your student.

Communication is essential for the PTO to fulfill its mission. We would like an honest evaluation of your thoughts about PTO. **Please complete the attached Parent/Guardian Survey by October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008 and return it to school with your child.** If you prefer to share your comments via email please send them to [glrnich@maine.rr.com](mailto:glrnich@maine.rr.com) or [hrg@maine.rr.com](mailto:hrg@maine.rr.com). We look forward to hearing from you and appreciate your participation in the survey.

**Heather Giandrea**  
MSAD 51 PTO Co-Chair  
829-8051, [hrg@maine.rr.com](mailto:hrg@maine.rr.com)

**Gloria Nicholson**  
MSAD 51 PTO Co-Chair  
846-3032, [glrnich@maine.rr.com](mailto:glrnich@maine.rr.com)

### **Enrichment (en-rich-muhnt) – The act of adding greater value or significance to.**

Each year the PTO designates approximately 70% of its funds to the enrichment programs for grades K-8 within our district. We allot a dollar amount per child so each grade is treated equitably. From this amount teachers work to offer students opportunities, not part of their day to day schedule, which align with their curriculum. A portion of these activities need only monetary input (speaking fees, ticket prices, transportation etc.) while others call for community involvement. Throughout the year the PTO may be looking for volunteers to assist in these programs. We are always looking for broader parental involvement surrounding these functions. Each grade has a coordinator to organize these efforts and would happily answer any questions you may have. Please note: you must be an approved volunteer to participate. Forms are available on line and may be returned to your child's school. Approved forms are valid for five years. <http://www.msad51.org/Pages/MSAD51volapp.pdf>

### **Building Enrichment Chairs**

**MIW** Amy Saffian 829-4266, [saffian7@verizon.net](mailto:saffian7@verizon.net)

**DRS/NYMS** Becky Sledjeski 829-6605,  
[esledjeski@maine.rr.com](mailto:esledjeski@maine.rr.com)

**GMS/GHS** Deb Regan 829-5787, [deborah@maine.rr.com](mailto:deborah@maine.rr.com)

### **Grade Level Coordinators**

K - Sara Perfetti 829-2869, [sara.perfetti@gmail.com](mailto:sara.perfetti@gmail.com)

1<sup>st</sup> - Colette Howell 829-6001, [colette@howell-ltd.com](mailto:colette@howell-ltd.com)

2<sup>nd</sup> - Maureen Morrone 829-5314, [rmorrone@maine.rr.com](mailto:rmorrone@maine.rr.com)

3<sup>rd</sup> - Tyra Tarbox 829-5785, [tyra@maine.rr.com](mailto:tyra@maine.rr.com)

M - Bethany Smart 829-4207, [bethanyandrick@maine.rr.com](mailto:bethanyandrick@maine.rr.com)

4<sup>th</sup> - Aileen Zambarnardi 829-6821, [aileenz@maine.rr.com](mailto:aileenz@maine.rr.com)

5<sup>th</sup> - Sue Pynchon 829-6840, [spynchon@maine.rr.com](mailto:spynchon@maine.rr.com)

6<sup>th</sup> - Deb Regan 829-5787, [deborah@maine.rr.com](mailto:deborah@maine.rr.com)

7<sup>th</sup> - Gloria Nicholson 846-3032, [glrnich@maine.rr.com](mailto:glrnich@maine.rr.com)

8<sup>th</sup> - Patty Normandeau 829-5175, [murphpat@maine.rr.com](mailto:murphpat@maine.rr.com)

## Enrichment (cont.)

### Chewonki Foundation

Do you know which owls live in Maine? How many eyelids do owls have? How far can an owl turn its head? Why does it do this? Can you distinguish different owls by their sounds? How many toes does the owl have? What is unique about the talons of the owl? Don't know? Ask a third grader! The PTO sponsored a visit from the Chewonki Foundation to present their exciting and informative program "Owls of Maine" to the third grade classes. With their slides and sounds, students learned the identifying characteristics and calls of each owl. They even got to meet a live Barred Owl, a Great Horned Owl, and a Saw Whet Owl in person.

## Fundraising

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

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

Our on-site Sally Foster sale is complete for this year, and we wanted to both thank all of our participating families for their help in making the sale a success, and remind families that they are able to continue to purchase items on-line until June 2009, with 50% of the purchase price returned to MSAD #51 PTO on the same terms as during the original sale.

Based on our preliminary tally, it appears that yet again, we've had an overwhelming response from the community, resulting in another successful sale this year. These funds enable MSAD #51 PTO to fund our enrichment opportunities for grades K-8. We are grateful to the community for responding so generously and look forward to being able to offer exciting and stimulating opportunities to MSAD #51's schoolchildren.

Thank you!

## September Boxtop Winners

**MIW** - Danny Geary - Puzzle book, Sydney Gilbert - Arthur book, Kyle Atheam - Pencil set

**DRS**- Evan Thaxter - \$5 Walmart gift card

**NYMS** - Ezra Leverett - \$5 Books Etc. gift card

**GMS** - Carly Parent - Movie Pass

## Events

Brenda Pitcher, [brendalpitcher@msn.com](mailto:brendalpitcher@msn.com),

Sara Perfetti, [sara.perfetti@gmail.com](mailto:sara.perfetti@gmail.com)

### **Appreciation Day for Bus Drivers, Food Service and Custodians - Tuesday, October 21**

The PTO will host a brunch for all of the Bus Drivers, Custodians and Food Service in the district on Tuesday, October 21 to show our appreciation for all that they do. Please let us know if you are willing to help. We will need lots of baked goods as well as help setting up and cleaning up.

**Save the Date! - Nov. 3, 7:00pm @ GMS**

**Family Night Out w/ Magician Peter Boie**

**Kudos** - Luke Marsanskis, currently in second grade at MIW, had his work published in Highlights magazine this summer. Congratulations!

### **Meetings - The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 14 at 7:00pm at MIW.**

Our guests for the evening will be Superintendent Dr. Bob Hasson and Curriculum Director David Galin.

### **Volunteer** Deb Regan, [deborah@maine.rr.com](mailto:deborah@maine.rr.com)

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 and return it to your child's school office. A list of approved MSAD 51 volunteers will be provided to each school. Approved applications are valid for a five year period. For more information, please visit <http://www.msad51.org/Pages/volunteer>

**For a full schedule of events, meetings and contests please visit the PTO website at [www.msad51pto.com](http://www.msad51pto.com)**