

MSAD 51 PTO Newsletter

www.msad51pto.com



November 2008

Dear Parents,

In an attempt to ensure that the PTO is operating in a manner that is beneficial to the widest population we distributed a survey (K-5) for feedback. Thank you to all who participated. Unfortunately (or fortunately, no news is good news?), we heard from only about 10 % of the MSAD 51 community. From those numbers we've made some determinations.

- 4/5 felt that our efforts are some what or extremely important and we will continue to focus our resources on student enrichment activities and events which help foster a sense of community
- By the same token we will put less effort into providing educational opportunities for adults (Parent University)
- We are in the process of reexamining our "Events" and are trying to provide functions that **actively** involve the entire family, who knew you all liked to dance so much?!
- Although many expressed the desire for a paper newsletter an even greater number found electronic messages more desirable – going forward our newsletters will be available on-line the first Friday of each month
- 40% enjoy the fundraisers, while 60% would rather donate a set sum per child – This topic is up for discussion concerning the 2009-10 school year. Stay tuned....
- Numerous suggestions were made concerning Community Service Projects. We've decided to start at home with beautification projects at various schools as well as playground upkeep
- And lastly, on that same note – We will try to be concise and specific when recruiting volunteers for various projects and give plenty of warning!

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VOLUNTEER NEWS

Deb Regan, deborah@maine.rr.com

After the success of "No Name Calling Week" last January the staff at MIW has expressed an interest in establishing a formal volunteer program for recess this school year. Volunteers will receive a copy of the recess rules and be identified with a vest. All volunteers would be required to check in with the office and then with the recess staff on the playground. These efforts would stress organized games as an **optional** activity for the kids to help teach teamwork and allow the recess staff to tend to the needs and safety of the children. Some suggestions include obstacle courses, tag games, teaching 4 square, or red light/green light although there are many other games as well, all of which would be played in the field by the kickball field. At the end of recess, to encourage responsibility, the volunteers will help remind the children to circle up when called, and to collect any balls, jump ropes, cars etc. they have played with. Assisting the children quietly through the halls, washing up and on to lunch would be helpful too. The ultimate goal of this parent involvement is to help our children to learn the importance of including everyone in recess games in a positive and friendly environment.

We are looking for multiple volunteers per time slot each day of the week. You may volunteer daily, weekly, monthly – whatever works for you! If you are interested in volunteering please reply to Gloria Nicholson, glrnich@maine.rr.com with your preferences of time, day and frequency and we will establish a schedule. We would like to start this program the week of Nov. 17th.

The children will be educated by classroom teachers on the role of the volunteer and will hopefully be on the lookout for you!

The recess times are as follows:

11:00- 11:20 - Butterfly Wing – Adams, Carmichael, Geesaman/Shibles, Jones, Rugh

11:25 – 11:45- Kindergarten – Begos, Belanger, Folley, Gallant, Galli, J. King, L. King, Shaw, Train

11:50 – 12:10 – Salamander – Allen, Boire, Burke, Cameron-Raymond, Cooper, Cory, O'Rourke

12:15 – 12:35 – Starfish -- Brown, Kameisha, Kearins, Libby, Russell, Zimmerman

ENRICHMENT UPDATES



MIW – Amy Saffian, saffian7@verizon.net

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

Lions and Tigers and Bears, Oh my! Well....maybe not a tiger....but the third graders did get to see a (Mountain) Lion and a (Maine Black) Bear along with many other animals at the Maine Wildlife Park! The students viewed the Maine Wildlife exhibits and learned about their physical characteristics that enable them to survive within their environment. They learned about Maine habitats, why moose and deer grow antlers, why birds have different shaped bills, why turtles have varied body shapes and appendages, how camouflage benefits those animals that exhibit it and more!

GMS/GHS – Deb Regan, Deborah@maine.rr.com Africa Day for 7th grade is scheduled for Nov. 20th. The students will have a chance to sample authentic African dishes and will welcome Oscar Mokeme from the Museum of African Culture in Portland. Mr. Mokeme will display and discuss a collection of African masks. In traditional Africa, masks are central and essential to the spiritual and cultural life of this continent. The 6th grade classes were able to take part in a drug awareness and prevention program this fall at the Cumberland fairgrounds. The students were able to view demonstrations by local law enforcement with their police dogs as well as a student led program called project AWARE. They also enjoyed a program put on by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

EVENTS

Brenda Pitcher, brendalpitcher@msn.com
Sara Perfetti, sara.perfetti@gmail.com



ABRA CADABRA!! Over 300 people appeared for the PTO Family Night Out free event featuring magician Peter Bo Cards were flying, Doves were appearing, and all present were mesmerized by the magic and entertaining show.

UPCOMING:

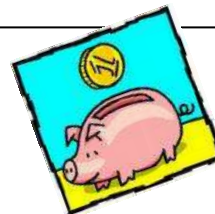
Community Holiday Workshop: On December 6th from 2-5 pm, the PTO will be sponsoring the Community Holiday Workshop, a children's craft fair where kids can make their own holiday gifts for parents, grandparents, pets, etc. This event is one of the annual favorites for many children in the district. And, in order to make it a great event for the kids, we need lots of help pulling it together. We need volunteers to set up tables on the evening of December 5th, and volunteers to help children with the crafts for the duration of the event. With your help, we can make this a great afternoon for our children.

Happy Wheels: Roller Skating at Happy Wheels is scheduled for 11/19 from 2:30 to 4:30. Cost is \$5.00 to skate and roller skate rentals are free but in-line skates are \$2.00. Transportation and supervision to be provided by parents or designated adult.

Next Family Night Out March 16, 2009

FUNDRAISING

Beth Smith, gsmith@maine.rr.com
Dava Davin, davadavin@hotmail.com



Sally is back in town! We have raised over \$17,000.00 through our Sally Foster sales, all of which will go to support enrichment opportunities for MSAD #51 students. Sally Foster orders arrive on November 7 at the schools.

Parents of **MIW/DRS** and **GMS** students can pick-up at MIW multipurpose room Nov. 7th 3pm to 5pm pick up time

Nov. 8th 9a-12p pick up time

NYMS students will bring their orders home Friday



BOXTOPS

Thank you to everyone who has collected boxtops! Keep up the great work we are off to a great start. Over the past six months we have collected 1,355.90 for our MSAD 51 schools.

The winners for the month of October are as follows:

MIW- **Carson Bell** Touch a Truck t-shirt and **Ellis Ritchie** Magic School Bus Fights Germs
DRS- **Sami B Russell** \$5 Walmart gift card
GMS -**Camilla Horton** Movie pass

Next month the prizes will be as follows:

MIW Touch a Truck t-shirt and Magic School Bus book
NYMS and GMS your choice of \$5 Walmart card, \$5 Books etc card or a movie pass

MEETINGS



Due to the Veteran's Day holiday our next PTO Meeting will be **November 18th** at 7 pm in the MIW library.

Feature Speakers: MIW & DRS Administrators, Susie Robbins and Karen Bubar respectively.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS EXCITING GET-TOGETHER!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY PTO EVENT OR PROGRAM, PLEASE VISIT WWW.MSAD51PTO.COM