

MSAD 51 PTO Newsletter

www.msad51pto.com



June 2009

Dear Families,

Last month a portion of our newsletter was dedicated to filling positions going forward to next year. Over the last few years we have found it increasingly difficult to fill some of these positions. Because of this, we have taken a step back to reflect upon our mission. Is it current and/or relevant? If so, are there alternative methods to fulfill these goals? If not, what can we, as parents, be doing better or differently?

Throughout the school board budget process the concept of community communication lines arose repeatedly. Although the PTO does not and cannot take a stand on issues, we could certainly assist in organizing forums and gathering like-minded people. Likewise, the district and its employees are doing wonderful work that the general public is often unaware of. Can we, the PTO, help facilitate public relations? Two other themes, which continuously piqued interest among parents, were Cultural Diversity Awareness and Health and Wellness. We are currently trying to determine how best to incorporate these ideas into our efforts.

During the month of June we will be meeting and discussing these issues and will hopefully come out the other side with some solutions. Your comments and suggestions are most welcome and please don't hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully submitted,

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VOLUNTEER NEWS

Deb Regan, deborah@maine.rr.com

Thank you to all the individuals who volunteered their time to the recess program. MIW staff is appreciative of the additional eyes and energy. Many of you were weekly (and in one case daily!) sights on the playground, bringing sleds, playing games, and setting up obstacle courses for the children. *In its pilot year, it was a success!*

Welcome to Stacey Carlson, Jen Rohde, Linda Collins, Jen Segal, and Carol Lambert as the newest additions to our board! We are still in search of two members to fulfill a 2-yr Fund raising position and a 1-yr Events position. Please contact Deb Regan for further details about these responsibilities.

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY

One step toward increasing community communication has been taken with the creation of the **Community Dialogue 51**. This is an open and constructive forum where citizens can become informed, inspired and involved about educational topics affecting the Cumberland and North Yarmouth communities. Please send an email to the following email address to access the site.

CommunityDialogue51-subscribe@yahoogroups.com



ENRICHMENT UPDATES

MIW – Amy Saffian, saffian7@verizon.net

The **kindergarteners** will have a visit from Spark's Ark. The **first graders** will be going to the Longfellow House and the Maine Historical Society on June 18 and June 19.

The **second-graders** and **multi-year** classes were rained out of their May visit to the Desert of Maine. This is presently being rescheduled to June.

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

4th graders will travel to Crescent Beach on June 16th, and will have the Science Museum present a program on electromagnetism on the 19th.

“Physics! Energy! Fun!”

5th graders recently enjoyed a visit from local science guru, Gordon Corbett. Mr. Corbett is an award-winning science teacher nationally known for his exciting presentations and engaging stories. Among other things, students learned about **potential** and **kinetic energy** and how these forces are at work on, for example, a roller coaster, or a swing. Several 5th graders interviewed gave Mr. Corbett an enthusiastic “thumbs up” for being “A really fun science guy!”

The students will all have an opportunity to observe and experience their physics knowledge on their upcoming 5th grade trip to FUNTOWN. An exciting roller coaster, refreshing water ride, and high-flying powered swings are just a few of the places where the kids will see that things like energy, gravity, and centrifugal force can be fun to learn about!

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

The **6th grade** science classes have been raising brook trout in aquariums in their rooms all spring and recently released them to a stream in Gray. They learned about habitats and life cycles as well as scientific methods of observation and research from this study. Coming up, the students are looking forward to a field trip to Wassamki Springs to top off the year.

Seventh Grade will be making their annual trek to Sebago Lake for a day of team building and fun during the last week of school.

EVENTS

Brenda Pitcher, brendalpitcher@msn.com

Sara Perfetti, sara.perfetti@gmail.com

Laughter, giggles and friendship these were just a few observations from PTO's sponsored events for the whole family throughout the year. We thank you all who helped make our appreciation events for teachers and staff in the district a success. We thank you all who joined us for the community events. We came together, to be entertained by a Magician, Musician, by roller-skating and a lot of Holiday Cheer and crafts. Many thanks for sharing your family time! We hope you met new friends. Sincere thanks for making a difference in your child's education and contributing to the success of our schools. Have a wonderful and restful summer!

FUNDRAISING

Beth Smith, gsmith@maine.rr.com

Dava Davin, davadavin@hotmail.com



The 2009 Memorial Mile was a great success, once again, thanks to the support of a dedicated group of volunteers. The PTO Fundraising Co-Chairs would particularly like to thank all of our wonderful pie-bakers, The Food Stop (who donated the ice cream gift certificates), 5K Sports (who donated their time as both the statistician and timekeeper) and, of course, Ellen Hart and John Hart, without whom this event simply would not happen. Thank you, as well, to all of our wonderful runners and their supporters, who all help make this a fun, family-centered community event.

BOXTOPS WINNERS!

Ericka Winchester, erickawinchester@hotmail.com

MIW

Ciel Antoine Magic School bus book

Scotty Wentzell T-shirt

DRS

Ella Novick (movie ticket)

GMS

Jessie Hoffmen (book etc gift card)



I'm happy to report that from Feb. 2008 to Feb. 2009 we collected \$2500 for our children! Thank you to everyone who clipped and **PLEASE** keep collecting over the summer. Let's make it our goal to collect \$3000 next year.

Check out our Class Wish Lists:

[Click here for MSAD 51 PTO Wish List!!](#)

MEETINGS

Tuesday June 9th, 2009

Meet us at **GMS Room 125, 7 pm**

How to Contact us:

- Check the PTO website at WWW.MSAD51PTO.COM
- Send a note to school in an envelope marked PTO and it will be delivered to the PTO mailbox.
- Email directly or call directly the event/activity chairperson.