

MSAD 51 PTO Newsletter

www.msad51pto.com



Submission: Tom Gilley, ttgfish@aol.com

September 2009

Welcome!

Hopefully you all made the best of this somewhat challenging summer weather and are ready for the new school year.

As last year wound down the PTO took a step back to re-examine our mission and goals. While our focus on educational enrichment and communication remains, we have made some slight changes in the manner in which we support them. We are dedicating ourselves to providing only those activities which align with grade-level curriculums and are striving to maintain and strengthen communication among all district entities.

Enrichment offerings and field trips as well as family events will all, somehow, correspond to classroom studies, thus ensuring the best use of monies donated to the PTO.

We will continue our current practices of communication including frequent meetings with administrators and a monthly newsletter. We also hope to facilitate formal conversations on "hot topics" within the district as well as increase awareness of all the wonderful happenings within our schools to the general public. We encourage you to participate in the Community Dialogue 51. This is an on-line forum where residents and employees of MSAD 51 can pose questions, receive informed answers and air their concerns about educational topics affecting us. To become a member please send an email to the following address:

CommunityDialogue51-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Respectfully submitted,

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Co-Chair

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Volunteer

Jen Rohde

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What can you do?

Room parent, Cultural Competency Committee, recess volunteer, Green Team, science judge, Let's Go, baker, kindergarten registrar

Volunteering is a great way to meet other parents, your children's classmates and teachers, as well as feel connected with the school! There are a variety of opportunities, small and large, during the school year to share your time and expertise.

Volunteers must complete and return an application form to your child's school office. The PTO Volunteer Coordinator will work to match your interests and availability with a need. For a copy of the form please visit: [School Volunteer Form](#)

Current opportunities:

Board Position - Events – One-year term

Assist in planning and implementation of Appreciation events, Family Night Out, No Name Calling Week, and TV Turnoff Week. FMI contact Jen Rohde, jrohde@maine.rr.com

Do you have a green thumb? Join a group of gardeners at NYMS the first Tuesday of each month (weather permitting) from 9-11am. They will be raking, weeding, trimming and providing general upkeep of the flowerbeds.

Please contact Louisa Wickard, LBWickard@gmail.com

Enrichment (en-rich-muhnnt) ~

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. Each grade has a coordinator to organize these efforts and would happily answer any questions you may have.

Enrichment Chairs

MIW ~Linda Collins 829-5178 geolinda@maine.rr.com

DRS/NYMS ~Amy Saffian 829-4266

saffian7@myfairpoint.net

GMS/GHS ~Patty Normandeau 829-5175

murphpat@maine.rr.com

Events

Jen Segal, jendridge@yahoo.com

The PTO sponsors various activities for the whole family throughout the year. Look for our Family Nights Out, No Name Calling Week, TV Turnoff Week ideas and Memorial Mile & Fun Run.

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.

About MSAD #51 Parent Teacher Organization: The purpose of the PTO is to enhance the educational experience for children attending public schools located in the Towns of Cumberland and North Yarmouth, Maine (the district) through communication and cooperation among students, parents, teachers and administration of MSAD 51.

Fundraising

Beth Smith, gsmith@maine.rr.com

Mori LeFevre, morilefevre@yahoo.com

The Sally Foster program offers an outstanding variety of the highest-quality gift wrap and coordinating accessories, stationery, gift items, and gourmet edibles, including fine chocolates—at prices comparable to retail stores. 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 **\$17,000!** These proceeds are used to support enrichment opportunities and school programs 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. **Sally Foster sales run Sept.11-25.**



Box Tops

Ann Eisenhart, aeisenha@maine.rr.com

We were the #1 School in the state for 2008-9!

Clip Box Top coupons from favorite products and send them to our school. Look for monthly contests.

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.

Meetings

We meet monthly, on the 2nd Tuesday at 7:00PM, at Mabel Wilson School unless noted otherwise. We review committee reports, plan upcoming events, and hear updates on each school. All are welcome to attend and participate.

Please join us September 8th