



As many of you are aware the PTO is a group of volunteers dedicated to promoting enrichment opportunities for the children as well as strengthening communication between district entities.

Project Appleseed is a national program focused on parental involvement as a means for improving public schools. We have not followed through on the specific research, but a quote from its current director states, *"Nationwide, if every public school student had at least one family member volunteer ten hours [per year], the minimum dollar benefit to children and schools would be \$17 billion in volunteer time - more than the \$14 billion Congress approved in Title I stimulus funds.... This is how we should effectively leverage tax payer dollars. We must organize millions of new parent and family volunteers each school year and every school year."*

This view, coupled with the five self-evident truths as spoken by President Woodrow Wilson:

- As Americans, we are the owners of the public school system.
- As owners, we bear a responsibility to participate in the system.
- Accountability for our public schools, their safety, and its employees and its funding rests with us and the rest of the system's owners.
- Our children's future depends on the improvement of the public schools.
- And this improvement depends on our participation.

make us (the PTO) wonder what effect taking a pledge of 10 hours per year would indeed make within our school system. Last year we accumulated a total of 3,878 in-school hours in comparison to a potential 21,760. Would this make a difference in savings? Are there enough tasks to fulfill with "laypersons"? Possible responsibilities that come to mind to help fill the voids: recess and lunch volunteers, study hall monitors, library, crossing guards, art classes/special events, and clerical assistance. Maybe offering our time can serve the dual purpose of easing fiscal burdens while building community, something to consider.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Nicholson
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Community Opportunity

Green Team

Third grade teacher Sallie Hunter and enthusiastic students are meeting monthly and in March had a playground cleanup that netted 4 bags of garbage! In months to come they will focus on Reduce (April), Reuse (May) and Recycle (June). PTO Green Team will continue to offer support and volunteer hours to Mrs. Hunter and the Drowne Road Green Team.

Community Dialogue

Staying informed? Community Dialogue 51 is an open and constructive on-line forum where citizens can become informed, inspired and involved about educational topics affecting the Cumberland and North Yarmouth communities. The mission is to help facilitate and cultivate open lines of communication between taxpayers, parents, teachers, administration, business, volunteers, non-profit groups and all community residents.

Whether you have questions or concerns, are willing to share your knowledge or just want to "listen", as a member of our community please consider sending an email to CommunityDialogue51-subscribe@yahoogroups.com with the subject "new member". Thank you for your consideration and participation.

Spring Gardening Fun at NYMS

Join us this first spring Tuesday of April, 9-12, at NYMS for some fun digging in the dirt and sprucing up the NYMS landscape! Everyone welcome!

Contact Louisa Wickard, LBWickard@gmail.com

Stay Connected with your PTO

Why should you become a fan of MSAD51PTO on Facebook? Find out about enrichment activities in our schools and family events in our community. Learn about our fundraising efforts and get the latest news in our monthly newsletter. Wish you could have been at the school for an enrichment event or missed the latest Family Night Out? Check out our photo albums! Become a fan of MSAD51PTO and stay connected!

Enrichment (en-rich-muhnnt) ~

the act of adding greater value or significance to.

Enrichment Chairs

MIW Linda Collins, geolinda@maine.rr.com

On April 14th the kindergarten classes will be going to the Merrill Auditorium to see a stage performance of Laura Numeroff's book *If You Give A Pig A Pancake*. PTO Enrichment funds paid for the tickets!!

DRS/NYMS Amy Saffian, saffian7@myfairpoint.net

GMS/GHS Patty Normandeau, murphpat@maine.rr.com

All 8th grade students head to Augusta in April with a full day of learning planned. At the state capital a visit to the legislature is a must. Students will visit the House and Senate, perhaps see the office of the Governor and if time permits will visit one of our local representatives. This ties in directly with the 8th grade social studies curriculum that includes a study of the Constitution and democratic principles. A visit to the Hall of Flags and a stop to view the sculptured bust of Percival Baxter, creator of Baxter State Park, also adds to the day.

Across from the statehouse is the Maine State Museum. The museum offers a wonderful chance to learn about the history of our great state. Two areas, which are highlighted on the students' visit, are the industrial revolution in Maine and Maine's ice industry. The industrial revolution is an important part of 8th grade studies and the exhibits at the museum bring things to life as students observe the transition from custom made products to the machine made items of the industrial revolution. An exhibit on the "white gold" of the Maine ice industry of the 1800's is also informative. The expression "Maine ice cooled the world is not that much of an exaggeration!" This exhibit connects the 8th grade science unit on thermal energy, insulation and the famous Ice Cube Keeper Project.

How to Contact us:

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

FUNDRAISING

Mori LeFevre morilefevre@yahoo.com

Beth Smith gsmith@maine.rr.com

Fundraising is working feverishly to prepare for this year's Memorial Mile race. We have also been tasked with leading the committee planning all activities for Memorial Day. We are planning an enhanced parade up Main Street with a dedication at the Moss Side Cemetery, a first annual Town Photograph, and hope to have activities for young and old to enjoy and to recall the purpose of Memorial Day. Race applications will be available online, in the Summer Recreation Department flyer, and at various local businesses, and a full schedule of events on Memorial Day will be posted online as well as at Town Hall and at local businesses. Volunteers are needed to bake the 36 pies that serve as first prize for the Mile race, as well as to help during the race and during the day's events. To volunteer or for more information, contact Mori morilefevre@yahoo.com, or Beth, gsmith@maine.rr.com.

Box Tops

Ann Eisenhart, aeisenha@maine.rr.com

Congratulations to the February Box Top Winners!!

MIW	Owen Shepard and Ryle Athearn
DRS	Jordan Bryant
NYMS	Allison Richard
GMS	Chris Perry

Congratulations and thanks for collecting Box Tops!!!

Important Upcoming Dates:

Staff Appreciation, 4/ 29

Teacher Appreciation Week, 5/3-7

Memorial Mile Fun Run, 5/31



MEETINGS

Schedule change! Tuesday, April 6th @ 7pm

Mabel I. Wilson Library