



Greetings,

This is our final newsletter issue of the year and could be dubbed the “thank you” issue. Throughout the year the schools, classrooms and the PTO call on individuals to volunteer their energy to numerous activities. We appreciate the time taken out of your daily schedule to focus on our schools and the efforts to enrich and enhance each student’s experience. Whether you simply take the time to fill out an order form for a fundraiser or find yourself playing games at recess, whether you’re baking up a tin of muffins or judging the science fair, whether you remember to clip and paste those box tops or chaperone a field trip – it all adds up to being involved. The greater the parental involvement the greater chance your child has at being a successful student.

Concerns and issues may arise throughout the year but by working collaboratively with other parents, the teachers and administration we are able to move our district forward. Please continue to raise your hands, to offer either solutions or questions. An open line of communication is truly the best approach. We have some changes looming ahead of us for next year as we determine what to do with DRS and possibly NYMS - let your voice be heard!

Be informed. Be inspired. Be involved.

But first, enjoy your summer break and be rejuvenated!

As always, if you have any questions, comments or suggestions, don’t hesitate to contact the PTO via email at our address below.

Respectfully submitted,

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FUNDRAISING

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The 15th annual Memorial Mile/Half-Mile Fun Run was once again both a wonderful community event and great success. We had more than 100 children participate in the Fun Run, and an enthusiastic turn-out for the Mile. Many thanks to Ellen and John Hart and our friends at 5K Sports Race Management for bringing the race to realization. Race results for overall first-through-third place and age group winners for both races can be found on the PTO website Fundraising page.

A special thanks to Dan Small, Chief of the Cumberland Fire Department, who volunteered his time to organize the Memorial Day Parade, and made extra efforts to include as many of our local veterans as possible this year. Thanks to PTO member Linda Collins for her work with the community veterans’ group on the Moss Side Cemetery memorial project, beautification of the grounds at Moss Side Cemetery and her non-stop fundraising efforts to ensure that the Moss Side Cemetery memorial project meets its goals. Thank you to Fred Field, who took the first-ever “Community Photo”. Copies of the photograph can be found at Cumberland Town Hall, North Yarmouth Town Hall, Prince Memorial Library and the Cumberland Historical Society.

Thank you to Sarah Davis, of the Cumberland Town Recreation Department, for engaging Dan Merrill and Brian Johnson, both 1979 Greely High School graduates, to perform following the photo. Many thanks to each of our pie bakers. Finally, thanks to the Snow, Nicholson and Porter kids, all of whom gave their time and energy to oversee the “events” tables and baseball toss following the Community Photo.

Congratulations to the winner of our raffle, with the prize of an LL Bean \$250.00 gift certificate, Kevin Massey.

Enrichment (en-rich-muhnt) ~ the act of adding greater value or significance to. Enrichment Chairs

MIW Linda Collins, geolinda@maine.rr.com
Kindergarteners will be enjoying a presentation by Sparks Ark on June 17th. Second grade and multi-age students enjoyed fieldtrips to the Desert of Maine on June 2nd and 4th.

DRS/NYMS Amy Saffian, saffian7@myfairpoint.net
On June 1st, two educators from the Abbe Museum in Bar Harbor visited Drowne Road School to teach us how Native People in Maine used the resources available to them. They brought many interesting artifacts with them.
On June 10th and 11th, the 3rd grade will travel to the Maine State Museum in Augusta. They will tour the museum and then attend a workshop where they'll learn how to make arrowheads from antlers and stone. Finally, on June 18th, the Burnurwurbskek Singers are coming to perform. They are a Penobscot Indian Nation drum circle led by Ron Bear.

The fifth grade will be taking a trip to Funtown on Friday, June 11th. This trip promises to be much more than just an exciting day off from school – the students will be putting their knowledge of science to work as they explore the physics concepts behind the many activities at Funtown. During their observations and participation, the students will recognize acceleration, centripetal force, circumference, gravitational potential, kinetic and potential energy, inertia, momentum, mass, speed and velocity demonstrated by rides such as the Sea Dragon, Galaxi, Excalibur and the Astrosphere.

On Monday, June 6th, fourth graders at NYMS enjoyed a dynamic presentation about electromagnetism by the Boston Museum of Science. The program included basic background information which dove-tailed nicely with what our students learned through our own unit on electricity and magnetism, but the demonstrations and experiments are what the kids are still talking about days later! Many students were invited to participate in the presentation, and all students were able to feel "negative charges" from an electron machine.

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

The 7th graders enjoyed a trip to Cow Island in Casco Bay this June. The PTO provided supplies and gear for this 3 day adventure which fostered team building, survival and leadership skills. This replaced the annual trip to camp Kieve and was run by Ripple Effect, a group which plans to follow up with the 7th graders next fall to reinforce behaviors fostered on this trip.

Locavore Lunch

On Wednesday, May 26th, students at MIW, DRS and NYMS enjoyed a locavore lunch featuring local foods from Maine. The week preceding the lunch, library classes focused on the benefits of eating local foods and discussed how diverse are the products produced in Maine. Students made local food posters, which decorated the lunchrooms on the 26th. All students who contributed a poster were entered in a drawing, and we randomly selected one child from each grade as the winner of a Toots Ice Cream gift certificate.

Jon Carlson produced what everyone reported was a wonderful lunch! Featuring local hamburgers from Wolfe Neck Farm, local potatoes with a cheese sauce made from Pineland Farm cheese, local lettuce and tomatoes for the salad bar, and blueberry cobbler with local Maine blueberries, the meal was a complete success! Participation increased 30% on the day of the locavore lunch, and teachers reported rave reviews on the taste of the food. A representative from Healthy Casco Bay came dressed up as a carrot, and entertained the MIW students with her engaging veggie tales. Thanks to Jon Carlson and Healthy Casco Bay for making the meal possible!

Poster winners:

K - Solon Perry
1st- Elizabeth Domingo
2nd- Kristen Kendall
3rd- Helen Crosby
4th - Claire Davis
5th- Katherine Leggat-Barr

Box Tops

Ann Eisenhart, aeisenha@maine.rr.com
Congratulations to the May Box Top Winners!!

MIW Caleb Croce, Wyatt Brown, Zach Maestas
DRS Reed Silvers and Cam Sarchi
NYMS Jack Saffian

Please clip and save over the summer
We earned a total of \$2236 this year

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!

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 chair

Wish List

Check out our School Wish List on the web site where you can find items that our teachers need.

This week in the spotlight:

Holly Groom is in need of items to store Ripple Effect gear. **These Items DO NOT need to be new.**

- 2 Large Plastic tubs (footlocker size) to store gear.
- 10 stuff sacks for sleeping bags.
- 3 large Duffle bags to carry the gear to the island.

Contact Holly Groom at Holly_Groom@msad51.org if you can provide any of these items.

How a GHS Teacher helped students overcome the fear of writing in Math

What affect does writing have on students' understanding of math concepts? Holly Susla's went to Ruth's Recycling (membership provided by PTO) and found a box of nice report covers and backs. She contacted PTO and requested funds to have them spiral bound. With the funds, she was able to make 22 journals to help answer the question above.

"Writing across the curriculum has been a focus of educators for quite some time. The value of being able to express oneself in writing has been documented as a valuable skill in all academic areas.

Writing in math improves knowledge and understanding of mathematical concepts because putting an idea on paper requires thought and attention. My philosophy of teaching is to teach for understanding, because if you understand something, you don't have to memorize it and you can apply that understanding to new situations. I wanted to see if writing in math journals could help me accomplish this goal.

I wanted students to take this writing seriously. I did not want to use something they used all the time for other purposes such as a one subject notebook. I wanted the students to be invested in and take ownership of the journals from the start. So I too went to Ruth's Recycling and found a box of nice report covers and backs. I contacted our PTO and requested funds to have them spiral bound. With their contribution, I was able to make 22 journals, enough for one class. The students really liked them and made them their own by decorating the covers.

Students did learn self-reflection! I would not have believed to the extent that it did, but for their last journal entry I asked the students, "What have you learned from writing in a journal?" Students responded, "What if I didn't learn anything?" I told them to be honest and if they did not learn anything to say so but they had to write something about the writing process. I was truly shocked by what they wrote! "It helped me understand how much/little I know," was a typical written response. I did not use the word "self-reflection" when giving them this prompt, yet several wrote that writing in the journals helped them to self-reflect. Many used other words like, "It helped me understand what I didn't know."

Thank you Holly Susla for making a difference!