

**PTO MEETING  
December 3, 2008**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Tracy Duprey	Rob Harrison
Jen Gallagher	Heidi Voulgaris
Sue Freeman	Dyan Reinhold
Marianne Snow	Patty Messina
Melissa Bissett	Sara O'Bara
Sue Poor	Sharon Pacenka
Tina Journeay	Lisa Linnehan
Cathy Bevelaqua	Martine Isabel

**Meeting started at 7:05pm**

1. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** In November, we paid for the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade buses to go to Plimoth Plantation and for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Pharaoh & Pyramids exhibit. The bank statement is not in yet due to having the PTO meeting a week earlier than usual. Everything else is fine. Some money is coming in little by little from the recent fundraisers.
2. **PRINCIPALS:** At Donaghue, there was a weather presentation by the Museum of Science for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. It was fantastic. The 6<sup>th</sup> graders are planning a trip to the Newburyport Firehouse to see It's a Wonderful Life on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Holiday Concert is being held at HRD on December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7PM. Also, the Holiday helper stuff collected will be getting delivered on the 19<sup>th</sup> and assembled on December 17-19. Thank you to Judy Kroner for working so hard on this Holiday Helper program. 35 families, with a total of 80 kids, will be getting assistance. Thank you Judy. At Sweetsir, Patty wants to remind people that there is a mitten tree out front near the office. Instead of decorating the tree with ornaments, they are going to decorate it with hats & mittens, which will be part of the Holiday Helper program. There will be early releases on December 4<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> for the parent teacher conferences. HRD will be getting out at 11:50 & FNS at 12:00. There will also be a regular 90 minute early release on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Breakfast with Santa is being held on December 6<sup>th</sup> from 9-11:30. The 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will be performing their holiday concert at the Senior Center on December 15<sup>th</sup> & the Holiday Concert at Sweetsir will be on December 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:30. Snow date would be 12/19.
3. **TEACHER'S:** Cathy Bevelaqua & Martine Isabel came from Sweetsir. The first grade team did their 12<sup>th</sup> annual pie baking for Our Neighbors Table. A total of 30 pies were made by the first graders. Thank you for coming.

4. **SQUARE ONE ART:** Pick up for Square One Art was today, 12/3 at Sweetsir. There is still a lot left. If the items are not picked up by 12/5, HRD's will be sent over the HRD. Thanks to Sue Freeman for running this event again.
5. **VENDOR/CRAFT NIGHT:** Sara O'Bara said there was very little traffic. There were 40 vendors with great stuff. It was a very cold night. It was suggested that if we do this next year, maybe we should have it the same morning as the church fairs. Thanks to all your hard work, Sara & Jen for doing this event.
6. **CHOCOLATE FAVOR-ITS:** Tracy has submitted 4 orders. They should be coming in on 12/11 in the hallway of HRD. Thanks for your hard work Tracy.
7. **DIRECTORY:** An official copy should be coming out on 12/5 and they should be ready to go out in the next few weeks in the kids Take Home Tuesdays. Thanks to both Tracy & Lisa O'Neil for doing this.
8. **SANTA BREAKFAST/BOOKFAIR:** Tina Journeay is running this again for her 3<sup>rd</sup> year. Everything is ready to go. Santa is coming & we should have digital photos. Thanks Tina for all your hard work.
9. **SPONSOR A CLASSROOM:** Sharon says that checks are already starting to come in. This year she might try to call some local businesses for some donations.
10. **T-SHIRTS:** Sara O'Bara has put a lot of research into doing a fundraiser which the kids & staff can buy Merrimac t-shirts or sweatshirts. Due to all the recent fundraisers & the current economy, we will put this off until the beginning of the new school year.
11. **AUCTION:** Back by popular demand, we will be having our second annual Spring Auction on Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009. It will be held at Zorvino Vineyards in Sandown, NH. Tracy will need lots of help with this – getting donations or offering services etc.. Merrimac Savings Bank is paying for the hall again. Thanks to them for their generosity. Teachers also need to start thinking of things that they will make. Any questions or ideas, contact Tracy Duprey.
12. **MOVIE NIGHT:** Tracy Duprey, Jen Marden & Heidi Voulgaris will be running the movie nights. Our first one will be on January 23, 2009 at Sweetsir. We think the movie will be Wall-E.
13. **FEBRUARY & APRIL VACATION WEEK IDEAS:** In prior years, Katie Rooney used to run this. In the past, people could go see the Lowell hockey game. If anybody can think of some ideas of things the kids could do over these vacation weeks let us know.
14. **PTO POST:** This is going great. People love having this. We are still looking for a few volunteers at the school store at both schools and for ASE.
15. **EVENT CHAIRPERSON IDEA/MASTER PLAN BOOK:** Tracy thought it would be a great idea to come up with a master plan book with each event the PTO runs & a guideline of what each chairperson does for that event. This will make it much easier to pass on the events to new people taking them over. Great idea Tracy.

**16. OPEN DISCUSSION:**

First grade teachers, Kate Carroll & Kate Byrne, are working on a Flatbread fundraiser at Flatbread in Amesbury on Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> 2009. They will be setting it up & sending more info on this out in a future Take Home Tuesday.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:30PM**