

Money Well Spent

Every month we will highlight items or events paid for by the PTO for our Merrimac schools.

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Did you know that the playground at the Donaghue school was funded by the Merrimac PTO?? In 2005, the Merrimac PTO heard from the students that they would like new playground equipment. The PTO consulted the Student Council and made it happen! Over \$10,000 was donated to that project including the basketball hoop, tether balls and benches. Volunteers donated time on their weekends to make the playground a more safe and fun place to play! The PTO has since put in our budget that \$200 per year be allocated to playground equipment such as balls and jump-ropes.



Bits 'n' Pieces

Craft/Vendor Night is looking for people who would like a table. Contact Sara O'Bara or download an application from the merrimacpto.org.

Spring Soiree Auction: If you haven't already, please use your gift certificates.



A Volunteer Pledge Program
FROM PTOtoday

Our PTO is run by volunteers, like you. Together we can do amazing things. We would LOVE it if you could join us... We are participating in a program put together by PTO Today called 2 Hour Power. Our goal is to get more parents involved. Over the course of 180 school days, it is easy to find just 2 hours to spare. You choose what time works for you, what you're interested in, or where you think your skills would best be served.....then we'll contact you! We know your time is precious and we appreciate that. We promise - there is no obligation beyond helping out in this small, but very important way. If you'd like to do more, GREAT, but we realize that is not a fit for everyone. Come visit us at one of our monthly meetings and see just what we are all about. Our students will thank you!

Volunteers Wanted

In this section, we will present volunteer opportunities available. To volunteer for any of these, please go to merrimacpto.org and click on the event to contact the chair.

Take Home Tuesday: Volunteers desperately needed to help stuff take home envelopes Tues mornings for 1-2 hours. Contact Sharon Pacenka @ 346-4279.

Harvest Festival: MANY needed!!! 2 one hour shifts on Fri, Oct 24, 5:30-8pm.

Square 1 Art: 5 needed to assist in distribution. After school one day in late November.

School store: A few needed to man the school store during lunch at both schools, the second Wednesday of each month.

Sponsor A Classroom: One needed to shadow throughout this year willing to take over this fundraiser for next year.

Fall Fundraiser: 5 needed to assist in distribution. After school in November.

ASE: We need parents to help make this fun, six week after school program run this winter. Please consider volunteering to plan new classes, or be a paid ASE class instructor.



PTO Post

Welcome Back !!

Volume 1, Issue 2

September 2008

PTO Membership

As you may have noticed, there have been a lot of changes made to our organization this year. A new logo, a new website and now a new membership form and pledge drive.

NEW THIS YEAR: You will find a spot to check off inclusion into our useful directory, no need to fill out a separate form. You also have the option of being a member, and not having your name listed.

NEW THIS YEAR: A spot to volunteer your time, you decide what events work for you, no pressure.

SAME: \$5 membership dues, giving you the opportunity to have voting privileges and attend our monthly meetings.

SAME: Free directory with your paid membership, hopefully by November.

Please turn in your completed forms and membership fee to the office at either school as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact me @ tduprey@merrimacpto.org.

merrimacpto.org

The all new Merrimac PTO Website (merrimacpto.org) is up and running!! There you will find all kinds of useful information regarding volunteer opportunities, events, fundraisers and appropriations. You can even get to the Innisbrook site to order your fall fundraiser items through our website. You will also find a VERY handy Google calendar right on the home page, which can be imported to your own google calendar. If you would like to import the PTO calendar, go to "calendars" on the google home page, and search for Merrimac PTO under "public calendars". Any forms you might need will also be found there, but if you, for any reason, cannot download a form from the site, copies will be available in the school offices.

Merrimac Goes Back to School

Thank you so very much to Susan Karalias and Sue Freeman for organizing the events at Donaghue and Sweetsir this year. This program runs because of all the hard work from the two of you. This is a great, fun filled and informational event, put on by volunteer coordinators to help ensure that all our kids have an easy transition into their new learning environments. The PTO appreciates the support of our Principals, school staff, janitors, community members, parents and OUR VOLUNTEERS!!

We had a great turnout.

Homework help bins were awarded to:

Pre School: Tyler Correnti

Kindergarten: Megan O'Keefe, Nick Bogart

1st Grade: Declan Pendergast

2nd Grade: Jacob Luke

3rd Grade: Sam Journeay

4th Grade: Kaylie Ross

5th Grade: Hallie Milne

6th Grade: Tim Boyd

Innisbrook Raffle: Kristin Comeau, Elise Linnehan

Fall Festival gift packs: Emma Walsh, Lily Fichera

ASE winners: Jessica Freeman, Arianna Hopper



Everyone had fun at Merrimac Goes Back to School, from returning students to our PTO Bookstore and Alumni Volunteers!!

Innisbrook Fall Fundraiser

Thanks to you, the Fall Fundraiser is our biggest fundraiser. The proceeds from this event, over \$10,000 last year, support our Cultural Arts Program which funds "in house" and off campus field trips. Innisbrook brochures will be coming home September 23rd and will need to be returned by October 7th. If you have family and friends that live out of town, they can place orders on line. Visit merrimacpto.org and click on the "fundraiser" link. Look for the Fall Fundraiser icon and choose the "event info" button. A link is provided. Just fill in our school name and shop away. If you have questions contact Jen at jmarden@merrimacpto.org or Sara at so-bara@merrimacpto.org.



Calendar of events:

Tues, Sept 16: School Comm. Mtg. at Sweetsir 7:30pm
Wed, Sept 17: PTO School Store, lunch at both schools
Tues, Sept 23: Innisbrook Fall Fundraiser begins
Wed, Sept 24: Early Release/ AM Kind. until 1:30pm
Wed, Sept 24: Donaghue School Pictures
Wed, Oct 1: Early Release/PM Kind. until 1:30pm
Wed, Oct 1: Fire Safety at Donaghue
Wed, Oct 2: Fire Safety at Sweetsir
Fri, Oct 3: PTO Bookstore during lunch at both schools
Mon, Oct 6: School Council meets at Sweetsir, 4-5pm
Tues, Oct 7: Last day for Innisbrook forms to be returned
Tues, Oct 7: School Comm. Mtg. at PRHS Caf  7:30pm
Wed, Oct 8: Early Release/AM Kind. until 1:30pm
Wed, Oct 8: PTO Meeting at FNS Library 7pm
Mon, Oct 13: No School, Columbus Day

Box Tops

Congratulations to Brandon Wilbur (HRD) and Bronwyn Hadley (FNS) for winning the Webkinz/Box Tops summer contest. They each won 2 webkinz, mouse pads, trading cards and bookmarks. Keep sending in your BoxTops each month with your name and room number on the back for a chance to win the monthly drawing. There are some new prizes this year along with the school store gift certificate. We will be adding new seasonal collection sheets on the website that you can print off and send in also.



If you haven't already registered as a BoxTop booster, please do so at www.btf.com/2008. It's free and easy! You can get money saving coupons, tips and keep up to date on our schools progress, For each new registrant we earn 5 bonus points. Last year BoxTops earned \$1734.00 for our schools. Since 2002, BoxTops has earned \$12,956!!! Our goal for the 2008-2009 school year is \$2000.

Square 1 Art

Square 1 Art is the FUNdaiser that your children start working on the very first week of school with their art teacher - Mrs. Brown or Ms. Beach. Look for your magnet packets October 20. Your order is due back Oct 29. Delivery will be in November, just in time for your holiday gift giving!

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www.merrimacpto.org