

Money Well Spent

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

Did you know that many of the musical instruments at Sweetsir School were purchased by the Merrimac PTO. Mrs. Ramsey made an appropriation request to expand the number of instruments and equipment in order to accommodate and involve the majority of students in her class. Mrs. Ramsey asked that we include a list of all of the instruments that the PTO has purchased for her room either by appropriations or through Sponsor a Classroom:

20 Hand drums	Amplifier
Alto Xylophone	Alto Metallophone
Bass Xylophone	Mallets
Alto Glockenspiel	Streamers
Various Resource Books	Microphone & stand
Risers on Sweetsir stage	Many, many, more!!!!



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.

Innisbrook/Fall Fundraiser is due by October 7th. Please turn in all order forms and payment.

School Calendar Magnets were funded by the Merrimac Savings Bank. The PTO is very grateful to John Meserve and the Members of the Board for financing this handy tool, for a second year. Please stop in and say THANKS!

BoxTops

The winners of the Box Tops September raffle are Tabi Coolen (FNS) and Will Carpenter (HRD). They each received a bag of goodies including a school store gift certificate. To be entered in the monthly drawing all you have to do is put your child's name and room number on the back of your Box Tops. There is one winner from each school every month. Our first submission of the year is fast approaching. We submit Box Tops and receive checks twice a year. Please send in your box tops as soon as possible so that they can be included in our October mailing. Our goal for the 2008 - 2009 school year is \$2000. If you have not already done so, please sign up at www.btfe.com/2008. We earn 5 Bonus Tops for every new registration. Do you shop online? Stores like the GAP, Disney, JC Penney and Oriental Trading donate a percentage of your total order when you shop through the **Box Top Marketplace** sign first.



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.

Harvest Festival: MANY needed!!! Choose between two 90 minute shifts on Fri, Oct 24, 5:30-8pm.

Square 1 Art: 5 people are 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.

Fall Fundraiser: 5 people are needed to assist in distribution after school in November.

ASE: We need parents to help make this a fun six week after school program that runs this winter.

Please consider volunteering to plan new classes, or be a paid ASE class instructor.



PTO Post

Autumn Greetings!

Volume 1, Issue 3

October 2008

Teachers' Wish Wall

During September's PTO Meeting, the membership revisited an idea presented during the last school year. A member had suggested some sort of "giving tree" or wish list that could be left up all year, so parents could help out by donating supplies. It was suggested that not every parent has the time to volunteer in the classroom but may want to help out in some small way. You may now notice in front of each school office is a **Wish Wall** chart labeled with a classroom teachers name. Inside each pouch should be index cards, filled out by the homeroom teacher, listing an item(s) needed for their classroom. The teachers will replenish the cards on a regular basis. When the need arises we plan on adding Specialist and Special Education Teachers. **Please visit the Wish Wall and take one card at a time, so that others may participate.**

Directory

We hope to have this valuable tool completed soon. Thank you to Lisa O'Neil for stepping forward and offering her computer skills. She has been very busy entering all our membership information. Lisa has also been creating a membership directory from our new database. We appreciate your patience as we try to improve all our new programs.



Harvest Festival 2008

This is another wonderful fall tradition in Merrimac. On Friday October 24th, the Merrimac PTO hosts the Harvest Festival at Donaghue School. Families with children at both schools are invited to attend. This fun-filled family event begins at 5:30pm and ends at 8:00pm. Ticket sales begin 15 minutes prior to the event in bundles of \$5/\$10/\$20 or 2 tickets for \$1. There will be awesome raffles, crafts and glow bracelets/necklaces and maybe even a fortune teller or two. Take a ghostly Jaunt into the gym, and you will find face painting, tattoos and tons of games to try and win prizes. Then, creep your way into the cafeteria for hot food served by our TWO PRINCIPALS, cup cake decorating and a couple of witches serving up some Witches Brew. If you are up for still more fun, outside we have cotton candy machines and bounce houses. And lastly, the event that everyone looks forward to, THE HAUNTED HOUSE. It is designed, decorated and filled to the brim with teachers from both schools. See if you can tell who is hiding behind the masks!

For safety, all children must be accompanied by an adult, and be in 6th grade or younger.

VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED!!!!

Chairperson: Dyan Reinhold
EMAIL:

Dreinhold@merrimacpto.org



Innisbrook Fall Fundraiser

Our Fall Fundraiser Event ended on Tuesday, October 7th and was extended to 10/10. PLEASE turn in your order forms, so we can get credit for the sales. FYI: New this year, you and your family can continue to log on to www.innisbrook.com and **place orders all year** and our schools still receive credit for purchases made. Just make sure you choose either Donaghue or Sweetsir School. If you have questions contact Jen at jmarden@merrimacpto.org or Sara at so-bara@merrimacpto.org.



Calendar of events:

Wed, Oct 15: PTO School Store/during lunch
Wed, Oct 15: Early Release/PM Kind. Until 1:30pm
Fri, Oct 17: Progress Reports Grades 4-6
Tues, Oct 20: Square 1 Art Fundraiser Begins
Tues, Oct 20: School Comm. Mtg. @7pm in PMS café
Wed, Oct 21: Early Release/ AM Kind. Until 1:30pm
Fri, Oct 24: Harvest Festival @ HRD
Wed, Oct 29: Square 1 Art Fundraiser Ends
Wed, Oct 29: Early Release/ PM Kind. Until 1:30pm
Thurs, Oct 30-Nov 6 Book Fair Week HRD/FNS
Mon, Nov 3, School Council 4pm
Tues, Nov 4: School Comm. Mtg. @ 7:30pm PHS
Wed, Nov 5: Early Release/ AM Kind. Until 1:30pm
Fri, Nov 7: PTO Bookstore/during lunch
Tues, Nov 11: No School, Veteran's Day
Wed, Nov 12: PTO Meeting 7pm @ FNS Library
Tues, Nov 18: School Comm. Mts. @ 7:30pm PHS
Wed, Nov 19: Early Release/ PM Kind. Until 1:30pm

Craft/Vendor Fair

Friday, November 21, 2008 6-9pm

Last year, our first year, was a great success in Merrimac. It's like an open house for at-home businesses and crafters. We ask you to reserve a space or table for a small fee and donate one item to use in our raffle. Then the public is invited to see your products and purchase items for the holidays. Our first year was a big success. So look for more event information to follow.

Chairperson: Jen Marden
EMAIL:
jmarden@merrimacpto.org

Chairperson: Sara O'Bara
EMAIL: so-



Square 1 Art

Square 1 Art is the FUN-raiser 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 gift packets October 20. Your order is due back Oct 29. Delivery will be in November, just in time for your holiday shopping!



Merrimac PTO
104 Church Street
Merrimac, MA 01860

www.merrimacpto.org