

## 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 Cultural Arts events attended by the students are subsidized by the PTO??**

So far this year we have paid for.....

3rd Grade Coach buses that the students took to Plymouth Plantation \$1,400.00. This supports the 3rd Grade Curriculum where they learn about the state of Massachusetts.

6th Grade in school presentation of Pyramids and Pharaohs \$ 475.00, enhancing the sixth grade Social Studies Curriculum.



## Bits 'n' Pieces

**Teachers' Wish Wall:** Wish Walls are located outside the offices at each school. Pouches, labeled with the teachers' names, contain index cards listing an item they wish they could have for their classroom. Please take one card at a time, so that others may participate.

**Take Home Tuesday Envelopes:** Please make sure your child goes back to school on Wednesdays with their Take Home Tuesday Envelopes. It takes our volunteers a considerable amount longer when they are not returned.

**Movie Night:** Our first night will be on January 23rd. We are looking for ideas for the movie to show. The only requirement is that it needs to be G-Rated.

**Do you have any gently used games?** Now that the COLD weather is coming, the Donaghue is looking for gently used games to use for indoor recess. Please send any donations in to the (classroom or office?) with your child. The Sweetsir is all set.

## BoxTops



The November Box Tops raffle winners were Sarah Bean (FNS) and John Gunther Reinhold (HRD). This is a year round fundraiser so please continue to send in your box tops and you may be our next winner! Remember, sending in a completed collection sheet, found on the PTO website, doubles the chance of your name being picked. Please check your dates, as there are a lot of box tops that expire this month. We will be mailing in another submission so that they all get counted. We are expecting our first check from Box Tops for Education this month.

Thanks to all who have submitted BoxTops this year!

## Cook Books Half Price!

For the Holidays, the Merrimac PTO Cookbook is marked down from \$10 to \$5!! Get one before they are gone! Contact [tduprey@merrimacpto.org](mailto:tduprey@merrimacpto.org).

## Volunteers Wanted

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

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

**ASE:** We need parents to help for one hour each week during this fun six week after school program starting 1/26/09. Please consider monitoring on your child's ASE class day. For more info, email Lisa Linnehan at [llinnehan@merrimacpto.org](mailto:llinnehan@merrimacpto.org).



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## Spring Soiree & Auction

You asked for it, you got it. Back by popular demand, the date for the Spring Soiree & Auction has been set for Friday, April 3, 2009. The Auction Committee will be soliciting items beginning the first of the new year. So start thinking of creative ideas for gift baskets, personal services, gift certificates, tickets to special events, one of a kind items or hand-made objects. We will also be looking for input for entertainment and menu items. This turned out to be a HUGE fundraiser for the PTO, as well as a HUGE, FUN, night out for parents and staff.

Please contact Tracy Duprey, Auction Chairperson, at [tduprey@merrimacpto.org](mailto:tduprey@merrimacpto.org). We will also be looking for volunteers to help this year's event run smoothly.



## Holiday Helper

The PTO, once again, had the wonderful opportunity to use the money raised from selling Chocolate Favor-its and the Santa Breakfast/Bookfair to purchase clothes for families in need from our community. In all, \$1,037.21 was spent to buy clothing for 80 children from more than 30 Merrimac families. Students were encouraged to bring in non-perishable food items new mittens, hats, gift certificates to local supermarkets, music stores, and they came through!! The items will be packed up this week and delivered this weekend. We appreciate your continued support and assistance.

## Sponsor A Classroom Update

Sponsor-A-Classroom brochures were sent to Merrimac families and donations are already coming in. THANKS!! Please consider participating in this wonderful fundraiser that directly contributes to our Merrimac classrooms. Because of the overwhelming success of this program last year, every classroom was sponsored by you!

SAC is a program designed to provide financial support through the generosity of families and the business community. The goal of the program is to provide funds to all classrooms to be utilized by teachers and support staff to insure availability of classroom resources.

Last year, items bought by teachers for their classrooms include: digital cameras, a webcam for real time communication with NASA, many leveled reading books, organizational tools, a stereo, a laminating machine, and many, many supplies!

The PTO understands that times are tough for all of us, please consider donating only what you can. Email Sharon Pacenka with questions: [spacenka@merrimacpto.org](mailto:spacenka@merrimacpto.org)

## Coat Drive

The Sweetsir and Donaghue are helping out the Pentucket Middle School Community Service Program by collecting for a coat drive. Please send in any gently used coats and drop them in the collection boxes in the front foyers of either of the three schools. These coats are cleaned by Anton's Cleaners and distributed to those in need.

## Flatbread Pizza Night

Mark your calendar. Tuesday, January 13, 2009 the Merrimac PTO will be holding a fundraiser at the Flatbread Pizza Company in downtown Amesbury. You can order take out or eat in between 5-9:30pm. \$3 from every large flatbread and \$1.75 from every small flatbread ordered will be donated to the PTO.

## Fundraisers

Thank you to Sara O'Bara and Jen Marden for their hard work in organizing the Craft/Vendor fair. We had 40 vendors and a great turn out.

Thank you to Tina Journey for running the Santa Breakfast/Bookstore again this year. The pictures with Santa are always a hit. We were able to collect can food items to donate to the Holiday Helper program.

Thank you to Sue Freeman and Tracy Duprey for running Square 1 Art and Chocolate Favor-its Candy Fundraisers, again, this year.



## Calendar of events:

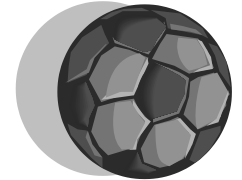
Tues, Dec 16: School Comm. Mtg. @ 7:30, PHS  
Wed, Dec 17: Early Release\*/ AM Kind. Attends  
Thurs, Dec 18: Winter Concert, HRD @7pm  
Fri, Dec 19: Winter Concert for students, HRD@1:30  
Tues, Dec 23: School closes at end of day for Holiday Break  
Dec 24-Jan 2: No School, Holiday Break  
Mon, Jan 5: School Re-opens  
Tues, Jan 6: School Comm. Mtg. @ 7:30, PHS  
Wed, Jan 7: Early Release\*/ PM Kind. Attends  
Wed, Jan 7: PTO Bookstore during lunch at both schools  
Mon, Jan 12: School Council, 4pm, FNS Conference Room  
Mon, Jan 12: ASE sign-up, 7pm FNS  
Wed, Jan 14: Early Release\*/ AM Kind. Attends  
Wed, Jan 14: PTO Meeting, 7pm, FNS Library  
Mon, Jan 19: No School. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
Tues, Jan 20: School Comm. Mtg. @ 7:30, PHS  
Wed, Jan 21: PTO School Store during lunch at both schools  
Fri, Jan 23: Kindergarten Report Cards  
Fri, Jan 23: Progress Reports  
Fri, Jan 23: PTO Family Movie Night, Gr. 4-6  
Mon, Jan 26: ASE classes start at both schools

\*Early Release Days: HRD-1:20pm, FNS-1:30pm

\*\*Half Day Release: HRD-11:50am, FNS-12:00noon

## After School Exploration

This is a fun six week program that provides all of our students the opportunity to try something new or to get active during the winter months. Classes include music, dance, crafts, jump rope, cheerleading, gymnastics, sports medley, soccer, basketball, tennis, photography, Spanish, French, cooking, knitting and babysitting certification. **ASE Sign-Up Night is on Monday, January 12, 2009 at the Sweetsir School at 7 pm. ASE classes will begin on January 26th. Look for the 2009 ASE brochure in your child's THT envelope on Tuesday, January 6th.**



## 2008 THANK YOU

On behalf of the entire PTO Executive Committee, we would like to thank all our Membership and Volunteers that help make our Organization work. We appreciate the time and effort put in by everyone. Thank you to all the Volunteers who have already met their 2 Hour Power Pledge and to those who are almost there. If you are still working on your Pledge there are many up and coming events for you to help out with. Movie Nights, Yard Sale, Spring Auction, Bingo Night and more. Thank you, see you in 2009. Tracy Duprey, Sue Freeman, Jen Marden, Heidi Voulgaris, Tina Journey and Jen Gallagher.

Merrimac PTO  
104 Church Street  
Merrimac, MA 01860

[www.merrimacpto.org](http://www.merrimacpto.org)