

## Money Well Spent

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

**Did you know** Through a spring 2008 appropriation request of \$1,800 Mrs.

Scafidi was able to purchase a furnished media cart for her classroom. The cart contains a Dell laptop computer, DVD player, speakers and a projector. In addition to the cart Mrs. Scafidi purchased a web-

cam with last year's Sponsor A Classroom funds. Her 6th grade science classes will be looking forward to live communication with NASA astronauts, immediate web information, and enhanced curriculum capabilities. Stop by and visit. See your money at work!



## Bits 'n' Pieces

**Open Budget Hearing:** The School Committee will be holding the Open Budget Hearing for the FY10 school year on Tues, Jan 20. Staff will have the opportunity to speak at 7pm and the public at 7:30. Please go to prsd.org to learn more about your schools' budget.

**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.

**Do you have any gently used games?** Now that the COLD weather is HERE, the Donaghue is looking for gently used games to use for indoor recess. Please send any donations in to the office with your child. The Sweet-sir is all set. Thank You!!

## BoxTops



The December Box Tops raffle winners were Keegan Comeau (FNS) and Benjamin Brindle (HRD). Congratulations! We received our first check from Box Tops for Education in the amount of \$ 814.51. That check was for Box Tops collected from March through October 2008, those little clippings sure add up fast! Send in your clipped tops with your child's name and room number on them or a completed collection sheet found on the PTO website to be eligible for the raffle. The collection boxes are emptied at both schools at the end of each month. Send in what you have each month whether it's one top or one hundred tops and you will be entered each month. Our last submission for the 2008-2009 school year is the end of February with our last check being issued in April. Our goal for this year is \$2000. Please ask your friends and neighbors to save their tops for you.

## Cookbooks Still Half Price!

For the New Year, the Merrimac PTO Cookbook has been reduced for quick sales! Originally sold for \$10, now only \$5. Don't miss this great bargain.



## 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.

**ASE:** Parents are still needed to monitor the hallways during class times. Please contact Lisa Linnehan if you can help out at LLinnehan@merrimacpto.org.

**Teachers Are Souper:** Volunteers are desperately needed to make soup, goodies, etc. Volunteers also needed to help on the day of the lunch to set-up, help serve, and clean-up. Please contact Susan Karalias (HRD) at SKaralias@merrimacpto.org or Sara O'Bara (FNS) at SO-Bara@merrimacpto.org.

**PTO Auction:** Volunteers are needed for ALL aspects of the Auction. Planning, gathering donations, day of set-up... Please contact Tracy Duprey at TDuprey@merrimacpto.org



## PTO Post

Happy New Year!

Volume 1, Issue 6

January, 2009

### After School Exploration (ASE)

Thank you to Chairperson Lisa Linnehan for all her hard work in putting together this year's selection of classes. Those on her committee: Sue Freeman, Deb DeMeule, Julie Schaeffer, Paula Cain and Pam McKay worked hard as well. The ASE team compiled a great variety of classes to meet the needs of the children in our community. What a great way to have your child try something new with no long term time commitments or big business fees. ASE also helps to get through the long cold days of winter.

**Classes begin the week of January 26th and run for 6 weeks.**

## Sponsor A Classroom

A HUGE thank you goes out to *all* who have donated to Sponsor a Classroom! Donations have been trickling in and we have just reached our half way goal. So your help IS STILL needed. And, because we know that many of you would still like to participate, we are extending the donation deadline to Feb 13th. This is a wonderful opportunity to give directly to your child's classroom. Every little bit will help us get closer to our goal ~ giving each classroom teacher \$100. All donations are TAX DEDUCTIBLE. You may give personally, or your business or employer may give, too. For a list of teachers that have not yet been sponsored, please go to the merrimacpto.org website, click on fundraisers, and click on SAC.

## Teachers 'R' Souper

This is a winter appreciation for our staff at both Donaghue and Sweetsir Schools. A delicious variety of hot soups, breads and scrumptious desserts are donated by our wonderful families and served by our volunteers. The staff always looks forward to this event because it makes those long winter days bearable. The PTO is in need of donations of food, time and decorations. This year's event will take place on Thurs, February 12. Please let us know if you are interested in helping out by contacting us at: HRD Susan at [skaralias@merrimacpto.org](mailto:skaralias@merrimacpto.org); FNS Sara at [sobara@merrimacpto.org](mailto:sobara@merrimacpto.org)



## Movie Night 1/23

NOW PLAYING... WALL-E rated G. Sweetsir School Friday, January

23 @7pm. Come in your warm pajamas and bring a blanket to sit on. We will serve the popcorn and provide the lemonade. All children are eligible for a free kid raffle that takes place at the end of the show. Any questions? Heidi at [hvoulgaris@merrimacpto.org](mailto:hvoulgaris@merrimacpto.org) or Jen at [jmarden@merrimacpto.org](mailto:jmarden@merrimacpto.org).

## Yearbook Photos



HELP!! Needed by the 2nd week of March, photos of students in action. The Yearbook Committee cannot possibly be everywhere. If you have pictures of classroom/school events, field trips or classroom activities. Photos can be placed on a disc and delivered to the office at either school or uploaded to Carol at [cgulezian@merrimacpto.org](mailto:cgulezian@merrimacpto.org); or Beth at [bsmith@merrimacpto.org](mailto:bsmith@merrimacpto.org).

## Flatbread Pizza Fun

A HUGE THANK YOU goes out to Mrs. Byrne and Ms. Carroll for organizing and running this year's Flatbread Fundraiser for the PTO. There was a LARGE turnout of families and staff. The manager stated that this was the most successful benefit that they have had, in a long time. The rough estimate of proceeds for the night is between \$400—\$500. Ms. Carroll and Mrs. Byrne also ran a 50/50 raffle which made \$150. The winner of the raffle (\$75) was 4th grader Sophie Vice-domine. Congrats to her. Thanks to Flatbread and everyone who enjoyed their great food!

## Calendar of Events:



Mon, Jan 19: No School. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Tues, Jan 20: School Comm Mtg. @ 7:00, PHS

### OPEN BUDGET HEARING

Wed, Jan 21: PTO School Store during lunch at each school

Thurs, Jan 22: PRSD District Vision Meeting, PHS café, 7pm

Fri, Jan 23: Kindergarten Report Cards

Fri, Jan 23: Progress Reports

Fri, Jan 23: PTO Family Movie Night @ 7pm – WALL-E

Mon, Jan 26: ASE begins

Wed, Jan 28: Early Release\*/ PM Kind. Attends

Mon, Feb 2: School Council, 4pm, FNS Conference Room

Tues, Feb 3: School Comm Mtg. @ 7:30, PHS

Tues, Feb 3: FNS Class Pictures

Wed, Feb 4: HRD Class Pictures

Wed, Feb 4: PTO Bookstore during lunch at each school

Wed, Feb 4: Early Release\*/ AM Kind. Attends

Wed, Feb 11: Early Release\*/ PM Kind. Attends

Wed, Feb 11: PTO Meeting, 7pm, FNS Library

Thurs, Feb 12: Teachers 'R' Souper

Fri, Feb 13: School closes at end of day for Winter Vacation

Mon, Feb 16~Feb 20: School closed for Winter Vacation

Mon, Feb 23: School Reopens

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

## Spring Soiree/Silent Auction

Our 2nd annual Spring Soiree and Silent Auction is set to take place on Friday, April 3, 2009 at Zorvino Vineyards in Sandown, New Hampshire. We are currently looking for items that can be auctioned off. It can be sports tickets, themed baskets, services, handmade items, artwork (paintings, pictures), jewelry, gift certificates, a weekend away.... Maybe you received a gift or gift certificate at the holidays you know you'll never use. Consider donating that. Be Creative!

Coming soon: you will be able to look at pictures from last year's auction, view photos of recent donations and see a regularly updated list of items coming in. This is a HUGE event. We will need lots of help. If you have any questions or would like to get involved, please contact Tracy Duprey, Event Chairperson, through email or at home 978-346-4023.

Think Spring!

## Merrimac Pride!!

Show your Merrimac Pride. On sale now until February 6. Merrimac school spirit tops. T-Shirts \$15, Long Sleeve Shirts \$20 and Hooded Sweatshirts \$25 are available. All are Pentucket Green in color with a large white "M" on the front and the word "Merrimac" in green, across the front of the "M". Get in the SPIRIT and show your MERRIMAC PRIDE! Sara O'Bara is chairing this fundraiser so-



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