

Claypit Hill School

PTO Newsletter

December 15, 2008

During the hustle and bustle of the upcoming days, I just wanted to thank the generous families in our community who have been so supportive of our fall fundraising efforts. We are in the process of confirming the dates for our Spring programs and hope to announce our timeline for the remainder of the school year in January. In the meantime, be sure to mark your calendars now for our largest social and fundraiser of the year: the 2009 Elementary School Auction to be held on Saturday, February 28. This is sure to be a fun-filled social gathering and we hope you will join us. .

Finally, warm wishes for happy holidays and for a safe and healthy New Year from the PTO Board.

CLAYPIT Hill PTO and SCHOOL NEWS:

- Lice Check:** The next school-wide Lice Check is scheduled for Friday, January 16th, at 8:30 AM. On the Lice Check date, have your daughters wear their hair either down or in a simple ponytail. No elaborate hairstyles, please. **Thank you to all of the parents** for assisting in the lice check. If you have any questions, please contact Jill Freedberg at jillfreedberg@aol.com.
- AUCTION:** Save the Date: February 28⁺ for our biggest fundraiser! We are still in need of donations. Your family's contributions make the auction the PTO's largest fundraiser and a great success for our children and teachers. Any questions or want to get involved please contact Jen Murray at jbm723@comcast.net or Kate Pederson at katies74@yahoo.net.
- Community Outreach:** *Community Outreach is a PTO committee at Claypit Hill and its mission is to support less fortunate families in Wayland and the Metrowest area.*
For the month of December the Parmenter Food Pantry is collecting **peanut butter and jelly**. Thank you to Mrs. Murphy's class for collecting the pancake mix and syrup last month. Donations can be placed in the box in the school lobby. Parmenter has been low on staples this year so your help is greatly appreciated.
For information please contact Heidi Strauss at [hgstrauss@gmail.com](mailto:hgst Strauss@gmail.com)

Coffee: **Save the Date: Wednesday, January 14 at 9:00 AM.** Please join us for a fun, informative and interactive coffee with Leisha Simon, Wayland Schools' Director of Technology and Technology Specialist, Nancy Colbert and Rita Partridge. Come and learn about your child's Technology curriculum, Internet safety, smart classrooms and more. *You will even have the chance to log into your child's Claypit computer account.* Coffee and refreshments will be served.

LIGHT BULBS ARE READY TO BE PICKED UP!

The energy efficient light bulbs should be delivered to the school by Monday, Dec. 15. If you placed an order, please try to come in to pick it up before the winter break. Orders will be grouped together by last name and stacked in the lost and found hallway next to the office. Thanks to your support, \$2150 was raised for the PTOs! We expect you'll like the bulbs, and especially the associated energy cost savings. Questions? Contact Anne Harris at 508-358-5506 or arharris29@yahoo.com.

Fitness Challenge Kickoff

Enjoy a night of family fun on Saturday, January 10th at the Longfellow Club in Wayland as we launch our one week fitness challenge. Longfellow is generously offering a FREE tennis lesson at the Zip Zone from 5-6 p.m. for all Wayland Elementary School kids followed by an open pool from 6-7 for kids and families. Feel free to bring dinner and eat at the club. Longfellow will allow free access to the gym for the week of the challenge, Jan 12-18th and the week after that as well. Please RSVP to Stephanie Howard at stephmd@rcn.org by January 3 if your child would like to participate in the tennis lesson.

Just Like Me Program Update

We've completed 3 of our 5 units in the Just Like Me program for the 4th grade. Thanks to all the volunteers who have spent significant time learning about and sharing their understanding of these various limitations with our 4th grade classes. We still have volunteer opportunities in our final two units in January and February, *Developmental Disabilities* and *Hidden Disabilities*.

If you are interested, please go to <http://www.claypithillpto.org/jlmvolunteer.htm> to sign up today. Thanks in advance for your help with this important program. Contact Mary Kay Peacock at peacockmk@gmail.com or at (508) 358-8187 with any questions.

Shop Online and Support Claypit Hill: It's so easy!

One Cause, the new home of School Pop, is an online shopping portal that donates a percentage of purchase proceeds to the PTO. If you shop online, you can choose from many merchants (Gap, Banana Republic, Barnes and Noble, Best Buy, Discovery Store, Amazon, Expedia, American Airlines Vacations, Priceline, Ebay, Eddie Bauer, Garnet Hill, KB Toys, Pottery Barn and more) and support Claypit Hill.

It is easy to get started:

1. Go to <http://www.onecause.com>
2. In the top right hand corner, click JOIN to register
3. Create an account
4. Select a School: Claypit Hill School (ID#122585).
5. Once you have selected Claypit, each time you shop through One Cause, Claypit will earn a percentage-based rebate.
6. Before you shop, ALWAYS log onto <http://www.onecause.com> and click on the desired merchant.

- **Holiday Gift Giving Policy:** With the Holidays around the corner please remember the limits that are set with gift giving. If you as a family give a personal gift (something that the teacher can take home for personal use), either individually or as part of a group gift, that totals more than \$50 during a school year, the teacher will need to file a form with the State declaring the personal gifts and their source. Teachers are prohibited from receiving a personal gift valued at over \$50 per school year. A classroom gift or handmade gift is a great way to show teacher appreciation this season.

School Council News:

1. **Holiday Celebration:** The School Council goal to foster community was well-served as Claypit Hill families came together November 23rd for a potluck celebration dinner. The event provided a great opportunity to meet new families, share some wonderful home cooking and do something good. Chinese dumplings, Mexican lasagna and many other family recipes ensured the crowd was well-fed. Kids stuffed and wrapped over 100 "holiday poppers" for Sandra's Place shelter in Waltham. And Mary Patterson's singing and guitar work kept the kids bobbing.

2. **Claypit Hill World's Fair:** Planning for the 2nd Annual Claypit Hill World's Fair will get underway in January. Last year's event was a tremendous success with 400 or more attendees, 15 countries represented and 5 wonderful performances. This year's event will take place in the Spring and provide more great opportunities for community-building and cultural awareness. Please look for a notice and get involved.

COMMUNITY NEWS

WAYLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL FOUNDATION: Be sure to read the WPSF's flyer describing the Hats Off program attached to end of the newsletter. It is truly a wonderful way to honor our teachers and support our schools at the same time.

PLEASE HELP THE WAYLAND BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION! WBSA is looking for volunteers to help with sponsorship for the upcoming 2009 Baseball/Softball season. The funding from our sponsors is critical to supporting team uniforms, umpires, baseball clinics for kids and coaches, and more. WBSA needs help making phone calls, marketing to local businesses and families of young ball players, and approaching new sponsors. Any amount of time is extremely helpful. If you have some time to volunteer and help the WBSA, please contact Dave Hojlo by email at dhojlo@corbco.com or call 617-694-1758 or 508-358-0028. Thank you to all local businesses and families who have supported WBSA in the past.

Mind/Body Approaches to Stress Reduction: Helping Parents Help Kids

Speaker: Rana Chudnofsky, MEd, of Mass General Hospital's Benson-Henry Institute for Mind Body Medicine

Time & Place: Tues, Jan. 20, 7:30 - 9 pm, Wayland Middle School Auditorium \$5-10 voluntary donation at the door

Join us for a mind/body workshop *just for parents* to learn stress management techniques that you can use yourself and teach your kids. Tools and skills will include **Stress awareness, Relaxation response exercises, Visualization, and Body awareness**. Research shows that kids trained in these skills have improved academic performance, better work habits, improved memory, increased self-esteem, and decreased perceptions of stress.

Rana Chudnofsky, MEd is Director of the Education Initiative at the Benson-Henry Institute for Mind Body Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital, and Instructor in Medicine at Harvard Medical School. As Director of the Education Initiative, Ms. Chudnofsky brings mind body medicine to schools, universities, and clinical treatment centers.

The Benson-Henry Institute for Mind Body Medicine - founded by Dr. Herbert Benson, author of the best-selling book "The Relaxation Response" - is a world leader in the study, advancement, and clinical practice of mind/body medicine. Through its Educational Initiative (EI), the Benson-Henry Institute offers workshops for parents, teachers and students. These programs equip the school community with stress management tools that can result in an educational experience where students are calm and ready to learn, teachers are re-energized and focused, and parents can play a critical role in guiding and supporting their children.

SAVE THESE DATES:

- * **Saturday, January 10, 5:00 pm** Fitness Challenge Kickoff, Longfellow Club, Wayland
- * **Wednesday, January 14, 9:00 am** Coffee and Technology Program, CH Technology Lab
- * **Friday, January 16, 8:30 am** Lice Check, Claypit Hill classrooms, check-in begins in cafeteria
- * **Tuesday, January 20, 7:30 pm**, Mind/Body Approaches to Stress Reduction for Parents and Kids, Wayland Middle School
- *

THANK YOU TO: *Every month we will attempt to acknowledge everyone who has volunteered their time in so many efforts. If we accidentally missed you please accept our apologies and special thanks:*

- **Missy Davis** for helping with the Mum donation.
- **Beth Junkin** for picture retake day!
- **Dana Miller** and all the head room parents for sending the never ending reminders to parents
- **Lisa Flathers** for coordinating a successful holiday gift drive and to the many families who participated.

- **Mary Kay Peacock** for coordinating all of the Just Like Me volunteers.
- **Marie Campbell and Bonnie Jurist** for arranging and delivering all the beautiful poinsettias for our faculty.
- **Ann Harris** for coordinating the NSTAR fundraiser.

Please feel free to contact me with any ideas, questions, or concerns. I am often at school during drop-off and pick-up, or I can be reached by phone at (508) 358-2991 or via email at jbm723@comcast.net

Once again, best wishes to you holidays filled with peace and joy.

Jen Murray
PTO President



Looking for a great holiday gift for a special teacher or staff member?



With the holidays quickly approaching, it is time to start thinking about ways to acknowledge the hard work of your children's teachers and administrators.

For 25 years, the **Wayland Public Schools Foundation (WPSF)** has supported our schools by funding classroom innovations and creative units of study not covered by the regular school budget. Making a **HATS Off** donation to the Wayland Public Schools Foundation is a perfect way to thank your children's teachers and also conform to the gift-giving policy distributed by Superintendent Gary Burton.

HATS Off donations provide opportunities for Wayland teachers to stay abreast of educational trends. In these challenging economic times, these additional funds are more important than ever. Donations also qualify for matching gifts at participating companies.

In an effort to go green, the WPSF is encouraging donors to order **HATS Off** certificates through our website, www.WaylandPublicSchoolsFoundation.org. There is a dedicated **HATS Off** site on the website. Alternatively, the attached certificate forms may be printed and mailed to **P.O. Box 97, Wayland, MA 01778**, along with a check made payable to the Wayland Public Schools Foundation.

An acknowledgement certificate will be sent to your designated faculty member along with your name and personal greeting. The amount donated will not be disclosed.

What a perfect way to say "Thank You" to our outstanding teachers and staff!!!

The deadline for **HATS Off** donations is **Friday, December 19th**. For late submissions, delivery of acknowledgment certificates before Winter Break cannot be guaranteed.

Questions? Contact Carmela Wise at candwise@comcast.net or Sohie Lee at slee@wellesley.edu

