

# Claypit Hill School

## PTO Newsletter

November 14, 2008

As Thanksgiving approaches, it is a good time to reflect on the many things we are thankful for in our Claypit community. I am thankful for our principal, faculty and staff who work so hard to make our school a warm and nurturing learning environment for all of our children. I am consistently reminded of what an outstanding school we have. Teachers going above and beyond and the many parent volunteers who make our PTO events and fundraising happen. We are fortunate to have such committed parents and we appreciate all their hard work. If you haven't had the chance to be involved yet, there are still exciting opportunities to do so. Specifically we need more volunteers to help make the Elementary School PTO Auction a success. Please feel free to contact me at [jbm723@comcast.net](mailto:jbm723@comcast.net) if you are interested.

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### **SCHOOL AND PTO NEWS:**

**REMINDER:** School closes at 12:00, noon, on Wednesday, November 26. The after school BASE program is closed. School will reopen on Monday, December 1. Happy Thanksgiving!

**Elementary School Auction:** Don't forget to mark your calendar for Saturday, February 28 for the PTO Auction! Please consider making a donation to the auction by filling out and returning your auction form to the office.

If you have a couple of hours to spare in the following areas, we would love to hear from you!

1. Following up with local businesses who have already been sent letters and who have donated in past years (**NO COLD CALLS**). If interested, contact Kate Pedersen at [katies74@yahoo.com](mailto:katies74@yahoo.com).
2. If you know of any businesses who would consider donating - please pass those along to Kate at [katies74@yahoo.com](mailto:katies74@yahoo.com).
3. Raffle sales coordinator for all elementary schools. Please contact Susan Blumenfeld at [susan.blumenfeld@imaqitas.pb.com](mailto:susan.blumenfeld@imaqitas.pb.com)

### **Just Like Me Volunteers Still Needed:**

This very important program uses fun activities to help teach kids empathy for people with other abilities and is entirely run by parent volunteers. Parents of all grades are welcome and needed for this program to be successful. Our next unit runs in December. Sign-up online at <http://www.claypithillpto.org/jlmvolunteer.htm>. Contact Mary Kay Peacock at [peacockmk@gmail.com](mailto:peacockmk@gmail.com) or at (508) 358-8187 with any questions.

### **Buy A Greenlight: Last Chance to buy Energy-Efficient Bulbs:**

The deadline to purchase compact fluorescent light bulbs through the "Change a Light Change the World" fundraiser has been extended to next **Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>**. Claypit Hill keeps 100% of the proceeds, so if you were planning on buying some anyway, why not do it through the PTO? Anyone needing forms can get one from the front office, or by contacting Ann Harris at [arharris29@yahoo.com](mailto:arharris29@yahoo.com) or (508) 358-5506.

**TWO DECEMBER COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS:** *(Community Outreach is a PTO committee at Claypit Hill and its mission is to support families in Wayland and the MetroWest area)*

1. **Holiday Gift Drive:** This holiday season the PTO will sponsor a GIFT DRIVE to benefit the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families (formerly DSS). The gifts we collect will go to children living in foster care in the Metrowest. Flyers with more information will go home in backpacks in the next week. Contact Lisa Flathers with questions or if you'd like to get involved at 508-358-3303 or [lisaflathers@comcast.net](mailto:lisaflathers@comcast.net)

2. **Parmenter Food Pantry:**

For November we are collecting **Pancake mix and Syrup** for the Parmenter Food Pantry. Donations can be placed in the box in the school lobby and is sponsored this month by Ms. Murphy's third grade class. A BIG THANK YOU to all of the 5th grade classes for the wonderful cereal boxes they collected and decorated for the Parmenter food pantry. The food pantry didn't have more than a couple of boxes of cereal before the 5th grade helped them out. For information please contact Heidi Strauss at [hgstrauss@gmail.com](mailto:hgstrauss@gmail.com)

**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.

**Newsletter Online:** Please be sure to sign up to receive Claypit Hill news electronically. As you know, there was a technical problem with listserve and all subscribers must sign up again this month. To subscribe to Enews, go to the link below [Http://www.wayland.k12.ma.us/listserv/subscribe.html](http://www.wayland.k12.ma.us/listserv/subscribe.html). Enter your email address and check the boxes of the eNews lists you want to subscribe to. In addition our newsletter, calendar of event, links to committee heads and more can be found our website, [www.claypithillpto.org](http://www.claypithillpto.org). Many thanks to our subscribers for helping us save trees, man-power and money.

**Hearing and Vision Screening:** Claypit students were screened during the week of October 27<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to all of the volunteers: Penny Beer, Patricia Branson, Sharon Burke, Jeannette D' Alessandro, Cheryl Ferrick, Zinta Grava, Joe Karbowski, Liz Kutcher, Tracey Luchetti, Rebekah LaCava, Laura Malnight, Lana Murphy, Heather Pineault, Jen Peyton, Jenny Silberman, Susan Seeber, Deborah, Tempesta, Nilima Virkud, Jane Williamson and Joan Zagame. Special thanks to Marcia Flagg and Nancy Cormier for organizing this important screening.

**Wayland METCO Family Friends Network:**

A brochure about our Family Friends Network went home to all families. If you did not receive one, there are more available in the office. We would love to have more families involved in this wonderful program. Please contact Robin Jones (508-358-3502 [robin.jones4@comcast.net](mailto:robin.jones4@comcast.net)) or Heather Pineault (508-358-9665 [heather.a.pineault.87@alum.dartmouth.org](mailto:heather.a.pineault.87@alum.dartmouth.org)) for more information. Our next townwide event is the Martin Luther King dinner in January.

## CLAYPIT HILL SCHOOL COUNCIL OFF TO RUNNING START

The Claypit Hill School Council welcomed an impressive group of new members. Karen Look joined as a Teacher Representative. Kate Moore joined from The Loker School Council, where she was serving as a Parent Representative. Marco Seidman was elected by school-wide vote as a new Parent Representative. Pam Thompson, a former Metco student, was appointed as Metco Parent Representative. Nancy Poydar, parent of Claypit Hill alumni and popular children's book author, was appointed as Community Representative. Together with returning Teacher Representative Tricia O'Reilly, Parent Representative John Penrose and Principal Debbie Bearse, the expanded membership reflects the larger enrollment and greater diversity so clearly on display at last year's highly successful Claypit Hill World's Fair,

This year's School Council will continue building a stronger sense of community. Look for the Second Annual Claypit Hill World's Fair next spring. Later this month, the School Council will host a Thanksgiving Celebration. Please bring a favorite dish and join fellow Claypit Hill families for food, entertainment and making "Holiday Poppers" for distribution at a local homeless shelter. The event takes place **Sunday, November 23 from 3-5** at the Claypit Hill School and provides an opportunity for common ground and sharing in these trying economic times. The event is free, but we encourage you to RSVP. Just return the slip that your child brought home or call the office at Claypit Hill School.

**Paper Roll Appeal:** Holiday Poppers are made with paper rolls; please save any paper rolls you use and drop them off in the box by the office. Every roll you save will brighten the holidays for a homeless child!

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**Wayland Public School Foundation:** Our annual appeal for the Wayland Public Schools Foundation has been sent to Wayland families. *In the face of difficult decisions affecting school budgets, the WPSF strives to continue to support important educational programs for our students and teachers through contributions from the Wayland community. Your support of the Foundation is crucial to this worthwhile endeavor and is greatly appreciated. Our website is [www.waylandpublicschoolsfoundation.org](http://www.waylandpublicschoolsfoundation.org) for more information or to make a donation online.*

**Wayland Girl Scouts** are accepting new members! If you're a girl or you know one who is interested in fun and adventure while developing skills for success, Girl Scouts may be for you. For more information call Rachel Sideman-Kurtz at 508-358-4338.

**PTO Thank You To:** *Every month we will attempt to acknowledge everyone who have volunteered their time in so many of our efforts. If we accidentally missed you please accept our apologies. Special thanks to...*

- **Russells Garden Center** for donating more than three dozen perennials to our school and to **Missy Davis, Colleen Sheehan, Nancy Seward, Janet Schwartz, Robin Spinale, Linda Hanifin, Emily L'Esperance and Kerry Tardiff** who helped plant the perennials. Thank you for making our entrance look so welcoming!
- **Ann Harris** for organizing the NSTAR fundraiser.
- **Marcia Flagg and Nancy Cormier** for organizing her last vision and hearing screening and their dedicated team listed under "Hearing and Vision Screening"
- **Deb Gilmore, Andrea O'Neill, Cindi Jacobs, and Marie Durant** and all the parent volunteers who helped make the Book Fair such a big success.
- **Jose, Sean and Jose** for their help with the Book Fair, and the October PTO Meeting
- **Mr. Chadsey, Ms. Tandon and Ms. Keenan** for supporting the Book Fair. Thank you for lending us your space!

- **Andrea Armstrong and Kris Normandin** for organizing the Greenraising fundraiser.
- **Debbie Besso and Rena Sarasohn** for their continued support
- **All the Room Parents** for getting the emergency phone chains in place.
- **Jill Freedberg** for organizing the October Lice Check **and the many parent volunteers** "checkers."
- **Mary Kay Peacock** for coordinating all of the Just Like Me volunteers.
- **Adrian Bryan** for hosting The Boston PTO meeting.
- **Our many Library Volunteers** (there are 39!) who cover the circulation desk during all library classes, who check-in and re-shelve hundreds of books every week, and who are instrumental in helping Mary Ann Svenning, our Librarian, keep the Claypit Hill Library organized. And to **Cathy Scholz** for organizing these volunteers.
- **Fifth Graders and their teachers** for doing such a great job collecting cereal for the Parmenter Food Pantry.

Please take a moment to review Dr. Burton's goals for this year below. As always, 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 at [jbm723@comcast.net](mailto:jbm723@comcast.net).

Jennifer Murray, President

# Wayland Public Schools

## Superintendent's Goals for FY2009

Please note: The four categories of goals below originated from the School Committee's Long Range Strategic Planning efforts and are identified as the district's Strategic Goal Areas.

### **Curriculum, instruction, and assessment that maximizes each student's learning and achievement:**

- The work of the Technology Task Force will be acknowledged and incorporated, as appropriate, into the Superintendent's recommended FY10 budget.
- The initiative to close the achievement gap will result in a set of additional recommendations that will continue to be discussed and examined by the administration and instructional staff. Previous recommendations will be acknowledged and either acted upon or discarded. (This is a very complex and challenging problem, and we will not have a full solution in hand by June 2009.)
- The initiative to explore the introduction of Chinese as a foreign language will produce recommendations that will be further considered during the FY10 school year.
- The health and wellness initiative will be further coordinated and incorporated, as appropriate, into the Superintendent's recommended FY10 budget. Where possible, external funding for this initiative will also be pursued.
- The ongoing work of the full-day kindergarten study group will be acknowledged and incorporated into the FY10 budget, if appropriate.
- Public presentations by members of the instructional staff will be scheduled throughout the year for the purpose of allowing the Committee and others to better understand the instructional goals of the different grades and academic disciplines.

### **A diverse, knowledgeable, and skilled community of educators and leaders:**

- Staff development opportunities will be arranged throughout the year that emphasizes technology training for staff, administrative training in teacher recruitment and evaluation, and the differentiated instruction of students (with an emphasis on opportunities for those who may be academically advanced).

### **Family and community partnerships to support the learning and growth of each student:**

- The district's efforts to properly inform the community of teen drug and alcohol abuse and prevent the same will be promoted and expanded via a coalition of concerned citizens and community organizations.
- Efforts to generate additional funds for school-supported initiatives will be pursued via user fees, grants, the solicitation of donations and advertising (if acceptable to the School Committee.)
- The district will produce a district report card (via our webpage) that promotes the reputation of the district by factually portraying the students' academic accomplishments and involvement in athletics and extra curricular activities. Related staff information will also accompany this public document.

### **Strategic management operations, resources, and facilities to enable and empower the educational community:**

- The greening initiative will continue and result in documented efforts to control and curtail material and energy consumption. Recycling efforts will be promoted to raise awareness among students and staff.
- The work of the High School Building Committee will be fully supported.
- A proposed operational budget for FY10 will be developed and publicly presented to the School Committee. Supporting data and rationale will accompany the Superintendent's recommended budget.