

Claypit Hill School

PTO Newsletter

February 11, 2009

Happy Valentine's Day! We are at the halfway mark of the school year, but never fear the Claypit PTO has lots of events planned for the remainder of the year. See our list of programs below and please note some date changes and additions below. Also it's not too early to decide how you would like to be involved next year. We have a way for every parent to use their talents to improve our school community. Over the next month or so, Maura McInerney and I will be calling current chair people to see if they want to help out next year or move onto something else. If you are new to Claypit and are looking to get involved please call or email with your interests and we can find just the right spot in our PTO for you.

I would also like to thank all the parents and teachers who came to our last PTO meeting. I think we broke a record for attendance. Please mark your calendars for our Auction on February 28. In addition to being a fun party, this is our biggest fundraiser of the year.

UPDATED Fundraisers/Activity Schedule for 2009

- Auction: Saturday, February 28
- Art to Remember: orders due March 20
- BINGO: Friday, March 27, evening
- Apparel: March/April
- Art Show, Thursday April 2
- Family Portrait Day, Sunday, May 3 CHS
- School Council's World Fair, Sunday, May 3
- Book Fair: May 4th and May 5th
- Roller Kingdom (5th Grade Social), Sunday, May 31
- Sweet Endings/School Picnic Thursday, June 4
- 5th Grade Picnic, Tuesday, June, 16

"Dates at a Glance" for February and March

- Pizza, Babysitting, Parent Education, Wednesday, February 11, 6:00 pm
- Auction: Saturday, February 28
- PTO Board Meeting, Thursday, March 5, 8:45 am
- Lice Check: Friday, March 6, 8:30 am
- Joint Elementary PTO Speaker Meeting: Monday, March 16
- BINGO: Friday, March 27, evening

PTO AND SCHOOL NEWS:

AUCTION: Please join us for "Our Town", the elementary school PTO's Annual Auction, **Saturday February 28th at 7:30pm** at Temple Shir Tikva. Come and enjoy an evening of magic, music, hors d'oeuvres, drinks, friends and fun. Scott Gaddis will be our live auctioneer! Most importantly, there will be **lots** of great items to bid on.

You should have received an invitation in the backpacks. If you did not receive one, stop by the office where there are extras or contact Jen Murray. Tickets are \$25 each, or can be purchased at the door for \$30.

Auction catalogs will be distributed after February vacation. If you can't make it to the auction but are interested in an auction item, please submit a pre-bid. Pre-bid forms will be distributed with the catalogs. All pre-bids must be in the PTO mailbox located in the Claypit Hill office by Friday, February 27th at 3pm.

Buy your tickets now for our Auction Raffle. This year we are offering a 42" Samsung Plasma TV. Raffle tickets are 2 for \$10 or 5 for \$20. You need not be present to win.

If you have any questions or if you are able to help that day and/or evening, please contact Jen Murray at jbm723@comcast.net or Kate Pedersen at katies74@yahoo.com and we hope to see you on the 28th!!!!

MARCH PTO JOINT SPEAKER: *Annual parent's program hosted by the Claypit Hill and Happy Hollow PTO:*
Helping Children Manage Stress
Robert Evans, Ed.D.
Monday, March 16, 7:00 to 8:30 pm
Claypit Hill School Cafeteria

We all complain about being stressed. And we worry that our children are over-stressed, yet we don't want them to be left behind as expectations keep rising, and competition keeps accelerating—and this was all true before the financial meltdown. How much stress is too much, for a child, a parent, a family? What steps can reduce stress and make it manageable? Rob Evans will explore these and other questions and offer practical coping tips for parents.

Evans is a clinical and organizational psychologist and the Executive Director of The Human Relations Service, Wayland's community mental health agency. A former high school and pre-school teacher and a former child and family therapist, he has worked with schools and families for thirty years. He has consulted to over a thousand schools, working with teachers, administrators, boards, and parents. His presentations are known for their lively wit and plain talk. He is the author of many articles and two books: *Family Matters: How Schools Can Cope with The Crisis in Childrearing* and *The Human Side of School Change*. Co-sponsored by the Wayland Elementary School PTO's and The Friends of Wayland Youth and Family Services.

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 February, Ms. Hardy's third grade class will be collecting brownie and cake mixes. Collection boxes can be found outside the main office.

For information please contact Heidi Strauss at hgstrauss@gmail.com

Lice Check: Many thanks to all the parents who executed our January Lice check. The next school-wide Lice Check is on **Friday, March 6, from 8:30-9 AM**. Please contact Jill Freedberg at jillfreedberg@aol.com if you can help.

ART TO REMEMBER: *We will be offering ART TO REMEMBER again this spring. More details to come.*

This fundraising program offers you the ability to have your child's artwork transformed into a diverse selection of custom products, such as cards, calendars, mouse pads, mugs, tote bags etc.

A drawing that your child created in art class at school will be submitted to Art to Remember.

If you're interested in helping or have any questions, please contact Lana Murphy at murphyhq@comcast.net.

APPAREL SALE: *Watch for details on this popular sale of "Wayland" apparel beginning in March:*

Please contact Karen Philip at karen.philip@comcast.net or Tracy Roberge at Roberge@comcast.net if you have any questions.

ART SHOW: *Our annual Art Show will be held on Thursday, April 2, evening. We need many parent volunteers to make this event a success. Contact Jen Dowling at dowlingj@comcast.net if you can help with this fun event.*

BINGO: *Save the date: Friday, March 27, evening. Please contact Noreen D'Amico at noreendamico@verison.com if you have any questions or would like to help with this fun, family event.*

Family Friends Program: *playdate opportunities!*

- 1) There is a late bus on Tuesdays and Thursdays that leaves from CH at 4:30pm. If you would like to have a playdate after school, this is a great chance to invite a friend over and then bring them back to the 4:30pm bus.
- 2) The next official Family Friends late bus is on Friday, March 6. The bus leaves for Boston from Wayland High School at 6pm.
- 3) Save the date: We will have a bus going into Boston for Wayland residents on Sunday, March 29th. Stay tuned for more information.

Just Like Me Program receives rave reviews from parent volunteers

Two parent volunteers were recently asked about their Just Like Me experience. Their response:

"Volunteering for the JLM program has opened wonderful opportunities for me as a newcomer to Wayland and the Claypit Hill School. I've had the chance to meet other parents who are interested in raising children who are accepting, open minded and sensitive to the needs of others. I've had the chance to interact with children older than my own and get a glimpse of what my kids might be like a couple of years from now. But most importantly, I've had the opportunity to give back to a school that has embraced my son and fostered his independence and love of learning. What more could you ask for!"

"I loved it! It was a wonderful fit with my interests and experience, but most importantly, it fit with my personal values. It was fascinating to watch the kids have "Ah-ha" moments as they struggled (or not) with the challenging exercises. I wish I had signed up to volunteer more on this topic (Intellectual Disabilities) and look forward to the next session."

If you would like to have the opportunity to volunteer with Just Like Me, we'll be starting our final unit, Hidden Disabilities, for the 4th grade at the beginning of March. 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.

PTO Board Meeting: Thursday, March 5, 8:45 am, Claypit Hill Cafeteria: Looking to get involved...Join us!

COMMUNITY NEWS:

SPELLING BEE DATE CHANGE! ! NEW DATE is SUNDAY, APRIL 5th!

The Wayland Public Schools Foundation sponsored Spelling Bee is Sunday, April 5th, at the Wayland High School starting at 12:30 pm. 2nd-5th graders are welcome to participate in this fun, town wide event.

Watch for registration forms in your children's backpack the week of February 23rd.

Registration deadline is Friday, March 13th. For more information contact Becky Haase(beckyhaase@comcast.net), Maureen Lampert(maureenlampert@hotmail.com), or Dana Miller(danamiller@comcast.net)

WAYLAND BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL Regular Registration ENDS February 28, 2009

If you have not already registered, please go online to www.waylandbsa.com and register your K thru 10th grade Baseball and Softball players today so that we can accurately plan for the Spring.

Go to www.waylandbsa.com, then click <[register online by clicking here](#)>, which brings you to our registration service (called active.com). Then click <Register Now> to start the process. EARLY Registration is closed. REGULAR REGISTRATION runs through February 28th, and then a late fee of \$25.00 will be applied.

FREE CONCERT:

On Friday April 3, at 7:00 pm, classical guitarist Jason Shelkowitz will present a free concert at Wayland High School's Little Theatre. In the first half of the concert, Mr. Shelkowitz will perform a program of his songs for children, assisted by Doug Anderson (WHS '03) and Melanie Knight (WHS '06). The concert's start has been set at 7:00pm to accommodate the schedules of families with younger children. Adults and older children might choose to stay to hear the second half of the program, in which Mr. Shelkowitz will present a program of solo classical guitar works by Bach and Villa-Lobos. For more information, visit www.waylandconcerts.org or call 508-358-2667.

SPECIAL THANKS TO: *Every month we will attempt to acknowledge those who have volunteered their time in so many of our efforts. If we accidentally missed you, please accept our apology: Special thanks to:*

- * **Cathleen Holmes and Rebekah LaCava** for organizing a great 5th grade activities meeting and to all the 5th grade parents who attended.
- * **Jill Freedberg** and all the **January Lice Checkers!**
- * Our Webmaster, **Kim Reichelt**, for updating and improving the PTO's website (www.claypithillpto.org).
- * **Debbie Besso** and **Rena Sarasohn** for helping us with everything.

As always, please contact me with your questions, comments and concerns. I look forward to hearing from you.

Jen Murray, President, jbm723@comcast.net