

Claypit Hill School

PTO Newsletter

January 15, 2009

Happy New Year to all! I hope everyone had a wonderful break and holiday season. It is hard to believe how quickly time is passing. The PTO has a busy spring scheduled! For your convenience and planning, below is a schedule of our events and fundraising activities.

Also, please be sure to read below to learn about the many programs that the PTO funds provide and the educational tools that enables the school to purchase. Your participation in our activities directly benefits your children and our teachers. We are thankful to all our families who participate and are grateful to all volunteers whose dedication makes these events and activities possible.

As always your participation is vital to our success. As you will see from the reports below we are looking for volunteers to help with our Auction, Art to Remember fundraiser, BINGO event, and School Council's World Fair. Please contact Jen Murray at jbm723@comcast.net if you are interested. We welcome your involvement!

Spring 2009 PTO Fundraisers

- Saturday, February 28: PTO Auction, Our Home Town, Temple Shir Tikva
- Late March: Art to Remember: Orders due late March back by popular demand! (more details below)
- Friday, March 27: BINGO, evening, Middle School (more details below)
- Late April: Apparel Sale, Fabulous Wayland Wear!
- TBA, Family Portrait Day
- Monday & Tuesday, May 4 & 5: Spring Book Fair
- Thursday, June 4: Sweet Endings, School Picnic, evening

Other PTO Events:

- * Wednesday, February 11, evening: Pizza and Guest Speaker, Officer Jim Forti
- * Monday, March 16, evening: Joint PTO Speaker, Program on Stress for Elementary School Parents
- * Thursday, April 2, evening: Claypit Hill Art Show
- * Sunday, May 31, 5:30 pm: Roller Kingdom, 5th Grade Social

What our PTO supports: Below is a list of some of the programs and tools that have been made possible by our PTO. For more information, please review our 2008 Annual report available on the PTO website, www.claypitpto.org.

- * Digital Video Cameras and Epson Powerlite projector and cart
- Microphone, symphony and orchestra stands
- Braodmaker and Reading A-Z software subscriptions
- Reader's Theatre set and Phonic Center software, 1st Grade
- Quiet Chair Foot Covers, 2nd Grade
- Author Visit: Jerett Krosowska, 2nd Grade **read the below, Cultural Enrichment report for details.
- "Mr. Magnet" program from MIT, Grade 3 & 4
- Dry Erase Boards & Compasses, 4th Grade
- Historical Maps and multimedia Geokits, 5th Grade
- A visit from Ben Franklin, Grade 5

Cultural Enrichment: *Author Visit with Jarrett J. Krosoczka*

On January 6th, the PTO Cultural Enrichment Committee proudly sponsored a performance with author/illustrator Jarrett J. Krosoczka. Children in grades 1-5 participated in an interactive presentation. Jarrett read his books, shared the stories behind the making of the books and gave a slide show that details his growth as an artist and author. Students saw drawings that Jarrett made when he was their age and also saw the progress a single painting makes from sketch to finish. Jarrett also spoke about the writing process with a focus on the importance of revisions. Some of his books are "Max for President", "Punk Farm", and "My Buddy Slug". Jarrett's website is: <http://www.studiojjk.com>

CLAYPIT HILL SCHOOL AND PTO NEWS:

Emergency Phone Chain Reminder: Please be sure to have your emergency phone chain with you at your home, in your car or in your office. As you know, there were some problems while activating the phone chain on December 19th. Please do your part to help with this by making sure that your phone chain is accessible to you at all times.

PTO MEETING: *Wednesday, February 11, evening*, Officer Jim Forti will present a video entitled: "Living Amongst Us: Unmasking the Sexual Predator." This video describes how people who sexually abuse children often "groom" their victims; presents statistics on sexual assault and people who sexually abuse their children; and explains how people can make themselves and their families safer. Officer Forti and Officer Mark Wilkins will also lead an informative discussion about this issue and internet safety. Pizza and babysitting by our BASE staff will be provided.

Pizza social will be at 6:00 pm. Babysitting and the program will begin at 6:30 pm. The video and discussions will be for parents only.

AUCTION: Save the Date. February 28st our biggest fundraiser!

PTO AUCTION NEEDS YOUR HELP: Donations from families make up a significant portion of the silent auction items. This does not need to be cash. If you have an expertise that you want to share, tickets to a game, or maybe a group of friends want to get together and host a party, we would love to hear from you. These are just a few ideas, we are sure you can come up with more. If you have anything to donate, please contact Jen Murray (jbm723@comcast.net) or Kate Pederson (katies74@yahoo.com).

Art to Remember: Our school is participating in a wonderful art opportunity for your child. Your child's artwork can be reproduced onto a variety of products including: magnets, key chains, quilt blocks, matted prints, message boards, wall calendars, bookmarks, note cards, id tags, pillows, memory scrapbooks, coaster sets, ceramic mugs, mouse pads, journals, sketch books, t-shirts, ceramic tiles, aprons, and more!

Every student will create an instructed artwork during the next month in art class. **In addition, he/she can request a sheet of Art to Remember paper to create another artwork at home.** If you can help with this PTO fundraiser, please contact Lana Murphy at murphyhq@comcast.net.

BINGO: Save the date: Friday, March 27, evening. Volunteers Needed: Please contact Noreen D'Amico at noreendamico@verizon.net if you are interested in helping with this fun, family event. Many hands are needed to make this event a success.

Attention 5th Grade Parents: Interested in becoming a part of the yearbook, t-shirt design or one of the many exciting activities that we planned for Claypit Hill's class of 2009? Then please join us on February 4th at 9:00 am in the cafeteria to learn how you can get involved. Anyone unable to join us should contact either Cathleen Holmes at chholmes@comcast.net or Rebekah LaCava at lacava1@comcast.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 January the Parmenter Food Pantry would like your help collecting toiletries- toothpaste, shaving cream, shampoo! Donations can be placed in the box in the school lobby. For information please contact Heidi Strauss at hgstrauss@gmail.com.

Art Show, April 2, evening: Please contact Jen Dowling at dowlingj@comcast.net if you would like to help with this wonderful event. Many hands are needed to help frame, mount and display our student's work.

School Council:

The Claypit Hill School Council met in early January. Topics discussed included traffic, communications and the upcoming World's Fair event. Morning drop-off traffic has proven challenging, pulling several school personnel away from their normal assignments to help manage it. The major concern is drivers not following the traffic rules or heeding the traffic coordinators. The School Council discussed a range of potential options to help ensure child safety and support the school personnel. The Council resolved to set up a parent volunteers program to assist with the morning traffic duties and communicate the traffic rules. Look for this effort to roll out soon and please consider volunteering.

The School Council also resolved to establish a centralized email address for parents to share issues and concerns directly with the School Council. Look for the email address soon.

The second annual Claypit Hill World's Fair is tentatively scheduled for early May. We will be circulating a volunteer sign-up sheet via your kids' homerooms. With your feedback we will be holding a kick-off meeting in early February. Please sign up and help make this year's event even more successful than last year's debut.

School Council is looking for a parent volunteer to join in the planning of the 2009 World's Fair. This volunteer will be liaison from the World's Fair Committee to the PTO Board. Organizational meeting will begin in February. Please consider helping with the planning of this very special event. Please contact John Penrose at johnpenrose@verizon.net if you are interested or have 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.

LOST AND FOUND: Please check the school's "Lost and Found" for your child's belongings. It is overflowing! Fall jackets, sweatshirts and other items that have been in the "Lost and Found" since October need to be claimed prior to February vacation or they will be donated to Goodwill. The "Lost and Found" is conveniently located in the hall between the office and the cafeteria.

"Change for Hope" - Please donate any extra change you have around your house. The money is for Hope Lodge in Boston. It will go to buying a Wii and Wii Fit for patients having cancer treatment. Hope Lodge is a place where patients go for free while getting cancer treatment in Boston. My goal is to raise \$600! Thank you for your help! Questions: *Callie Junkin 358-4588* If you want to learn more about Hope Lodge go to www.canger.org.

COMMUNITY NEWS:

Attention SPELLERS.....SAVE THE DATE!

The Wayland Public Schools Foundation sponsored Spelling Bee is Sunday, March 22nd, 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 first week of February!

Registration deadline is Friday February 27th.

For more information contact Becky Haase(beckyhaase@comcast.net), Maureen Lampert (maureenlampert@hotmail.com), or Dana Miller(danamiller@comcast.net)

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

Co-Sponsored by Friends of Wayland Youth and Family Services and Wayland School PTOs

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

Time and Place: Tuesday, January 20, 2009 from 7:30 - 9 pm in the 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.

THANK YOU TO:

- **Lisa Flathers and all the families who supported the Holiday Gift Drive for the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families for children living in foster care in MetroWest.**
- **Bonnie Jurist and Marie Campbell** for purchasing and distributing the staff holiday plants.
- **All the Room Parents** who helped facilitate the emergency phone chain on 12/19.
- **Leisha Simon, Nancy Colbert and Rita Partridge** for presenting an informative Technology program at our January coffee.

Any questions, comments or concerns please contact me at 508-358-2991 or jbm723@comcast.net

Jen Murray, PTO President