

Claypit Hill PTO Newsletter

www.claypithillpto.org

September 2010



Claypit Hill School
Wayland, Massachusetts

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2010 and 2011 School Year at Claypit Hill School! I hope you all experienced a wonderful summer! We have packed a lot of information into this newsletter to help you be informed about happenings this Fall as well as a glimpse into the rest of the year. Please – grab a cup of coffee or tea and have a read....

Peg Trentini

Get Connected...

In the interest of being greener (and saving a whole bunch of paper), saving both time and effort for room parents, and getting the information faster so we can start helping our teachers sooner, we are asking parents to visit the Claypit PTO website and submit your contact information and volunteer interests online: <http://www.claypithillpto.org/volunteering/volunteerform>.

Please take a moment to fill out the on line survey. *Even if you submitted information last year, please fill it out again.* Only one submission is necessary, even if you have multiple children at Claypit. Your information will be used for no other purposes than to assist the room parents for emergency phone chains, find classroom volunteers and for PTO committee heads to find interested volunteers.

In the interest of not needing to see me “grovel” (*it's not pretty*) – please just take a few moments to fill this out. Oddly enough – the result of a great response to this - would reduce the amount of online email pleas that you will see in your inbox throughout the year – as it could help us only reach out to those who we know are interested in helping in certain areas.

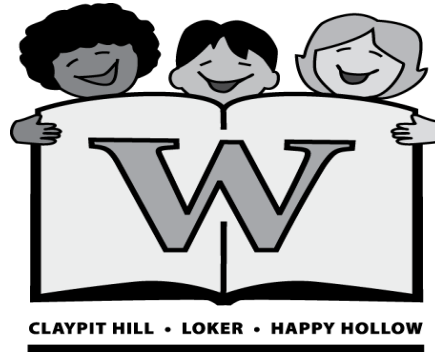
I would like to introduce you to your PTO Board of Directors for the 2010 – 2011 School Year at Claypit Hill ...

Peg Trentini
Niki Duffy
Deb Stubeda
Maura McInerney
Liza Knapp

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Ways and Means

pegtrentini@gmail.com
nikicduffy@gmail.com
wolffstubb@verizon.net
maurapto@gmail.com
lizaknapp1@gmail.com

PTO Fundraiser



Gift Your Child Kicks off This Month!

Fundraising is an important part of any PTO's activities. The Claypit Hill PTO, in conjunction with the Happy Hollow/Loker PTO, collects funds annually through our Gift Your Child fundraising campaign. These funds are in turn used to support and enhance the educational experiences of our children.

The Gift Your Child fundraising campaign is comprised of two parts. Part 1 occurs in the Fall when we ask families to "Gift Your Child" by donating a recommended amount in the name of each of their elementary-age children. Part 2 occurs later in the year when we ask teachers, staff, and community organizations to "gift" our children by donating special events, services and goods to be available for purchase by the elementary school community through a silent "backpack" auction in the Spring.

This year, like last year, the PTO is requesting a donation of \$100 per child at the elementary school level. This amount is equal to the average amount spent by the PTO per child on educational enhancement programs. A 100% participation rate would help us achieve a level budget for our elementary schools' PTO next year, and ensure the continued support of our children and schools through valued PTO-sponsored programs. A \$100 donation also includes a family's annual dues and guarantees a copy of the All Schools Directory.

In past years, the PTO has used the funds it has raised to sponsor cultural enrichment presentations for our children, including visits from musicians, authors, and illustrators; to provide funds for supplies and equipment for classrooms, including sensory tools, theme-related materials, furniture, and maps; and to sponsor field trips, as well as grade-specific educational presentations.

Keep an eye out for the orange envelope with more information about this exciting campaign! It will come home in your child's backpack this month. The Gift Your Child campaign's success requires everyone's participation in Part 1 to their best ability -- we look forward to your support again this Fall! If you are interested in helping the Gift Your Child committee, please contact either Liza Knapp (lizaknapp1@gmail.com) or Dana Davies (danabdavies@gmail.com).

Thank you in advance for your support.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

School Pictures	September 23 rd	Thursday
New Family Coffee	September 29 th	Wednesday
Curriculum Night	September 30 th	Thursday
Book Fair	Sept. 30, Oct. 1, 2, 4, 5	Thu, Fri, Sat, Mon, Tue
Lice Busters	October 1st	Friday
Just Like Me	October 12, 13, 14	Tue, Wed, Thu
Claypit Cares	October 18 th	Monday



Picture Day

Hayward photography will be at Claypit Hill on Thursday September 23rd, to take individual and class pictures. A package with the options available has been sent home and needs to be returned with payment by Thursday September 23rd. Volunteers are also needed for this event from 9:00am to 12pm. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Sharon Litchfield at 508-358-6001 or sharon.litchfield@comcast.net.

Family and Friends

Welcome back to another exciting school year! We hope everyone had a wonderful summer. Family/Friends would like to remind you of three upcoming events:

September Social: Sunday, Sept. 26th 2p-5p at Claypit Hill

Apple Picking: Saturday, Oct. 2nd (more to follow)

First Claypit Hill Playdate: Friday, Nov. 5th, Wayland will be the host (more to follow)

Remember to mark your calendars and let's have some fun!

Michelle Christian
Edie Hotchkiss

michelle.christian@sunlife.com
hotchkis@bc.edu

617-974-2538
508-561-4433

Lice Check



Our first lice check will be on Friday morning, October 1st, at 8:30am. Would you please give us a hand? It takes just 15 minutes! Please contact Rochelle Costigan at rochellecostigan@gmail.com and let her know what classroom you can cover, or if you are available to cover more than one classroom. No one likes to think about this – but your assistance helps us hopefully shut down any wide spread outbreaks.

Fall Book Fair

Mark your calendars for the Fall Book Fair! This year's event will be held from September 30th through October 6th. Family shopping hours will be held on:

- Thursday, September 30 – 3pm – 6:30pm
- Friday, October 1 – 3pm – 6:30pm
- Saturday, October 2 – 10am – 2pm
- Monday, October 4 – 3pm – 7pm
- Tuesday, October 5 – 3pm – 6:30pm

Students will have the opportunity to purchase books during scheduled classroom visits during school hours. Be on the lookout for flyers listing your child's classroom visit time, a sample list of books and order forms. An email request for volunteers will also be sent out soon and we hope you will make time to support this popular event. Cash, checks and credit cards will be accepted.

We look forward to seeing you!

The Book Fair Committee

Jacqui Stahl
Wendy Safe
Kathleen Rader
Laura Malnight

Stahl.stahl@comcast.net
wsafe@comcast.net
Rader_kathleen@yahoo.com
lmalnight@hotmail.com

JUST LIKE ME needs YOU!

Wayland is very proud to include the "Just Like Me" program as a part of the third and fourth grade curriculum. Third grade units include: "Deafness & Hard of Hearing" and "Blindness and Low Vision". Fourth graders learn about: "Physical Limitations", "Intellectual Limitations", "Learning Disabilities" and "Autism Spectrum Disorders". These units rely heavily on parent volunteers, and we're hoping you will be one of them. The first unit is "Physical Limitations", which takes place from October 12-14th. (This is a great opportunity to help out, as it is the unit that requires the most volunteers). One of the ways we'll be scheduling volunteers is through the website, VolunteerSpot. Please visit the link to sign up for a shift (or two!).

<http://volunteerspot.com/login/entry/50234563476120602>

JLM Volunteer Coordinators –
Laura Malnight (lmalnight@hotmail.com)
Michele Davidson (mickfor@aol.com)
Cari Cornish (cjcornish00@gmail.com)



Vision and Hearing Screening

October 25th - 29th



Once a year all children at Claypit Hill have their vision and hearing tested. This is a week long process beginning Monday October 25th. We are looking for volunteers to come into school and help with the testing; you can come in one day or all five! Using the vision and hearing machines is easy and training is provided by Nurse Cindy Forti the morning you come in. Come in and interact with children and teachers. If you can volunteer, please contact Sharon Burke at sharonburke2@verizon.net.

“Claypit Cares”

On October 18th The Claypit Hill School is going to spend an afternoon giving back to the community. All of the classrooms will be simultaneously doing projects that are in some way connected to the concept of social justice. The goal of this day is to raise awareness of those who are in need of our assistance, create a sense of community within the school, and understand the power of the individual, no matter how young, to make the world a better place. We need your help to make this day successful.

Here's a sampling of the projects:

1. A Claypit classroom may create activity books for Children's Hospital for patients to use during their long waiting periods in the hospital. Students will choose from various activity sheets, create cheerful covers and string the sheets together to bind them.
2. A Claypit classroom may make beaded jewelry to be given out as holiday gifts to patients at Boston Medical Center.
3. A Claypit classroom may paint pictures of children's faces on banners that will be hung up at the Opening Ceremony of a new craniofacial center at Children's Hospital this year. The Foundation for Faces is dedicated to improving the lives of children with craniofacial differences.

This is only a sampling. EVERY Classroom will participate in an activity like this...

We need volunteers to:

- Come in on Thursday October 14th to help set up the projects for the teachers with the donated items. This is a “drop in day” – we will have the items all collected and just need to be organized and in some cases “prepped” (cutting, etc.). There is no specific time or time frame to volunteer – just please give a little bit of time when you can on this day.
- Volunteer in your child's classroom on Monday October 18th. Some classrooms will need very little volunteers – and others may need more. Please stay tuned for more information.



Thank you

To all of the parents who volunteer their time, efforts and talents toward the enrichment of our children at Claypit Hill School. Your help within the school, on field trips, on the phone, at home, on the side of the playing fields, courts and pools – just generally keeping the flow and energy of this great school going is very much appreciated.

To all of the teachers and staff for their hard work in preparing for the first day of school and for welcoming all of the new and returning children and parents to Claypit Hill. We thank you.

A very big thanks to Kim Reichelt for continuing to make the Claypit PTO website the “go to” place for updated information, contact information and volunteer on line survey. Check it out at www.claypithillpto.org/volunteering/ -- we hope to keep the website very active this year!

Thank you to Missy Davis as well as Linda and Tim Hanifin for helping maintain the gardens over the summer. Also, Lynch Landscaping helped with the weeding and spreading new peastone to the Secret Garden. Linda and Missy planted the pots in the front of the school as well. Did you see the new sun dial in the front of the garden? Buried treasure – it was a class gift from the 5th grade class of 1997 – a parent from that class found it!

Big thank you to Maureen Lampert, Kim and Peter Kashian, Maura McInerney and Niki Duffy for their prodigious efforts in providing and organizing food and time for the Faculty Back-to-School luncheon. They saved me from potential failure on my first task!

And – to the 2009-2010 PTO Board, Debbie Besso, Debbie Bearse, Kim Reichelt and all of you whom I’ve reached out to in the last month to pull the pieces together. Thanks a bunch! Hope you don’t mind if I keep your phone number!

Open Committee Positions

We still have openings to chair a few committees – please consider these positions – give me a call if you have any questions on them. I promise we'll get you some help if you promise to coordinate!

Faculty and Bus Appreciation - *three more events this year – I already have helpers for this one!*
"Sweet Endings" School Picnic – *OK, maybe you can have a free scoop of ice cream for your effort*

Gift Your Child, Part II – *event is Spring 2010*

Community Outreach – Parmenter

Please shoot me an email if you are interested – pegtrentini@gmail.com

School Council Openings

There are two (2) openings for the School Council this year. Look for information and nomination papers to come home shortly.

PTO Meetings

The first of this year's PTO Meetings has been scheduled for Thursday evening November 18th. This will be a joint meeting of all elementary schools. Location is still to be determined. This meeting will be a forum addressing the new anti bullying legislation. The panel will be made up of the principals, teachers and guidance counselors. Please look for more detailed information as the date gets closer.

PTO Board Meetings at Claypit Hill School

Each month the PTO board of directors meet to discuss upcoming events, emerging issues that affect the Claypit Hill School and community and PTO related financial matters. These meetings are open to the public. We encourage you to attend and welcome your input. Meetings will generally fall on the first Wednesday of the month. The next two meetings scheduled are:

Wednesday, October 6th at 9am

Wednesday, November 3rd at 9am

If you've gotten this far in the newsletter – thanks! I hope you will stay connected during the school year – there is something for everyone – whatever your schedule and ability. Whether you can come into the school or assist from home or work – we need you. I hope to meet many of you soon!

(Psst, have you completed the volunteer survey yet??)

Peg Trentini