

Claypit Hill School

PTO Newsletter

March 17, 2009

Happy St. Patrick's Day! The weekend weather was glorious and makes me feel like spring is on the way. Our PTO schedule will continue to bustle with activities during the spring. Please take a moment to review our list below and mark your calendar's appropriately. The next few weeks brings many fun activities, such as the BINGO, the Art Show, and the Bus Driver Appreciation breakfast.

The spring is also the season that our PTO begins planning for the next school year. "Wishlist" letters and applications went home to every family and to our faculty and staff. If you did not receive this information, there are extra copies in the office or email Jen Murray at the below address. You can also participate in our planning process by submitting ideas for future fundraisers to Jen Murray at jbm723@comcast.net by April 10th. You are welcome to join us at The Joint Elementary PTO Fundraising Meeting that will be on Tuesday, April 14 at the Loker School. Also, please consider filling one of our Committee Head or Board positions. Remember, that when you volunteer for your child's school, you send a powerful message of caring to your child(ren) and to our faculty and staff. We need your talents and support!

UPDATED Fundraisers/Activity Schedule for 2009

- Art to Remember: orders due March 20
- BINGO: Friday, March 27, evening
- Apparel: April 1-April 15
- Art Show, Thursday April 2, 4:30-7:30
- 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 March and April

- Joint Elementary PTO Speaker Meeting: Monday, March 16
- BINGO: Friday, March 27, seatings at 5:30 pm & 7:30 pm, Wayland Middle School
- Bus Driver Appreciation: Wednesday, April 1
- Art Show: Thursday, April 2, Claypit Hill, 4:30-7:30 pm
- Wish List Deadline: Thursday, April 2
- Wayland Public School's Foundation Annual Spelling Bee: Sunday, April 5
- PTO Board Meeting: Thursday, April 9 at 8:45 am.
- Joint Elementary PTO Fundraising Meeting, Tuesday, April 14, 9:15 am, Loker School
- PTO Coffee: Wednesday, April 15, 9:00 am, Cafeteria

Don't Forget to Vote! Exercise your democratic right, be informed and participate in the process. There are several school-related races and votes this year. Mark your calendars now!

Annual Town Elections - April 7th

Annual Town Meeting - begins April 13

Special Town Meeting - April 15th

PTO NEWS

Annual PTO Auction - Our Town: a successful celebration:

The annual PTO auction was held on Saturday, February 28th at Temple Shir Tikva. What a fun evening we had!! It was a magical evening and was a HUGE success, bringing in more than **\$50,000** for Wayland Elementary Schools.

The night could not have been this successful without the help of the many, many volunteers. We would like to thank Lana Ames, Andrea Armstrong, Eileen Balicki, Dianne Bladon, Julie Bradley, Sharon Burke, Deb Cohen, Susan Dayno, Cara Dennis, Sarah Falber, Barb Fletcher, Sharon Hornstein, Robin Jones, Bonnie Jurist, Liza Knapp, Maureen Lampert, Emily L'Esperance, Maura McInerney, Lana Murphy, Kirsten Robinson, Maggie Rubin, John Schectman, Lisa Seferian, Jacqui Stahl, Deb Stubeda, Kerry Tardif, Michelle Tilley. We would like to give a special thank you to Dana Volman for creating amazing decorations, to Marcia Flagg for creating our Auction Catalog and Kate Pedersen for organizing the business solicitations. And of course thank you to all our head room parents for organizing our classroom contributions.

PTO Coffee and Parent Program: *Wednesday, April 15 at 9:00 am, Claypit Hill Cafeteria:* Please join us for a presentation and discussion with Mindy Johal, Wayland Elementary School's English Language Arts Curriculum Director. Mindy will outline Claypit Hill's Reading curriculum and offer suggestions on how parents can help their children become strong readers. We look forward to seeing you at this informative meeting. Coffee and light refreshments will be served.

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! Check out the sample products in the display case in the main hall.

Your child can continue to enhance/complete their artwork at home and place their final artwork in the order envelope when ordering. If your child would like to create more than one art piece, additional Art to Remember paper & order forms are available in the front office. **Orders are due on Friday, March 20th.** If you can help with this PTO fundraiser or have any questions, please contact Lana Murphy at murphyhq@comcast.net or Laura Trounson at dltrounson@yahoo.com.

Spring 2009 Apparel Sale:

Here's an opportunity to show your school spirit and support the Wayland PTO. The PTO is selling cool clothing for children and adults with the Wayland logo on it. Keep an eye out for our catalogue, which will be coming home in your child's backpack. In addition, please see our on-line catalog at www.claypithillpto.org. You can print an order form and send in your order with your child.

We will also be displaying the great items before and after school from April 1st - April 15th and at the Art Show. Come inside and check it out. Some of the great items include long-sleeved and short-sleeved t-shirts, sweatshirts, fleeces, jackets, pride pants and more!!! If you have any questions or want to help with the apparel sale, please contact Tracy Roberge at 508-276-1414 or roberge@comcast.net or Karen Philip at 508-358-0287 or karen.philip@comcast.net.

Bus Driver Appreciation Breakfast - Wednesday, April 1st Each year we honor our Wayland bus drivers with cards and a breakfast to thank them for all they do transporting our children to and from school each day. It is a great opportunity for everyone to say "Thank You." There are two things you can do to help make this event a success: 1) Have your child present a card or picture to their bus driver that morning and/or 2) Provide something for the breakfast such as: muffins, coffee cake, fruit salad, bagels, drinks or flowers. Please contact Bonnie Jurist at lbjurist@comcast.net or Marie Campbell at marie@rklenterprise.com if you are able to help.

Just Like Me begins this month for 3rd Graders: Just Like Me is a program that teaches students about people who live with different kinds of disabilities. The program uses videos, presentations, hands-on activities and speakers (people with a given disability). The Just Like Me program is being introduced to the 3rd grade for the first time this Spring as it was decided to spread the program across both the 3rd and 4th grade to reduce the time out of the 4th grade curriculum. The 3rd graders will be going through two units, Deafness/Hard of Hearing and Blindness/Low Vision. This program is run entirely by volunteers. Third-grade parents will be receiving a flyer with more details about the program and volunteering. All parents are welcome. If you'd like to volunteer, go to www.claypithillpto.org and click on the *Just Like Me* link or contact Mary Kay Peacock at peacockmk@gmail.com.

FUNDRAISING PLANNING MEETING: Please join the Elementary PTO Boards for a meeting to plan our fundraising programs for the 2009-2010 school year. The meeting is on Tuesday, April 14, 9:15 am at the Loker School. If you are unable to attend but have suggestions, please contact Jen Murray at jbm723@comcast.net.

Give The Gift Of Knowledge... *Commemorate your child's birthday or other special occasion by buying a book for the Claypit Hill Library!*

The Gift of Knowledge Program is truly a wonderful way to leave a lasting legacy to the Claypit Hill School and to enhance the selection of books available to our children. For each \$16.00 donation you make, a book with a personalized bookplate will be added to the Claypit Hill Library collection. Your child will be invited to the library to choose this book from an assortment of new books. You indicate which message to use for the bookplate. Once the bookplate has been applied, your child will be the first person to take this book home. Take a look inside the front covers of the books your child brings home on library day; many library books bear the names of Claypit Hill children and families who, over the years, have purchased books through our gifting program. If you would like to make a Gift of Knowledge donation, please print out and complete the appropriate form on the PTO Website: <http://www.claypithillpto.org/library.htm>. If you have any questions, please contact Cathy Scholz at cscholz89@gmail.com or Mary Ann Svenning at Mary_Ann_Svenning@wayland.k12.ma.us.

ART SHOW: Our annual Art Show will be held on Thursday, April 2 at 4:30-7:30 pm at the Claypit Hill. Please contact Jen Dowling at dowlingj@comcast.net if you can help with this event. Volunteers are needed to help the week of the show.

Community Outreach: *Outreach is a PTO committee at Claypit Hill and its mission is to support less fortunate families in Wayland and the Metrowest area.*

Ms. Coady and Ms. Fitzgerald's classes are collecting cans and packets of **Tuna Fish for Parmenter Food Pantry** in March. For information please contact Heidi Strauss at hgstrauss@gmail.com. Donated cans and packages can be left in the box located in our lobby.

Many thanks to Ms. Hardy's class for collecting cake and brownie mix in February.

Lice Check: Many thanks to all those who helped with our March Lice check. Our final scheduled Lice Check will be held on **Friday, May 1**. Please contact Jill Freedberg at jillfreedberg@aol.com if you are able to volunteer.

COMMUNITY NEWS:

News from the High School Building Committee

It isn't news that there are significant facility deficiencies at Wayland High School that will not go away. Deteriorating buildings, falling concrete, lack of handicap accessibility, EPA violations, inadequate lighting and electrical systems, too small classrooms, overcrowding, outdated science labs - our accreditation is at risk if these problems are not addressed.

But progress has been made in recent months. After a four-year suspension in the state aid program, the Mass. School Building Authority is operating again with funds to award. Last year, Wayland was approved to proceed with a Feasibility Study and Schematic Design, one of only 19 districts that far along. Working through the new MSBA process, we now have an architect and owner's project manager on board, as well as a target enrollment for design. The Futures team is on track to update the educational strategy and specification for a modernized and expanded high school this month. The MSBA has confirmed that Wayland can expect 40% reimbursement for this project.

Now, the town must authorize additional funding to proceed with the MSBA and obtain state aid. According to the MSBA's formula, this next phase is budgeted at \$1,026,000. \$300,000 has already been authorized, leaving an additional \$726,000. However **the net cost to Wayland won't exceed \$315,600**, because the MSBA will reimburse the rest (40% of the \$1,026,000).

These funds are in the capital budget that must pass this April for the project to move forward. Mark your calendars now for Town Meeting, beginning April 13. For more information, visit www.waylandschoolcommittee.org/whs/hsbc/index.htm.

Walk to Defeat ALS: The Miller family of Saddle Lane would like you to participate in Boston's 1st Annual Walk to Defeat ALS on Sunday, April 26, 2009 in Chelsea, MA. Join our team the "Walking Warriors" and be part of a great event to raise money and awareness to find a cure for ALS. Please sign up online at <http://www.thealswalk.org>. You can register as a family or as an individual. Set your own fundraising goal, there is no minimum. If you have any questions, email Team Captain Spencer Miller at spmiller123@comcast.net or Team Captain Hannah Miller at Hannahmiller123@comcast.net. If we get enough walkers, we will coordinate busses departing from Temple Shir Tikva. RSVP by April 12th so we can order Wayland Walking Warrior tee shirts for our group.

Wayland Little Theatre Concert Series: On Friday, April 3 at 7:00 pm, Jason Shelkowitz (classical guitarist and Wayland resident) will present a concert at Wayland High School's Little Theatre. In the first half of the concert, Mr. Shelkowitz will perform his Songs for Children, assisted by Melanie Knight (WHS '05) and Doug Anderson (WHS '03). After intermission, Mr. Shelkowitz will perform solo classical guitar suites by Johann Sebastian Bach and Heitor Villa-Lobos.

Please note that this concert has been rescheduled. We hope that many of Wayland's elementary school students will attend at least the first half of the concert, and the original date (March 27) conflicted with a town-wide elementary school event. Note also that the concert starts at 7:00pm to accommodate the schedules of students and their families.

Jason Shelkowitz has earned a Bachelor of Music degree in Guitar Performance from the Boston Conservatory and a Master of Music degree from the Manhattan School of Music. For more information, visit www.jasonshelkowitz.com. For more information on the Concert Series, visit waylandconcerts.org

Wayland Baseball Tryouts: Tryouts are for baseball on Saturday 3/21/09 at Frozen Ropes in Natick. Times are as follows: 6th grade 4-5pm, 5th grade 5-6pm, 4th grade 6-7pm. Please e-mail Simone Mordas at SMORDAS@PCHI.PARTNERS.ORG with questions or if your child cannot make his/her scheduled time.

Parents of First and Second Graders! It's not too late to sign up for *Spring Soccer!*

Wayland Youth Soccer (WAYS) is recruiting 1st and 2nd grade players for the Spring 2009 Season. The soccer program for 1st and 2nd grade children consists of intramural micro-soccer (small sided games, no goaltender). The season begins April 11th and runs for ten weeks on Saturday mornings at the Wayland Middle School.

If you're interested, registration for the Spring 2009 season is available on-line at <http://www.waylandsoccer.org/> or mail in forms can be picked up at the Park and Recreation Department at the Town Building. Please note that for the next week, we will waive the late fee for 1st and 2nd grade players. If you have any questions, please call Kevin Murphy at (508)358-5539.

Wayland Middle School PTO and Wayland Youth and Family Services Program:

Our Families:
Nurturing Our Children's Success and Health
In a Challenging Competitive World

Dr. Dossie Kahn of WYFS will lead a workshop for parents of middle school aged children on finding the right balance for our families as we help our children succeed in Middle School and prepare for High School and beyond. When do we want to push, back off, hold firm, be flexible? Most importantly, how are we leading our children through our examples and what are the values we hold most highly as a family? Come join other parents to explore these issues and move toward finding the right balance for your family.

Dossie F. Kahn Psy.D is a licensed psychologist. She is Assistant Director of Wayland Youth and Family Services with training and experience treating youths and adults, individuals, couples and families in a range of clinical settings.

April 1, 2009
Wayland Middle School Auditorium
7:30 - 9:00 pm

Help is needed to organize the Community Service Awards: If you can help, contact [Judy LeFevre-Levy](mailto:JudyLeFevre-Levy@waylandma.org) at 508-650-0148 or Lynn Dowd, Director of Wayland Youth and Family Services at 508-358-3646. The 4th Annual Community Service Awards will be on May 6, 2009 at 7pm at the High School Little Theater. Application and nomination forms are available at the High School guidance office and at www.waylandnews.com

The following page is more information on the Community Service Awards

Special Thanks To: Every month the PTO tries to thank our parent volunteers, please forgive us if we miss you and know that we are grateful for your help!

- All our many Auction volunteers listed in the Auction section
- **Jose, Sean and Jose** for helping us with the February PTO meeting
- **Jill Freedberg** and all the March Lice Busters!

As always, please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions.

Best,
Jen Murray
Jbm723@comcast.net

4th Annual Community Service Awards

Do you know someone who
deserves to be honored
their volunteer service?



for

We are accepting nominations and applications for Wayland

adults and high school students

- **Information packets and application forms are available in the high school guidance office, the Wayland Library, Wayland Youth and Family Services or online (www.waylandenews.com)**
- **April 8th Deadline for all submissions**

Please join us at:
The Community Service Awards Ceremony
Wednesday May 6, 7:00 pm
Wayland High School

*Sponsored by the Wayland High School Community Service Leadership Program and
Wayland Youth and Family Services*

Questions: Lynn Dowd, Wayland Youth & Family Services