

Claypit Hill School

PTO Newsletter

June 15, 2009

This school year has gone by fast and thanks to our many dedicated volunteers we have accomplished so much. I am grateful to our families for the support that they have given our PTO, staff, teachers and children. Your participation has sent a positive message of caring to our entire community and it has been a privilege for me to be associated with our PTO. Below are a few highlights of things your donations have supported. If you would like to read more about the programs and budget items that the PTO supports, please review our 2009-2010 Annual Report which is posted online at www.claypithillpto.org. Our budget and slate of officers were approved as presented at the PTO's Annual Meeting on June 4.

In the past two months, the children have been busy with exciting field trips, plays and other special classroom activities such as Colonial Day. We have been able to enjoy the Fifth Grade play, the Book fair, the Apparel Sale, Sweet Endings and The World's Fair! The World's Fair was an amazing celebration of our cultures and we enjoyed a record-breaking crowd. We also had the chance to thank the teacher and staff for all they do for our children with a luncheon in May.

Thank you all for your continued support of these events because we could not do it without you! Enjoy the beautiful weather. I also wish you all a fun-filled and safe summer. I'm looking forward to catching up again in the Fall. In the meantime, please email me at jbm723@comcast.net or contact our incoming President, Maura McInerney, at maurapto@gmail.com next year. Hope to see you there!

AT A GLANCE: A Few Things that your Donations help Support

- **\$13,500** for teachers and staff for classroom materials and supplies
- **\$1,400** per grade to bring in guest speakers such as Abigail Adams, Ben Franklin and representatives from Plimoth Plantation. This money is also used to supplement bus costs associated with field trips.
- **\$4,100** for cultural enrichment programs such as Chinese Acrobats and musical groups.
- **\$2,500** for Technology grants
- **\$995** for Massachusetts State Maps
- **\$800** for Music scholarships

PTO AND SCHOOL NEWS:

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. Rossi and Ms. Moquin's classes will be collecting Peanut Butter and Jelly for Parmenter Food Pantry in June. We are grateful for your support as we try to stock the food pantry for the summer. For information please contact Heidi Strauss @ 358-6621. Thank you to all who have donated this year!

Just Like Me: We've completed our final unit this past week and another successful year for Just Like Me at Claypit Hill. This year the 4th grade was introduced to all 5 units of Just Like Me and the 3rd grade enjoyed the first two for the first time. We had an incredible year with wonderful volunteers participating and offering our students a little better understanding of what life might be like with a variety of disabilities. Individuals with disabilities came to speak with students to provide first-hand knowledge and to answer the many questions they had. Some of our speakers came not just once but twice. If you had an opportunity to participate in Just Like Me and you found it a worthwhile experience, we hope you'll be considering volunteering again in the '09-'10 school year, regardless of whether your child will have the unit. Just Like Me is an incredibly volunteer-intensive activity, like many of the wonderful programs at our schools, and in order for it to be successful, your participation is critical. Thanks to all the volunteers who led activities this year, many of who participated in multiple units often when their child was not in the class. As we continue to improve our curriculum we welcome your feedback. If you have any suggestions, please contact Mary Kay Peacock at peacockmk@gmail.com.

Gift Your Child: The Wayland Elementary PTO will launch its first annual **Gift Your Child Campaign** this coming fall. The campaign has been initiated at the suggestion of many parents who would prefer to support the PTO by making a *tax-deductible* donation. Traditionally the PTO has organized a number of fundraising events to support our budget, but these programs are labor intensive and the direct financial benefit to the PTO is a relatively small as a percentage of total dollars invested.

The **Gift Your Child Campaign** will be launched in August, at which time a letter formally introducing the program will be sent to each family.

SPECIAL THANKS TO: *Every month the PTO acknowledges those who have helped us throughout the year. Please forgive us if we accidentally leave someone out and accept our gratitude!*

- **Roller Kingdom Volunteers:** Fun was had by the 5th graders at Roller Kingdom. Thanks to all the parents that stayed with their children to make this a very successful and fun event for our 5th graders. Also, many thanks to Andrea Armstrong and Marianne Peebles for organizing this event.
- **Staff Appreciation Lunch:** Many thanks to Bonnie Jurist and Marie Campbell for arranging the Staff Appreciation Lunch and to everyone who volunteered on May 6th to make this event a success. Thanks to: Andrea Armstrong, Patrice Barton, Sheila Brown, Dee Butts, Susan Cahaly, Marie Campbell, Nancy Cormier, Noreen D'Amico, Marie Durant, Sarah Falber, Barb Fletcher, Nicole Gaddis, Monica Galindo, Josie Guerin-Fried, Eva Hong, Lisa Jenzeh, Robin, Jones, Joe Karbowski, Liza Knapp, Elizabeth Konig, Deb LaPierre, Kelly Lin, Claudia Menges-Elhausen, Rebekah LaCava, Lael Morris, Shelby Morss, Lana Murphy, Jen Murray, Mary Kay Peacock, Kathleen Rado, Claudia Reed, Brenda Ross, Brenda Sharton, Nancy Sheffres, Rachel Sideman-Kurz, Jacqueline Stahl, Susan Steneri, Maureen Tacelli, Nilma Virkud, Lisa Valone, Heidi Webster and Kathryn Welter.

We received many comments from the staff on the wonderful food, beautiful set up and the opportunity to sit down to a relaxing lunch. Thank you for helping to make it such a wonderful event!

- **Library Volunteers:** The many volunteers who helped Mary Ann Svenning, our Librarian, keep the Claypit Hill Library organized and running all year long: Amy Adams, Lana Ames, Gigi Anand, Anne Bachman, Penny Beer, Cathy Briasco, Caroline Brogan, Sheila Brown, Sharon Burke, Dee Butts, Mary Camp, Maureen Curran, Jeannette D'Alessandro, Dana Davies, Marie Durant, Haifeng Guo, Cindi Jacobs, Kris Kiesman, Rebecca Lloyd, Laura Malnight, Theresa Matthews, Wendy Mishara, Jen Murray, Lee Raymond, Kim Reichelt, Maggie Rubin, Wendy Safe, Jenny Silberman, Jacqueline Stahl, Susan Steneri, Brenda Stevens-Ross, Deborah Tempesta, Stacey Thirman, Allison Tobia, Laura Trounson, Nilima Virkud, Kari Whitesell, and Jane Williamson. Many thanks to Cathy Scholz for organizing this team and for helping our library run smoothly.

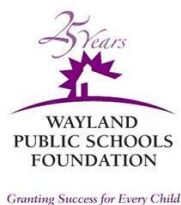
- **METCO FAMILY FRIENDS PROGRAM Volunteers:** Thank you very much to all our families who participated in the METCO Family Friends play dates and events this year. And a special thanks to Debbie Bearse for organizing a couple of special after school play dates at school to give our Wayland and Boston resident students an opportunity to hang out together. Thank you also to the Michelle Christian and Chanel Harding who helped to coordinate Family Friends this year. Next year, Edie Hotchkiss and Colleen Sheehan will be joining Michelle and Chanel in their efforts. Finally, please e-mail Heather Pineault at heather.a.pineault.87@alum.dartmouth.org if you would like to participate in this great program next year or if you have any questions or suggestions.
- Debbie Besso and Rena Sarasohn for all the help they give to our PTO, families and students
- Jose, Sean and Jose for their assistance setting up and cleaning up our events. They are always willing to help.
- Heather Pinault for coordinating the METCO Family Friends program this year.
- Karen Philip and Tracy Roberge for marketing and coordinating a successful Apparel sale.
- Andrea O'Neill, Deb Gilmore, Cindi Jacobs and Deb Gilmore for running another successful Book Fair. And to Mr. Chadsey and Ms. Tandon for allowing us to use their gym space.
- Jill Freedberg for coordinating the May lice check. Thank you also to all the parents who helped.
- Mary Kay Peacock for launching successful Just Like Me programs in the 3rd grade.
- Cathleen Holmes and Rebekah LaCava for coordinating the fifth grade picnic
- Gina Verdi for organizing Sweet Endings. Also thanks to our picnic volunteers: Suzy Goldstein, Maureen Tillet, Eric Schwartz, Marcia Flagg, Sharon Litchfield, Helen Tramposch, Marie Durant, Sarah Greenaway & baby Natalie, and Cindi Jacobs. This fun family event couldn't have taken place without them.
- John Penrose, Marco Seidman and Kate Moore for organizing the outstanding World's Fair. Thanks also to all those who participated in planning and executing this event.
- Eileen Balicki, Dana Davies and Liza Knapp for getting the "Gift your Child" program off the ground.
- Lisa Seferian, Maura McInerney, Deb Stubeda and Liza Knapp for their tireless help, advice and support as members of our PTO Board.

THANK YOU and have a great Summer!

Jen Murray

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PUBLIC SCHOOL FOUNDATION HATS OFF PROGRAM:



Looking for a way to acknowledge a special teacher or staff member?



Believe it or not, the end of the school year is only weeks away! With your HATS Off donation, we will send a personalized certificate to those faculty members who have made a positive difference in your child's education. The amount donated will not be disclosed.

For 25 years, the **Wayland Public Schools Foundation (WPSF)** has supported our schools by funding teacher-led classroom innovations and creative units of study not covered by the regular school budget. **This year, in addition to providing funds for Smart Classrooms at all grade levels, the WPSF funded the Science Discovery Labs and the Literature Across Genres writing initiative at Claypit Hill School.**

In an effort to go green, the WPSF is encouraging donors to order **HATS Off** certificates through our website, www.WaylandPublicSchoolsFoundation.org. Certificate forms may also be downloaded and mailed to **P.O. Box 97, Wayland, MA 01778**, along with a check made payable to the Wayland Public Schools Foundation.

The deadline for **HATS Off** donations is **Friday, June 19th**. For late submissions, delivery of certificates before the end of the school year cannot be guaranteed.

As WPSF's fiscal year draws to a close on June 30th, please also consider donating to our 25th Anniversary Appeal to ensure that funding of educational innovation can continue in Wayland schools. These additional funds are more important than ever in these challenging economic times. Donations also qualify for matching gifts at participating companies.

Questions? Contact Carmela Wise at candwise@comcast.net or Sohie Lee at slee@wellesley.edu.