



**REACH
FOR THE
STARS**

**MES PTO
SEP 2001**

Executive Team's Message

The MES PTO is once again off to a great start. Our first meeting was September 20th and was well attended. The 2001-2002 PTO budget was passed, and many of our goals for the coming year are well under way.

As most of you know, our original date for our first PTO meeting was September 11th. We are all greatly saddened and shocked by the horrific events of that day and grateful to Dr. Dooling and the staff at MES for their handling of the situation. As this political situation is one that will greatly impact the months to come, an open line of communication between parent, teacher and child is important.

Inside This Issue

Executive Team's Message
Book Drive
Community Service
Incentive Programs
Budget
PTO Minutes

The Ice Cream Social was a huge success. It was a wonderful evening of family, fun, friends and most important, ice cream. The DJ was a big hit. Many thanks go to Jackie DesMarais and Sue Letho for organizing this event.



Karen Nocera, the Chairperson for the playground upgrade, has ordered \$15,000 worth of new equipment. We are all excited to see what surprises this will bring. We are lucky that Karen was once again able to secure the town crew of Middlebury to volunteer their time and hard work required to facilitate this playground upgrade.

Calendar Highlights

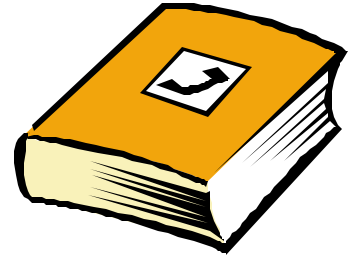
Oct 09 – BOE Meeting 7:30pm PHS
Oct 16 – PTO Meeting 7:00pm MES
Oct 22 – BOE Meeting 7:30pm PHS
Oct 29 - Nov 02 – Fall Book Fair

The Innisbrook fundraiser is well under way. The deadline to return the forms to school was September 20th. If you have not yet returned them, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you all for your support and a special thanks to Sue Letho and Jackie Mulhall for their work in coordinating it.



Executive Team's Message cont...

The Teacher grant applications have been sent out to all teachers. These grants, once approved by the PTO Grant Committee, enable the teachers to provide enrichment programs that actively involve students at each grade level.



The 2001-2002 Student Directory is in the process of being collated. Please return any forms you may still have if you wish to have your child listed. We hope to have this completed by mid-October.

Please be sure to mark your calendar and attend the next PTO meeting on October 16th at 7 PM. Karen Kemp will be discussing the new Character Counts program that has started on a successful note.



Thank you to the many volunteers who give up their time and talents in making the MES PTO such a huge success.

Nancy Cimmino
Terry Clement

BOOK DRIVE

The PTO organizes a gently used book drive to benefit children in the greater Waterbury area who would not otherwise receive a book to call their own. The books are given out when the children come into St. Mary's Hospital. Simply send in any gently used or new book you would like to pass along to the book box located in the office. This program continues all year.



Community Service

You can help! You can help! You can help!

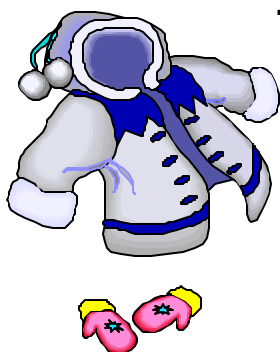
The Middlebury Public Library in conjunction with the Middlebury Elementary School PTO will be hosting the **Annual Children's Gift Sale on Fri. November 30th and Sat. December 1st, 2001.** This gives local children the opportunity to shop for inexpensive * gifts for family members.

This is a great way for the community to pull together to teach the children that it is better to give than to receive!

Please help to make this sale a success by providing some new or gently used gifts, or by making a cash donation. Some gift ideas include: craft items, jewelry, stationary, candles, toys, books, candy, perfume, cologne, coffee mugs, holiday decorations... the list is endless!! We also accept donations of wrapping paper, gift bags, bows, tape, and ribbon. Please drop off any items at the library marked for the gift sale. Mrs. Jan LeDuc, the Children's Librarian, will be glad to assist you at the Children's Desk and help us store any donations.

If you are interested in volunteering for this event or have any questions or concerns, please contact Krista Matthews or Karen Nocera. You will be glad you did!!

All gifts are priced within a child's budget.



The library will also be hosting a coat, hat, & mitten drive during this time. All donations (whether new or gently used) will be distributed locally, so please search your closets and/or your wallet and help make this holiday season a little warmer for those in need!

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Incentive Programs

Beside the Box Tops program, Middlebury Elementary is currently involved in many programs that earn our school money for goods and services sold. While we are not advocating MES parents to buy from certain stores or use certain products, if you already do, please know that you can earn money, and/or, merchandise for MES.



We are currently enrolled in the following programs:

1. SNET - For every dollar that you spend on long distance, MES earns points that can be exchanged for a variety of merchandise.
2. BIG Y EDUCATION EXPRESS - You can sign up at the customer service desk and a point value is given to certain items that can be redeemed by MES for educational merchandise.
3. ETCEP - If you, or your business, use inkjet cartridges for your computer, you can send your empty cartridges back and MES will receive points to purchase many different kinds of merchandise. For individuals, there is an ETCEP receptacle for empty cartridges in the MES office. For businesses, please contact me and I will make sure that your business gets sent receptacles for empty cartridges. Don't worry, postage is paid - so it costs you nothing to send. If you know of a business that might be interested, I will be more than happy to contact them and let them know of our program.

If you have any questions on any of the above programs, please feel free to call me or e-mail me at d.p.house@snet.net. If you know of any other programs that you feel could benefit MES, let me know and we will certainly take it under advisement.

Leslie House - Committee chairman



MES PTO Budget 2001-2002

	2000-2001 PROJECTED	2000-2001 ACTUAL	2001-2002 PROJECTED
Beginning Balance	4,444.00	4,444.00	5734.18
Income	18,500.00	20,192.47	18,300.00
Total	22,944.00	24,636.47	24,034.18
Expenses	18,500.00	18,902.29	18,300.00
To begin new year	\$4,444.00	\$5,734.18	\$5,734.18
Details of Income			
Book Fairs	1,500.00	2,102.00	1,500.00
Innisbrook Fund-raiser	11,500.00	11,760.01	11,500.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	817.14	0.00
Playground	0.00	650.00	0.00
Poinsettia Sale	500.00	221.00	300.00
Yankee Candle	5,000.00	4,642.32	5,000
TOTAL	\$18,500.00	\$20,192.47	\$18,300.00
Details of Expenses			
Birthday Board	100.00	79.69	100.00
Character Counts	0.00	0.00	750.00
Cultural Arts/Authors	4,000.00	3,759.72	4,000.00
Donations	750.00	750.00	750.00
Fifth Grade T-Shirts	1,000.00	573.00	800.00
Friendship	400.00	396.39	400.00
Great Books	350.00	213.50	350.00
Hospitality	300.00	33.48	100.00
Ice Cream Social	650.00	478.84	650.00
MES Express	200.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	750.00	527.48	750.00
Movin' On Social	350.00	332.89	350.00
Playground Costs	0.00	2,618.50	0.00
PTO Dinner	400.00	150.00	200.00
Teacher Grants	4,000.00	3,514.79	4,000.00
Teacher Appreciation Luncheon	750.00	521.10	600.00
Wish List	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Yearbook camera/film developing	500.00	717.66	500.00
TOTAL	\$18,500.00	\$18,667.04	\$18,300.00

Minutes of Meeting – September 20, 2001

Convened: Judith O'Donnell Dooling, Principal of MES , called the meeting, held in the MES Media Center, to order at 7:10 pm. She introduced Nancy Cimino, the new PTO President.

Secretary's report: No minutes to review. Kathy D'Andrea to take over role of Secretary starting at the October meeting. No correspondence to review.

Treasurer's Report: Pat Wengler submitted proposed 2001- 2002 budget. Attendees to review and a vote to accept to be taken at the end of the meeting.

Principal's Report: Dr. Dooling introduced two new teachers, Cynthia Flischer - 1st grade and Leigh Foos - Special Education. Dr. Dooling advised parents that school safety remains a top priority She has meet with Middlebury Police to review all safety issues. After the tragedy in New York and Washington, the MES Crisis Team met to discuss the impact on the students. . The teachers also had a staff meeting to discuss how to handle the issue. Each grade handled issue as was deemed age appropriate. As a reminder to all visitors, they must sign in at office and wear a visitor badge when they are in the school.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ways & Means - Sue Letho chairperson. Innisbrook fundraiser is over. Results seem to be lower than last year. Final numbers will be presented at the October meeting. Book sale is set for the end of October. Suzanne Kenishea will coordinate volunteers to staff event. Ice Cream Social was a success. No problems reported.

Cultural Arts - Joan Papa/Carol Brunick chair. Author /Illustrator Brian Pickney scheduled for November 29th. Cost \$1,500 + travel expenses. Looking into other events for later in the year. Survey sent to teachers asking for input on what would benefit children.

Playground Update - Karen Nocera Chairperson. Karen has secured a \$15,000 grant for playground upgrades from the Before and After School program. Funds will be used to replace the Kindergarten play area as well as restore the 1st grade play area in the rear of the school. The Town of Middlebury will provide the labor for site preparation and installation. Karen will coordinate refreshments for the town workers as a way of thanking them. All parents are encouraged to thank the town officials for providing so much support to the school. A special thanks also to Karen for her hard work on the playground project.

Friendship - Barbara Tzemos Chairperson. Friendship sends cards and if appropriate small gifts to staff members for different events, such as illness, birth of a child or death of a family member.

Teachers Representative – Peggy Klein, Speech / Language Pathologist will be Teacher Representative this year. She was unable to attend this meeting.

PTO Advisory Board – Nancy Cimino reminded parents that the Advisory Council meets on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 9:30am at Central Office.

Volunteer Coordinator - Suzanne Kenishea Chairperson. She has a large pool of volunteers for the year. She will also be assisted by Janet von Kanneurff.

Room Mother Coordinator - Gina Kotsaftis/ Johnna Newell Chairpersons. Room parent folders have been sent out. Student directory is in progress.

MES Express. – Need teacher coordinator. No plans to publish this year.

Newsletter – deadline for submission to Mitch Letho is 9/28/01. Email mgletho@aol.com.

Yearbook – Elaine Gonzalez Chairperson. Package has been received and Elaine is reviewing.

Hospitality - Denise Petruzzi Chairperson. Dr. Dooling to review calendar and look for events that need help.

Perpetual Fund – Elaine Romano Chairperson. Fund established to help families with children who have disabling illnesses. A major fundraiser is held every year to support fund.

Publicity - effort to be made this year to get more MES events in local paper. New Chairperson for this committee has been identified.

Birthday Board - Janet Zupkus/Sloane Reitman chairs. No issues to discuss.

Great Books - Karen Nocera Chair. Looking for parents to be trained for Great Books. Volunteers need to attend a 2 day training session. Next training will be held October 18 & 19th. Call Karen if interested. Great Books is a 6 - 8 week reading enrichment program held before school.

Membership Coordinator - Shelly Pille chairperson. Roller skating party to be held the Monday of February vacation. A dance will be held towards the end of the year. Date to be announced.

Box Tops for Education - Pat Wengler to coordinate again this year.

5th Grade Moving on Social – Rita Concepcion to chair. No activity anticipated until spring

MES Scrapbook - Jackie Desamris and Barbara Tzepos to coordinate. They will collect pictures throughout the year. Anyone with pictures of school activities can send to Jackie or Barbara.

PTO Board - located in front entry of school. Elaine Gonzalez to update monthly.

Community Service – Krista Matthews will coordinate the holiday gift sale at the Middlebury Public Library on the first weekend of December.

School incentive Programs – Leslie House to put together a memo for the newsletter explaining different programs. She will meet with Dr. Dooling to discuss which programs we are involved in and which new ones we wish to join.

NEW BUSINESS

2000 – 2001 Budget – approved as submitted

Character Counts program - concerns were raised about the new Character Counts initiative being implemented at MES. Karen Kemp will be invited to attend the next meeting to discuss the program.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm. Next meeting will be October 16, 2001.