

MES PTO Newsletter

January 2004



Presidents Message

Jackie Mulhall

I hope everyone had a fun and healthy holiday season. Hopefully we all recharged our batteries during the long break. We have some fun PTO events coming up, such as roller skating during the winter break and the MES annual dance. These are great activities for the kids during the long winter.

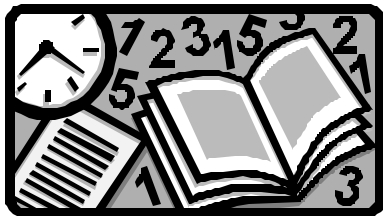
Before the holidays, the PTO was busy. We had our poinsettia fundraiser. I know the poinsettias I bought still look beautiful by my fireplace! Many thanks to Nina Walsh and Beth Marino for pulling this together. We also delivered 22 Thanksgiving baskets to needy families in Waterbury. The families were identified by the St. Mary's Hospital children's clinic as being very much in need of food. The clinic let us know that they and the families were very appreciative of all the food and other items in the baskets. What a nice way for us to give back to our community! Thanks to the room mother coordinators and room mothers for making this happen during a busy time of year. Thanks also to Denise Petrucci, Sloane Reitman, Beth Marino, Jackie Desmarais and Julie McDonald for loading and delivering the baskets to the clinic.

We really appreciate all of the MES parents who give their time volunteering. We have purchased MES PTO Volunteer T-Shirts for us to use at future PTO events. That way it will be much easier to know who is a volunteer. These will be kept at the school and available for our volunteers to use. More information will be coming on this. Thanks to Krista Matthews for coordinating the T-Shirts.

We are at the beginning of budget season for the district. As always, times are tight and there are many difficult decisions that our administration will be making. It is difficult to balance quality education with keeping costs from going up to much. It's important that all of our parents try to be educated about the budget issues and be sure to get out and vote when it is time. We will be having a budget presentation at MES by Dr. Sippy, our superintendent, once the budget is complete.

Our next PTO meeting will be Tuesday Jan. 20 at 10:00 - 11:30 am. Hope to see you there.

If you can't always make it to the PTO meetings, you can still keep up to date on PTO happenings. Send your Email address to Jackie.Mulhall@sbcglobal.net and I will add you to the PTO mailing list to get Email updates about what is going on in the PTO.



MES Yearbooks – Orders are due by ***Friday, Jan. 30th***, the cost is \$12.00, make checks payable to MES PTO. Make sure to note your child's name and their teacher, place in an envelope marked ATTN: Yearbook. We do order extras, but there are no guarantees on availability. Also, if you have any pictures from a school event, send copies to the PTO mailbox, marked Yearbook, with the children's names and description of the event.

MES PTO MEETING MINUTES

11/18/03

7:06 p.m. call to order

President's report:

- Add your email address to email list if want to receive PTO info.
- Notify PTO president of upcoming events (before sending out memos)
- Newsletter – use as tool to keep parents up to date; give info. to Kathy D’Andrea

Secretary report: no news

Treasurer's report: Year-to-date income expense

Principal's report:

- Thanks to Sue Letho and Suzanne Kinishea for a great book fair
- Cultural arts for program “Children’s Voices” (Note Gabby Paolino, 2nd gr. writing added permanently to show)
- 3rd grade celebrations went very well
- Parent conferences coming up
- Thanks to PTO; playground fence great help

Committee reports:

Yearbook: forms went out; due by Dec. 19th; \$12.00;
room Parent photos due Dec. 15th – put in PTO mailbox

Teacher rep: Nothing to report

Ways & Means: profit from poinsettia sale \$400.00
Cookie dough fundraiser not before Jan. 1st

Cultural Arts: No report

Friendship: Beth Santos nephew died in Iraq, sent book by Maria Shriver

Publicity: Newspaper needs full week notice of up-coming events

Art show: Work being matted

Room mothers: thanksgiving baskets prepared

Membership: -Rollerskating party Feb. 16th at 5 D’s skating; \$5.00 Per ticket; 6:45p.m. - 8:45p.m.
Proceeds go to relay for life (Cancer research)
-Dance March 19th; students to vote on theme in Jan.,

PTO advisory: writing policy for region to secure federal funding
Dr. Sippy to attend Feb. mtg. to educate about budget

Program incentives: note being sent home; Boxtops raised \$315.00

8:58 p.m. Adjourned

Custom-Designed Cards by Your Child Fundraiser

Your child can design their own notecard! The notecards are packaged 50 to a set for \$15.00. A substantial portion from the sale will benefit our school. At \$.30 each - these notecards can be purchased for personal use, gifts to relatives, holiday greetings, birthday cards or thank-you cards. The order form, a sample note card, and two note card picture forms have been sent home with your child. Your child creates their artwork on the note card picture form(s) (instructions are inside the card) and return them with the order form to your child's teacher by Jan 26, 2004.

Cards will be delivered mid March. Siblings, family or friends are welcome to submit orders - extra forms are available in the MES office. Thank you all for your support,

Nancy Belden and Michele McCormack

Upcoming MES Calendar:



Monday	Jan. 19	Martin Luther King Day - No school
Tuesday	Jan. 20	MES PTO meeting 10am
Monday	Jan. 26	Board of Education meeting at MES 7:30pm
Friday	Jan. 30	Kindergarten report cards Yearbook orders due
Weds	Feb. 4	<i>Half day</i>
Thursday	Feb. 5	4th grade celebrations 2pm
Tuesday	Feb. 10	Jump Rope for heart 3:30 – 5pm
Week of Feb. 16 – 20th - Winter Vacation		
Mon.	Feb 16	Roller Skating Party
Tuesday	Feb. 24	MES PTO meeting 7pm

REGION 15 PTO ADVISORY COUNCIL - DID YOU KNOW? December 2003

The Pomperaug High School Writing Conferences Are Integral to a Young Writer's Development.
Teachers encourage students to write and then meet with them individually to provide personalized feedback.



Conferences Make More Constructive Use of Time

- All students schedule multiple conferences each year with their teacher to discuss and obtain feedback about their progress as a writer.
- Teachers and students use the conferences to deeply review content, discuss logical organization of ideas, and revise the written product.

Top Schools Use Writing Conferences

- Schools with the highest reading and writing CAPT results in the state also use a writing conference block identical to Region 15.

Students Edit & Resubmit to Better Their Writing

- The writing conference affords students the opportunity to revise and resubmit papers for additional recommendations or reassessment to continuously improve their writing.

Writing Conference Block is the Equivalent of One High School Course

- Connecticut State Department of Education mandates that students complete 120 hours of instruction to earn one high school credit.
- Through the writing conference block, our English teachers are able to provide well over 120 hours of individualized, direct instruction.
- By conferencing at least twice with each English student, English teachers provide over 132 hours of one-on-one writing support.

Graduates Better Prepared for College Writing

- Pomperaug High School alumni have shared repeatedly that they are well prepared for college writing and often out-perform their peers.
- Professors frequently compliment the writing of former PHS students.
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“Writing conferences have helped me to build confidence in what I am about to write or what I have already written...Discussing the assignment can get the creative juices flowing...” Erin Rosasco, Class of 2004

Chairperson: Dr. Sandi Carbonari Welsh

Email: PTOAdvisoryCouncil@region15.org

MES and LMES Hockey Outing!

Bridgeport Sound Tigers vs. Hartford Wolf Pack
Saturday, March 13, 2004 at 7:05 pm at the Arena at Harbor Yard
(Doors open at 6:05 pm - warm-ups begin at 6:20 pm)



MES and LMES will be featured on digital display boards and over the PA system - Special price of \$12.50 per ticket. All tickets will be available for pick-up at the Sound Tigers front office on the day of the game. Please make checks payable to: **BRIDGEPORT SOUND TIGERS**

Please include your phone number on the memo portion of your check to verify the number of seats you are purchasing. Turn in orders with payment to the school office no later than March 2, 2004 to the attention of Jackie Desmarais.

Any questions?? Call Jackie Desmarais (MES) 758-8987 or Cathy Alvey (LMES) 758-9294

Room Mother Coordinators

We want to thank everyone for all the food that was collected for the Thanksgiving Baskets. Though there was some confusion, the room mother's did a wonderful job in putting it all together. We also want to give a special thanks to Sloane Reitman and Julie McDonald for the use of their vehicles and all of their help in getting the baskets to St. Mary's. It is wonderful that we were able to help out so many families over the holidays.

Jackie Desmarais, Beth Marino, and Denise Petrucci



Holiday Gift Sale

Thank you to the many, many volunteers that worked so hard to help ensure the success of the 7th Annual Holiday Gift Sale at the Middlebury Public Library. The ongoing support that the parents of MES provide is greatly appreciated. This event is much anticipated by the children in our community as a way for them to purchase gifts for the people that they love for the holidays. Over 250 children attended this year's sale, even though we were hit by a great big snow storm just as the sale began!!

Part of the magic of this event is the link that it provides between MES and our fabulous public library!! Special thanks go to Sue Giangarra for chairing the bake sale, which provides financial support to Middlebury's Social Services Emergency Fund. Thanks also to Jackie Post for chairing the Auction/Raffle with the assistance of Barbara Tzepos, Georgia Candiotti, and Jackie Desmarais. The money that was raised through the sale and the auction helps to ensure the ongoing success of this event. Enough money was raised so that we will have an 8th Annual event and also so that the library will be able to offer an internship to a local college student this summer. Look for more information regarding this in the Waterbury Republican and the Voices!!

We would also like to thank the Fifth Grade Friendly Helpers, you once again provided valuable community service... great job... you are some of Santa's finest elves!! There are so many names that could be mentioned in this thank you note, please know that we greatly appreciate everyone's efforts... whether you gave of your time, your heart, and/or your wallet!!! We are truly blessed to live in a community that pulls together to make such special memories together!! Please keep this event in your mind throughout the year as you clean out your closets and sort through your children's books, toys, and puzzles. We are always in need of gently used items for the sale. Next year's sale will be the first weekend in December 2004. If you are interested in chairing any portion of 2004's sale, or even is assisting in any capacity, please contact Krista Matthews at fivematthews5@aol.com. We will be having a planning session toward the end of the school year, it would be wonderful to have a list of people that could be contacted and invited to this session. Thank you again. Sincerely,

Krista M. Matthews,
Chairperson, Holiday Gift Sale

