


# MES PTO Newsletter

October 2003

## President's Message

*Jackie Mulhall*



I don't know about everyone else, but I'm happy to have the first month of school under my belt. We're all getting a chance to settle into our school year routines. Speaking of routines, there are a few new things going on at MES. Ask your children about some of the changes in the cafeteria. There's a hand sanitizer, a new procedure for cleaning the tables and a really cool traffic light! There are also upcoming meetings to hear about our new math program from the teachers and ask questions that you may have. Thanks to Jack Zamary for hearing our parent's concerns and making some changes.

We've already got a couple of PTO events under our belt. The Innisbrook wrapping paper fundraiser orders have been completed and will be ready for pick up soon. Thank you Beth Marino and Nina Walsh for organizing this. Our room parents have been picked and oriented. In fact, this year we have put together a new packet for room parents to help them understand their role. Thanks to Jackie Desmarais, Beth Marino and Denise Petrucci for their efforts on this.

There are also some things going on in our district that I want to share with you. As you may know, we have recently implemented a strategic plan in our district. The second goal in the plan is to improve communication in our district. There are a number of ways that Region 15 is communicating with the people in Middlebury and Southbury. One that I would like to bring to your attention is our new and improved web site. It's still at [www.region15.org](http://www.region15.org), but it has a new look and feel as well as lots of additional content. I encourage you to look at the Region 15 portion as well as the MES section of the website.

Our next PTO meeting will be Tuesday Oct. 21 at 10:00 in the cafeteria. I encourage everyone to attend our meetings to learn about what is going on in our school. You can come to a meeting and just listen. In this year of tight budgets, the support of the PTO (both monetary and time) is going to be more important than ever. I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

## MES PTO Meeting Minutes - Tues. October 23, 2003

Jackie Mulhall, President, called the meeting to order at 7:12.

**Secretary:** Joan Papa – no minutes were submitted, K. D’Andrea recorded for J. Papa.

**Treasurer:** Carol Brunick – J. Mulhall presented budget for 2003-2004, no issues noted.

**Principal’s Report:** J. Zamy – Thanks to all the volunteers, faculty and staff that made the opening of school a success. The Second Grade lunch wave was changed to accommodate parent/student concerns. Teachers are meeting with a Trailblazer’s consultant to transition into the new math curriculum. There is a potential for a Sikorsky Black Hawk Helicopter to visit MES, further information will be disseminated as it develops. There’s a request for Parent volunteers to help make up for the cuts in teacher’s aides, any assistance is appreciated. Enrollment is currently at 455.

Each Committee gave a brief explanation of their responsibilities and status.

**Ways and Means:** Beth Marino, Nina Walsh - An idea for Cards made from your child’s art was introduced.

**Cultural Arts:** Mary Ann Dzinski, Sue Giangarra, Sloane Reitman – Author Margie Palatini will be at MES on Thurs. 10/23, forms sent home to order books.

**Room Mother Coordinators:** Jackie Desmarais, Beth Marino, Denise Petrucci – Room mother’s have been selected and an orientation meeting held. If you have not been contacted as to who your room mother is, please notify a committee chair.

**Art Coordinator:** Suzanne Kennishea, Georgia Candiotti – Workshops will be held as the schoolyear progresses.

**Publicity:** Suzanne Kennishea, Sue Letho – If you have a picture from a school event, please label it and place in the PTO mailbox.

**Newsletter:** Kathy D’Andrea, Elaine Gonzales – submissions to newsletter should be sent to [dandreakm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dandreakm@sbcglobal.net) Deadline is two weeks after the PTO meeting.

**Membership Coordinator:** Shelly Pille – Rollerskating party will be held in Feb; dance in March.

### New Business:

- Krista Matthews suggested a Fitness-based program for children to participate in Walking before school. T-shirts would be awarded for designated distances, e.g. a marathon. Volunteers would be needed to supervise children and help keep track of distances.
- Teacher Grants applications will be going out in Mid-October.

Next Meeting – October 21, 2003 at 10am in the Cafeteria.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20.



### DID YOU KNOW???

The Region 15 school district has a **PTO Advisory Council** whose purpose and goals are multi-fold:

#### **Act as a Liaison Between Parents and Region 15 Administration**

The Superintendent keeps the Council abreast of significant Region 15 issues so that information can be communicated to parents on the school level. Conversely, the Council informs the Superintendent of any issues or questions generated by members of the PTOs in the schools.

#### **Inform Parents**

This monthly “Did You Know?” will be published with each school newsletter and on the Region 15 district website. The “Did You Know?” page will inform parents of noteworthy facts, data or other significant information on a monthly basis.

#### **Heighten Budget and Voting Awareness**

The Advisory Council generates fact-based information about the annual budget referendum. Council members distribute flyers to Middlebury and Southbury parents about where and when to vote. Members also call parents the night before Referendum Day to remind them to vote.

Chairperson: Dr. Sandi Carbonari Welsh

Email: [PTOAdvisoryCouncil@region15.org](mailto:PTOAdvisoryCouncil@region15.org)

# Middlebury Elementary School PTO

## Calendar of Events 2003 – 2004

School Pictures.....	October 10
PTO Meeting @10:00 am.....	October 21
Poinsettia Sale.....	Oct. 27 – Nov. 7
Fall Book Fair .....	October 27 – October 31
PTO Meeting @ 7:00 pm.....	November 18
Parent Conferences.....	December 2, 3, 8
Chorus/Orchestra Concert.....	December 9
Library Holiday Gift Sale .....	December 5-6
PTO Meeting at 10:00 am.....	January 20
Grade 4 Chorus Concert.....	February 5
Jump Rope for Heart Grades 4 & 5.....	February 10
Skating Party .....	February 16
PTO Meeting @ 7:00 pm.....	February 24
PTO Family Reading Night @ 6:30 pm .....	March 7
PTO Meeting @ 10:00 am.....	March 16
PTO Family Dance @ 6:30 pm.....	March 19
Incoming Kindergarten Parents Meeting.....	March 30
PTO Meeting @ 7:00 pm.....	April 27
Kindergarten Registration .....	April 27-30
Region-15 Art Show.....	April 30 – May 1
Spring Book Fair .....	April 12 - 16
String and Band Spring Concert.....	May 4
Student-Involved Conferences.....	May 18, 20
Region-wide Annual PTO Dinner.....	May
PTO Meeting at 10:00 am.....	May 18
Grade 5 Spring Concert .....	May 27
Grade 5 Visit to Memorial School .....	May 28
Field Day .....	June 9