



MES PTO NEWSLETTER

January/February 2007

Letter from the President:

Welcome back, I hope everyone had a great holiday season and wonderful New Year! It is hard to believe we are into the second half of the year already. At least the weather has been unseasonably mild but that too is likely coming to an end very quickly! Just prior to the holiday I met with Jack to discuss the various teacher grants that were being proposed. After reviewing them, we agreed on the merits of the proposals and approved them. The teachers are well underway in moving forward with their plans. A list of the various grants will be available for review on the PTO website. A big thanks to the teachers for coming up with such great ideas for our kids enrichment.

Just a quick update on the fundraiser underway for the Perpetual Fund, there will be three Region 15 Perpetual Fund nights with the Sound Tigers on Wednesday, February 21, Sunday, February 25, and Friday, March 30th. There will be forms available to sign up or you can call the stadium to place your order. More information will be forthcoming.

A special item of note, the third grade class made cards for Mr. Vinny just before the holiday. Mr. Vinny was so pleased that he decided to pick a child with the best card, although he enjoyed all the cards made by the children. Emily Balnis's card was chosen and he contributed \$25.00 to the PTO in her honor. He asked that the money be used to fund teacher grants. Thanks to the entire third grade class and a special thank you to Emily Balnis and Mr. Vinny!

After much discussion, a decision was made to not sponsor any major fundraisers for the rest of the school year. We decided it would be best to begin planning for a Spring Social for the 2007/2008 school year and are looking for any volunteers that would be willing to spearhead that effort. I would appreciate it if people would consider doing that, your help would very much be appreciated. There have been a variety of smaller fund raising events that have been proposed, they are outlined in the minutes. Please take a few minutes to review it and provide us some feedback.

Activities are already underway for the Spring Marathon and believe it or not, the Movin on Social for the fifth graders... how quickly time marches on. Paula Kolitsas and Janet von Kanneurff are leading these committees respectively. More information will be forthcoming regarding these activities. Thanks to Paula, Janet and their teams for starting to get these activities up and running.

A final note, our very own Mark Stockno has been nominated for the CT State Physical Education of the Year nominee!! To support his nomination we are asking parents and student to write or email Jack notes to support his nomination, noting all the good things he has done and why he has made physical education so enjoyable for our children. The

letters and emails need to be to Jack by April 15th. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

To conclude, I would again like to ask for your participation at our PTO meetings. There are many new families and some current families that I would love to see come out and support the school. No one realizes better than I how complicated and busy life can be but I would ask if you could spare an hour a month to participate I would really appreciate it. As you know, the meetings are the third Tuesday of the month unless otherwise noted. Please think about it and if you can fit it into your schedule, please come. It truly is a fun and rewarding experience and with everyone's help we can have a great second half of the year.

If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call or send me an e-mail.

Sincerely,

Maria Beltamello Smith

Middlebury Elementary School PTO Mission Statement

The Parent Teacher Organization of Middlebury Elementary School is dedicated to enriching the learning opportunities and school experiences of our children. Through the collaborative efforts of all the parents and faculty, we strive to build a nurturing environment in which all children grow in confidence and ability. This is achieved through a climate of respect, cooperation, responsibility and understanding of each other's thoughts and opinions. Our mission is to ensure that the students reach their potential and receive the best education possible, an education that promotes strong character, creativity, personal growth and academic achievement.

Cyberspace Safety Presentation

The PHS PTO and the Southbury Middlebury Family and Youth Services are hosting a cyberspace safety presentation on February 1 from 7 PM to 9 PM at the high school in our all-purpose room. (Our all-purpose room is located straight ahead of the main entrance, on the left). T.R. Richardson who is a community educator will address how to keep adolescents safe in the internet world. We will all receive hands-on practical training in addressing strategies to teach children how to avoid predators, bullies and inappropriate content as they explore the internet. We would like to invite all parents in the region to attend this vital and very appropriate program. Please pass this on to all the parents in your schools.

2006-2007 MES PTO Committees

Committee Chairs

Art Room Coordinator- Dana DeRiu
Community Service Coordinator- Jackie Mulhall (Lead), Nancy Belden
Cultural Arts- Maryann Dzinski (Lead), Kathleen Doan
Family Social Events Coordinator- Julie Koulouris
Friendship Coordinator-Jen Minchella
Garden Coordinator- Beth Small
Great Books Coordinator- Jill Hutchinson (Lead), Susan Broderick, Maryann Dzinski
Gym Coordinator-Karen Bonnanzio
Hospitality Coordinator-Jolene Anello (Lead), Theresa Bueno, Lisa Zinno
Perpetual Fund Representative-Caron Reilly
Program Incentives-Leslie House (Lead), Janet von Kanneurff
Publicity-Amy Von Culin
Scrapbook Coordinator-Open
Student Recognition Coordinator- Nancy Belden (Lead), Michele McCormack
Volunteer Coordinator- Caron Reilly
Ways And Means Coordinator-Traci Griffin
Yearbook Coordinator-Beth Marino (Lead), Paula Kolitsas

Event Chairs

Apparel Sale (Oct)-Maryann Dzinski
Coast To Coast Marathon (Mar-May) - Paula Kolitsas(Lead), Beth Marino
Fall Book Sale (Oct) - Colleen Johnstone
Ice Cream Social (Sept) - Julie Koulouris (Lead), Caron Reilly
Movin' On Social (5th Grade- June) - Janet von Kanneurff (Lead), Jackie Mulhall, Paula Kolitsas
Spring Book Fair (Apr) - Colleen Johnstone
Spring Social (Apr)-Open
Student Directory (Sept) - Karen Nocera
Teacher Appreciation Luncheon (May)-Janet Gagas
Winter Fundraiser (Feb)- Kelly Perrotti
Wrapping Paper Fundraiser (Sept)- Nina Walsh (Lead), Beth Marino

DID YOU KNOW?

A collaboration of residents, town leaders, teachers, school staff and students met in September 2006 to make recommendations for updating the Region 15 Strategic Plan.

The Strategic Planning Team will reconvene in February before presenting the proposed changes to the Board of Education for their approval.

Strategic Mission: *Was revised to capture the importance of research-based methodologies.*

- The mission of Region 15, a district committed to excellence, is to educate our students to be capable, productive and enlightened citizens through proven and innovative learning experiences supported by strong community collaboration and decision-making based on the best interest of all students.

Beliefs: *Some enhancements and minor edits were made. The Beliefs are the formal expression of the fundamental values of the Region 15 School District.*

Objectives: *Were reduced from four to three to ensure effective management with the District's resource capabilities.*

- All students will meet proficiency standards in core academic areas as measured by State and Regional assessments; the percent of students scoring at and above goal will increase annually.
- Each student will pursue and achieve challenging goals tailored to individual interests, talents and aspirations.
- All students will demonstrate proficiency in communication skills, critical thinking, problem solving, and the application of technology.

Strategies: *Strategies 4 and 5 were deleted, and their concepts were transcribed to strategic parameters. A new strategy was recommended that complements the curriculum development strategy.*

- Continue to develop and implement a well articulated Pre K-12 curriculum in all disciplines and identify the assessments needed to achieve our mission and objectives.
- Capitalize on the energy, talents, and expertise of Region 15 staff to promote high degrees of collaboration to ensure quality instruction.
- Develop the community support necessary to provide sufficient resources and facilities to achieve our mission and objectives.
- Develop and implement plans to attract, retain, develop and recognize high quality staff to best achieves our mission and objectives.
- Devise a system to assist students in setting, pursuing and achieving educational goals tailored to their interests, talents and aspirations.

Parameters: *The Strategies that addressed these two areas were eliminated. Including these statements as new parameters ensures the ideas remain in the way Region 15 conducts business.*

- We will encourage all students to participate in meaningful service and citizenship activities within the school and community.
- We will always work to improve internal and external communications.

For Detailed Information Visit:

- www.region15.org/cia/SPUpdate.htm

Co-Chairs, Len Hamm & Jackie Mulhall
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