

Carol Planitzer

From: "McMurray Elementary School PTA" <mcmurraystar@verizon.net>
To: <cplanitzer@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 2:18 PM
Subject: September/October McMurray PTA Newsletter

The McMurray PTA is working in cooperation with the Peters Township School District. You are receiving this email because of your relationship with the McMurray PTA.



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McMurray PTA Executive Board 2009-2010

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 Carol Planitzer, 1st VP
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 Andrea Michalski, 3rd VP
 Margaret Rauscher, 4th VP
 Nan Campbell, Treasurer
 Jodi Hannah, Asst. Treasurer
 Cathy Vargo, Secretary

Homeroom Parents Needed

One homeroom parent is needed for Ms. Lanham's and Mrs. Muto's class. If you are

September / October 2009 PTA Newsletter

Principal's Pen

by Dr. Robert G. Freado

This school year is off to a very successful start, and we hope that your children are adjusting well after a great summer. We have several new procedures and initiatives in place this school year including the teaching of Stephen Covey's "Eight Habits of Highly Effective People," to our students. In addition, we will continue to give emphasis to health and wellness while promoting excellent attendance habits, leadership and responsibility.

The students will learn about the "Habits" and develop their personal leadership qualities through information provided by principals, counselors, teachers and the daily announcements. It is our hope that teachers, parents and students will begin using the language of effective, personal leadership as we journey through this school year together.

We'll promote healthy habits and lifestyles by encouraging our students to eat nutritious foods and get plenty of exercise. Students will no longer bring edible treats to celebrate their birthdays, but are encouraged to bring pencils, erasers, a game for the classroom or other non-edible treats in recognition of their "special day." A special health and wellness themed day is being planned for May as a culminating activity to promote the building of healthy habits.

Another way that we are promoting good health is through our emphasis on hand washing, properly covering coughs and

interested please email
Dayna Mizikar at
dmizikar@comcast.net.

Brunch with the Principals

*All dates are in the LGI room
at 10:30 am.*

Oct. 16 - 4th grade parents
Oct. 23 - 5th grade parents
Oct. 29 - 6th grade parents

SPIRIT WEAR

Orders due Wednesday,
September 23.

[Link](#) to McMurray PTA
Announcements page for
order form.

After School Enrichment Class Registration

Tuesday, September 22
from 7-8 p.m. in
Art Room 110.

Classes for the fall session
begin October 19 and
include chess, cooking,
pottery, babysitting,
Cheernastics, Balloon
Twisting, Karate, Speed-
Agility-Quickness,
Abrakadoodle, and Cool
Science for Curious Kids.

**Volunteers needed for
registration.**

[Click here](#) for registration
form and additional
information.

other ways to prevent the spread of germs that can cause our students and staff to become ill. We hope that our efforts will result in good health and excellent attendance for our students.

Thank you for your support and cooperation and we hope to see you at Open House on October 1st or 8th.

***Please take note of this new procedure....**

Student Absence-Missed Assignment Procedures:

Parents must call or email the homeroom teacher no later than noon of the day that they wish to receive assignments and we will be sure to have the assignments sent to the office by no later than 3:30 p.m. The office will remain open until 4 p.m. daily. Parents may also make arrangements for a classmate to procure the assignments for their child, but these arrangements will not be made through the teacher (s). Please keep in mind that it is not required and often not necessary that assignments are requested for short-term absences. We understand that students may not be feeling up to doing schoolwork when they are sick. Students are provided at least the same number of days that they are absent to complete and turn in work that they missed. Thank you for your cooperation.

A Note from the PTA President

by Lisa Briegel

At the end of last school year, I asked for advice about being PTA President from a few experienced members of the PTA. The best piece of advice I received was to ask questions. If I did not know what something was or if I did not know how to proceed, the best thing to do was to ask someone more experienced. I want to pass this bit of advice on to the rest of the membership, from the brand-new 4th grade parents to the more seasoned 6th grade parent. We can all benefit from asking questions.

How do you volunteer at a party or on a field trip? What do library volunteers do? How can you be a homeroom parent? There are names, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses listed in the directory and on the McMurray PTA website of PTA volunteers who are an excellent source of information on McMurray Elementary.

Don't have time to volunteer but still have questions? The PTA is your best way to learn about the happenings at school and to maintain a connection with your child and his/her day. When is Open House for 6th grade? What is Spanning the Globe? Derby Days? The State Fair? What can parents do to help their children prepare for school? From Brunches with the Principal to Principal's Remarks and Teacher Reports at PTA meetings, the PTA is an excellent way to get your questions answered.

I want to welcome you to a new school year here at McMurray Elementary. I hope that you will explore the many opportunities available to you and your family through the PTA. And remember,

Thank You!!

A huge thank you to Rena Mesogitis and Jodi Nelson for doing a magnificent job co-chairing the McMurray Kickoff. These ladies are brand-new 4th grade parents who took on this HUGE responsibility never having even been to a McMurray Kickoff before!

They did an awesome job with the help of Michele Bittel who showed them the ropes. A huge thank you to Michele as well, for agreeing to stay on another year in order to help these newbies out.

And thanks also to the person who ordered the beautiful weather that evening.

Thanks to the many volunteers who worked hard last school year and over the summer to prepare the Welcome Back folders, as well as those who helped with New Student Orientation and Walk-thru Night.

We couldn't do it without you!

PTA Committee Chairs Needed:

Hospitality
Movie Night
Reflections

Interested? Contact
Carol Planitzer at:

cplanitzer@comcast.net

Abitibi Paper Recycling

Please drop off :
Magazines, shopping
catalogs, newspaper,

feel free to ask questions!

NEW! NEW! NEW!

New Announcements page on McMurray PTA website. Check it out! All flyers, registration forms, and PTA information is listed. Use the following link to access it.

PTA Announcements

Sally Foster and Cookie Dough Fundraiser

Now through September 28th

40% of your cookie dough purchase and 50% of your Sally Foster purchase goes directly to our school!

It's time for the popular Sally Foster® fundraiser! Once again, the proceeds of this program help fund all of our activities throughout the year making possible the favorites like McMurray Day, McMurray Kick-off, holiday parties, talent show, teacher appreciation and more! Our programs can not take place without everyone's support.

Please keep in mind:

*Remember to tear off the customer's copy of the order form and save for your delivery!!!

*Our Sally Foster fundraiser will be from September 10 - September 28, 2009.

*Cash or checks payable to McMurray PTA must accompany all orders.
(Internet orders are paid online.)

After School Dance

Registration: Monday, September 21

McMurray Elementary from 7-8:30 pm

Dance Classes Begin: Monday, September 28 at McMurray Elementary

Once again the dance instructors from Judy's School of Dance Arts will be teaching dance classes to children from preschool age through sixth grade (3 and 4 year olds must be potty trained).

Mrs. Judy Collins, owner of Judy's School of Dance Art for 30 years will be teaching classes along with Emily Pulkowski, an Elementary Education graduate of Robert Morris University and veteran dance instructor. Emily has been a dance instructor with Judy's School of Dance for the past 3 years. Students will perform a recital on stage at the Peters Township High School Auditorium (recital to be held in the spring).

Parents are responsible for transporting their children to and from McMurray Elementary School.

office & school papers, junk mail,
and shredded paper in plastic bags.

Recycling bin is located at
the entrance
to the school on the right.

Thank you!

This recycling project benefits PTA
sponsored programs for our children.

Office DEPOT

School Name: McMurray
Elementary School
ID #: 70087063

5% Back to Schools Program

Our school will earn credits equal
to 5% of your purchases to use for
FREE supplies. You can credit the
school each
time you shop at Office Depot.
Remember to give our school ID#

in store or
www.officedepot.com
or when calling
1-800-GO-DEPOT

The class fee is \$65.00. Each additional class is \$60.00
for the same child. Classes will be September through
February
with a dress rehearsal and recital dates to be announced.

Please bring cash or checks payable to the McMurray PTA.
Link to the Registration form[Click Here](#)

You Can Make a Difference for Our School with Box Tops!

- Clip Box Top coupons from favorite products and send them to our school.
- Shop at your favorite online stores through the Box Tops MarketplaceSM (www.btfe.com/marketplace), and up to 8% of your qualifying purchase will automatically be donated to our school with no additional cost to you!
- Purchase books through the Box Tops Reading RoomSM at Barnes & Noble.

We've recently launched our 2009-2010 Box Tops for Education fundraising campaign. This year we've set a goal of earning \$3000 through Box Tops. Last year's campaign funded a purchase of a new megaphone and 3 kid alert traffic markers.

Box Tops for Education has helped America's schools raise over \$250 million to buy the things they need. The Box Tops for Education program offers three easy ways to make a difference for our school through everyday activities: buying groceries, shopping online and purchasing books. School budgets are tighter than ever, and McMurray Elementary is asking for the support of families and community members such as yourself.

Sign up to support our school at the Box Tops website (www.btfe.com). You'll get updates on our school's Box Tops earnings, money-saving coupons, family-pleasing recipes, chances to win Bonus Box Tops for our school and the latest Box Tops news!

For more information on how you can help our school earn cash through Box Tops for Education, contact Tracey Lusk, our Box Tops coordinator, at 724-941-7062 or visit www.btfe.com.

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