

January—May
2017



Harrison Park Elementary School PTO Newsletter

Welcome back from the holiday break!



Please watch your child's "Take Home Tuesday" folder for information on upcoming PTO events and how you can help. Volunteers make these events possible.

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It's hard to believe that we are now more than half way through the school year. We hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday break and ready to get back to learning. As always, the Harrison Park PTO has many great activities planned for the rest of the school year. Remember that our success depends on you—the parents. There will be lots of opportunities to volunteer with the events that we have planned to round out the school year.

Spring Fundraiser Information



Our Spring fundraiser this year will be Sarris candies. Information packets will be distributed on **February 3, 2017**. Orders will be due on **February 17, 2017** and will be available for pick-up on **March 17, 2017**. We are hoping that everyone will consider participating in this fundraiser. Profits from our fundraisers help to fund activities throughout the school year, such as Fifth Grade Farewell, Kindergarten Celebration, and Family Fun Night.

Prizes for top sellers this year include a **Drone**, a **Fitbit Alta**, and a **Go Pro Camera**.

If you have any questions regarding the fundraiser, please contact:
Michell Miller at mrbw2003@hotmail.com or (724) 980-6746;
Michelle Dolney at shelld123@comcast.net or (724) 244-7180; or
Annette Fontana at fontana103@comcast.net or (724) 244-9401

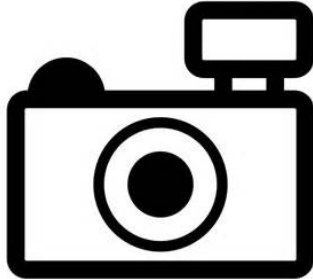
**Please keep
this newsletter
for reference.**



Upcoming PTO Meetings

PTO Meetings are a great way to learn about what is going on at Harrison Park and to find out how you can volunteer. Here is a list of the meetings for the rest of the school year: **Tuesday, February 7th, Tuesday, March 7th, and Tuesday, April 4th.** There are no meetings scheduled during the month of May. Meetings are held in the school's library and begin at 6:30pm. We try to limit the meetings to being an hour in length and free babysitting services are provided. Plan to join us for a meeting to find out about the fun activities we have planned for the remainder of the school year.

Harrison Park Spring Pictures



Spring pictures will be taken on March 2, 2017. If you have any questions, please contact Becky Lingenfelter at beckylingenfelter84@gmail.com



Although the official PTO Membership drive is over, you can still join our amazing PTO at ANY time. Also, please note that you must be a paid PTO member with the appropriate clearances on file to volunteer for any PTO events. This includes 5th Grade Farewell, Kindergarten Celebration, and Fun Day at the end of the school year.

If you have any questions or would like to still join, please contact Christina Jobe at bj35aj98@gmail.com



American Spirit Week and Penny Pride

We will be kicking off this year's American Spirit Week on Friday, February 3, 2017 with a **Red, White, and Blue dress day and a school assembly**. The theme will continue through the week of February 6th—February 10th, with students receiving tickets for wearing Red, White, and Blue to school. Tickets will be drawn at the end of the week and American Flags will be given to the winning ticket holders. There will also be an American-themed bulletin board decorating contest, and the winning grade will earn \$10 in quarters to "give" to another grade to kick off Penny Pride! In addition, we would also like to take this opportunity to honor our Harrison Park Heroes. If you have a loved one that has served or is serving in the military that you would like to honor, please send in a picture and maybe a small paragraph highlighting their service.

During this time, we are encouraging students to bring in non-perishable donations for the Food Drive. We want the students to understand the importance of helping those struggling through rough times, whether at home or overseas. The food that is collected will be added with the donations the CAP group has accepted and will be distributed to local food banks. Harrison Park continues to be the largest contributor to this Food Drive, so we look forward to carrying on that tradition!

Running along with American Spirit Week and the Food Drive, we will once again have the "Penny Pride" contest with the students to help raise money to purchase items to send overseas. We are asking that coins be placed in the containers during lunch time only, **not in the morning**, to avoid confusion and congestion in the hallways. For that reason, ***we could really use a few parent volunteers to help supervise during lunch times. Please email Greg Keefer at keeferg@penntrafford.org or send in the form provided in Take Home Tuesday to the school if you are willing to volunteer your time for a lunch shift.*** Shifts will last from 11:50 -1:40. From the money raised, we will purchase donations to send to Troops stationed overseas, based on their requests.



We may be randomly filming the events of American Spirit Week. In addition to donations, we want to send a DVD of the students' efforts throughout the week to the Soldiers. If you have any objections to your child being filmed, please notify Mr. Swartz. Thank you for helping to boost the morale of our soldiers overseas and to feed the hungry in our area. Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions.

Greg Keefer (keeferg@penntrafford.org)
Fifth Grade Teacher
724-744-2161

Valentine's Day Party



The Valentine's Day Party will be held on Tuesday, February 14th, 2017 from 10:45am—11:45am for AM Kindergarten students and from 2:00pm—3:00pm for PM Kindergarten through 5th Grade students.

Sign up forms for parent volunteers were sent home in November and party coordinators and parent volunteers were selected and were announced at our January PTO meeting. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Rachel McGrew at rlj0329@aim.com



Book It Program for Grades K and 1 Ends March 31st

Our Kindergarten and First Grade students have now just about completed four months of this year's Book It Program, and we have two more months to go. Please refer to the Harrison Park PTO Calendar of Events for due dates for when the reading logs are to be returned to school each month.

We ask that you please ensure that your child's name is printed on the reading log, and is legible, before it is returned to school in order to ensure that they receive proper credit. Please also ensure that the reading log includes a parent/guardian signature. It is also very helpful to include the name of the child's homeroom teacher.

All students who participated in the program consecutively for October, November, and December and turned their completed reading logs into their teachers received a Dr. Seuss eraser and small notepad from the Harrison Park PTO on January 20th. We had 27 students receive those prizes this year. Great job, super readers! If these students continue to participate in all six months of the program, they will receive a book of their choice in April.

Please contact Renee Ferraro with any questions or concerns at renee4aro@comcast.net.

5th Grade

FAREWELL

The Fifth Grade Farewell celebration is scheduled for Wednesday, May 17, 2017 starting at 6:00pm. The event will be held at Penn Middle School. We will need plenty of parent volunteers to help chaperone this event, and you must be a paid PTO member with proper clearances to volunteer.

During the month of February, we will also be having a pepperoni roll fundraiser to help raise money for the cost of this event. Each pepperoni roll will be \$2, and for every roll we sell, we receive \$1. Please watch Take Home Tuesday information for more details about the fundraiser as well as information on the Fifth Grade Farewell event. If you have any questions please contact Beth Biroscak at dare47@comcast.net. Thank you!



Dodgeball Tournament

This year's Make-A-Wish Dodgeball Tournament was held on Saturday, January 21, 2017 at Penn Trafford High School. This year we had 52 teams participating, which is around 500 students. Every elementary school and middle school in the district participated and the high school students volunteered, making this a complete PT district-wide event.

The winning teams were: K-1 Neon Warriors from Sunrise Elementary; 2-3 Ballers from Sunrise and HP Elementaries; 4-5 Cobra Kai from HP Elementary; and 6-8 White Out from Penn Middle.

This year we were able to raise \$9,500 for Make-A-Wish. This should be enough to grant 3-4 wishes. Thank you to everyone who participated in and supported this event.

Playground Improvement Project Update



The final phase of the PTO Playground Improvement Project was completed in November with the installation of 5 new pieces of equipment on the newer playground adjacent to the Kindergarten wing of the building. The last word was that we were just waiting for a final inspection to be completed. It should be all ready for the students to use when nicer weather arrives again. A big thank you to everyone who put their time, effort, and donations into this project over the last several years. It was a huge project, and we hope that the students of Harrison Park will be able to enjoy these improvements for many years to come!



Family Fun Night and Scholastic Book Fair

On **Friday, February 24, 2017, from 6:00pm—8:30pm**, we will be hosting our Happy Camper Family Fun Night at Harrison Park. It is a camping theme, and there will be so much to do! A National Park Scavenger Hunt will guide you through all of the fun activities, including crafts, games with prizes, teacher read-alouds, a photo booth, and so much more. **Also, plan to join us for dinner with our camping-themed menu!**

The Scholastic Book Fair will be held in the library during Family Fun Night where you will find hundreds of books to build up your family library or be able to donate a book to the school library or your child's classroom.

The **book fair** will continue during school hours from **Monday, February 27th—Wednesday, March 1st**. A schedule will be sent home of when your child's class will attend during this time.

More information on this fun event will be sent home with your child as we get closer to February 24th, but we are in need of volunteers to make it a success. If you would like to help out with either activity, please contact Nicol Burdell at nburdell@hotmail.com or 412-721-2656. Thank you for your support!

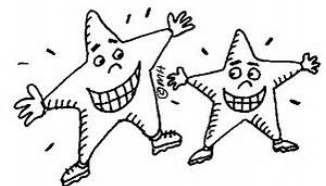
Stay tuned for....

Harrison Park's Got Talent

Friday, April 28, 2017

Start working on your act to perform in the show!

Open to all grades K to 5



5TH GRADE
MEMORY BOOK

Picture submissions are needed for
the 5th grade Memory Book!

Please send in any pictures of your
child that you have from *school events*
from Kindergarten on.

Also, we are looking for one baby picture
(under 2 years of age) of each
student to be included in the book.

Pictures can be submitted at any time by emailing
them to Mandy Luchs at mandyluchs@comcast.net.

Deadline for submissions is March 31, 2017.

THANK YOU!



The Harrison Park students had a great time shopping at Santa's Workshop this year. The PTO would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to help the kids make their purchases and wrap their surprises for their family members. Without you, this special shopping event could not happen.

It's Yearbook Time!

Yearbook order forms were sent home in Take Home Tuesday on January 24th. The cost per yearbook is \$15.

Orders and payment can be sent into school with your child (checks made payable to Harrison Park Elementary School PTO) or you can order online at www.strawbridge.com (online code 112235).

Orders due March 10, 2017

Contact Jen Paterra with any questions (412) 610-2891



Harrison Park S.T.E.A.M. Fair

This year's Harrison Park S.T.E.A.M. Fair will be held on **February 22, 2017**. A sign-up sheet was sent home with your child recently via Take Home Tuesday. Project ideas must be submitted to Miss DiRado no later than February 8th. Please contact her with any questions at diradoa@penntrafford.org.



This year's Kindergarten Celebration will be held on Wednesday, May 24, 2017. There will be both an AM session and a PM session and will take place during your child's normal class time. This year, the planning committee has come up with a lot of fun ideas to treat your child like a "star". We will be in need of a lot of volunteers to assist us on the day of the event, as well as requesting some donations from our kindergarten families. A more detailed letter will be coming home with your child soon.

Please contact Renee Ferraro at renee4aro@comcast.net or Jamie Grant at mamagrants225@comcast.net with any questions you may have regarding this event.



Harrison Park's annual Fun Day to celebrate the end of the school year will be held on Thursday, May 25th, 2017.

This event requires many parent volunteers in order to be successful. Please stay tuned via Take Home Tuesday or attend the next few PTO meetings for more information on how you can help with this event.



The AR Program 100 Point Celebration is fast-approaching. Students who have achieved 100 AR points by February 17, 2017 will be invited to watch a movie and have slushies and popcorn on Friday, March 3, 2017. Please encourage your child that if they want to attend this event, they only have a few weeks left of reading and test-taking to meet this goal.

The school word goal is 200 million words read. Right now, we are only at 85 million words read, which is a little behind where we were at this time last year. Please encourage some extra reading from your child.

The end of the year AR celebration is currently in its planning stages. Silly string is anticipated to be included again this year.

Thank you to all of the parents who have come into school for lunch in the library, to help with the minute-to-win it games and dodgeball, and to the moms who come in and help with the library classes, from test-taking to book shelving. Mrs. Aquino and I could not keep this program going without all of you. A special thank you as well to the pins and tickets team!! And thank you to the staff at Harrison Park for their support in making our kids great readers and for all that they do for our children.

One last plea for help—if anyone has a passion for reading and will be at Harrison Park for a few more years, there is a need for a new AR Program Coordinator. AR is a fantastic program, and I would like to see it continue. Our teachers support the program, and AR is a part of increasing our students’ reading comprehension. As the AR Coordinator, you work with the Library Aide, Liz Aquino, and Mrs. Lathom, the teacher advisor, to reward the students for their reading. Our students have the highest AR Program participation in all of Penn-Trafford. I only have, after this year, two more years left at Harrison Park. Therefore, I am looking for a person or a group of volunteers who is interested in sharing next year to learn the ropes and then takeover the following year while I am still available to help out. I am just interested in the program continuing in the best possible manner for the students. If you have any interest, please send me an email at jdormire@comcast.net or call me at (412) 983-5417. You are welcome to come see what the kids do in the library. I am there every Tuesday and Friday morning, or I can also meet at a more convenient time.

Thank you,

Dawn Dormire and the AR Team (Liz Aquino, Melissa Lathom, and Becky Lingenfelter)

2016—2017 PTO Officers

President:

Jamie Grant

mamagrant225@comcast.net

Vice President:

Becky Lingenfelter

beckylingenfelter84@gmail.com

Secretary:

Karen Dreistadt

kdreistadt19@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Cathy Williams

williac8@nationwide.com

A listing of the Chairpersons for PTO

Events/Activities can be found
on our website:

harrisonparkpto.com

Need Help?

Mrs. Socrates is our School Secretary. In the main office is where you will find the answers to all your pesky questions!

Who gets this form? What do I do with my daughter's flute because she forgot it? This was due when? How do I reserve the multi purpose room?

Where is the meeting?

Mrs. Socrates is a wealth of information.

Please stop by & say hello!!



Reminder

Please check your child's Take Home Tuesday folder each week to keep up-to-date on what is happening at Harrison Park.

Take Home Tuesday information can also be found on Harrison Park's website:

hp.penntrafford.org

Congratulations to the Winners of Our Limo Ride with Santa Fundraiser

Dante Leonello
Salena Jordan
Chelsea Menzies
Emma Sanford
Claire Corall

These students were the winners of our drawing and had the chance to be picked up for school in a limo with Santa and Mr. Swartz on December 23rd. Thank you to all who purchased tickets and supported our fundraiser. We were able to raise over \$600 for our general fund. A special thank you goes out to the Graziano family who was kind enough to donate the limo for us to use.



Box Top News

February 24th

is the next collection date.

Classrooms that reach 1,000 Box Tops by that date will win a "Teacher's Choice Award"

(extra recess, playing Dodgeball, or having a PJ/movie day)

Harrison Park recently received a check for \$2,200. Thank you for your efforts to make this happen.

We now need to work towards the goal for the end of the year special event. If we collect 40,000 Box Tops by the end of the school year, every student that brought in 100+ Box Tops will be invited to a luau-themed celebration. There will be music, games, and the biggest slip and slide you have ever seen!

So, make sure you put your name on your Box Tops!