

**PTO BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2009-2010**

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KERRIE LIGGIO
NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

MISSION STATEMENT

THE MISSION OF THE CRANBURY SCHOOL PTO IS TO ADDRESS ISSUES CONCERNING THE SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL WELL-BEING OF THE CHILDREN IN CRANBURY SCHOOL.

JOHN HANEY
*CHIEF SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATOR AND
PRINCIPAL*

MICHELE WALDRON
VICE PRINCIPAL

CONTACT THE CRANBURY
SCHOOL PTO AT (609) 395-
1700 EXT. 332.

FIND THE PTO ONLINE AT
WWW.CRANBURY SCHOOL.ORG
AND SELECT THE PTO TAB.

WELCOME BACK!

It's time for school again! If you're like our families, you've probably felt excited these past two weeks but also a little sad that summer is over. The first day of school is a time for new beginnings: time to review old rules (backpacks packed at night) and establish new ones (no texting during homework); time for our children to make new friends; time to set goals for the school year and keep the enthusiasm that we saw the first week of school alive. Studies show that one of the best ways for parents to support student learning is to be involved. The PTO offers such a wide range of activities and volunteer opportunities, it's easy for everyone to get involved.



We wouldn't have had such a great start without the many parents who worked so hard over the summer to help kick off the new school year. Thank you! We especially want to acknowledge Pat Casey and Deirdre Bichsel and their many volunteers for their work assembling the first day folders (thanks Pat) and welcoming 17 new students and their families at our Newcomer's Day (thanks Deirdre). Thank you also to Heidi Stokes for organizing our presence at Cranbury Day and to the volunteers that manned our tent.

Over 80 parents attended our volunteer meeting on September 16. We are fortunate to have so many wonderful volunteers. New guidelines for celebrations in school were discussed. Please note that food is **not** allowed for birthday celebrations. All food for holiday parties must be coordinated through room parents and then approved in advance with your child's teacher. If you plan on volunteering at the school and did not attend the meeting, please complete a Confidentiality Form at the main office.

The PTO Magazine Drive runs from September 14 through October 2. This drive is a major fundraiser for the PTO. We earn 45% of all new subscription and renewal sales. Last year the drive accounted for over \$5,000 in revenues and helped to purchase equipment like the new classroom SmartBoards and fund student assemblies. We are grateful for your support.

We have some exciting activities coming up for PTO families. Join us at the Spaghetti Dinner on October 11 and save the date for Pumpkin Night on October 23. These are always fun events! In addition, the Scholastic Book Fair will start October 9. In response to requests, we will offer after-school shopping in addition to our evening hours this year. Teachers will again be submitting wish lists for classroom books. Donating a book to your child's class can be a meaningful way to celebrate their birthday.

Our next PTO meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 7 at 6 pm in the Large Group Room. This is a change from our usual time and an opportunity for working parents to attend. After our meeting, the Cranbury School staff and a representative from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt will present an overview of the newly adopted mathematics program. Join us at 7 pm for the Math Parent Night where Mrs. Penney, Mrs. Bach, Ms. Csatori and Mrs. Vorp will introduce the new hands-on interactive math program and walk you through some of the tech components to use at home. According to Mrs. Penney "This is way more than a textbook!" We hope to see you there!

New beginnings and fresh starts.... that's what makes this time of year special. Let's hope it's a great year of learning and growing for our children. We look forward to working together to provide an exceptional educational experience for your child.

Cheryl Coyle
President, Middle School

Jill Frost
President, Elementary School

Membership Update

Currently 88% of the families in the school are PTO members. If you haven't signed up yet, there is still time to register and be included in our directory update. You can find the necessary forms on the PTO website. In order to be included in the update, please submit your form, along with your dues, to the main office by October 2.

Support the PTO Magazine Drive

Ordering a magazine subscription for your child is a win/win proposition. Our school benefits and your child will too. Students of all ages enjoy getting mail and a magazine subscription about a topic of interest to your child will encourage even the most reluctant reader.

In addition to ordering new magazines, you can renew subscriptions to the ones you are currently enjoying. And now to make it even easier, you can order online. Look for the link to QSP on the PTO website.

Every child who participates in the magazine drive will receive a prize. The prize selections for this year are on display in the front entrance lobby of the school. The drive runs through October 2nd.

Please contact
Diana Heilbronn
(diana821@comcast.net)
or Betty Toto
(betblase@yahoo.com)
with any questions.

FROM THE DESK OF...MR. HANEY

First I would like to thank the staff, students and parents for a very smooth opening to the school year. I would like to thank the secretaries for being so prepared and attentive to their many tasks. I also thank the custodians for getting the building ready to open. The school looks great.

As we travel together through the school year, we need to look inward sometimes – to question ourselves, to adapt to changes that are beyond our individual abilities to stop. I ran across some interesting bits of information recently: In roughly 10 years China will be the largest English speaking nation in the world. Our young people may be looking at a work environment where they not only change jobs, but careers 10-14 times by the time they are 35! It is tough for us as adults to adapt – imagine how tough it is for children. We need to make sure we are providing our students the tools they need to thrive in the increasingly competitive world. We do this by keeping current, challenging our assumptions, and meeting the needs of all students.

This year I challenge all of us to try new things, to reexamine who we are and to be role models for children to show that achieving excellence is the heart of what we do. We would like our students to be athletes, scholars, artists, musicians, writers, readers, technologists. As parents we play a very large role in the development of our children. I thank the PTO for your time and energy. All your efforts help provide incredible support to the school and students. It is sincerely appreciated.

PHS HAPPENINGS

Over the summer a group of rising freshmen at PHS formed a book group to discuss their summer reading assignment, the *Iliad* by Homer. A teacher from PHS facilitated the group discussions and corrected weekly essays. For ten weeks half of the group met in the afternoon and the other half met at night at the homes of the members of the group. Everyone celebrated finishing this classic epic poem the last week of summer by having an *Iliad* party and watching the movie *Troy*. Congratulations to the members of the *Iliad* Summer Reading Group: Aidan Passanante, Andrew Kishyk, Bob Ouyang, Colleen Lim, Taylor Panconi, Matt Farinick, John Bond, Matt Wong, Adam Klein, Jack Persico, Eric Yehl, Colby Stiglic, Matt Ko, Elizabeth Maxey, Carl Helstrom, Corey Allikas, Zach Halliday, Emma Laurash, Victoria Carroll, Dominick Tarantino, Daniel Kennedy Moore, Bobby Wright, Andrew Frain, Alden Reyes, Mia Quinn, Grace Rifkin, Rachael DeSimone, Shannon Addonizio, Marisa Giglio, Adam Klein, Nivi Pemmassani, David Santamaria, Matt Waltrip, Andrew Zysk and Tim Brennan. We wish these students success as they prepare to read the *Odyssey* in English 1 at Princeton High School.

Save the date for...

The PTO Spaghetti Dinner

Sunday, October 11th
5:00-7:30 pm in the Cafeteria



Order forms will be sent home in backpacks. Please return forms and payment to homeroom teachers.

"Welcome to Middle School" Sixth Grade Dance



Friday, September 25th
7:30-9:30 pm in the cafeteria

Bring \$5 & the permission slip
DJ and refreshments

Sponsored by the PTO

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS STARTING SOON

The PTO would like to welcome Cheryl McCormick, Movien Yee Hom and Patty Thomsson to the After-School Program Committee. The program has already benefited from their creative ideas and incredible enthusiasm!

Our fall session will begin 10/26, with 13 courses for students in Grades 1-5. Many of our students' favorite classes from last year will be back this session, including our final two grant-funded Club Invention classes. Look for registration materials in your child's backpack 9/24.

A change in fees will be instituted this year. The cost for classes will increase to \$45, but there will be no materials fee charged for most classes. The fee increase will be used to fund a much-deserved pay increase for our teachers. Scholarships will still be available to all students in need.

We will be using an early registration lottery system again this year. Registrations received by the end of the school day 9/25 will be processed by lottery for classes with registrations exceeding class capacity. Registrations for other classes will be processed as they are received until classes are full. The registration deadline will be 10/2.

We're looking forward to a very exciting year! If you have any questions, please contact Cyndy Coppotelli (coppotelli@comcast.net) or Cheryl McCormick (cam1027@comcast.net).

COME TO THE ANNUAL SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

This year we will offer after-school shopping as well as evening hours. (Your child will also visit the fair with his/her class during the school day.)

Please note the new times, as they differ from what was on the school calendar:

Friday, Oct. 9, 3:00-4:00 and 7:00-8:30
 Sunday, Oct. 11, 5:00-7:30
 Monday, Oct. 12, 3:00-4:00 and 7:00-8:30
 Tuesday, Oct. 13, 3:00-4:00 and 7:00-8:30
 In the Large Group Room

(During evening hours, enter through the door leading directly to the room, as the main entrance to the school will be locked.)

Select books for your child's classroom from the teachers' wish list display at the fair. These books will then be donated in your child's name, which could be a nice alternative for a birthday celebration.

In addition to being a very convenient way to shop for great books and supplies, this is an important fundraiser for our school, so please come out and support the book fair and promote literacy.



Green Ideas

Juice Pouch
 "Recycling" Comes to
 Cranbury!

Starting Monday 9/21 the PTO will be sponsoring an exciting new fundraising program. During each lunch period, empty juice pouches will be collected in designated receptacles in the cafeteria. The pouches will be sent to TerraCycle, a company that "upcycles" non-recyclable waste materials and turns them into a variety of eco-friendly products.

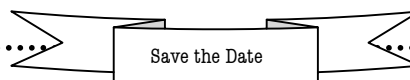
TerraCycle runs free national collection programs that pay schools and non-profit organizations to collect used packaging, such as juice pouches.

Cranbury School PTO will earn a 2 cent donation for every juice pouch collected. Encourage your children to help their school and the environment by placing their empty pouches in the bin. For more information contact Becky Franke, Program Coordinator.

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The PTO Newsletter is
 Going Green

In keeping with this year's theme of *Cranbury Goes Green*, the PTO is planning to move the newsletter to an email distribution. Look for more information in upcoming issues and in your inbox!



The PTO Parent Social
 will be held on
 Saturday, February 6, 2010
 7:00 pm to 12:00 am
 Forsgate Country Club
 Dinner/Dance and Silent Auction

If you have any questions or would like to help plan and organize this event, please contact Susan Leung at susan@theleungfamily.com

Pumpkin Carving Night

Friday, October 23rd
 7-8:30 pm in the Cafeteria
 Sponsored by the PTO and the
 Cranbury Lions Club
 Bring pumpkins or purchase one at the door.
 There will be decorations, snacks and
 entertainment.

Programming Notes

*Deirdre Bichsel and Eileen Keve,
Directors, Programming*

Character Education Assembly

On October 15th the PTO will sponsor a character education assembly called "Bullies, Targets and Bystanders." The program is presented by Quiet Riot, two brothers, Bill and David Mettler, whose goal is to create performances that build community, encourage self-respect and respect for others. Since 1978, Quiet Riot has performed for over 5000 elementary and secondary schools across the country.

In a typical school population, 7% of students are bullies and 7% are targets (victims). The remaining 86% of students are bystanders. Quiet Riot uses funny personal stories, sound effects and audience interaction to explore these three roles, paying particular attention to the 86% of the students (by-standers) who are in the classroom, cafeteria, hallways, bathrooms, and buses with the bullies and their targets. Their show works with teachers and empowers bystanders to create and insist on a peaceful community of mutual respect.

Quiet Riot will present two shows that are age appropriate for the elementary school students and grades 5-8. Both assemblies will help everyone understand that no one will be mistreated in our community and everyone has a place of honor.

If you have a child in grades K to 4, ask them about LISA after this assembly. Her name reminds students about the skills for making friends. Ask your middle school student to tell you about one of the stories they heard- there are nine vignettes in their show that help them understand how just one person can make a difference.

Young Audiences Showcase

Once again, Cranbury School has been chosen to host Young Audiences Performer's Showcase on October 6. The children in grades K-5 will each see shortened versions of assemblies offered by Young Audiences. Last year the showcase delighted our students and we look forward to another enjoyable time with the performers this year.

2009 – 2010 ROOM PARENTS

Pre-K

Mrs. Grace - Jenny Christiansen
Mrs. Munice - Jill Staples

Kindergarten

Mrs. Adams - Diane Berloco & Nancy Brendel
Mrs. Fass - Denise Benattar & Laura Kunukasseril

First Grade

Mrs. Aber - Jill Gabriello & Tammy Nichols
Mrs. Price - Diana Heilbronn & Betty Toto
Mrs. Szabo - Kim Borden & Kim Ziegler

Second Grade

Mrs. Bach - Susan Leung & Wei Matcham
Mrs. Mosley - Karen Callahan & Kerrie Liggio
Mrs. Zarnowski - Wendi Patella &
Robin Silverman-Krakowski

Third Grade

Mrs. Kane - Doren Davis & Lisa Coniglione
Mrs. Koster - Francine Coffee & Kelly Lehman
Mrs. Papszycki - Suzanne Gross & Kathleen Argiriou

Fourth Grade

Ms. Csatai - Clare Cukier & Kathy Wasson
Ms. Sturtevant - Herta Geiger & Phyllis Smith
Mrs. Tarrantino - Jill Frost & Carlene Reyes

Fifth Grade

Mrs. Barton - Movien Hom & Yvette Rudich
Mrs. Duncan - Kristen Hamilton & Collette Wenzler
Mrs. Weber - Tara Guidi & Denise Marabello

Sixth Grade

Mrs. Fernandez - Anita Joshi & Swati Lele
Mrs. Guzman - Katina Garthe & Angie Cook
Ms. Pankowitz - Pat Casey & Mihee Sohn
Mrs. Rodriguez - Anne Hauschild &
Sarah Spalding-Kleiman

Seventh Grade

Mrs. Burke - Mona Bhatia & Robin Reifinger
Mrs. Kauffman - Linda III & Connie Powell
Mrs. Miller - Eileen Keve & Pete Sockler
Mrs. Sabato - Premila D'Souza & Karen Izzo

Eighth Grade

Ms. Alfonso - Cyndy Coppotelli & Cheryl McCormick
Mrs. D'Amore - Dominique Jones & Barbara Rogers
Mrs. Levine - Nancy Pavley & Renee Welch
Mrs. Ulinsky - Beth Keyser & Mia Lindberg

Thank you to all our volunteers!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Back to School Nights

Grades Pre-K - 5 Wednesday, September 23rd at 7:00 pm
Grades 6 - 8 Wednesday, September 30th at 7:00 pm

Be sure to stop by the PTO table in the cafeteria for light refreshments and to see what's new with the PTO. You can also pick up your complimentary copy of "Jump In" a resource from PTO Today that is targeted to parents of school-age children.

School pictures will be taken on the following dates:

Grades Pre-K - 2 Thursday, September 24th
Grades 3 - 5 Wednesday, September 23rd
Grades 6 - 8 Friday, September 25th

Sibling photos will be available. Photos will be ready for the holidays.
Information packets will be sent home with your child.

The Cranbury Arts Council invites you to

A Candlelight Music Festival

Cranstock

Saturday, September 26th

1:00-10:00 p.m.

Village Park

1:00 TESTOSTERTONES
1:15 EXIT 8A
1:45 STEVEN SZCZEPANIK
2:30 CRANBURY JAZZ
3:45 SELKOW
4:45 CRANDADDIES
6:00 ROBERT MURDOCK BAND



Thank you Cranbury Day Volunteers

Cranbury Day was another great day for the PTO! A special thank you to our volunteers for making it a success. Working the PTO tent were: Maureen DiLella, Jennifer Christiansen, Kim Borden, Marci Resnick, Nancy Schiavone, Christine Monks and Ying fan Reinfelder. Great job everyone!