

PTA NEWS – MAY 2008

It's hard to believe it's May already and we have just a little over a month till summer vacation. The PTA has had a very busy last couple of months and our meeting yesterday in the Rye Junior High library was very productive. As always I want to thank the many people who make this organization a pleasure to be a part of. Please see below the PTA grants from March to May this year.

Yearbook gifts to Teachers – RES. The PTA agreed to give this gift to all RES teachers. Cost to PTA \$400.00

Digital Picture Frame - Sheila Adams - RJH. Sheila is using this as part of her classroom conversation and discussion groups. Cost to PTA \$249.00.

Pirates of the Caribbean Sheet Music - RJH – Andrea Papoutsy. The 8th grade band students requested to play this music. It has been very successful and will be used for future band students. Cost to PTA \$60.00.

Grease – Music is alive and well at RJH. The Grease Production was thoroughly enjoyed by the whole community. The PTA granted a total of \$1,800.00 to the production. The money not only helped with this production but with the props that were able to be bought will help with future productions also.

Wildlife Encounters Zoo – RES – 4th Grade. This workshop offers hands-on exposure to animals from around the world. It ties in with the biomes, predator/prey relationships, conservation and adaptation topics and the global ecology - all of which are studied by Grade 4 students. The cost to the PTA this year is \$1,500.

Run, Paddle, Pedal – RES/RJH – Holly Warden. The Run, Paddle, Pedal race has been running for 8 years. All the money raised is given to the eight schools involved in the organization of the race. The fundraiser is to promote healthy habits in children and the money in the past has been spent on sporting equipment, nutritional education and the after school walking club in RES. This year the race will be held in September 2008. The PTA is very pleased to be one of the sponsors of this event for \$250 as requested by Holly Warden.

Visiting Author – Catherine Gilbert Murdock – RJH – Mary Coombs. The PTA contributed \$250.00 towards this author's visit. Catherine is a very popular author with middle school students (she writes the Dairy Queen Series amongst others). The total cost of the visit was shared with Greenland Central School.

Underwater ROV – RJH – Robin Ellwood A group of 8th Grade students have accepted a challenge from a Virginia teacher to build an underwater ROV camera to engage in a friendly competition in Antarctica (both Robin Ellwood and the teacher from Virginia will be there). The grant for \$900 will cover the cost of building the robot, the monitor, packaging and battery charger. Robotics is of great interest to all children and Robin hopes it will act as a springboard to create general interest from all RJH students now and in the future.

Mother-Son Hike – RES/RJH – Christine LeCompte The PTA will cover the cost of the bandannas and the reserving of the outdoor facility at the top of Mt. Agamenticus for the Mother-Son Hike. We're all hoping for sunny skies that day! Total cost for this \$300.00

Freedom trail booklets for 5th grade walk – RJH - Phoebe Guarnaccia. Phoebe requested 30 copies to remain the property of the school to be used for this year's Freedom Trail walk and future years. This is a very popular field trip and the PTA is very happy to contribute \$208 towards the purchase of the booklets.

8th Grade Graduation – RJH – Dawn Blanchard. On behalf of the organizers of the 8th grade graduation party Dawn requested \$800 to cover the cost of hiring the hall, dj, water, memory book and snacks. We know what a wonderful event this is and the PTA was happy to grant this request. Thank you to Dawn and the other parents for their time and effort in organizing this event.

Staff Appreciation Lunch – RJH – Marty Random. The PTA contributed to the Staff Appreciation Lunch in the RES to the amount of \$350. We know Marty does a wonderful job in conveying to the Staff how much we appreciate all they do during this lunch event.

5th Grade Fun Finale – RES – Lane Richardson. Lane has a great committee of parents who are organizing a Fun Finale for the 5th grade students. Although all the students are moving just a mile down the road to RJH, this is a big step to be leaving Elementary school for all students! (And their parents!)

Ron King Author visit – RJH – Jules Grant. Ron King is a new author and his visit to RJH was a huge success. He spent a full four hours inspiring all those budding authors out there! The PTA were delighted to agree to this grant request of \$500.

Enrichment All School Assemblies – RES/RJH – Jules Grant. This will be the third year Jules Grant and her committee have organized the All Schools Enrichment Assemblies. These have been an overwhelming success with much time and effort spent by Jules in bringing to the schools some of the finest enrichment available nationwide. This year the PTA and the REF have contributed \$5,000 each for a total of \$10,000 to be split between RES and RJH.

Thanks again to everyone who has contributed in bringing to the meeting all these requests and then following them through into the school system. As I am sure you all agree, our children benefit greatly from all the extras we are able to bring to them.

In addition to all these wonderful grants, we have some other brief news. There will be some hiring of teachers in both RES and RJH. If you would like to be a parent representative on the interviewing committees please contact Lane Richardson, RES at lrichardson@sau50.org or Chris Pollet, RJH at cpollet@sau50.org. And lastly, some important dates to remember:

- **Saturday 17th May (this Saturday!)**. The Rye Recreation Department in conjunction with the Rye Police Department, the Fire Department and the Safe Routes to School task force is hosting a Bike Rodeo from 1-4pm in the Congregational Church parking lot. This will be a fun and educational day for all. We strongly encourage you to come and bring all your family bike riders!
- **Saturday May 17th at RJH** – Father/daughter dance. Any questions please contact Rebecca Hoag at cbhoag@verizon.net
- **Thursday May 22nd – 6.30pm – RES** Kindergarten parents information night. Contact Lane at lrichardson@sau50.org if you would like more details.
- **Wednesday May 28th – RJH** – Parent night for parents of students going from 5th grade (RES) to 6th grade (RJH) – 6pm.
- **Friday May 30th – 11.30–1.30pm – RES** Staff Appreciation Lunch. If you would like to help in any way please contact me at harrison.rm@comcast.net
- **Thursday June 19th – RES** - Last day of school. 5th grade awards ceremony (9:00am)
- **Tuesday June 10th - RJH – 6pm onwards**. Celebration of Learning. All parents from K through 8 students are invited to come and see all the wonderful goings-on at RJH. The Principal, Chris Pollet, particularly urges the Elementary School parents to come and visit.
