

PTA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2007

Hi everyone,

Welcome to the first newsletter from the PTA for this school year. I hope you all had a wonderful summer vacation! We kicked off our new school year with a fantastic meeting last Tuesday September 11th. The meeting ran a full 1 ½ hours (you all know how I pride myself on keeping them to under one hour!) but it was very productive with a lot of discussion. I will endeavor to give you a brief rundown of the meeting.

We had three funding requests, which the members at the meeting voted on, and agreed to fund.

- ⌚ Phoebe Guanaccia, one of our 5th Grade teachers requested funds for a 3 ½ day Weaving workshop with Sarah Haskell for 5th Graders. REF funded this program last year and it was highly popular. The collaborative weaving focused on Westward Expansion, the time period the students were studying. The Funding request for \$1,200.00 will cover Sarah Haskell's instruction and will tie in this year with the reading of a novel called Lyddie, about a mill girl in Lowell Massachusetts and a field trip to Boott Mill Museum in Lowell Massachusetts.
- ⌚ Katie Jarvis requested the magazine "Voila" for the children studying French. This magazine will be able to be used for all grades (2 through 7). The grant is for \$290.00 for 20 annual subscriptions.
- ⌚ Summer reading book rewards. Susan Detwiler, the Reading Specialist in RES organized the very successful summer reading program this year. Some 50 + children participated in the program. Susan has bought them all a book as a reward for their efforts. The grant totals \$300.00.

One of the suggestions made at the meeting was that people would like more information on how the PTA is spending its funds. I always mention in my monthly newsletter exactly what we have spent our money on. If you would like to see back copies of the newsletter please visit our website at www.ryepta.org. I will also put a notice up on the RES PTA bulletin so please look for that next time you are in the Elementary school.

Another suggestion from a member was that people would like to be able to have a chance to see the fund requests before the meeting. In general, we ask that grants come in a week before the meeting. When this is the case I will post it on our website. I will also post a copy on the RES bulletin board.

MEETING TIMES

Our meetings will be on the second **Tuesday** of every month at either **6pm or 3pm**. We will try and email an Agenda a week before to let you know the time of the meeting for that month. But please visit the PTA website and/or look at the Bulletin board in the RES for times if you have any queries.

MEMBERSHIP GOING GREAT!

Once again we have Jeanne Moynahan looking after our Membership. We currently have around 140 members. We would like to see 100% membership in the schools including all Rye Schools parents, teachers and staff. It is just \$8.00. This gives you a chance to be involved as much or as little as you like. It gives you a chance to vote on how the money is being spent and to have your say at the meetings. Statistics have shown that children do better academically and socially when parents are involved and the PTA gives you a perfect opportunity to do just that!

So. Please if you haven't yet joined go to the PTA website (or the RES bulletin board) and fill out a form and send it in to us.

A few more brief messages.

- ⌚ Lucretia Schafroth is the Boxtops for Education Rep. in the RES and Sue Rhodes is the Rep. in the RJH. Please get your Boxtops in (by depositing in the boxes at RJH and RES) and help us make some money for both schools by merely sending in those coupons.
- ⌚ Dianne Crisp and Melisa Syracuse are Co-Editors of the RES yearbook this year. If you take any photos throughout the year please contact Melisa. They are only accepting digital photos this year – either by email or on a disc.
- ⌚ Christine LeCompte and Cindy Trainer are the organizers of the Genevieve Wrapping paper fundraiser this year. Please take a minute to look at the brochure and put in your order forms by **September 28th**. Christine and Cindy particularly like this company because they support many local businesses.
- ⌚ Julia Madden and Kathy Macalpine will be running the Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser in February for the last time. If you are interested in taking over the Coordinating of this fundraiser please contact me as soon as possible.
- ⌚ Michelle Kroitsch came and gave us an update on those delicious Thanksgiving pies. The order form will come home in the backpacks October. **Tuesday November 13th** is the deadline for getting your orders back to school.
- ⌚ Jules Grant has another great year of all school Enrichment Assemblies. Please go to our website for a list of what we have coming up or take a look at the PTA RES bulletin board.
- ⌚ Suzy Reaney and Lydia Meade are once again doing the Original Artworks fundraiser. If you would like to help with this please contact us at ryepta@comcast.net.
- ⌚ Rebecca Hoag has agreed to Co-ordinate the Father-daughter-someone special dance on **May 17th, 2008**. If you would like to help in any way please contact Rebecca at cbhoag@verizon.net
- ⌚ Christine LeCompte is Co-coordinator for the Mother-son-someone special hike planned for **Sunday, June 1st, 2008**. Please contact Christine if you would like to help with this. [cclcompte@comcast.net](mailto:clecompte@comcast.net)

- ☎ Staff Appreciation Lunch. We will be looking for a Coordinator for this event in May. Please contact me if you are interested in this. harrison.rm@comcast.net

If you have any other fundraising or non-fundraising ideas you would like to share with me please do. I can be contacted at harrison.rm@comcast.net. We are trying to be as inclusive as we can and we welcome everybody's input.

Chris Pollet, our new RJH Principal came to our meeting to give us an update. He very patiently sat through all our planning and then spoke very warmly about the great start to the year they are having in the RJH. We welcome Chris to Rye and will offer him as much support as we can here at the PTA.

Lane Richardson, unfortunately was unable to make the meeting (for the first time ever!). However, she passed on how much she is enjoying her third year at RES with also a great start. We will also be offering as much support to Lane at the PTA.

Michelle Wirth, the new Instrumental and General Music Teacher at RJH came and introduced herself to the PTA members and explained that she would like to find venues where the RJH chorus to do small performances in front of a live audience. If you have any suggestions please contact Michelle at mwirth@sau.org.

Below I have a brief timeline of what we have coming up for 2007-2008. If you see anything that interests you and you would like to become involved in any way please contact me. People often come to me with ideas about fundraisers or communication or simply events from other schools. We are always open to new ideas. harrison.rm@comcast.net.

September – Genevieve wrapping paper fundraiser
 September – After School enrichment in RES
 October/November – Thanksgiving pie fundraiser
 January – After school enrichment RES
 February – Spaghetti dinner fundraiser
 March – Original Artworks fundraiser

May – Father Daughter dance
 May – After school enrichment
 May – Staff Appreciation Lunches in RJH and RES
 June – Mother son hike

September 2007 – June 2008 – Intramural sport RES
 September 2007 – After school enrichment RES
 January 2007 – After school enrichment RES
 May 2007 – After school enrichment RES

Weekly – Updates on RES Bulletin board
 Monthly – newsletters
 Yearly – Preparation for yearbook release
 Yearly – volunteer co-coordinating for various events
 Yearly – all Schools Enrichment Assemblies

Our goals for this year 2007-2008 are continuing to build on the communication we set in motion last year. We are releasing our monthly newsletter, daily updating our PTA website, weekly updating our PTA bulletin board in the RES. We will continue to work closely with the REF to co-ordinate our programs.

We wish to do as much fundraising as necessary to continue to fund the all schools assemblies enrichment, run the after school programs and agree to as many fund requests as we are able to. Our fundraisers are meant to be about community spirit as much as the fund raising. Our Father-daughter dance and Mother-son hike are two ways the PTA would like to 'give back' to the community that supports us so unfailingly.

We welcome new parents to the school and new parents to town. I have only been in Rye for 4 years myself and I know how difficult it can be to find your way. So please don't hesitate to contact me at any time. harrison.rm@comcast.net. Lastly, I would like to deeply thank all the people who are helping me create a strong organization. I think we are off to a great year!

All the best,
Rebecca Harrison
PTA President