

January—May
2020



Harrison Park Elementary School PTO Newsletter

Welcome back from the holiday break!

It's hard to believe that we are now more than half way through this school year. We hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday break and is 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.



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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**Please keep this
newsletter for
reference.**

Spring Fundraiser Information



Our Spring fundraiser this year will be Sarris candies and Pittsburgh Popcorn Company. Information packets have already been distributed to students. Orders and payment will be due on **February 28, 2020**, and payment should be made in the form of a check made out to **Harrison Park Elementary School PTO**. Items sold will be available for pick-up on **April 6, 2020** from **3:00pm—6:00pm**. Even though these are two separate fundraising items, we will be having one combined pick-up for them. Top sellers will be receiving Amazon gift cards. We hope 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, Fun Day, and Family Fun Night.

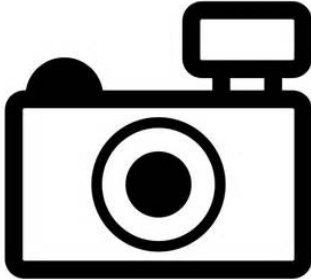
If you have any questions about this fundraiser, please contact Michele Duckworth at (724) 396-5557 or mamaduck320@comcast.net.



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 11th, Tuesday, March 10th, and Tuesday, April 21st (due to Spring Break scheduled)**. 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 generally 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 Thursday, March 5, 2020. If you have any questions, please contact Jen Paterra at jpaterra@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 (412)519-2647 or Bj35aj98@gmail.com.



American Spirit Week and Penny Pride

We will be kicking off this year's American Spirit Week on Friday, February 21, 2020 with a **Red, White, and Blue dress day and a school assembly**. The theme will continue through the week of February 24th—February 28th, 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)
Second Grade Teacher

Valentine's Day Party



The Valentine's Day Party will be held on Friday, February 14th, 2020 from 10:45am—11:45am for AM Kindergarten students and from 2:00pm—3:00pm for PM Kindergarten through 5th Grade students.

Information for the party coordinators and parent volunteers was distributed at our January PTO meeting. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Tracy Harcarik at gdharcarik@comcast.net



Harrison Park PTO Rewards Programs

Our rewards programs are a great and easy way for our school to earn free money to fund various PTO activities or to purchase items for our children to use in the classroom . We hope that all HP families will consider participating in these programs...every little bit counts. Just a reminder of the rewards programs that we currently have in place:

- * **Box Tops for Education—The Box Tops program is still transitioning from the traditional Box Tops clip to the new Box tops label. These new Box Tops will be earned digitally by scanning your receipt using the new app. If you still have traditional Box Tops clips at home, please make sure to send them to school. We will still earn cash for all clipped Box Tops until they expire. Better yet, you can “double dip” during the packaging transition by clipping traditional Box Tops AND scanning your store receipt containing participating products.**
- * **Tyson Project A+ Label Collection—The black labels from Tyson products can be turned in throughout the year. Our school receives 24 cents for each label that we collect.**
- * **Collection of old cell phones, tablets/iPads, laptop computers, and inkjet printer cartridges for recycling. Our school will receive money from the recycling of these items. TONER IS NOT ACCEPTED!**

If you have any questions regarding any of these programs, please contact Jodi Nichols at nicholsejak23@gmail.com.



5th Grade *FAREWELL*

This year's Fifth Grade Farewell celebration will be held on Friday, May 15th, 2020 from 6pm—10pm at Colton Hall in Claridge.

The end of the school year will be here before we know it, so the planning committee has been very busy getting organized and making preparations for this event. If you have a Fifth Grade student, please stay tuned for more information.

If you have any questions, please contact Karen Dreistadt at kdreistadt19@gmail.com.



Save the Date: Crafty Shack Activity

April 7th (A-M) and April 8th (N-Z)

from 3:30pm—4:30pm

The project will be a Ladybug Pot.

Parent volunteers will be needed to help with this event. Please watch Take Home Tuesday for student registration information and also to volunteer.

Please contact Amanda Nichols at alnichols517@yahoo.com or Kristin McLean at klsst100@yahoo.com with any questions that you may have about this event.



S.T.R.E.A.M. Night and Scholastic Book Fair

On **Friday, March 20th from 6:00pm—8:30pm**, we will be hosting our annual family-oriented kick-off to the Spring Book Fair at Harrison Park Elementary. There will be lots of food and fun activities for the entire family, so please be sure to join us.

The Scholastic Book Fair will also be held in the library, 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 to your child's classroom.

The **book fair** will continue during school hours from **Monday, March 23rd — Wednesday, March 25th**. A schedule will be sent home via Take Home Tuesday of when your child's class will attend during this time.

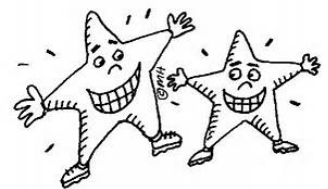
More information on this fun event will be sent home with your child as we get closer to March 20th, but we are in need of many parent volunteers to help make it a success. If you can help out with either activity (S.T.R.E.A.M. Night or the in-school Book Fair), please contact Melissa Renwick at shortyshortcake@msn.com. Thank you for your support!

Start getting your act together for...

Harrison Park's Got Talent

Friday, April 17th, 2020

at Penn Middle School



A mandatory rehearsal will be held on Wednesday, April 15th around 5:00pm (also at Penn Middle School). If you are performing in the show, you must plan to attend.

This event is open to all grades K to 5.

Please contact Susan Grabowski at smgrabowski@aol.com or 724-309-8010 with any questions.



The Harrison Park students had a great time shopping at Santa's Workshop this year.

This is an event that we organize solely for the students to allow them the opportunity to shop for family and friends—the PTO does not make any profits from organizing this event.

We 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.

We are already working on ideas for 2020's event!

MAKE-A-WISH Dodgeball Tournament

This year's Make-A-Wish Dodgeball Tournament will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2020 at Penn Trafford High School from 9am—3pm. In order to participate, all team registration forms must be turned in by Friday, February 21st, 2020. Please ensure that you are sending in the complete team registration with all player waivers and all registration fees together in one package.

We are looking for donations of prize baskets for the Chinese auction that will be held, volunteers for the event, gift card donations, as well as donations for the concession stand. If you can help with donations of these items, please contact Debbie Menzies at deb-biemenzies25@gmail.com or (724) 672-7081. A list of donation items for the concession stand was also sent out in Take Home Tuesday a few weeks ago.

There are a few ways that you can keep up-to-date on Harrison Park PTO events and volunteering opportunities:

- 1) Follow us on our Facebook page at **Harrison Park PTO**.
- 2) Receive information via the Remind app. On your smartphone, open your web browser and go to the following link: rmd.at/8fh8h2 Then follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You can choose to receive text notifications instead by texting "@8fh8h2" to 81010 or you can sign up for emails on a desktop computer by going to rmd.at/8fh8h2
- 3) You can visit our webpage at www.harrisonparkpto.com

Ways to Find Out About PTO Events



This year's Kindergarten Celebration will be held on Wednesday, May 20, 2020. There will be both an AM session and a PM session and will take place during your child's normal class time. To make this a great day to celebrate these students, we will need a lot of parent volunteers to assist us on the day of this event. So, please apply for your required volunteer clearances now, if you do not already have them.

There will be an organizational meeting for this event held following the February PTO meeting (February 11th at 6:30pm). If you are the parent/guardian of a Kindergarten student and would like to learn more about this event and how you can help, please plan to attend this meeting.

If you have any questions about this event, please contact Wendy Fait at wendym214@msn.com or text her at (724) 757-3339.



Harrison Park's annual Fun Day to celebrate the end of the school year will be held on Thursday, May 21st, 2020. We are looking for parent volunteers to serve as Station Captains at this event. If you are interested in helping, please contact Sherra Moors at smoorsagd@gmail.com

Please note that this event requires many, many parent volunteers in order to be successful. Please stay tuned via Take Home Tuesday for parent volunteer forms and t-shirt order forms or attend the next few PTO meetings for more information on how you can help with this event.

AR Movie in the Library

Happy New Year! We're ready for an exciting 2020 at Harrison Park Library. On Friday, April 3rd, students who earned their AR grade-level benchmark will get red-carpet treatment while enjoying a movie in the library.

The grade-level AR benchmarks are:

Grade 2: 50 AR points

Grade 3: 75 AR points

Grades 4-5: 100 AR points

These points are based on the entire school year, not the nine-weeks.

The deadline to reach the AR benchmark for the movie is Friday, March 27th, 2020. Happy reading!

Harrison Park 2019-2020 Yearbook

To make a well-rounded yearbook, we need pictures from events held throughout the year, specifically holiday parties and any grade-level events (field trips, D.A.R.E. graduation, Junk Box Wars, etc.). Pictures can be submitted to

harrisonparkyearbook@gmail.com.

Please note that the yearbook staff reserves the right to not use submitted pictures if blurry or the resolution is too low.

Order forms for this year's yearbook should be coming home soon.

2019—2020 PTO Officers

President:

Jamie Grant

mamagrants225@comcast.net

Vice President:

Renee Ferraro

renee4aro@gmail.com

Secretary:

Karen Dreistadt

kdreistadt19@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Becky Lingenfelter

beckylingenfelter84@gmail.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

Thiago Hickman

Liam Rugh

Mike Denholm

Charlie Spreyne

Nina Padezan

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 20th. Thank you to all who purchased tickets and supported our fundraiser. We were able to raise over \$700 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.



We are in need of parent volunteers to shadow the following PTO events this year, as our current chairpersons will be moving on after this school year is complete:

- Teacher Appreciation Week (usually the first week of May)
- HP's Got Talent (school talent show)
- Spring Pictures
- 4th Grade Track & Field T-shirts

If you are interested in working with the current chairperson in order to learn more about the responsibilities of organizing one of these events, please

contact Jamie Grant at

mamagrants225@comcast.net.

