

August—
December 2017



Harrison Park Elementary School PTO Newsletter

Welcome to Harrison Park!

We want to extend a warm welcome to everyone—all new students, the new kindergarten class, the 5th grade in their final year, new staff members, and everyone in between! We hope that everyone had a fantastic summer, and that we're all ready for a great school year!

As always, the Harrison Park PTO has many great activities planned for the upcoming school year. We hope to see you at all of them. Remember that our success depends on you—the parents and caregivers.



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

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PTO Fall Fundraiser



Information packets and order forms for our main Fall Fundraiser will be distributed to students on **Wednesday, September 13th**. Order forms and payment are due to be returned to school on **Wednesday, September 27th**. Payment should be in the form of a check made payable to **Harrison Park Elementary School PTO**. Fundraiser order pick-up will be held on **Thursday, November 2nd from 3:00pm—6:00pm** in the All Purpose Room. We are hoping that everyone will consider participating in this fundraiser, because it is the PTO's largest fundraiser of the year. This fundraiser helps to fund many of the PTO-sponsored activities that occur throughout the year, such as Helping Hands, Fun Day, Accelerated Reader, Fifth Grade Farewell, and Kindergarten Celebration. If you have any questions regarding the Fall Fundraiser, please contact:

Annette Fontana at fontana103@comcast.net or 724-744-0251 or

Michell Miller at mrbw2003@hotmail.com or 724-980-6746

Please keep this
newsletter for
reference.

There will not be a
new one published
until
January.

A Letter From Your PTO President

As another school year begins, it is time to start thinking about all of the wonderful programs that the PTO organizes and supports throughout the year. These programs help enrich your child's learning experience at Harrison Park, as well as inject a little fun into their school day. I am challenging all of the parents at Harrison Park to become involved in the PTO. It is not only fun and exciting, but it really lets your child know that you are an active participant in his or her learning. There are many ways to volunteer through the PTO, many of which take very little time or effort:

- * **SUPPORT OUR FUNDRAISERS**—The money that we make from the various sales support the programs and activities the PTO plans throughout the year. Keep in mind that fundraisers are not mandatory and parents may pick and choose which ones to support. No one is expected to participate in every sale, but sometimes co-workers and neighbors are happy to support your child's school. Every little bit helps!
- * **SUPPORT OUR VARIOUS REWARDS PROGRAMS**—Box Tops for Education, Tyson's Labels, recycling old electronic devices (cell phones, tablets/iPads, and laptops) and ink jet printer cartridges, and rewards programs through various retailers (i.e. Amazon and Office Depot/Office Max) are a great way to get free money for our school. By simply saving these items and sending them in during the collection drive, our school earns big money for little effort.
- * **ATTEND EVENTS**—Many of the PTO events that occur throughout the year are fun for the whole family. Come check them out!
- * **HAVE FUN**—Volunteer as much as your time permits and enjoy getting to meet other Harrison Park parents. Obtaining the necessary clearances for volunteering is a pretty easy process with zero or minimal costs involved. Information on the necessary clearances can be found on the Harrison Park school website.

We are all here for one goal and that is to improve the education experience of our children. Please come to first PTO meeting of the year on Tuesday, September 12th at 6:30pm. PTO meetings provide a lot of information about what is going on in the school day, as well as special upcoming events. Please attend and help make your child's school the best it can be! As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to e-mail me.

Thank you,
Jamie Grant



Upcoming PTO Meetings

This year's PTO meetings will typically be held the second Tuesday of the month. Upcoming meetings are **Tuesday, September 12th, Tuesday, October 10th, and Tuesday, November, 14th** (tentative date, may need to be changed due to scheduled use of the APR). There are no meetings held during the month of December. 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. Plan to join us for a meeting to find out about this year's PTO events and what is happening at our school.

Upcoming PTO Fundraiser News

Great news! We will again be selling the valuable, family-friendly 2017—2018 KidStuff Coupon Books.! It's easy to use just a few coupons and save more than the \$25 cost of the book. Remember to keep the KidStuff book in your car! We can earn 50% or more profit for every KidStuff book sold! KidStuff books help save hundreds of dollars on clothing,

shoes, toys, books, electronics, sporting goods, activities, food, and more! Most coupons are valid immediately and offer savings through December 31, 2018. Also, your family can earn one FREE book worth \$25 for every 5 books you sell! Look for more information on our 2017-2018 KidStuff

Coupon Book fundraiser via Take Home Tuesday and our Harrison Park PTO website. Any questions regarding this fundraiser should be directed to Annette Fontana at fontana103@comcast.net or 724-744-0251 or Michell Miller at mrbw2003@hotmail.com or (724) 980-6746.

5th Grade

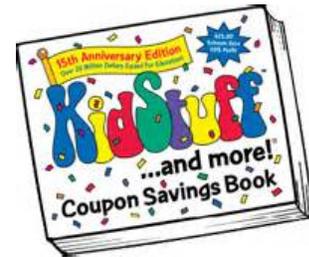
FAREWELL

We are in need of any 5th grade parents interested in volunteering to plan for the Fifth Grade Farewell event held at the end of the school year.

Committee Chairs are:

Angela Bender
Hope Kober
Becky Lingenfelter

A meeting will be held soon to start the planning and organization process for this event.



Open House Bake Sale

Thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated money and items for the sale, and made purchases during this year's HP Open House nights. All proceeds go towards the 4th Grade Track & Field T-Shirts.

(There are a few containers left behind from the baked goods. They can be claimed at the first PTO meeting.)

THANK
YOU

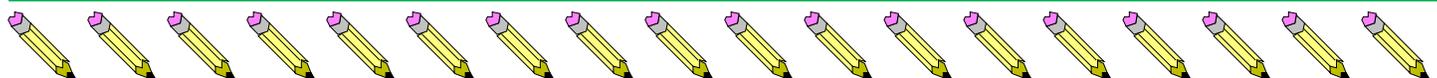
Holiday Party

This year's Holiday Party will be held on **Friday, December 22nd**. Sign up forms for parent volunteers will be coming home via Take Home Tuesday in early October. They **must** be returned by the date listed on the form so that there is enough time to get all of the information organized before the November 14th PTO meeting. At that meeting, the party coordinators will be announced and will be provided with their information packets that will also list the other party parents in the class. Any parents that signed up are encouraged to attend this meeting. This gives the coordinators and party parents enough time to plan and coordinate their classroom's parties. **All parents who sign up to help with a party will be chosen to do so unless necessary clearances cannot be validated.** Additional reminders and more specific dates will be sent out as we get back into gear with the new school year.

Please remember that all volunteers helping with a classroom party **must** be paid PTO members and **must** have the appropriate clearances on file with Mrs. Socrates in the school office. The clearances that you must have on file are the PA Criminal History and Child Abuse Information/Application—Act 34, the Child Abuse History Clearance—Act 151, and the Federal Criminal History Record Application—Act 114. You can find more information about how to obtain your clearances online at http://hp.penntrafford.org/volunteering_in_our_schools. Keep in mind that some clearances may take up to 3 weeks to obtain, so please do not procrastinate if you wish to volunteer. **Any parent wishing to sign-up to help will not be able to do so if the chairperson cannot validate your clearances with the front office. Once obtained, clearances are good for 5 years.**

The Valentine's Day party will be held on Wednesday, February 14, 2018. More information will be coming home with your student closer to that date.

For any questions regarding the classroom parties, please contact Rachel McGrew at rlj0329@aim.com.

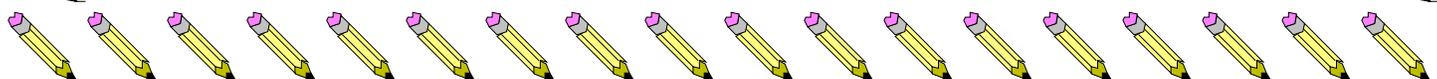


Attention: Kindergarten Families

We are looking for volunteers interested in helping to organize and plan this year's Kindergarten Celebration, which occurs during the last week of school. This is a fun event for our children to recognize the completion of their first year of school.

If you are interested, please contact

Jodi Nichols at Nicholsejak23@gmail.com



PT Homecoming Spirit Week

Friday, October 6th and October 10th —13th

Friday the 6th : Green & Gold Giggle Day
(Wear either GREEN or GOLD, from head-to-toe. We will count to see which color wins.)



Tuesday the 10th: Time Travel Tuesday
(Dress in your favorite time period—70's, 80's, Renaissance, etc.)



Wednesday the 11th: Walt Disney Wednesday
(Dress like your favorite Disney character! Pick a princess, superhero, villain, mouse, or warthog...)



Thursday the 12th: Tacky Thursday
(Wear your tackiest combinations...mismatch your socks & shoes, crazy hair!)



Friday the 13th: Crazy PT Day
(Wear your craziest combination of Green & Gold!!!)





Book It Program Kick-Off for Grades K and 1

The Pizza Hut Book It! Program for all Harrison Park Kindergarten and First Grade students will begin on October 1, 2017 and will run through March 31, 2018. The Book It! Program is a great way to get your child excited about reading and to get younger children into a regular reading routine for when they progress to higher grade levels and participate in the Accelerated Reader Program. We as parents and caregivers need to keep in mind that the minutes read outside of school are what make the difference in setting the stage for our children to read because they want to and not because they have to. The students should receive a reading log from their teacher in the September 26th Take Home Tuesday that will allow them track their reading progress. Completed reading logs will always be due the first school day of the following month. A letter to parents will also be included with this reading log.

If you have any questions after you receive the information letter, please contact

Michele Duckworth at (724) 396-5557 or mamaduck320@comcast.net.

Upcoming PTO Event : Happy Hauntings at Harrison Park

The Harrison Park PTO is in the planning stages for our annual Happy Hauntings Harvest Fest Event, which will be held on Friday, October 27th in the evening. This is a fun-filled event for our Harrison Park families and we hope you will plan to attend. We have some exciting new changes this year (such offering a “Trunk or Treat”) and we hope to have a lot of participation from our families. Children are encouraged to wear their costumes.

In order for this event to be successful, we will parent volunteers for the various activities and donations of various food and beverage items.

More information on this event will be forthcoming.





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. More information on these programs will be coming home with your child throughout the school year.

- * **Box Tops for Education**—for each **Box Top** that is clipped and turned in, our school will receive **10 cents**. Our end-of-year goal this year is to collect **35,000 Box Tops**. **October 27th** is the first collection date for the year. Every classroom that collects **1,000 Box Tops** by that date will win a **“Teacher’s Choice Award”**.
- * **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 Mrs. Kimberly Lloyd at klloyd2571@gmail.com.

**School Picture Day is
September 21st**



Join the Harrison Park PTO

Just a reminder to return this year’s PTO Membership forms to school along with the \$10 membership fee. Please note that you must be a paid PTO member with the appropriate clearances on file in order 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, please contact Christina Jobe at bj35aj98@gmail.com





This year's theme for the Accelerated Reader Program is a Beach/Island theme. We have some new reward incentives planned this year to go along with the chosen theme that we hope will get the kids excited about meeting their goals.

We will provide information on ways to volunteer with the AR Program and how to check your child's progress with a parent letter via Take Home Tuesday, so please watch for these details. Any questions about the AR Program can be directed to the school office or to Dawn Dormire by emailing jdormire@comcast.net or text or call (412) 983-5417. We hope that you had a great summer and that you and your child had time to read a good book!

The Harrison Park AR Team

Harrison Park PTO A Night at the Races

The Harrison Park PTO is currently in the planning and organizing stages to host a Night at the Races Fundraiser Event to be held in early 2018.

Please stay tuned for more details on this event.



A big thank you to all of the parent volunteers who helped out with our Fall Book Fair during our Open House nights and for everyone who supported our PTO and our school by making book purchases during the event.

2017—2018 PTO Officers

President:

Jamie Grant

mamagrant225@comcast.net

Vice President:

Becky Lingenfelter

beckylingenfelter84@gmail.com

Secretary:

Karen Dreistadt

kdreistadt19@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Rachel McGrew

rlj0329@aim.com

If you have information on an event that you would like to share via Facebook or the Remind app, please notify Renee Ferraro at renee4aro@comcast.net.

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!!



Box Top News

October 27th

is the first collection date for the year.

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

Please help us reach this year's goal of 35,000 Box Tops

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