

Merriam PTO N2K (Need to Know)

From the PTO Board: Tina Hamilton, Alycen Nigro, Lisa Sippy, Kavitha Hegde

WEEK OF 9/16/13

Hope your child had a good first full week of school! This newsletter is brought to you by the Communications Team and is meant to give you the latest and greatest news and information from around the organization.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 9/17 Tuesday – Open House Night
- 9/25 Wednesday – School Pictures
- 10/4 Friday – Community Day (Rain Date – October 18)
- 10/14 Monday – No School (Columbus Day)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We are in need of the following volunteers:

Room Parent Volunteers - We are looking for volunteers to serve as room parents for most of the kindergarten, first, third and fifth grade classes. Room parents act as the liaisons between the teachers, the parents and the PTO for a particular class. Duties can include organizing volunteer schedules for in-class assistance, classroom events and Merriam community events. Being a room parent is an excellent way to meet the parents of your child's classmates and to help make parent involvement in the classroom an effective tool for the teachers. If you are interested in becoming a Room Parent for your child's class, please contact Anne Corkery at acorkery@hotmail.com for more information.

Front Office Volunteers - We are in need of additional volunteers for the Merriam School front office. The commitment is a few hours in the morning for one day every other week for about ½ hour. The front office volunteers coordinate the attendance of all students to ensure safe arrival, and prepare reports for changes to students' dismissal routines. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information on this opportunity, email Joanne Mills at jmills@abschools.org.

Friday Mail Team - Come join a group of fun and friendly parents at 8.30 am on Friday mornings to assemble information packets that go home every week. Please contact Karen Brandstein at kmwb1@yahoo.com.

Library Volunteers – We are looking for volunteers to help in the library during your child's class, help with shelving books and organizing bookshelves, help with book repair, covering and processing and help with special projects such as the gift book program.

If you can spare an hour or more either every week or every other week we would love to have your help! Email Joan in the library (jhilton@abschools.org) to volunteer or for more information.

Camp Fair Data Entry Volunteers - Volunteers needed to do data entry at home for Camp Fair. The project will take a total of 3-4 hours, and should be completed by mid-October. If you can help even for one hour, please email Tina Hamilton at tinahamilton_2000@yahoo.com.

OPEN HOUSE NIGHT

Open House Night is Tuesday, September 17. Kindergarten parents should arrive at 6 pm, all others please arrive at 7 pm. We will meet in the cafetorium where Ed will talk about the upcoming school year, the PTO board will review its goals, and you'll meet the teachers. Next, it's off to grade-level presentations, and finally your child(ren)'s classrooms. The night will end at 8:30 pm.

MERRIAM SCHOOL DIRECTORY

The Merriam School Directory is in the works! If you have not yet done so this school year for **each** of your Merriam children, **please** visit PowerSchool to review your information and make any necessary changes.

Here's how (separately for each child):

- 1) **Log in to PowerSchool** at <https://absis.ab.mec.edu/public>. Log in with your child's username and password (you should have received their username/password at your child's last conference.) If you can't find this information, contact Joanne Mills in the Merriam office at 978-264-3371.
- 2) **Click "District/Parent Group Permissions" on the left-hand side.** The lower part of the page, "Parent Group Permissions," will display the answers you provided on the Emergency Contact Information page, and give the option to approve or decline having this information in the Student Directory. **To include each piece of info, make sure the button on the right says "Yes."** To make changes to the information, go to "Emergency Contact Information."
- 3) **Click the "Submit" button** at the bottom to save your changes.

If you have problems or questions or prefer not to use PowerSchool, contact Sarah Lent at sarahlent.home@verizon.net or at (617) 290-7466.

If you are interested in placing an ad in the directory to advertise your business, please contact Brooke Gould at brookcgould@gmail.com.

DIRECT APPEAL

The Merriam PTO has a fundraising goal of **\$90,000** for the 2013-2014 school year. We need to raise \$90,000 to keep our dedicated classroom assistants. Traditionally, we've organized an auction as our main fundraiser. This year, we're going to try something new: a Fall Direct Appeal. **If each family contributes \$250, we'll meet our goal, and if we raise \$40,000, we will not be required to hold the annual Auction.** Stay tuned for the appeal letter which will be emailed and sent home in backpacks mid-September. If you'd like to donate now, you can donate online at www.biddingforgood.com/merriamschool.

IN THE COMMUNITY – OKTOBERFEST RUN

The Oktoberfest 5k Road race will take place on Saturday, October 5 at 10 am. In addition, there will be the 4th Annual Kids Fun Run at 9:00 a.m. Races start at Gates School. A portion of the entrance fee will be donated directly to Merriam (just make sure you pick Merriam as your charity).

Come and run for a good cause!

<http://mwcoc.com/>