

# Merriam PTO N2K (Need to Know)

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

WEEK OF 10/7/13

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

- 10/11 Friday – Scrip Order Slips Go Home
- 10/14 Monday – No School (Columbus Day)
- 10/17 Thursday – Scrip Orders Due
- 10/19 Saturday – Fall Fair 4-7 pm
- 10/23 Monday – School P.E. Night
- 10/25 Friday – Scrip Cards Delivered
- 10/29 Tuesday – Early Dismissal
- 11/5 Tuesday – Professional Day (No School)

## DIRECT APPEAL UPDATE

**ONLY \$7,000 TO GO!**

Thank you to the families who have already donated to the Merriam Direct Appeal. **We are now over \$33,000 towards our first tier goal of \$40,000 and at 35% participation!**

We'd love to see 100% participation, so remember any donation amount is welcome and greatly appreciated! **Our deadline is Friday, October 11.** Please support our efforts with the Direct Appeal and donate now. To donate online, go to [www.merriampto.org/donate](http://www.merriampto.org/donate)

*If you have applied for Corporate Matching, please inform our treasurer at [lisasippy@yahoo.com](mailto:lisasippy@yahoo.com)*

**For those who earned a Merriam blanket with their generous donation, the blankets will be ordered with MerriamWear in late October and available for pick up early November.**

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We are in need of the following volunteers:

### **Fall Fair Volunteers –**

Set Up on Friday, October 18 after 6pm

Sell Tickets at Fair (3 shifts, 2-3 people each) 4-5pm, 5-6pm, and 6-7pm

Concessions at Fair (3 shifts, 4-6 people each) 4-5pm, 5-6pm, and 6-7pm

Clean-Up after Fair (the more the better!) 7pm

Bake Cakes or Cupcakes for the Cake Walk (deliver on Saturday, October 19 after 2pm)

Make Caramel Apples (deliver on Saturday, October 19 after 2pm)

Lead Line Dances (Makarena, Cotton-Eyed Joe, etc)

We are happy to have sixth grade, junior high, high school, and adult volunteers! Please contact Danielle Fredericks at (978) 429-8057 or [daniellefredericks@yahoo.com](mailto:daniellefredericks@yahoo.com).

**Merriam Hospitality Committee Help** - Are you new to Merriam? Do you love to cook or bake? The Merriam Hospitality Committee would appreciate your help. Our first event of the year is coming up on Tuesday Nov 5th. We will host the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon. This is a professional day for our wonderful teachers and it is our way of thanking them for all they do for our kids. If you are able and willing to help out with making a dish or helping with set up or clean up, please email us at [merriamptohospitality@yahoo.com](mailto:merriamptohospitality@yahoo.com). If you are already a member we will be sending an email shortly about this event. Thank you. Ali Stanton and Claire McCarthy.

**Room Parent Volunteers** - We are looking for 2 volunteers to serve as room parents for MaryAnn and Tom's classes and one each for 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](mailto: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](mailto:jmills@abschools.org).

**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](mailto:jhilton@abschools.org)) to volunteer or for more information.

**Camp Fair Publicity Volunteer** – Volunteer needed to help with Camp Fair publicity. This job involves posting flyers and submitting articles to local newspapers. If you can help, please email Tina Hamilton at [tinahamilton\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:tinahamilton_2000@yahoo.com).

## FALL FAIR – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

**The Third Annual Merriam Fall Fair will be held October 19 from 4-7pm in the Parker Damon building.**

Last year's event was so much fun and such a success, we can't wait to do it again! Celebrate fall with a fair that will include dancing, a cake walk, and game booths set up by each class. Feast on BBQ, hot dogs, caramel apples, cotton candy and popcorn! Stay tuned for more from the Fall Fair committee and your class room parents.

## SCRIP ORDERS UPDATE

It's time for the first SCRIP order of the year! SCRIP is a way for you to purchase gift cards to the places you shop and a portion of every purchase goes to our school to support our Teacher's Assistants! Watch for the order sheet coming home in backpack mail THIS FRIDAY! Order forms will also be on the PTO website. Orders are due back to school on Thursday, October 17th and cards will be delivered on Friday, 10/25. Below is the SCRIP schedule for the year so you can plan your shopping. Please help us reach our goal by purchasing SCRIP this year!

### **October 2013 - FALL COACHES AND SHOPPING!**

Order slips go home Friday 10/11/13  
Orders due Thursday, 10/17/13  
Cards delivered Friday: 10/25/13

### **December 2013 - HOLIDAY SHOPPING!**

Order slips go home Wednesday 11/27/13  
Orders due Thursday, 12/5/13  
Cards delivered Friday: 12/13/13

### **May 2014 - END OF YEAR TEACHER GIFTS & GRADS!**

Order slips go home Friday 5/9/14  
Orders due Thursday, 5/15/14  
Cards delivered Friday: 5/23/14

If you have any questions, please contact SCRIP Coordinator, Kristen Koehler at [koehlers4@verizon.net](mailto:koehlers4@verizon.net).

## AB PIP STEM PROGRAM UPDATE

Join us on Thursday, October 10 for our annual Fall Nature Walk, led by Tom Tidman. (See attached flyer). This season's walk will take place at the Acton Arboretum from 2:30-3:30 pm. Children in grades K-6 and parents welcome. Visit <http://actonpip.org/> for more info and to sign up. Sponsored by AB PIP STEM.

AB PIP STEM hosts various enrichment events promoting Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) throughout the year. (See attached info sheet.)

Other upcoming events:

- ~ DiscoverSTEM: November 4, for grades 7-12.
- ~ Science Family Night: November 15, for grades K-8.

Volunteers are always needed to ensure the success of these and other events such as Family Game Night, 3rd and 5th Grade Market Math, and 4th Grade Star Party. Please contact Dewi Win at [actonpip@gmail.com](mailto:actonpip@gmail.com) to see how you can get involved.