

# Merriam PTO N2K (Need to Know)

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WEEK OF 6/9/14

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

- 6/12 Thursday – End of the Year School Picnic
- 6/16 Monday – Sixth Grade Graduation
- 6/18 Wednesday - Last Day of School/6th Grade Handshake

## END OF YEAR SCHOOL PICNIC

Let's celebrate the end of the school year!

**Date: Thursday, June 12**

**Time: 5:30-7:00 p.m.**

**Location: Merriam Back Playground**

Families are invited to gather as a community before the start of the summer in this casual tradition. Please bring a picnic dinner and non-alcoholic beverages for your family and a blanket or chairs to sit on.

This is not a drop-off event. All children must be supervised by an adult.

For questions please contact Alycen Nigro at [alyheels@yahoo.com](mailto:alyheels@yahoo.com)

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR NEXT YEAR

The Merriam PTO would like to thank all of our wonderful volunteers who helped out this year! Planning and implementing the Merriam PTO's numerous activities, events and fundraising endeavors truly takes a team effort. With your help, the Merriam community raised **over \$95,000** to support our wonderful classroom assistants. **Thank you very much!**

### **We are now planning for next year and have some opportunities for volunteers:**

**Fall Fair Team:** We are looking for **two more volunteers** to help plan and run Merriam's 4th Annual Fall Fair. This event is a fun evening of "carnival games", cakewalks and yummy food. We need at least two more people to head up the Concessions and Facilities Coordination. For this event to be a success, we need to have this team in place before the end of the school year.

**Camp Fair Team:** The Acton Camp Fair is our largest fundraising event of the year. All monies raised at this event come from outside of the Merriam Community. We need assistance in several areas including Concessions and on-site Coordinator. This event takes place at the end of January.

**Merriam Yard Sale Coordinator(s):** We need one or two volunteers to organize and coordinate the annual Merriam Yard Sale. This event takes place in conjunction with McCarthy-Towne in the Spring.

**Acton PIP Representatives:** We need two volunteers to attend monthly Acton PIP (Parent Involvement Project) meetings and pass information along to the Merriam community regarding upcoming PIP events (e.g., Family Math Night, Nature Walks, Market Math and Star Party ).

Please help the Merriam PTO continue to support our wonderful classroom assistants. If you (and/or your friends!) are interested in any of the positions above, please contact: Alycen Nigro ([alyheels@yahoo.com](mailto:alyheels@yahoo.com)). We look forward to working with you next year to enrich the Merriam community!

### **DO YOU HAVE 60 SECONDS TO SPARE?**

As the PTO Board plans for next year, we'd appreciate your input! It will take less than a minute to answer just a few questions about Merriam's fundraising strategy. Please go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GSRQSPL> to complete our survey - **your opinion matters!**

### **LOST AND FOUND FAIR, JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup> TO 12<sup>TH</sup>**

All lost and found items will be displayed in front of the multi-purpose room. On June 13th all remaining items will be donated.

### **IN THE COMMUNITY – COMMON CORE INFORMATIONAL SESSION**

**When** : Monday June 16<sup>th</sup>, 7 – 9 p.m.

**Where** : Gates School Cafeteria

#### **Special Guest Speakers are -**

**David McGeney** is currently serving in his 19<sup>th</sup> year as a member of the Peabody School Committee. He is a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees.

**Jamie Gass** is Pioneer Institute's Director of the Center for School Reform. At Pioneer, he

has framed, commissioned, and managed over 60 research papers and numerous policy events on K–12 education reform topics.

**Linda Noonan** is the Executive Director of Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education, where she is responsible for advancing MBAE's mission to ensure a high quality public education.

Representation from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has also been invited to attend. All Massachusetts school-aged children will ultimately be mandated to participate in the newly adopted national Common Core standards and data collection program. Who created this program? Who voted to adopt it? How will it affect Massachusetts teaching standards? Who will be collecting data about my child and why? How much will it cost Massachusetts tax payers? This forum seeks to discuss these questions and many others.