

# Merriam PTO N2K (Need to Know)

From the PTO Board: Amy Yadav, Amanda Ragusa, Shirlee Stein, Claudia Hardy

Week of 9/01/15

Welcome to the first week of school! This newsletter is brought to you by the Merriam PTO. ***Our first version had the Early Release dismissal times incorrectly written as noon, the CORRECT Early Release Dismissal Time is 12:20 pm. Our apologies for any confusion!***

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## Calendar of Events

9/3 Thursday -- Early Release (**12:20 pm**); No School for PM Kindergarten

9/4 - 9/7 Friday- Monday -- No School (Labor Day)

9/8 Tuesday -- School Resumes

9/11 Friday -- School Picnic (5:30-7:00 pm) ; Deadline to submit Name/Statement for School Council Elections

9/14 Monday -- No School (Rosh Hashanah)

9/15 Tuesday -- New Parent Coffee (9:00 am); PTO Meeting #1 (9:45-10:30 am) Topic: Merriam Goals & Information about the PTO

9/17 Thursday -- Early Release (**12:20 pm**); No School for PM Kindergarten

9/18 Friday -- Deadline to update Power School data for Merriam Directory

9/23 Wednesday -- No School (Yom Kippur)

9/29 Tuesday -- Merriam Open House 6 pm (Kindergarten families); 7 pm (Grades 1-6)

## Merriam School Directory

Each fall, the Merriam PTO creates a Student Directory (with class lists) so families can communicate with each other during the year. Each Merriam family will receive one copy of the directory for free. Entries for the Directory come from the information you enter into the PowerSchool Parent Portal so we need to make sure everyone has submitted their current information and updated their permissions for publication. ***This information also allows the school to send our N2K (“Need to Know”) weekly school communication via email to you.*** 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. Information on this process will be coming home in the backpacks between now and the deadline on **Friday, September 18th**.

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: Amy Yadav ([amyadav@gmail.com](mailto:amyadav@gmail.com)). We look forward to working with you next year to enrich the Merriam community.

## Merriam School Council Election

The Merriam PTO is responsible for conducting the School Council Election. There are currently two openings for parent representatives. (Please see attached flyer.) If you are interested in serving a three-year term on the Merriam School Council, please send the following information to Amy Yadav ([amyadav@gmail.com](mailto:amyadav@gmail.com)) or Amanda Ragusa ([amandadragusa@gmail.com](mailto:amandadragusa@gmail.com)) by email or via backpack to school by **Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup>**:

- Your name
- Grade of youngest child
- Phone number and e-mail address
- A short statement about your interest in serving as a parent representative on the Merriam School Council

## Volunteer Opportunities with the Merriam PTO

**Camp Fair Registrations Coordinator** – We are urgently looking for someone to monitor summer camp business registrations for our annual Summer Camp Fair in February. This is one of our largest fundraisers, so we need to secure this position as soon as possible. This position involves updating one letter with current dates/deadlines and monitoring/assisting camps as they register using our online registration system. Our outgoing Coordinator will be available to help make a smooth transition. Please contact Amy Yadav ([amyadav@gmail.com](mailto:amyadav@gmail.com)) for more information.

**Fall Fair Concessions Coordinator** – We are looking for someone to handle the concessions/food orders for Merriam’s 5th Annual Fall Fair. This event is a fun evening of “carnival games”, cakewalks and yummy food. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Christopher Hardy ([chrishardy7@yahoo.com](mailto:chrishardy7@yahoo.com)).

**Front Office Volunteers**—We are in need of additional volunteers for the Merriam School front office. The commitment is for one day every other week for about an 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 Kathleen Zawicki at ([kzawicki@abschools.org](mailto:kzawicki@abschools.org)).

**Friday Mail Team** - Come join a group of fun and friendly parents at approximately 8:30 am on Friday mornings to assemble information packets that go home every week. Please contact Karen Brandstein ([kmwb1@yahoo.com](mailto:kmwb1@yahoo.com)) for more information.

**School Pictures Day Volunteers** – We are looking for volunteers to help the photographers with paperwork on the morning of Wednesday, October 14th. Please contact Amanda Ragusa ([amandadragusa@gmail.com](mailto:amandadragusa@gmail.com)) for more information.

**Room Parent Coordinator** – We need a volunteer to serve as a liaison between the PTO and the Room Parents. Please contact Amy Yadav ([amyadav@gmail.com](mailto:amyadav@gmail.com)) for more information.

**Room Parents** - Becoming a Room Parent can be a great way to get involved with your child's class. It is also a great opportunity for parents that may not be able to volunteer in the classroom, but would like to help out remotely. If interested, or have questions, please contact Amy Yadav ([amyadav@gmail.com](mailto:amyadav@gmail.com)) or your classroom teacher!

**Merriam Yard Sale Coordinator(s)** – We are looking for one or two coordinators to revitalize and organize the annual Merriam Yard Sale held in Spring. Contact Amy Yadav ([amyadav@gmail.com](mailto:amyadav@gmail.com)) for more information.

**Book Fair Team** – We are looking for one or two volunteers to coordinate our annual February Book Fair. Tasks include coordinating book delivery and pick up with the vendor and coordination of volunteers to work at the Fair. Our outgoing coordinator, Zuzka Blasi, will review tasks and time line with the new coordinator to insure a smooth transition. Please contact Amy Yadav ([amyadav@gmail.com](mailto:amyadav@gmail.com)) for more information.

## In the Community

### **Middlesex West Chamber of Commerce Annual Dash 'n Bash**

The Middlesex West Chamber of Commerce Dash 'n Bash 5K road race will be held on **Saturday, September 12, 2015** at 10:45 at NARA Park, 25 Ledge Rock Way, Acton (Rt. 27). This community event that will feature a “**Dash**” 5K run/walk and a “**Bash**” family festival following at 11am-3:00pm. The festival will include music, kid's activities, **Kids' Fun Run** (at 11:45- kids ages 2-8 for \$5 each), concession stand and food samples from area restaurants, plus beer and table top displays of area businesses. There is something for everyone.

Registration for the “Dash” 5K is \$25 pre-registered and \$30 day of registration. You can designate \$5 of each race registration fee back to an area non-profit/ school such as Merriam! When you register click the tab to join the Merriam PTO Team; then register under that team. Prices for the “Bash” adults \$10 and kids (under 12) are free with an adult. “Bash” prices are adults \$10 and kids (under 12) are free with an adult. Come rain or shine!!

For more information on this family –oriented fun packed day visit [www.mwcoc.com](http://www.mwcoc.com) or  
Call [978-263-0010](tel:978-263-0010). NARA Park is located at 25 Ledge Rock Road, N. Acton, MA.