

Merriam PTO N2K (Need to Know)

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

WEEK OF 9/02/13

Hope your child had a good first week. 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

- 9/2 Monday – No School (Labor Day)
- 9/5 Thursday – No School (Rosh Hashanah)
- 9/6 Friday – School Picnic 5:30-7:30 pm
- 9/9 Monday – New Parent Coffee 9:00 am, PTO Meeting #1 9:45-10:30 am (Topic: Intro to PTO)
- 9/17 Tuesday – Open House Night
- 9/25 Wednesday – School Pictures

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We are in need of the following volunteers:

Room Parents: Becoming a Room Parent can be a great way to get involved with your child's class. Please see flyer sent home to learn about typical Room Parent responsibilities. If interested, please contact Tina Hamilton at tinahamilton_2000@yahoo.com.

Merriam Wear Coordinator: We are looking for a coordinator to collect orders using Excel and help with the distribution once the items arrive. For more information, please contact Alycen Nigro at alyheels@yahoo.com.

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 9:15 am on Friday mornings to assemble information packets that go home every week. Please contact Karen Brandstein at kmwb1@yahoo.com.

School Pictures Day Volunteers – We are looking for 5 volunteers to help the photographers with paperwork on September 25th morning. Please contact Alycen Nigro at alyheels@yahoo.com for more information.

PIP Coordinator – We are looking for 2 coordinators to attend monthly Parent Involvement Project (PIP) meetings, alternating morning and evening, and serve as Merriam point person for PIP events and communications. For more about PIP, visit <http://actonpip.org/>

School Committee Representative – We are looking for 2 representatives need to attend 10 School Committee meetings each year and report back to the Merriam Community.

SCHOOL PICNIC

Come celebrate the start of the school year on Friday, September 6 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm in the playground behind the school! *Please bring a blanket or chairs, a picnic dinner and non-alcoholic beverages for your family.*

(This is not a drop off event – all children must be supervised.) For more information, contact Tina Hamilton at tinahamilton_2000@yahoo.com.

NEW PARENT COFFEE & PTO MEETING

Ed will welcome new parents with a coffee on Monday, September 9 at 9 am. We'll meet in the first floor conference room, and will answer any questions you have about Merriam.

Immediately following New Parent Coffee, all parents are invited to join us for the first PTO meeting at 9.45 in the school conference room. The Merriam PTO is made up of all parents and guardians of Merriam School, as well as teachers and staff. PTO meetings generally include PTO business by the PTO board, grade level reports by teacher representatives and a topic for discussion. The topic for this meeting will be a PTO overview and a review of the 2013-2014 budget and calendar.

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.

SCHOOL HOURS, PHONE NUMBERS & BUS ROUTES

For information about all school hours and important phone numbers:

<http://www.ab.mec.edu/about/aboutpdf/SchoolsOpen.pdf>

For information about the bus schedules:

<http://ab.mec.edu/departments/deptspdf/aps-early-routes.pdf>

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. 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. Simply click on the "Donate Cash" link on the left-hand side. Your donation is tax-deductible and may even be eligible for matching by your company.

IN THE COMMUNITY – TRACK RENOVATION PROJECT

Both RJ Grey and ABRHS offer Cross-Country and Spring Track as no-cut sports, with 300 RJ Grey students and 200 ABRHS students participating in Track & Field each spring. The A-B track & field facilities at Leary Field (20 years old) are in a seriously dilapidated state, with the potential of causing injuries through normal use. A group of Acton-Boxborough citizens

has formed the Track Renovation Project Committee, whose goal is to complete a renovated track project by spring 2014. It has already raised approximately \$500,000, which includes \$150,000 from the AB School Committee. An additional \$100,000 is required to complete the project.

The Track Renovation Project Committee is raising funds through The Friends of Leary Field, Inc., a charity organization whose mission is to improve the athletic facilities on the ABRSD campus. Your tax-deductible contribution will be used exclusively to improve the track & field facilities. In order to donate via check, please donate as follows:

Pay to: Friends of Leary Field, Inc.,

Memo: DOW TRACK FUND 2013

Mail to Address:

Tim Kelly

FOLF Track Fund 2013

5 Wheeler Lane, Acton MA 01720

In order to donate via PayPal, please use the following email:

folf...@comcast.net (Please write DOW TRACK FUND 2013 in the comments field)

For more information, go to www.facebook.com/ABTrackProject