

# Merriam PTO N2K (Need to Know)

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

WEEK OF 9/30/13

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

- 10/4 Friday – Community Day (Rain Date – October 18)
- 10/14 Monday – No School (Columbus Day)
- 10/19 Saturday – Fall Fair 4-7 pm
- 10/29 Tuesday – Early Dismissal
- 11/5 Tuesday – Professional Day (No School)

## DIRECT APPEAL UPDATE

Thanks to all who have donated so far - we've already raised \$13,500! Please check your child's backpack for the Direct Appeal letter that went home in Friday mail. There is an important FAQ on the back of the letter which should answer any questions you may have and explain in more detail why the PTO decided to hold the appeal this year.

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)*

## 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](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).

**ABRSD Superintendent Search Committee** - Our School Superintendent, Dr. Mills, recently announced his retirement at the end of this school year. The School Committee has begun the process to find a new Superintendent and is looking for a few volunteers for the Search Committee. The Transitional School Committee has decided that the make up of the **ABRSD Superintendent Search Committee** will include:

- 1 Central Office member
- 3 School Committee members
- 1 Elementary Principal
- 1 Regional Principal
- 3 Teachers: 1 Region, 1 Blanchard, 1 Acton Public
- 3 Parents: 1 Region, 1 Blanchard, 1 Acton Public
- 2 Community members (one from each town)

If you are interested in serving on this Committee, please email a **brief statement** describing your background and why you would like to participate to one of the following:

- Maria Neyland, AB Regional School Committee Chair at [mneyland@abschools.org](mailto:mneyland@abschools.org)
- Dennis Bruce, Acton Public School Committee Chair at [dbruce@abschools.org](mailto:dbruce@abschools.org)
- Brigid Bieber, Boxborough School Committee Chair at [bbieber@abschools.org](mailto:bbieber@abschools.org)

This important commitment will require a significant number of late afternoon/evening meetings from late October through February. **Emails must be received by noon on October 1st.**

**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.

## **SCHOOL COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The School Committee is beginning a once-monthly regionalization update for our communities; you will find September's update attached. These monthly updates will also be posted at [ab.mec.edu](http://ab.mec.edu).

### **AB regional School Committee (ABRSC) Meeting Thursday , Oct 3 at 7:30pm RJ Grey Library**

With our district transitioning to a Fully regionalized school system, there are a lot of decisions that will be made over the current year. Please pay close attention to SC agendas to understand what topics are of interest to you. Decisions will be made. Please be involved if you feel strongly about the outcome of a topic. You can stay informed by watching SC meetings on ActonTV. org (<http://actontv.org/on-demand/government> ) live or recorded, or going to the meeting and having your voices be heard. This Thursday, the ABRSC meeting has the following agenda items:

1. Track renovation project update
2. Safety Task Force update: changes to HS, JH and Elementary Schools
3. New Superintendent Search Update
4. New Blanchard Principal Update
5. School Calendar Discussion (Vote to occur 11/7 meeting, but this meeting is for input before proposal and vote)
6. 2013-2014 Regional Transportation Report - one tier / two tier elementary school start time
7. Regionalization Transition Update
8. 2013-2014 School Improvement Plans for JH and HS

For specific times, please go to <http://ab.mec.edu/about/meetings.shtml> for times (these times are estimated) the topic will be brought up and background information on the topic as well. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting if you can.

Deanne O'Sullivan

APSC / ABRSC PTO Liaison

## **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/>