

# Merriam PTO N2K (Need to Know)

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

WEEK OF 3/3/14

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.

## CONTENTS

Calendar of Events.....	.....
Willow Books Night, March 5th .....	.....
Muffins w Mom/Donuts w Dad and PTO Meeting, March 24 .....	.....
Regionalization Updates for January/February .....	.....
Book Drive, March 3 - 14 .....	.....
In the Community – Musical and Ballet.....	.....

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 3/5 Wednesday – Willow Books Night
- 3/4 to 3/9 – National Literacy Week
- 3/11 Tuesday – School Council Meeting
- 3/24 Monday – Muffins w Mom/Donuts w Dad (7:45-8:15 am)/PTO Meeting #4 (8:15-9:00 am)

## WILLOW BOOKS NIGHT, MARCH 5TH

Cultural Enrichment at Merriam brings extra-curricular arts and science-based programs that enhance and enrich our children's education. Support this worthwhile endeavor by coming to our annual fundraiser: **Willow Books Night** on Wednesday, March 5, 2014 from 6-8 p.m.. During the evening, several of our wonderful teachers will read their favorite books at **Willow Books, 279 Great Road in Acton**. Willow Books will generously donate 15% of all book sales from this evening's fundraiser to the Merriam School Cultural Enrichment fund.

**Volunteers Needed** - Parent volunteers are needed for the Willow Books Night on Wednesday, March 5 from 6pm to 8pm. Help is needed with settling in children, keeping track of time for the teachers who are reading, announcing to parents and children that a reading is about to begin and ensuring that children get up quickly and quietly once a reading is done. Time commitment can be as short as 15 minutes. Please contact **Varsha Deokar** at [vdeokar2013@gmail.com](mailto:vdeokar2013@gmail.com) or 978/266-0339 for more information.

- 6:00 - 6:15 Kindergarten (Myrna and Lee)
- 6:20 - 6:35 1st Grade (Fran and Alyson)
- 6:40 - 6:55 2nd Grade (Karen and Linda)
- 7:00 - 7:15 3rd Grade / 4th Grade (Melissa 3 and Ann 4)

7:20 - 7:35 Specials (Ann Kress - Art)

## MUFFINS W MOM/DONUTS W DAD AND PTO MEETING, MARCH 24

Join us on Monday, March 24 at 7:45 a.m. for one of our favorite social events, Muffins with Mom/Donuts with Dad, followed by our 4th PTO meeting of the year. At the meeting, we'll be showing a wonderful video made in 1993-94 that shows what school was like in those days. Following the video, we'll have an opportunity to discuss Merriam, then and now.

## REGIONALIZATION UPDATES FOR JANUARY/FEBRUARY

The 2013-14 school year continues as what the School Committees in both Acton and Boxborough are calling a "transitional year," a year in which all the planning related to expanding our school district to include both Acton and Boxborough from Pre-K through grade 12 is underway. Here, we continue updates of the issues being addressed that relate to this transition. Please take a look at the document attached for more details. If you have any comments or concerns regarding this update, please contact Kristina Rychlik at [krychlik@abschools.org](mailto:krychlik@abschools.org).

## BOOK DRIVE, MARCH 3 - 14

### Book Drive to Benefit

### More Than Words Used Bookstore & Café in Waltham

*Clear Your Shelves and Help Youth Transform Their Lives!*

More Than Words is a non-profit business entirely run by youth who are in the foster care system, court involved, homeless, or out-of-school. This retail and online business provides them with real-life work experience, valuable skills and self-confidence as they transition to adulthood.

**When?** Monday, March 3 – Friday, March 14

**Where?** Look for bins outside the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms: Vanessa's, Tom's and Tasha's.

**What can you Donate?** Gently-used Paperback or Hardcover books, Fiction or Non-Fiction, any genre, plus CDs, DVDs, BluRay Discs & Video Games in original cases.

**What is NOT accepted?** Please NO magazines or other periodicals, encyclopedias, damaged/moldy books, reference books or textbooks that are more than 2 years old, VHS tapes, cassettes.

**Questions?** Or if you have a large number of books that you need picked up, please contact Orissa Lawrence, [orissalawrence@yahoo.com](mailto:orissalawrence@yahoo.com).

For more information on the More Than Words Bookstore visit [mtwyouth.org](http://mtwyouth.org).

## IN THE COMMUNITY – MUSICAL AND BALLET

**Willy Wonka Jr** - R.J. Grey's 2014 musical, "Willy Wonka Jr.," conjures up a "world of pure imagination" based on the Roald Dahl classic, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Over 100 R.J. Grey students make up the cast and crew of this production, which will run for two

weekends in March. Evening shows are at 7 p.m. on March 7, 8, 14, and 15, and matinées are at 2 p.m. on March 8, 9, and 15. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the Junior High Office; Donelan's; Red, White, and Brew; or at the door. You won't want to miss it!

**Commonwealth Ballet presents – The Secret Garden on March 22-23** - Commonwealth Ballet invites you to peek behind the stone wall and enter into a world of wonder and delight in The Secret Garden. Don't miss this opportunity to experience the heart-warming children's classic as performed by the renowned dancers of Commonwealth Ballet. Please see the attached flyer for more information on this.