

Merriam PTO N2K (Need to Know)

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

WEEK OF 3/17/14

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

- 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)
- 4/8 Tuesday – School Council Meeting 6:00-7:30 pm
- 4/9 Wednesday – Math Games Night by Merriam Faculty and Staff
- 4/18 Friday – No School (Good Friday)
- 4/21 to 4/25 – Spring Recess – No School

3 CAMPS LEFT TO BE SOLD!

Three camps remain to be sold from the Camp Auction. They are:

- *One Stop Fun - Value: \$100, Price: \$50
- *Camp Cody - Value: \$3050, Price: \$1700
- *College Apprentice - Value: \$1750, Price: \$500

For more information, and if you'd like to buy one of these camps at a great discount, please contact Tina Hamilton at tinahamilton_2000@yahoo.com.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND...MERRIAM STAFF AWESOME ADVENTURES!

The generous Merriam Staff wants to demonstrate their support of Merriam's wonderful

classroom assistants by offering events and activities for auction. Some of these fabulous items include:

Mega Castleball game with Mary O'Brien

Breakfast with Karen Sonner

Flashlight Tag with Tom Sidley and Colm McDermott

Lunch and creative fun with Kristen Indge and Linda McMullon

Principal for the Day

And many other fun activities!

All of these items are priceless opportunities for students and staff to create community within Merriam. As there is no live auction this year, these items will be available to the entire Merriam community through an online auction on Bidding for Good (www.biddingforgood.com/merriamschool) running from Friday, March 21st (5 PM) to Friday, March 28th (8 PM). Be on the lookout for more information coming home in the backpacks in the next few weeks. The PTO would like to give a huge thanks to the Merriam Staff. You are all amazing with all that you do for the school. We truly appreciate your dedication and willingness to show your support for the Merriam Community. Happy bidding everyone!

MUFFINS W MOM/DONUTS W DAD AND PTO MEETING PRESENTATION WITH DR. MILLS, 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 having a presentation from our **Superintendent**, Dr. Mills on "state of the district" on a very important topic – "**School Budget**". Following the presentation, we'll have an opportunity to discuss any concerns with him. We are looking forward to seeing many of you there!

SCHOOL BUDGET INFORMATION

Last month, the Acton Leadership Group, Leadership Group, or ALG, (comprised of 2 members of the Board of Selectmen, 2 members of the Finance Committee, 2 members of the School Committee, the Town Manager, the Superintendent of Schools and the Finance Directors for the Town and Schools) came to consensus on the town and school budgets, the use of reserves and tax relief for the citizens of Acton.

On Tuesday, March 11th, the Acton Finance Committee (FinCom) voted 6-3 to recommend the proposed school budget and assessment for next year. The Acton Board of Selectmen has deferred a vote on the school budget as of this writing.

More details on the school budget and related issues can be found at <http://ab.mec.edu>

Check the upper left corner of the site under 'FY '15 Budget Information' for updates.

Meanwhile, please **SAVE THE DATE(S)** for Acton Town Meeting, as the school budget needs to pass a vote at that meeting in order to be implemented.

Acton Town Meeting begins Monday, April 7th at 7:00 p.m. in the ABRHS Auditorium,

and may continue for one or more consecutive evenings.

Only registered voters are permitted to vote. However, anyone may attend and observe the meetings.

LOST & FOUND FAIR – MARCH 10TH – 21ST

Is your child missing a jacket, sweatshirt or boots? If so, please stop by the lost and found fair to find your missing items. All items will be on display outside the multi-purpose room. At the end of the two week fair all left over items will be donated.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Acton Candidates Night - Voter services is at the heart of our League mission. Come **meet the candidates** who are stepping up to serve in Acton in key positions with the Board of Selectmen, Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee, Acton Memorial Library Trustees and Acton Water District tomorrow night, **Monday, March 17 at 7:30 p.m.** at Acton Town Hall. There are no contested races this year, but some great new candidates running and some familiar faces stepping up for new challenges.

LWVUS Agricultural Update Consensus - Our neighbors at the LWV Concord-Carlisle have invited us to join with them for their consensus meetings on the LWVUS agricultural update. They will hold two sessions (members are welcome to join either session) on **Wednesday, March 19, 2014**. A **morning** meeting will be held in Carlisle from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. (home of Cindy Nock, 41 Canterbury Court), and an **evening** meeting will take place in Concord from 7-9:30 p.m. (home of Erin Pastuszewski, 89 Crescent Street).

Our Steering Committee agreed that this was the most effective way to make this opportunity available to our members, and to share our work and perspectives with the work that the Concord-Carlisle League. We will discuss the consensus at our April Steering Committee meeting and then submit after that.

The LWVMA website has some helpful links to the materials that have been assembled by the LWVUS. Locate the "Toolkits for Members" page, or click on the link: <http://lwvma.org/member-resources/toolkits-for-members/lwvus-agriculture-update-toolkit/>.

Acton Water District Annual Meeting - The Acton Water District holds its annual meeting on Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. at Acton Memorial Library. Warrants were mailed to each household or can be located on the Water District website - www.actonwater.com. The warrant includes 13 articles that support the work of the Water District. All Acton voters are invited to attend and vote on these important issues.

Fresh Air Fund Host Families Needed This Summer - Do you want to celebrate summer differently this year? The Fresh Air Fund Program, a not-for-profit agency, is currently looking for volunteer host families to open their home and give New York City children an experience they will never forget. It's simple, all it takes is room in your home and room in your heart. You can request a boy or girl, the age range of the child and your trip dates. This summer the Acton trip dates are July 23-August 1 but there are many local trip dates to choose from, all ranging from 1-2 weeks.

Please consider joining other Merriam families who have opened their home and have helped create lifelong memories. For more information, please contact Lisa Sajedi at 978-760-0006 or LisaSajedi@yahoo.com, Ginny Kremer at 978-263-1599 or Mimi Gleason at 978-897-

9993.