

Merriam PTO N2K (Need to Know)

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

WEEK OF 9/28/15

This newsletter is brought to you by the Merriam PTO.

WEEK IN REVIEW

The Merriam PTO is pleased to announce the re-election of School Council member **Cara Morgan** for her second term along with our new School Council members, **Christine Brown**, **Tushar Katarki** and **Lara Plaskon**. These four members will join continuing School Council member **Chuck Pollack** to create a well rounded School Council team.

CONTENTS

Week in Review	1
Calendar of Events	1
Subscribe to School Committee News and Updates	2
Fall Fair is Around the Corner	2
The Merriam Spring Auction is Back!	2
Volunteer Opportunities with the Merriam PTO	3
In the Community	3

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 9/29 Tuesday -- Merriam Open House 6 pm (Kindergarten families); 7 pm (Grades 1-6)
- 10/1 Thursday— Early Release (12:20 pm); No School for PM Kindergarten
- 10/1 Thursday -- ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE (ABRSC) MEETING
- 10/2 Friday—Community Day!
- 10/12 Monday—No School (Columbus Day)
- 10/15 Thursday-- Early Release (12:20 pm); No School for PM Kindergarten
- 10/14 Wednesday—Picture Day
- 10/17 Saturday—Merriam Fall Fair
- 10/22 Thursday— Early Release For Conferences(12:20 pm); No School for PM Kindergarten
- 10/29 Thursday-- Early Release For Conferences (12:20 pm); No School for PM Kindergarten
- 10/30 Friday—Elementary School Halloween Party Hosted by AB High School fundraising for UNICEF / Girl-Up ,from 5-8 pm at ABRHS.

SUBSCRIBE TO SCHOOL COMMITTEE NEWS AND UPDATES

Stay on top of the larger issues that face Acton-Boxborough schools. The Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee is elected by the voters to oversee the education of the children of Acton and Boxborough.

Typically, the committee meets once a month on Thursdays to review programs and procedures, establish goals for the school system, and develop and monitor the budget. If you are interested in getting up-to-date information and the latest SC Agenda automatically emailed to you, please go to <http://www.abschools.org/school-committee> and click on the "Subscribe Now to Stay In Touch" envelope icon. Many important decisions are made at these SC meetings, so your participation is encouraged!

FALL FAIR IS AROUND THE CORNER

Fall Fair--Merriam's popular Fall Fair is just around the corner! Booth games, prizes, food, cakewalk, and fun for the whole family! In order to make Merriam's 5th Annual Fall Fair a success, each classroom is responsible for creating a booth for their class. Rhonda Belka (rhondabelka@gmail.com) will be contacting Room Parents to facilitate the Booth planning process. Please contact your class Room Parent(s) for more information on how you can help: volunteer some time at your class booth during the Fair and/or sign up for a task on our VolunteerSpot sign up listing!**

**Please see attached Flyer with details.

THE MERRIAM SPRING AUCTION IS BACK!

This year, the Merriam Spring Auction will replace the Fall Appeal as the Merriam Community's largest fundraiser. The planning committee is forming now and we are looking for volunteers to help coordinate in the two areas listed below:

Classroom Art Project (2—3 people) – At past auctions, some of the most popular items have been the classroom art projects. These works of art are unique to each class and include a piece made by each Merriam student. We already have one volunteer to help coordinate this fun but we need at least one more person (two would be even better!) to help. We are looking for people to work together to design and produce (with the help of the kids and parents) an Art Project for each grade. If you have artistic talent and/or are great at organization, we would love to have your help on this fun part of the auction.

Merriam School Video/iMovie (1—2 People) – During the Auction, one of the highlights is the premiere of the "Year at Merriam" photo montage. We need a couple of people who have the creative and technical skills to put this film/presentation together; can coordinate with Merriam Teachers, staff and parents to get needed photographs; and, if needed, take additional photos of students, staff and events during the school year.

Please see the attached flyer for more details. If you are able to help out with the spring auction, please contact Alycen Nigro (alyheels@yahoo.com). We promise it will be a lot of fun!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE MERRIAM PTO

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).

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

Camp Fair Team Coordinator-- The Acton Camp Fair takes place in January; all monies raised at this event come from outside of the Merriam Community. Right now we have a team of volunteers, but we are *in desperate need* of someone to coordinate this wonderful group of volunteers. This is a straight-forward event that does not require too much "out-of-the-box" thinking. If interested, or would like more information, please contact Amy Yadav (amyadav@gmail.com). Your help is so appreciated.

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) 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) for more information.

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). We look forward to working with you to enrich the Merriam community.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Acton Area Activities Expo –September 28th, from 6:00pm-8:00pm

**Please see attached Flyer with details.

ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE (ABRSC) MEETING -- October 1th. R.J. Grey Junior High School 7:00 p.m.

Acton Lions Club Community Day Event-October 4th, from 9:00 am- 3:30 pm.

Destination Imagination Parent Information Meeting- October 7th, from 6:00pm-9:00pm

****Please see attached Flyer with details.**

Halloween Party for Elementary School Aged Children put on by AB High School as a UNICEF / Girl-Up Fundraiser-- Friday, October 30th from 5-8 pm at ABRHS.

More details coming soon!