

March/April 2017 Newsletter

Northfield Elementary School PTO

"Enriching the educational experience for the school community."

Happy Spring! The weather is turning warmer, the snow has melted and the flowers have started to bloom.

The annual Spring Carnival and Fun Run will be held on Saturday, May 13th and planning has already begun! Watch for more information being posted soon about some exciting changes to this year's event. This event will only be successful with help from many volunteers. If you would like to be part of the planning committee, please email the PTO at northfieldelementarypto@gmail.com. Help is always needed and greatly appreciated! Come to a meeting, or check the PTO website or Facebook page for information about all PTO events!



TREASURER & SECRETARY

NEEDED The current PTO Treasurer, 4th Grade Teacher Nolan Kitfield, will be completing her

fourth year (second term) as Treasurer at the end of this school year. Carolyn Baskowski (also a 4th Grade Teacher) will be finishing her second year (first term) as Secretary at the end of this school year. The PTO would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to Nolan and Carolyn for all of their help and dedication to the PTO. **The PTO is looking for a new Treasurer and Secretary beginning next school year.** Nominations will take place at the April PTO meeting and voting will occur at the May PTO meeting. Each position would be for one term (2 years) and requires attendance at the monthly PTO meetings. The Treasurer prepares the monthly budget reports and keeps track of all finances for the PTO while the Secretary takes minutes at the monthly meetings. Each positions requires about 3-4 hours of commitment per month. If you are interested in learning more about either one of these volunteer opportunities, please email northfieldelementarypto@gmail.com, or call/text Co-Chair Cheryl George, 413-522-0576. Thank you in advance for your consideration!



GOOD NEWS!! THE NES PTO CAN NOW ACCEPT DEBIT AND CREDIT CARDS AT EVENTS AND FOR FUNDRAISERS!

Contact the PTO - northfieldelementarypto@gmail.com
Visit our website - www.nespto.org
Like us on Facebook - Northfield Elementary PTO



Upcoming Events

April 17th – 21st

School Vacation

May 3rd

PTO Meeting, 6:30pm, NES Library

May 1st – 5th

Teacher & Staff
Appreciation Week

May 13th

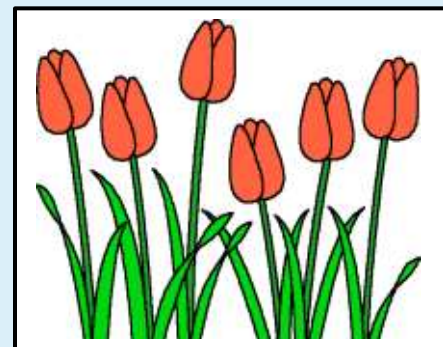
Spring Carnival & Fun Run
9:00am, NES Playground

June 3rd

Community Tag Sale, 8am-1pm

June 24th

Swing for the Kids Golf Tournament
Northfield Golf Club





State of Our Town Spaghetti Dinner

On Saturday, April 8th, the NES Gym was filled with 120+ people that attended the First Annual State of Our Town Spaghetti Dinner. People enjoyed a yummy spaghetti and meatball dinner that included salad, garlic bread, dessert and beverages. After dinner, the presentation began that included 27 different groups sharing what they do and what their place is in the community. The evening concluded with Thomas Aquinas College President Michael McLean speaking about the college's plans for the old NMH campus. To see

the program of presenters, please visit the PTO website, www.nespto.org. It was a wonderful and informative night that would not have been possible without the help from many volunteers. Co-Chairs Cheryl George and Breinn Robert organized this event which included planning, set-up, cooking and overseeing during and after this event. Thank you to Missy Kalinowski, Kelly Gagnon, Robin McKeon, Jennifer Chabott, and the Northfield Junior Firefighters (Tyler, Aiden, Dakota & Patrick), for all of your help during this event. Thank you to Cheryl, Breinn, Missy, Kelly, Jennifer and Ruth Davidson for staying late after this event to help clean-up. And thank you to Cheryl, Breinn, Robin and Ruth for coming back on Sunday to finish with the clean-up. The PTO has received a lot of positive feedback about this event and is grateful that the idea for this event was so well received by the community. This will become an annual event that will take place every April and we look forward to next year!

Family Bingo Night Report



On Friday, March 10th, the gym was full of excitement as families played Bingo! There were many winners and a lot of fun was had by all! Thank you to the volunteers that helped run this event and to everyone that donated prizes and baked goods. Thank you also to the guest Bingo callers! And a huge THANK YOU to everyone that came out and supported the PTO at this fun event. You helped raise \$800 for the PTO!

4th Grade Wins Winter Box Tops Contest!

New prizes for Spring Box Tops Contest!

Congratulations 4th Grade...you have won an extra recess! The Spring Box Tops Contest has begun and will run through the end of May. With this contest comes some exciting changes! The winners of the

Spring Contest will get to choose their prize (from a list of possible choices). Also, the grade that has the neatest trimmed Box Tops will earn 25 BONUS Box Tops! Please remember, Box Tops do expire and the expired Box Tops cannot be redeemed. You can help raise even more for NES when you download the new **Box Tops Bonus App** to discover brands and retailers offering Bonus Box Tops. (You can find it in the App store and Google Play). Any questions or suggestions, please contact the Box Tops Coordinator, Missy Kalinowski (marleysage@comcast.net)

Pre-K	0
K	115
1	127
2	155
3	164
4	318
5	145
6	0
TOTAL	1,024



Fundraising Goal - \$15,000 / Currently Raised - \$12,400

The PTO has been very successful with fundraisers and events this year!

Many thanks to everyone that has supported the PTO!

A great school requires great support! Because of the decline in educational funding, the Teachers and Staff at Northfield Elementary School depend on supplemental funds from the PTO to help them attain their academic goals and to enrich the educational programs offered to our children. The NES PTO depends on the strong financial commitment and dedication of parents, families, friends and members of the community. With your support, we can ensure our school continues to thrive and excel, and that our children receive an amazing and well-rounded academic and social experience. For more information on exactly what the PTO funds, please visit the PTO website www.nespto.org. Thank you in advance for supporting the fundraisers and events to help the PTO reach this fundraising goal.



Fire Pond Musical Performance

On Friday, February 17th, the children of NES had the opportunity to watch the musical duo Fire Pond featuring Eveline MacDougall and Douglas Reid (both Northfield residents). They presented a wide variety of music during their 45 minute performance for the entire school. Eveline sang and played violin, viola, and accordion while Douglas sang and played guitar and banjo. The students were entertained with a variety of songs including the popular "This little light of mine", "I've been working on the railroad" and "On top of spaghetti" in addition to some original songs written by the duo. It was a fun and entertaining concert!

This program was supported in part by a grant from the Northfield Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



Hanging Flower Baskets Fundraiser

The NES PTO is selling beautiful 10" Hanging Flower Baskets from Five Acre Farm for \$20 each. ****THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO PLACE YOUR ORDER****

1. Fill out the form below and return to school with cash or check (payable to NES PTO)
2. Email your order to the PTO (northfieldelementarypto@gmail.com) and pay at pick up with cash, check OR your DEBIT/CREDIT CARD

All Orders Due by Friday, April 28th

Pick up flowers at school on Friday, May 12th, 12:00pm – 6:00pm

For color pictures of the plants offered, please visit the PTO website www.nespto.org

PLEASE NOTE: Five Acre Farm cannot guarantee a choice of flower color for certain plants.

An assortment of colors will be delivered and you may choose from the colors that are available at the time of pick up. Questions? Please email northfieldelementarypto@gmail.com or call/text 413-522-0576. Thank you for supporting the NES PTO!



Spring Carnival & Fun Run – Saturday, May 13th – 9am-2pm

The Planning Committee for the Spring Carnival & Fun Run has met twice and has some exciting ideas for this year's event! The Planning Committee took into account feedback from last year's event and decided to make some changes to this year's Carnival. The Planning Committee will choose the games that will be available and anyone can volunteer to run that game (each grade will NOT be asked to create a game and run that game). There will be a choice for the kids (and parents) to either play the games for free or participate in a "Quest" to win a prize and be entered into a

raffle (\$5 charge). There will also be upgrades and additions to the food tent including vegetarian options and ice cream. More information about the Spring Carnival & Fun Run will be coming home soon and also posted on the PTO website, www.nespto.org. Help to run this event is always needed and greatly appreciated! If you have an idea or suggestion for this year's Spring Carnival & Fun Run, please attend the next committee meeting or email the PTO, northfieldelementarypto@gmail.com.

****LOOKING FOR A NEW FUN RUN COORDINATOR**** Robin McKeon has been the Coordinator of the Fun Run for the past 8 years along with her husband Terry, and with help from many volunteers. A HUGE THANK YOU to Robin and her Team for all of your hard work and dedication over the years, in creating a super fun event that the kids look forward to every year. Robin and Terry's daughter is currently in 5th grade and therefore, Robin only has this year and next as the Fun Run Coordinator. The PTO is looking for one or two people who could work with Robin to learn about this event and eventually take over as the Coordinator(s). If you are interested in learning more about this wonderful volunteer opportunity, please email northfieldelementarypto@gmail.com. *Thank you in advance for your consideration!*



The next PTO meeting is **Wednesday, May 3rd at 6:30pm** in the NES Library. Everyone is welcome to attend to share and discuss ideas about the PTO and its activities. The PTO has a very responsible 6th grade student to babysit children in the preschool room during this meeting for those that are in need of childcare. Light snacks are also provided. Hope to see you there!

PTO Meeting Report

Below are highlights from the March 1st & April 5th PTO meetings. To read the full minutes of the meetings, please visit the PTO website - www.nespto.org. The website also has the minutes and agendas from previous meetings, the Budget Reports and the Principal's Report that Megan Desmarais provides at each meeting.

- Rich Fitzgerald and Jack Spanbauer from the Zoning Revision Committee spoke about the new Zoning Bylaws that Northfield residents will vote on at Town Meeting on May 1, 2017
- Treasurer and Secretary position open for next school year; nominees at the next meeting (April); vote at May meeting; Cheryl would like to stay on as co-chair for another 2 years; Breinn plans to stay on as co-chair for a second year
- The PTO can now accept debit & credit cards using Square
- Approved 2 Teacher Requests: 4th Grade, \$129.90 for 2 USA vinyl/poly maps and bookmaking supplies; 2nd Grade - \$99.12 for 12 paperback books about amazing women in history
- Ed the Wizard will perform for the children on Wednesday, May 31st; Pre-K – 1st, "Reading is Magic"; 2nd – 4th, "Alchemy Laboratory"; 5th & 6th, "Math is Magic"