

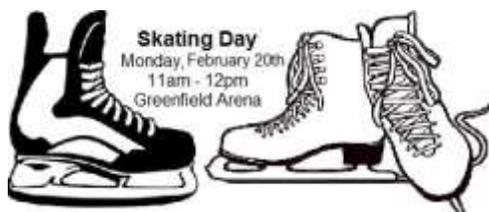
# February 2017 Newsletter

## Northfield Elementary School PTO

The Northfield Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that works to enrich the educational experience for the school community.

There may be a lot of snow on the ground right now, but spring is just around the corner! The PTO has some fun events planned to help beat those winter blues and many other exciting things planned for this spring.

March will feature the annual Family Bingo Night and the NES Reading Challenge. In April, the PTO will be hosting the State of Our Town Dinner, where you can come have a delicious spaghetti dinner and learn about all that is going on in Northfield. In May, the PTO will be selling hanging flower baskets from Five Acre Farm that will be delivered in time for Mother's Day. The annual Spring Carnival and Fun Run will again be held in May and planning will start in March. This event is only successful with the help from many volunteers. If you would like to be part of the planning committee, please email the PTO at [northfieldelementarypto@gmail.com](mailto: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!



**Skating Day**  
Monday, February 20th  
11am - 12pm  
Greenfield Arena

### Skating Day

Come ice skate with your family & friends during winter vacation on **Monday, February 20th** at the Collins-Moylan Ice Arena in Greenfield from **11am-12pm**. This event is open to

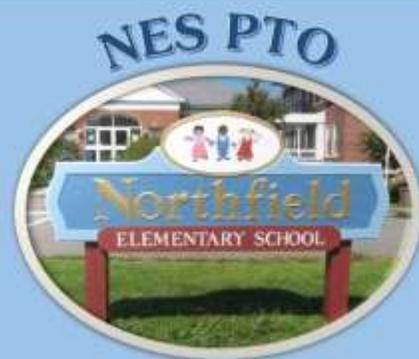
everyone! Just \$5 per person (**cash only please**) and if needed, skate rentals will also be available for \$5. Doors open at 10:30am, so come a little early to get ready for skating! *Hope to see you there!*

### Treasurer & Secretary position open next school year



For the past four years, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher Nolan Kitfield has served as PTO Treasurer and for the past two years, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher Carolyn Baskowski has been the PTO Secretary. Each will end their terms at the end of this school

year and therefore the PTO is in search of their successors. If you are interested in learning more about these positions, please email the PTO at [northfieldelementarypto@gmail.com](mailto:northfieldelementarypto@gmail.com). Thank you Nolan and Carolyn for all of your hard work and dedication to the PTO!



## Upcoming Events

### February 17<sup>th</sup>

- 'Fire Pond' (a musical performance)  
All-school assembly, 9:30am  
- Box Tops Collection

### February 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>

February School Vacation

### February 20<sup>th</sup>

Skating Day, 11am-12pm  
Greenfield Ice Arena

### March 1<sup>st</sup>

PTO Meeting, 6:30pm, Library

### March 10<sup>th</sup>

Family Bingo Night, 6:00pm, Gym

### March 1<sup>st</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>

NES Reading Challenge

### April 8<sup>th</sup>

State of Our Town Dinner  
NES Cafeteria

### May 13<sup>th</sup>

Spring Carnival & Fun Run  
9:00am, Playground

### June 24<sup>th</sup>

Swing for the Kids Golf Tournament  
Northfield Golf Course



Bring your family and friends down to the Northfield Elementary School Gym on Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> to play BINGO! For just \$3.00, you will receive a booklet of bingo cards (you may purchase as many booklets as you like) and you will have the opportunity to win many great prizes! Doors open at 5:30pm and the concession stand will have food and drinks available for

purchase...hot dogs, popcorn, yummy baked goods and more! Games start at 6:00pm and there will also be a 50/50 raffle. Hope you can make it to this fun NES tradition!

**\*\*PRIZE DONATIONS & BAKED GOODS NEEDED PLEASE\*\*** If you would like to donate a prize (an item or gift certificate, for either a child or an adult) OR if you would like to donate a baked good/snack to be sold at the concession stand, please send an email to [northfieldelementarypto@gmail.com](mailto:northfieldelementarypto@gmail.com). Thank you in advance!



### **Box Tops Report**

So far this school year, you have helped raise \$393.40 for NES! The Winter Box Tops contest is coming to an end and the final collection will be on **Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>** (before vacation). The current totals for each

grade are in the chart to the right and the grade with the most Box Tops collected will win an extra recess! 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 Coordinators, Missy Kalinowski ([marleysage@comcast.net](mailto:marleysage@comcast.net)) or Holly Stacy ([hollystacy@comcast.net](mailto:hollystacy@comcast.net)). **Keep clipping those Box Tops!**

Pre-K	0
K	65
1	123
2	138
3	58
4	122
5	2
6	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>508</b>



### **Fundraising Goal - \$15,000 / Currently Raised - \$11,096.58**

**The PTO has been very successful with fundraisers so far this year! Many thanks to everyone that has supported the PTO fundraisers and events!**

*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](http://www.nespto.org). Thank you in advance for supporting the fundraisers and events to help the PTO reach this fundraising goal.*



The next PTO meeting is **Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm** in the NES Library. Everyone is welcome to attend & share and discuss ideas about the PTO and its activities. The PTO has a very responsible 6<sup>th</sup> grader to babysit children in the preschool room during this meeting for those that are in need of childcare. Light snacks are also provided during the meeting.



## **Birds of Prey Enrichment Program**

On Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, NES had the wonderful opportunity to meet Tom Ricardi and his magnificent birds of prey. Tom is a licensed rehabilitator and wildlife biologist who is retired after 40 years of service as a Massachusetts Environmental Fish and Wildlife game warden and now runs the Massachusetts Birds of Prey Rehabilitation Center in Conway, MA, caring for injured birds. He travels throughout New England and New York providing information aimed at helping people appreciate, respect, and assist in the conservation of these important raptors. During his presentation, the children met a Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Red-Tailed Hawk, Harris Hawk, Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, and a Barred Owl. Tom demonstrated some of these bird's unique behaviors to a very captive audience and hopefully inspired the children to appreciate and respect these important members of our wild kingdom. For more pictures of this program, please visit the PTO website, [www.nespto.org](http://www.nespto.org). Thank you to everyone that supports the PTO and therefore made it possible for this program to be brought to NES.



*This program was also 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.*

## **February PTO Meeting Report**

Below are highlights from the February 1<sup>st</sup> PTO meeting. To read the full minutes of the meeting, please visit the PTO website - [www.nespto.org](http://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.

- At next month's PTO meeting, Rich Fitzgerald and Jack Spanbauer from the Zoning Bylaws Revisions Committee will be our guests to present the revisions that will be voted on this May at Town Meeting
- Thank you to Megan for having the new 'No Parking' signs installed along the driveway into the back parking lot and for the visitor parking signs; parking and traffic flow is much improved; Megan stated Peter Blake installed the signs, thank you Peter
- Hanging Flower Baskets – from Five Acre Farm; flyer to go home before April vacation; orders due May 1<sup>st</sup>; delivery Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup> (in time for Mother's Day); will order extra to sell on the 12<sup>th</sup> and Carnival
- Spring Carnival & Fun Run – Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>; Fun Run will start at 9:00am, Robin McKeon will coordinate, will be looking for 1 or 2 people that would like to take on the task of coordinating the Fun Run as Robin only has two years left, will post more info about this opportunity in newsletters/emails/Facebook; Carnival will begin after run; Carnival Planning meeting TBD
- Internet Safety Awareness Night – detective from the NH Task Force is willing to come to NES to do a presentation; School Resource Officer Igor Komerzan and Chief Leighton would like to be involved; this would be an adults only event; discussion about whether to offer childcare, because of the sensitive nature of this presentation, it was decided not to have children present in the building; several possibly dates chosen; final date in February or March TDB
- Reading Challenge – will take place March 1-31 in coordination with National Reading Month and Read Across America Day; last year NES read 339 books, will try to beat last year's record; will "build" the "bookshelf" in the main stairway of the school; Cheryl looking into possible sponsorship for this event
- "State of Our Town" Dinner, a spaghetti supper hosted by the NES PTO – Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, doors open at 4:30pm, dinner 5-6pm, presentation begin at 6:00pm; boards/committees/departments/organizations/clubs from Town will be invited to present/share about their group; Cheryl attended the Selectboard meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup>, they are very supportive of this event; Cheryl will contact the Town Administrator for further planning; discussion about offering childcare during this event, thought to be a good idea, Megan will reach out to PVRs to get a NHS contact for student volunteers
- Playground Committee meeting held January 25<sup>th</sup> – Swing for the Kids Golf Tournament will be held Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at the Northfield Golf Course; new swings to be installed sometime this summer after school is out (exact date TBD)