

# November 2016 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.



The NES PTO would like to wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving! The PTO is extremely thankful for all of the support from the school community. We hope you enjoy Thanksgiving Day surrounded by family and friends.



### NES PTO Market

All NES Families are invited to do some shopping in the cafeteria on **Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup> 4:00 – 6:00pm**. The PTO has been given a generous donation of fruits and vegetables and will be offering them for sale to all NES Families below grocery store prices. Potatoes, onions, squash, apples and much, much more...everything but the turkey!



### Holiday Fair

This annual tradition will be held on **Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9am – 2pm**. Stop by the NES cafeteria to buy your tickets for a chance to win one of the beautiful themed raffle baskets created by NES families. (This year, a Kindle will be raffled off!) Also, grab a bite to eat or a cup of warm cider or coffee at the PTO Food & Bake Sale table. There will also be many crafters and vendors in the gym and the Scholastic Book Fair will be in the cafeteria. The PTO will also have NES merchandise available for purchase (tumblers, t-shirts & magnets). Stop by and get some of your holiday shopping done!



The next PTO meeting is **Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm** in the NES Library. Everyone is welcome to attend & share and discuss ideas about the PTO and its activities. (Childcare and light snacks are provided).



## Upcoming Events

### November 21<sup>st</sup>

Wreath Orders Due  
PTO Market, 4-6pm, cafeteria

### November 23<sup>rd</sup>

12:15pm Dismissal (no lunch served & no after school program)

### November 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>

NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Recess

### November 30<sup>th</sup>

Holiday Wreath Order Pick-up & Pre-fair Sale, 3-6pm, cafeteria

### December 3<sup>rd</sup>

Holiday Fair, 9am-2pm, NES cafeteria

### December 5<sup>th</sup>

Special Town Meeting, 7pm, PVRS

### December 7<sup>th</sup>

PTO Meeting, 6:30pm, NES Library

**The NES Directory was distributed to each family last week (our apologies for the delay this year). If your family did not receive the Directory, or if you would like to be added or have changes to your information, please email the PTO**



## Holiday Wreaths

The NES PTO is offering classic evergreen wreaths with a handmade bow. These are 22" balsam fir, double-faced wreaths with a variety of bows to choose from for **\$20** each. Plain wreaths without a bow are also available for \$15 each. These beautiful wreaths will be for sale during the Holiday Fair on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9am – 2pm. **The PTO is having a pre-fair sale for NES families, friends and staff on Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> from 3-6pm at the school.** An order form to reserve your wreath before the sale was sent home and should be returned to school by Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. You

may also just stop by the Pre-Fair Sale on November 30<sup>th</sup> to purchase a wreath. Any questions, please email the PTO at [northfieldelementarypto@gmail.com](mailto:northfieldelementarypto@gmail.com) OR call/text Cheryl George, 413-522-0576.



## Cash Calendar Raffle Report

Thank you to everyone that purchased tickets for this exciting fundraiser and helped raise \$930 for the PTO! Also, thank you to Kelly Gagnon and Theresa Tshipenyuk for your work in coordinating this fundraiser. Winners are being drawn daily and are posted at school on the calendar near the PTO bulletin board (next to the main office) and are also posted weekly on Facebook and on the PTO website.

## PTO purchases \$1,454.20 in school supplies to lessen the financial burden on all NES families

Thank you for your participation in the NES PTO fundraisers. Below is a list of the items that were purchased by the PTO in August, 2016. Thank you to Kelly Gagnon for your hard work in coordinating the purchase of these supplies. All of these supplies were distributed to each classroom Teacher and are being used by all of the children of NES.

- 600 Elmer's Glue Sticks
- 108 packs of Crayola colored pencils
- 84 packs of Crayola crayons
- 2,268 #2 Ticonderoga pencils
- 207 packs of Crayola washable markers
- 139 rolls of scotch tape
- 44 cans of Clorox disinfected wipes
- 100 9 oz. plastic cups
- 4 boxes of highlighters
- 5 boxes of Ziploc bags
- 38 pairs of scissors
- 144 pencil cap erasers
- 2 rolls of packing tape
- 10 Elmer's bottle glue
- 24 pencil sharpeners
- 10 cans of playdough





## Scarecrow in the Park Report

The NES PTO had a booth at this wonderful fall event that was held on October 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> at Cushman Park in Bernardston. Despite the rain & wind, the PTO made \$520 selling autumn bisque, gingerbread whoopie pies and warm apple cider in addition to some beautiful fall flower arrangements. Thank you to Breinn Robert, Cheryl George, Cindy Pease, Ella Dubin, Lara Dubin, Missy Kalinowski and Holly Stacy for all of your help. It was a fun event!



## 352 Pumpkins Carved!

On Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, the cafeteria was filled with many people hard at work turning pumpkins into jack-o-lanterns! 352 pumpkins were carved breaking last year's record of 304! This event was only possible because of the generosity and hard work of many people. THANK YOU to...Patterson Farm and Llewelyn Farm, Police Chief Rob Leighton and his wife Melanie, Officer Igor Komerzan & his wife, The Northfield Junior Firefighters, Megan Desmarais, Cheryl & Craig George, Serena & Ivan Vassar, Breinn Robert, Kelly Gagnon, Missy Kalinowski, Tony Streeter, Jennifer Chabott, Beth Walker, Amy & Jeff Grover, and Beth & Ben Welcome. **\*\*A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO EVERYONE THAT CAME OUT TO CARVE PUMPKINS!** NES received a certificate of appreciation from the organizers of Pumpkinfest honoring your hard work. **THANK YOU!**



## Pumpkinfest Report

The NES PTO had a booth at the Franklin County Pumpkinfest in Turners Falls on October 29<sup>th</sup>. A profit of \$565 was made selling apple cider & pumpkin and fall themed baked goods. **THANK YOU VERY MUCH TO ALL OF THE VOLUNTEERS THAT HELPED MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE PTO TO BE AT THIS SPECIAL EVENT...** Cheryl & Craig George, Serena & Ivan Vassar, Kelly Gagnon, Missy Kalinowski, Sarah Rastallis, Lara Dubin, Ella Dubin, Kelly Gilbert, Deb Potee, Rich Fitzgerald, Lisa Moore, Kristen Goodwin, Cindy Pease, Kelsey Winship and Dillion Gagnon. From setting up the booth, to working the booth, donating items to sell at the booth and then finally cleaning up and bringing all of those pumpkins back to the school, **your help and support is greatly appreciated! And thank you to everyone that stopped by the booth and supported the PTO!**



Check out the new PTO banner! Thank you to Kelly Gagnon for coordinating the purchase of this new banner. The banner was used at Scarecrow in the Park and Pumpkinfest and will be used at all upcoming events!



The Fall Box Tops Contest runs through the end of November and the final collection for this contest period will be **Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>**. For more information about the Box Tops contests, please visit the PTO website, [www.nespto.org](http://www.nespto.org). So far this year, you have helped raise **\$324.20** for your school!

You can help raise even more for your school when you download the new **Box Tops Bonus App** to discover brands and retailers offering Bonus Box Tops. (You can find it on 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	117
K	261
1	359
2	1,045
3	645
4	265
5	420
6	130
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,242</b>



**Fundraising Goal - \$15,000 / Currently Raised - \$4,663.77**

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.

**November PTO Meeting Report**

Below are highlights from the November 2<sup>nd</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.

- Cheryl thanked everyone for their contributions and hard work on Scarecrow in the Park, Pumpkin Carving Night and Pumpkinfest
- Megan told everyone that we are currently a Level 1 school which is the best academic ranking a school can have
- Amy Tibbetts, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, requested \$25 for the fairy house project. The PTO approved this request.
- Ashley Fogle, Kindergarten teacher, is using \$69.53 of her classroom grant money to purchase supplies for a classroom fish tank. The PTO will reimburse her this amount
- No candles were allowed at this year's Pumpkinfest due to insurance issues. NES carved 352 pumpkins, so this was a big disappointment. A discussion has started about Northfield having their own Fall Festival/Pumpkin Fest in the future. Denis Murphy, from Kiwanis, mentioned that they could provide insurance. More discussion will be needed to follow up on this idea
- Food Table at Holiday fair – Missy will submit a donation request to C&S; donations of baked goods and soups will be needed. Breinn & Missy will coordinate
- Skating Day – January 2<sup>nd</sup>, tentatively 11-12; Kelly is coordinating; more info at Dec. meeting (playground fundraiser)
- Garden Cinema Movie Day – week of Holiday break; movie will be Sing; Kelly will call The Garden to confirm date
- The PTO is on the warrant for Special Town Meeting, Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup> – asking the Town for \$10,000 to purchase new swings for the playground