

# September 2016 Newsletter

## Northfield Elementary School PTO

The Northfield Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization is an incorporated, 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 welcome all new and returning students, families, teachers and staff back to school! The PTO hopes you all had a good start to the new school year. Over the summer, many PTO volunteers were busy working on playground improvements and planning for the upcoming school year. This newsletter will have important information about upcoming events, fundraisers and PTO happenings. All parents and guardians of NES students, as well as all NES Teachers & Staff, are considered to be members of the PTO and are welcome to attend meetings to share ideas about the PTO and its activities. With the help and support of the school community, the PTO hopes to make this another great school year!

### Welcome to our new Principal, Megan Desmarais

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, Mrs. Desmarais became the new Principal of NES. However, she became involved with the PTO and getting to learn more about NES long before that. Megan attended the May PTO meeting, Playground Committee meeting and Fundraising Committee meeting in addition to attending the Spring Carnival & Fun Run last May. Since she has become Principal, Megan has helped the children put toppings on their ice cream at the Welcome Back to School Ice Cream Social, talked with parents at the Welcome Breakfast and she has attended every PTO meeting providing a detailed Principal's report. Megan has demonstrated an open line of communication with the PTO and is always available when needed. Welcome Mrs. Desmarais! It is wonderful to have you here at NES!



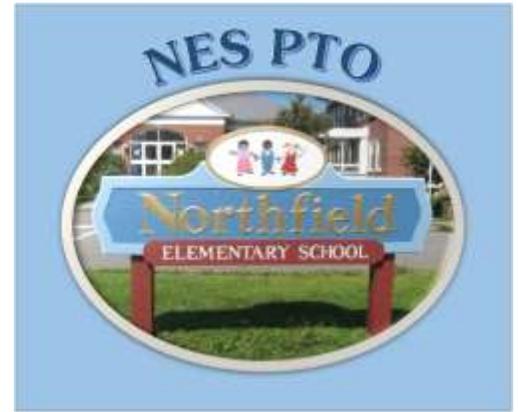
### **NES Open House – Thurs., September 29th,**

**6-7pm:** This is a wonderful time to come in and see your child's classroom and meet their Teacher. The NES PTO will have a table set up near the front entrance where you can find out more about upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.

The PTO sends out a Weekly News email with information about upcoming events, fundraisers and important dates and will include newsletters and other flyers for your convenience. To join the email list, just send an email to [northfieldelementarypto@gmail.com](mailto:northfieldelementarypto@gmail.com) or sign up on the PTO website [www.nespto.org](http://www.nespto.org).



Contact the PTO - [northfieldelementarypto@gmail.com](mailto:northfieldelementarypto@gmail.com)  
Visit our website - [www.nespto.org](http://www.nespto.org)  
Like us on Facebook - Northfield Elementary PTO



### Upcoming Events

September 29

School Picture Day

September 29

NES Open House, 6-7pm

October 1

Fall Festival, 3-6pm, NES Playground & Field

October 5

PTO Meeting, 6:30pm, NES Library

October 10

NO SCHOOL – Columbus Day

October 22 & 23

PTO Booth at Scarecrow in the Park, Bernardston



At the September PTO meeting, Co-Chair Kelly Gagnon announced that she was resigning, effective immediately. Therefore, the PTO is currently looking for someone to help Cheryl George with the Co-Chair responsibilities. If you are interested in helping or knowing more about this position, please email the PTO at [northfieldelementarypto@gmail.com](mailto:northfieldelementarypto@gmail.com). A new Co-Chair will be voted in at the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.



**School Council** - The Northfield Elementary School Council is looking for new members. The council helps to develop the School Improvement Plan, reviews the student handbook and contributes perspectives to the budget process. Meetings will take place either monthly or bi-monthly and the first meeting of the school year will be scheduled for mid-October (specific date & time to be determined). Ideally, the School Council will include the Principal, 2-3 NES Teachers, 2-3 Parents and one community member (someone who is neither a NES parent or staff member). Parent nominations can be made to the PTO and a vote (should there be more than 2 interested parents) will take place at the next PTO meeting on Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the school library. Please contact Principal Megan Desmarais ([desmaraism@pvrsdk12.org](mailto:desmaraism@pvrsdk12.org)) or PTO Co-Chair Cheryl George ([northfieldelementarypto@gmail.com](mailto:northfieldelementarypto@gmail.com)) if you are interested in serving in this important role. Also, if you know of someone from the community who might be interested in serving on the School Council, please have them contact Principal Desmarais (the community member can be appointed by the Principal). Thank you!



**REMINDER: Thurs., September 29th is School Picture day** with G&B Photography! Order forms have been sent home. If you did not receive one, please contact the NES Main Office at 498-5842.



**Fall Festival** – On **Saturday, October 1st, 3:00pm - 6:00pm**, the PTO will host a FREE, family event that encompasses all the things that are great about this time of year! Fall Festival takes place on the playground and in the field behind the school. The kids will enjoy seeing all of their friends while playing fun games, such as pumpkin bowling, pumpkin ring toss and pumpkin croquet. There will also be a scavenger hunt, fall crafts and so much more! The parents will enjoy having a cup of coffee or cider with a slice of pie while visiting with other parents. **\*\*Tickets for the Cash Calendar Raffle and NES merchandise (tumblers, t-shirts and magnets) will be for sale.\*\***

**\*\*There will be an outdoor showing of "Room on the Broom" followed by "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" starting around 6:30pm.**

**\*\*DINNER OPTION:** If you would like to feed your family without having to cook, the PTO will be ordering pizza! Just place your order at the festival by 4:30pm and A-1 Pizza in Winchester will deliver at 6:00pm. (Order by the slice - \$2.50 for cheese / \$3.00 for pepperoni OR Order a whole pizza, 18", 8 slices - \$18 for cheese / \$20 for pepperoni).

**\*\*The PTO relies on the generosity of NES families to help create a fun and memorable event for our kids. The following items are needed...Treats for the kids to add when making their own popcorn trail mix (M&M's, pretzels, etc.), Pies or Crisps (apple, pumpkin...your choice!) or another fall-themed goodie, and Volunteers to help with set-up & clean-up. If you would like to help in anyway, please email the PTO – [northfieldelementarypto@gmail.com](mailto:northfieldelementarypto@gmail.com). THANK YOU!!**

**\*\*There will be an outdoor showing of "Room on the Broom" followed by "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" starting around 6:30pm.**



**Scarecrow in the Park - Saturday & Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> & October 23<sup>rd</sup>**

The NES PTO will be at this wonderful event held at Cushman Park in Bernardston. Stop by and enjoy some apple cider and gingerbread. Tickets for the Cash Calendar Raffle will also be for sale. Volunteers will be needed to help at the booth, if you are interested please email the PTO [northfieldelementarypto@gmail.com](mailto:northfieldelementarypto@gmail.com). Thank you and hope to see you there!



### **\*\*\*Pumpkin Carving Night – PUMPKINS NEEDED PLEASE!\*\*\***

For the past three years, the night before Pumpkinfest has been Pumpkin Carving Night at NES. The first year 106 pumpkins were carved, the second year 173 pumpkins were carved and last year 304 pumpkins were carved! The next day, these pumpkins are transported to the Franklin County Pumpkinfest in Turners Falls and placed around the NES PTO Booth. After the festival, many dedicated volunteers bring all of these pumpkins

back to NES and line the sidewalk in front of the school with the pumpkins for the children to see! (Last year, the pumpkins were even lit on Halloween for the Rag Shag parade and trick-or-treating).

**\*\*In the past, the PTO has been very fortunate to receive all of these pumpkins from one donor.**

**However, this year we are unable to get that donation. The PTO has been busy trying to secure a donation of pumpkins and could use your help. Do you know anyone, maybe a farmer, who would be willing to donate some pumpkins? They don't have to be the best pumpkins, as long as we can carve them and beat last year's record! We even have volunteers that are willing to go pick the pumpkins in the field! (Even the ones that are left behind and usually plowed under!) If you have any ideas or leads on where we can get pumpkins, please email the PTO [northfieldelementarypto@gmail.com](mailto:northfieldelementarypto@gmail.com) (this email is checked several times a day) or call/text Cheryl George, 413-522-0576.**

**\*\*THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR HELP!\*\***



### **Fundraising Goal - \$15,000**

### **Currently Raised - \$912.19**

In every newsletter, there will be an update reflecting where the PTO is regarding the overall fundraising goal for the school year. Thank you in advance for supporting the fundraisers and events to help the PTO reach this goal.

**Why we Fundraise...**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).

**Fit & Fresh** – This fundraiser took place before school started in August. Thank you to everyone that participated in this online fundraiser! You helped the PTO earn \$158.39!

**Fall Mums** – Sold 276 mums for a profit of \$753.80! Thank you to Serena Vassar, Jennifer Chabott and Cheryl George for unloading all of those mums and THANK YOU to everyone that order mums!

**Fall Bulbs** – Online orders will be accepted through Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup> (use the link on the PTO website – [www.nespto.org](http://www.nespto.org)). Bulbs will be shipped directly to your home the beginning of October. THANK YOU to everyone that has already ordered!

**Cash Calendar Raffle** – Tickets will be sold October 1<sup>st</sup> – October 31<sup>st</sup> for \$5.00 each OR 5 for \$20.00. A winner will be drawn every day in November and will win various amounts of money with a cumulative payout of \$1,000.00. Watch for more information about this exciting fundraiser coming home soon!

**Ongoing Online Fundraiser** – Mabel's Labels offers personalized labels that are dishwasher, microwave and laundry safe. To see the products that are available and to place an order, go to [www.campaigns.mabelslabels.com](http://www.campaigns.mabelslabels.com) and search for Northfield Elementary School PTO (there is also a link on the PTO website). This is an ongoing fundraiser and you may order at any time.

**Box Tops** – Last year, NES collected 10,141 Box Tops! That translates into \$1,041.10 that was raised for our school! Watch for more information coming home soon about the exciting Box Tops contest!



Thank you to everyone that came out to the first PTO meeting of the school year that was held on Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. To read the minutes from the September meeting, please visit the PTO website [www.nespto.org](http://www.nespto.org). Here, you will also find the minutes and agendas from previous meetings in addition to the Principal's Report that is provided by Megan Desmarais at each meeting. (Budget reports are also posted on the PTO website). All future PTO meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm in the NES Library. Everyone is welcome to attend and share ideas about the PTO and its activities. (Childcare and light snacks are provided).

## Meeting Reports

Below are highlights from the August 16<sup>th</sup> & September 14<sup>th</sup> PTO Meetings. To read the full minutes of the meeting, please visit the PTO website - [www.nespto.org](http://www.nespto.org).

### August

- Discussed the budget for the 2016-2017 school year, will be voted on at the September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting
- Discussed school supplies that are purchased for the Teachers by the PTO
- Approved a Teacher request for \$38.87 from 5<sup>th</sup> grade Teacher Emily Arena to purchase 13 Scholastic magazines for her classroom which cover the upcoming election
- Updates on past events & fundraisers – \$551.63 was raised from the baseball concessions in June, \$1,654.79 was raised at the NES Swing for the Kids Golf Tournament in June
- Discussed upcoming events & fundraisers – Fit & Fresh, Mabel's Labels, Fall Mums & Fall Bulbs, Ice Cream Social, Welcome Breakfast, Fall Festival, Scarecrow in the Park, Pumpkin Carving Night and Pumpkinfest

### September

- Annual review of the bylaws - some changes will be made and then voted on at the October meeting
- Kelly Gagnon announced she is resigning as Co-Chair, a volunteer is needed to help Cheryl with the Co-Chair responsibilities, anyone interested in helping or knowing more about this position should email the PTO, a new Co-Chair will be voted in at the October meeting
- The budget for 2016-2017 school year was reviewed and approved
- Approved a Teacher request from 5<sup>th</sup> grade Teacher Ellenjo Gries for \$80.85 for a subscription to Scholastic magazine for her class; Teacher & Staff Grant Program being reviewed and updated
- Brian Noble, Town Administrator, stopped by to thank Cheryl George and Deb Potee for coming to the recent Selectboard meeting and supporting his decision to remove the trees at the school. He informed us that Northfield's Special Town Meeting will be held on December 5<sup>th</sup> and encouraged all to attend.
- Discussed upcoming and past events & fundraisers – Fit & Fresh, Mabel's Labels, Fall Mums & Fall Bulbs, Fall Festival, Scarecrow in the Park, Pumpkin Carving Night and Pumpkinfest
- Discussed Enrichment Programs, will be voted on at the October meeting (LCC Grant due Oct 15)



In order to reduce paper use, one copy of all NES PTO newsletters, announcements and order forms will be given to each family and they will be sent home with your youngest child. Please check your child's backpack to make sure you are receiving all the latest NES PTO news. As much as possible, a copy of all information that is sent home will be available on the PTO website – [www.nespto.org](http://www.nespto.org).