

March/April 2016 Newsletter

NES 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.

Dear NES Families,

The school year is just flying by! Planning has already begun for all sorts of May projects: school garden plantings, the Spring Carnival, Teacher Appreciation Week, and a new fundraiser selling hanging baskets for Mother's Day. Volunteers will be needed! Please keep an eye out for flyers and emails with specific volunteer opportunities and please check your schedules to see if you can lend us an hour or two! The NES PTO is an all-volunteer organization – we are successful because of your volunteered time!!



Dr. Seuss Magic Show kicks off Reading Challenge!

On March 17th Pre-K through 6th Grade gathered all together in the gym to watch the Dr. Seuss Magic Show. This special enrichment program, made possible with funding from the NES PTO and a grant from the Northfield Cultural Council, featured Tommy James presenting his "Hands Up To Reading!" performance. This program kicked off a fun reading challenge for our NES students – how many books can they read in one month? A special "bookcase" made of duct tape was created on one of the school walls (thank you Deb Potee & Cheryl George!) on which kids get to place their "book" (a paper book spine with the title of the book written on it). Look for this "bookcase" in the stairwell closest to the main office next time you are at the school! We hope to make this reading challenge an annual event – each year outdoing the previous!



May 2nd-May 6th is Teacher Appreciation Week!

Please help us to make this week amazing for the teachers and staff at NES. If you would like to make donations, please consider the following items: \$5 gift cards to Dunkin Donuts, gift cards to any local business (grocery stores, restaurants, Barnes and Noble, Kringle Candle, etc.), a new book or candy. We can never have enough candy! If you are able to help please contact Theresa Tsipenyuk (tmquinn14@yahoo.com) and send all items to school by Friday, April 29th. THANK YOU!



Upcoming Events

April 13

Crime Scene Science Program
Pre-K-6th Grade school assembly

April 14

NES PTO Meeting, 6:30pm, NES Library

April 18

NO SCHOOL April 18-22 – Spring Break

April 19

Playground Improvement Meeting
6:30pm, Location TBA

April 28

School Committee Meeting
7pm at BES

May 2

Northfield Annual Town Meeting
7pm at PVRS

May 2

Teacher Appreciation Week
May 2nd – May 6th

May 5

Teachers' Luncheon

May 14

Spring Carnival & Fun Run, 9am-2pm

Volunteers & Ideas needed for Teacher Appreciation Week!

Theresa Tsipenyuk is looking for help to make Teachers Appreciation Week a success! Send her an email (tmquinn14@yahoo.com) if you can volunteer or have ideas about how to best celebrate our NES teachers!

Contact us: northfieldelementarypto@gmail.com
Visit our webpage: www.nespto.org
Like our Facebook page: Northfield Elementary PTO



Help needed for Teachers' Luncheon on May 5th!

Please help us provide a generous luncheon for the teachers on Thursday this week! If you would like to help out and bring in a dish it would be greatly appreciated. We are looking for appetizers, salad toppings for a salad bar, salad dressings, breads or rolls, hot dishes, veggie platter, pasta salads, desserts, punch fixings. If you can bring in something please let Theresa Tsipenyuk tmquinn14@yahoo.com know what you'll be bringing.

Family Bingo Night a great success!

Thank you to all who joined us at our annual Family Bingo Night on March 11th! A total of \$857 was raised for the NES PTO – these funds all go towards supporting our NES students and teachers! Thank you once again to Sherri Haughey for organizing this event and thank you to all who donated bingo prizes and baked goods for the bake sale!

Fundraiser Report: \$1,207 raised in February & March

Wine & Canvas Fundraiser: \$350

Family Bingo Night Fundraiser: \$857

Hubie's Restaurant & Tavern Fundraiser: TBA

OUR GOAL: \$15,000 by June

We are currently at \$11,300 – we're getting there!

Upcoming fundraisers: Mother's Day Hanging Baskets & the Spring Carnival

FUNDRAISING GOAL PROGRESS!



New Co-Chair needed to start in the Fall

It is time for Lara Dubin, current Co-Chair of the NES PTO, to step down from the position after four consecutive years of serving. The NES PTO needs someone new to join Co-Chair Cheryl George in the exciting job of guiding our PTO onwards. A Co-Chair will serve for a minimum of two years but no longer than four consecutive years. Co-Chair duties include preparing agendas for and presiding at monthly PTO meetings, serving as an official representative of the PTO, managing PTO communications and marketing such as newsletters, emails, website, etc. All of this is work shared with your fellow Co-Chair! If you are interested or have questions About the position email us at: northfieldelementarypto@gmail.com!

Spring Box Tops Contest Underway!

The winner of the Winter Box Tops Contest is the 2nd Grade! They collected 612 Box Tops for December, January and February and have earned an extra recess! Here are the totals of the Winter (Dec/Jan/Feb) collection of Box Tops:

Pre-K: 138

K: 163

Grade 1: 300

Grade 2: 612

Grade 3: 370

Grade 4: 226

Grade 5: 138

Grade 6: 352



The first collection of the Spring Box Tops Contest will be on Thursday, March 31st. So far this year, you have raised \$703.80 for your school! Keep clipping those Box Tops!! Please remember that Box Tops do expire and we cannot send in expired Box Tops. Any questions please contact our fabulous coordinators:

Missy Kalinowski (225-3049, marleysage@comcast.net), Cheryl George (522-0576, oldwendell@gmail.com)

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Crime Scene Science comes to NES on April 13th

Crime Scene Science is a 45-minute program devoted to introducing students to the exciting field of the science behind solving crimes. Students will be exposed to important aspects of critical thinking, essential not only in the Scientific Method but in all forms of problem solving. Chemistry, physics, and biology are all discussed through a variety of demonstrations involving lots of audience participation. Also introduced are basic rules of observation and creative thinking, as laid out by Sherlock Holmes. The audience is informed of a great mystery, "The Great Cat Caper." The students will be asked to put on their thinking caps and become forensic technicians to help solve this dastardly crime. Using different tools - including fingerprinting, DNA analysis, restoration of a broken window, and making a casting of a footprint - the Crime Scene Science performer will lead the students through a fun and illuminating journey with plenty of twists and turns – and possibly a surprise ending! There will be two assemblies – one for grades Pre-K - 2 and a second for grades 3 - 6. This enrichment program was able to be brought to the NES students thanks to funding from the NES PTO and a grant from the Northfield Cultural Council.

NES PTO March Meeting Report

Below is a quick summary of the highlights our March 10th PTO meeting. The full minutes of the meeting will be available on our website – www.nespto.org.

- Discussed including information about School Committee Meeting dates & agendas in PTO emails and newsletters in the spirit of improving communication of information pertinent to the school.
- Discussed need to find new Co-Chair to replace outgoing Co-Chair Lara Dubin.
- Approved teacher's request for a new hot pot (approx. \$15) in the for the Teachers' room and approved request of \$59.32 from Nurse Whittle for puberty books (the Care and Keeping of You for Younger Girls) for the 4th grade girls and deodorant for the 5th grade boys.
- Discussed upcoming enrichment Programs: Dr. Seuss Magic Show is scheduled for Thursday, March 17th and will be one assembly for the full school. Crime Scene Science is scheduled for Wednesday, April 13th. Crime Scene Science will be two assemblies: grades Pre-K-2 and 3-6.
- Discussed fundraisers: Wine & Canvas, Family Bingo Night, Hubie's Restaurant, Hanging Baskets, Box Tops, Spring Carnival
- Discussed Reading Challenge
- Discussed progress of Playground Improvement committee

Next PTO Meeting will be Thursday, April 14th, 6:30pm, in the NES Library

Our PTO meetings are open to all – please join us! There will be a babysitter on site to watch your kids if you need to bring them. On the agenda for April will be discussion of May & June events and fundraisers!

Help out the PTO!

Labels for Education

Look for the Labels for Education symbol on Campbell Soup Cans and other products! By saving and redeeming the UPCs and beverage caps from participating products we can earn points which we can then redeem for school supplies! Please keep an eye out for these labels and send them in to school for us!



Coca-Cola Rewards

Save your bottle caps and box flaps from your Coca-Cola products! They have a rewards number that you enter online and then you can donate the points to our school! You can enter them yourselves at mycokerewards.com or send them in to the PTO and we will enter them for you!

Stop & Shop A+ Rewards

Earn cash for NES when you shop! Designate NES as your school by going to: www.stopandshop.com/aplus
Our school # is 05453



Spring Carnival & Fun Run Planning time!

Saturday, May 14th, will be the day for our annual fundraising event, the Spring Carnival & Fun Run. Planning meetings have begun and the PTO is in need of parents to help make this fun event a success! Are you interested in being involved but unable to make evening meetings? Email us at northfieldelementarypto@gmail.com to let us know you would like to be on the email & meeting list for carnival planning. Even if you are unable to attend the planning meetings, you can still be involved through email & phone calls! The Spring Carnival is run by parent volunteers, so let's make this a fun event for our kids!

Playground Improvement Meeting: Tues, April 19th, 6:30pm, Location TBA

IT IS TIME FOR NEW PLAYSTRUCTURES! We have a grand plan to raise money to replace both the Pre-K Playstructure and the "big kids" playstructure that are currently on the school playground. These structures were installed between 15-20 years ago and are now showing their age. Visit the playground and take a close look at them – you will see cracks in the protective plastic coverings, most of the horizontal levels are at slight angles due to the years of frost heaves, and many elements of these structures no longer meet many of the new suggested safety codes. While not quite yet at the dangerous stage where we would need to caution tape them off, it is not that far off in the future. In anticipation of such an event we are beginning work now on raising funds for new structures. We would love your input on the planning of these structures and the fundraising! Please join us at our next meeting – Tuesday, April 26th, 6:30pm in the NEs Library. Unable to make this meeting time but are interested or have questions? Email us at northfieldelementarypto@gmail.com and we will answer your questions and add you to our playground email list to keep you in the loop.

UPCOMING PLAYGROUND FUNDRAISERS:

Pennies for the Playground: Donate your loose change to a good cause! We are putting a big empty water cooler jug in the school as a coin collection point. The goal: how full can we get it between now and June? Send in your pennies, dimes, nickels, and quarters with your kids and let them fill the jug!

Swing for the Kids Golf Tournament: Saturday, June 25th at the Northfield Golf Course
This will be a 4 Person Scramble Best Ball Tournament! More information will be sent out soon. Any questions contact Cheryl George (522-0576, oldwendell@gmail.com)



Proposed new Pre-K & K Structure for ages 2-5



Proposed new Play Structure for ages 5-12