



Keeping Pace With Nelson Place

Nelson Place School
Parent Teacher Organization

April, 2011



Enrichment Committee

Nelson Place Enrichment Sponsorship Opportunities

Like every family connected with our school, the PTO is feeling the weight of the poor economy when it comes to financing special programs and opportunities for our Nelson Place Students. Nowhere is this more obvious than in the work of the Enrichment Committee, who brings in unique programs meant to "enrich" the basic curriculum. The cost of bringing in these wonderful programs, like Harriet Tubman and Catch the Science Bug just this month, continues to rise as well. So, as the PTO did a few years ago, we are again looking for businesses, families or individuals who would be willing to contribute financially to underwrite the cost of upcoming programs. {The Nelson Place PTO is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.}

The upcoming programs this spring are:

- Gary the Clown who comes to school for two weeks (May 25-June 9) and teaches kids circus skills while also teaching teamwork, character-building, and confidence.
- The Kindergarten classes will have a visit from the Pumpernickel Puppets in June. This is an annual tradition.
- Grades 3 & 4 are expecting Kim Bent, The Science Bug Lady from PBS, Rhode Island, to teach them about Vernal Pools and the ecology of Watersheds respectively. This will happen in the latter half of June.

Please consider becoming an enrichment sponsor, and let people and businesses with whom you live and work know that this is a terrific opportunity to support the community, while creating some positive publicity for their companies!!

If you are eager to learn more about this opportunity, please contact Gretchen Switzer, Enrichment Chairperson, at Switzers4@verizon.net or (508) 852-7413.

Come Recycle with Nelson Place!

Nelson Place PTO will be holding an **Electronics and Appliance Recycle Day on May 14th** in the school parking lot for all your old electronics and appliances. For a small fee, you will be able to clean up the basement, garage, closets and help raise money for your School at the same time. Computer monitors, laptops, speakers, wires, copy machines/faxes/scanners, DVD players, Stereos, VCR's Microwaves, Air Conditioners, Refrigerators, Freezers etc. The list is endless! Save money by bringing it to school instead of paying top dollar to the Garbage man! More information on the time will be coming home soon! Any questions, please call Meg Mulhern at 508-667-2480 or email to mmulhern@intlceramics.com.

Student Highlights

Congratulations to Gracie Andros for her essay published in the Worcester Telegram's Happy Times Pages!

Gracie Andros, Grade 4

I love spring, do you? Spring has a perfect temperature and is beautiful. There are pink and white blossoms on the trees, pink, red and yellow flowers in our garden, and kids in our neighborhood playing everywhere. Spring is a great time for climbing trees and making mud pies. When it is just gently raining my friend and I like to go outside and play in the rain. We also like to look for chipmunks and birds. There are all sorts of games that we play in spring; like pickle, baseball, and tag. I can't wait for spring!!!

Fundraising

Please join us for our annual spring PAPA GINOS NIGHT for Nelson Place School on Thursday, April 28, from 4pm to 9 pm at the PAPA GINOS Located at 681 West Boylston Street. This community fundraiser earns 20% of the sales made by our families and friends during this time. Carry out counts too! Discount certificate / fliers will be sent home with children before the date. You must submit your flier at time of ordering. So come for fun and help us raise some dough, Pizza dough that is!

Upcoming Events

Friday, April 8th
Spring Portraits

April 18th-22nd
No School – Spring Vacation

Monday, April 25th
PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 28th
Papa Ginos night 4-9 p.m.

Coming in May...
Teacher Appreciation Week
May 2-6

Reminder: Mrs. Backlin is accepting **donations of books** for both children and adults any Friday throughout the months of April and May. We will be selling the donated books in June to raise money for The Hole In The Wall Gang Camp! Thank you!

A Note from the Library

Students, Please remember to return all overdue books to the library as soon as possible. Thank you.

Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you to all the parents, teachers, and children who contributed to 2011 Scholastic Book Fair. The book fair was a great success! Over 50% of the profits from the fair will be credited to Nelson Place in "Scholastic Dollars" so we can buy new books for the library and classrooms. Special thanks to Mr. Kelley, Mrs. Daley, Traci Hargrave (secretary), and Mr. Kevin (custodian) for their assistance with coordinating the fair, helping with the evening family night, the Mr. Magichead magician show, and continued support of the annual Scholastic Book Fair program. Also, many thanks to those families who returned the colored banners with donations for One for Books! We raised over \$200 for One For Books! This money goes right back to Nelson Place to purchase Scholastic Books and also Scholastic will match this dollar amount for three non-profit organizations devoted to improving reading skills among children.

Thank you to all of the wonderful parent volunteers who donated their time by helping to set up the fair, pack up the fair, run the cash registers, and assist children in finding books at the fair. Many thanks to: Jennifer Lemieux, Deb Steigman, Peggi Harris, Tara Prentiss, Deb Wessels, Gretchen Switzer, Joanna Contey, Lucy Harris, Kristy Lewandowski, Mary Zamarro, Celina Saez, Eva Szyk, Catherine Zementowski, Joanna Wright, Alina Khaspekov, Linda Ohl, Eileen Gallagher, Jill Andros, Barbara Kelleher, Angela Bazydlo, Catherine Gurbanov, Connie Carlson, Karina Green, Alicia Petit, Beth Proko, Pam Landry, Heather Cariglia, Lynn Carbonneau, Robyn Ernst, Lisa Thibeault, Suzanne Vantre, Robin Bukoski, Amy Lubowicki, Meg Giarrusso, Sandra Foster, Diane Alves, & Kristina McGrath.

The **Nelson Place PTO Hospitality committee** is pleased to announce that this year we will be holding events/and activities throughout the week to show our Teachers and Staff how much they are appreciated. The annual Teacher/Staff Appreciation Breakfast will take place on Wednesday, May 4 from 8a.m.-9a.m in the Library. More information and signup sheets will be coming home in mid April. Please feel free to contact Deb Steigman (dsteigo@verizon.net) or Tara Prentiss (taraprentiss@gmail.com) with any questions or suggestions.

Citywide Parent Planning Advisory Council (CPPAC) –

Thank you to all who took the time to submit the survey. Results are being tallied and will be shared at our next PTO meeting. Please feel free to contact me with any questions and concerns Deb Steigman (dsteigo@verizon.net)

Thank you to those who have volunteered to take over chair positions for next year!

Ice Cream - Dawn Fleming Spree Day - Meg Giarrusso
Operation Turkey - Kristina McGrath Family Nights - Lori Rauktis

The following positions are still in need of volunteers:

Books & Beyond (two co-chairs) Library (co-chair)
School Sign TRIPP (co-chair)

On **Friday, April 8th**, Lifetouch will visit Nelson Place to take individual **spring portraits** of students. While purchasing these photos is optional, please know that all profits from the spring photos go directly to the Nelson Place PTO to support book programs, enrichment events, and much more.

PTO Website

The website still needs 4 sponsors to meet this year's goal! If you have a business, please support us! We are offering \$150 through 2012. Sarah is looking for a co-chair for the website. No web skills necessary, this person will be in charge of handling sponsorship renewals, soliciting new sponsors and keeping track of paperwork. Please email sarah@newmarketmedia.biz if you are interested. Finally, we would like to spruce up the website with the students' artwork. If you would like to contribute a piece of artwork, either take a photo or scan it in and email it to Sarah! Don't forget to check out the website at www.nelsonplacepto.org!

PTO Meetings will continue to be held on Mondays at 7pm through the remainder of the school year. The remaining meeting dates for the year are April 25 and May 16. As always, all parents and Nelson Place staff are welcome!!

2010/2011 PTO OFFICERS

Beth Proko, PTO President, bproko@charter.net, 508-864-9549
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