

The McMurray PTA is working in cooperation with the Peters Township School District. You are receiving this email because of your relationship with the McMurray PTA.



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McMurray PTA Executive Board 2009-2010

Lisa Briegel, President
Carol Planitzer, 1st VP
Barb Calfo, 2nd VP
Andrea Michalski, 3rd VP
Margaret Rauscher, 4th VP
Nan Campbell, Treasurer
Jodi Hannah, Asst. Treasurer
Cathy Vargo, Secretary

Reflections Awards
Ceremony
January 22, 2010

Parents of children who

January/ February 2010 PTA Newsletter

Principal's Pen

by Dr. Robert G. Freado

Leave a Legacy - Everyday

The New Year begins as a time for making new commitments, changes and resolutions that might be useful and meaningful in our lives and the lives of others. Then, too frequently, our aspirations dissolve in the midst of our daily challenges and the seemingly endless "to do" lists that can, in a sense, make up our lives.

There are milestones in our lives that cause us to be more reflective about the impact that we are having and how effective we've been in handling matters most important to us. It is at these times that we realize that life is moving along fast and we need to be more intentional about meeting our resolutions.

With the fleeting nature of time in mind, let's resolve to take the time to do the things that will have the most meaningful impact. The saying, "children grow up fast" takes on new meaning as we suddenly find ourselves helping our children and students prepare for life after high school. As Viktor Frankl stated, "We detect, rather than invent our missions in life." Similarly, we leave our life's legacy - one day at a time. Let's resolve to be sure that we live and work true to our mission in 2010. If not, it will be gone before we know it!

A Note from the PTA President

by Lisa Briegel

Happy 2010! Whether or not you make New Year's Resolutions not, this is a great time of year to assess progress towards goal

participated in this year's contest are invited to attend. Times for each grade are listed below:

6th Grade 10:55 - 11:25

5th Grade 11:30 - 12:00

4th Grade 12:40 - 1:10

Spelling Bee

McMurray Elementary sixth grade students participated in the first round of the annual Scripps Howard Spelling Bee in December. Good luck to the following students who have qualified to move on to the next level of the Spelling Bee, to be held at McMurray Elementary School on February 3, 2010.

Stefan Aronson
 Steven Babyak
 Alexander Belack
 Jennifer Brenden
 Cullen Browell
 Alec Buckiso
 Margo Burkholder
 Andrew Byren
 Kacy Capra
 Nathan Chehovits
 Cameron Chiani
 Caroline Curran
 Vincent DeRienzo
 Abigail Frisch
 Dylan Grosz
 Chloe Grzyb
 Haley Hamchin
 Megan Hixon
 Sabrina Liu
 Lydia Maliackel
 Shane Mehalik
 Frank Meola
 Wesley Michalski
 Kayley Morrow
 Christian Ordonez
 Logan Ondos
 Nicholas Petrarca
 Amanda Pituch
 John Platt
 Kellie Sabo
 Katerina Sankow
 Varun Sharma
 Jennifer Voss
 Martina Zhuang

and set new ones. In the PTA, this is the time of year when we begin to look towards the many spring activities, particularly in the month of May, that need to be organized. The Talent Show, Economics Sale, Derby Days, State Fair, Spanning the Globe, Spring Celebration, and McMurray Day are some of the activities that will begin to be planned in the next few months. In addition we also begin to think about preparations for the next school year (believe it or not!).

We welcome new ideas and fresh faces in the planning of all of these events. I encourage all to read through this newsletter and the many Weekly Bulletins that Sandy Levin and Jackie Platt spend many hours putting together. (Thank you, ladies!) As you look forward to a new year, please consider becoming more involved in the PTA by attending meetings or volunteering for one of these fun activities. At McMurray, the students are still young enough to appreciate our presence in the schools. Please feel free to join us and enjoy your wonderful children!

For more information about helping out, come to PTA meetings the coming months where information will be presented about upcoming activities. And don't forget to stay tuned for the Weekly Bulletins and future Newsletters!

McMurray Elementary Talent Show

March 17 & 18 @ 6:30 p.m.

McMurray Elementary Multi-Purpose Room

Entry forms were sent home with all students. Forms can also be found online at [Talent Show Registration Form](#).

A copy of your song or music on CD must be submitted with your entry form.

March 10 & 11: Dress Rehearsals Immediately After School
 Parents: You must send a note to your child's teacher on the day of rehearsal if your child plans to stay after school for the rehearsal.

Deadline for all Entries:

February 4, 2010 @ 3:30 p.m.

We need Parent Volunteers to make this event a success!

If you would like to volunteer or if you have any questions, please contact Kathy Schreiber at kathy.schreiber@verizon.net.

SPIRIT WEAR DAYS!!!

January 22nd
February 26th

Wear your red
& white.

**Middle School
Brunch with the
Principals**
February 4th

The Peters Township Middle School PTA will host "Brunch with the Principals" at their February 4th PTA meeting.

Parents of all current PTMS students as well as parents of current 6th grade students are invited to attend.

The brunch is an informal gathering with Dr. Merante and Dr. Monsour to ask questions and learn more about the Middle School.

The meeting will be held in the boardroom of the School District Administrative Offices, next to the Middle School.

Hospitality starts at 9:00am and the meeting at 9:15am. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Clark at sueclarkpgh@verizon.net

This group is operating in cooperation with the McMurray PTA.

**5th GRADE
MOVIE NIGHT**

McMURRAY PTA**AFTER SCHOOL CLASSES*****LAST CHANCE!***

It's not too late to register for the Winter 2010 PTA After-School Classes. Openings exist in the following classes:

American Music and Guitar, Hip Hop Dance, Self Defense, Pottery, Safe Sitter, Scrapbooking, Fencing, Cooking and Chess.

If you are interested in registering your child, please contact Lisa Briegel at bagel3@netscape.com

**Box Tops® for Education
Collection Contest Winners!**

Our December Box Tops Winners were: Nick Paris, Jeremy Brower, Tor Sehnert, Talia Roth, Jenna Jacobs, and Madison Kerr!

Congratulations to our winners and keep on collecting! Remember to attach your boxtops to the Official Collection Sheet and get entered in January's drawing. For each ten boxtops submitted students get a chance to win a \$2 gift certificate redeemable at the school store.

A Special Thank You ...

to the students of Mrs. Doran and Mrs. Collins!!! T students helped the PTA tremendously in organizing a counting our Box Tops and Campbells Soup Labels. Th many hands helped make light work of a big task. Thank you!

**Call for McMurray Elementary PTA
2010-2011 Nominations!**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5
permission slip and
 more information to follow
 in upcoming PTA emails....

To volunteer, contact
 Tracey or Peter Mirich at
 724-941-5358

-
4th GRADE
MOVIE NIGHT

FRIDAY, MARCH 5
permission slip and
 more information to follow
 in upcoming PTA emails....

To volunteer, contact
 Peggy Secunda at
 724-942-0894

GIANT EAGLE
APPLES FOR STUDENTS

Register your Giant Eagle
 Advantage card for McMurray
 Elementary. The link below will
 direct you to the Giant Eagle
 website. You will need the
 McMurray account number:
 0683

Parents with students in other
 Peters Township buildings, can
 register their GE card for up to
 five different schools.
[Update My Apples for Students](#)

Abitibi Paper Recycling

Please drop off :
 Magazines, shopping
 catalogs, newspaper,
 office & school papers, junk mail,
 and shredded paper in plastic bags.

Recycling bins are located
 at the entrance to the
 school on the right.
 Thank you!

In accordance with the McMurray PTA Bylaws, nominations for the elected executive board for the 2010-2011 school year are hereby open. A five member nominating committee will be elected at the February 9, 2010 PTA meeting. Members are encouraged to complete the nomination form for themselves or other qualified individuals that are interested in serving on this board. The form should be returned in an envelope marked "PTA Nominating Committee."

Legislation and Bylaws chairperson Laura Spernak will forward all forms received prior to February 9 to the Nominating Committee. This committee will present their slate of officers at the March 9, 2010 PTA meeting, at which time additional nominations may be made from the floor. This list will be posted in the McMurray PTA room for one month. The election will take place at the April 13, 2010 PTA meeting, at which time, again, additional nominations may be made from the floor.

Thank you in advance for helping the McMurray PTA with the nomination process. Questions may be directed to Laura Spernak, Chairperson, Legislation and Bylaws Committee at lspernak@verizon.net.

For a printable nomination form:

McMurray Elementary PTA Nomination Form

Hip Hop Dance Clinic
Sunday, March 7th

TAUGHT BY "PULSE" THE NATIONALLY RANKED PTHS DANCE TEAM

Where: McMurray Elementary
 When: Sign in - 12:30 ~ Clinic - 1:00 - 3:30
 Performance for Parents - 3:45
 Who: Girls and Boys Grades K - 8th grade

Cost: \$25 Pre-register by Monday, March 1st
 Registration includes a shirt, snack & drink
 \$5 discount if you register 2 in the same family.

Register for \$30 after March 1 - No Refunds after March 1

QUESTIONS? - Contact Lisa Wilson at
wilsonwomen@comcast.net

For a registration form: [Hip Hop Dance Clinic Registration Form](#)
This group is operating separately from the McMurray PTA.

This recycling project benefits PTA sponsored programs for our children.

Before and After School Day Care

Before and after school day care is provided by a private company, Extended Day Services, Inc. Day care is provided at Bower Hill, Pleasant Valley, and McMurray Elementary Schools. Contact Extended Day Services, Inc. at www.extendedday.com.

This group is operating separately from the McMurray PTA.

2010 PTHS CHEER CLINIC

The PTHS Cheerleaders will host their annual cheer clinic on Saturday, January 30, 2010 at the PTHS. This event is open to all students age 5 through grade 6. Come learn PT cheers, a dance and stunts from the PTHS cheerleaders and coaches. All clinic attendees are invited to use their new cheer skills as a halftime performance a boys or girls home basketball game after the clinic.

Look for your registration flyer to be sent home in early January. Pre-register by January 20 for only \$25. Price includes a t-shirt, snack and drink at the clinic.

For more information or additional registration forms, email Debbi Sion at sjsion@comcast.net Hope to see you there!

This group is operating separately from the McMurray PTA.

LOST AND FOUND

Is your child missing a coat, sweatshirt, lunchbox???

Be sure to check the lost and found table outside of the main office. There are **MANY** unclaimed items.

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