

From: McMurray Elementary School PTA [mcmurraystar@verizon.net]
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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.



The McMurray Star

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McMurray PTA
Executive Board
2009-2010

Lisa Briegel, President
Carol Planitzer, 1st VP

May / June 2010 PTA Newsletter

Principal's Pen

by Dr. Robert G. Freado

Rest Easy

This is the time of the school year when we begin to think about bringing things to a close with final tests, celebrations and saying goodbye until fall. It is about time to get rested and refreshed. For some, however, it is a time for bringing a career of serving children to a close and saying farewell. Each school year, we watch talented and dedicated educators leave our ranks leaving us with fond memories and mixed emotions. We are happy for them as they move into the next chapter of their lives and sad for ourselves as we know that they will no longer be serving with us.

This year is no different in that a number of fine members of our administration, faculty, and staff are retiring. Cyndi Chipple is the lone retiree from McMurray this year. She, like others who have retired from our school district before her, will leave a legacy of honor, inspiration and compassion. Cyndi wrote a beautiful poem a number of years ago that characterizes the perceptive educator's keen understanding of

Barb Calfo, 2nd VP
Andrea Michalski, 3rd VP
Margaret Rauscher, 4th VP
Nan Campbell, Treasurer
Jodi Hannah, Asst.
Treasurer
Cathy Vargo, Secretary

Thanks!

A huge thank you from the PTA to Sandy Levin and Jackie Platt, our newsletter chairs, who have worked hard all year long to keep us informed about all the happenings at McMurray Elementary!

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the newly elected 2010-2011 McMurray Elementary Executive PTA Board

Lisa Briegel, President
Margaret Rauscher, 1st VP
Carol Planitzer, 2nd VP
Sherie Lammers, 3rd VP
Christine Belfiore, 4th VP
Nan Campbell, Treasurer
Jodi Hannah, Asst.
Treasurer Rochelle Saxon,
Secretary

Teacher Appreciation Thank You

Thank you to Teacher

the challenges, complexities and nature of the youth we serve. With Cyndi's permission, and as a tribute to teachers, parents and students, I have included a copy of her poem in this column for our mutual reflection and enjoyment. We wish Cyndi, and all of the retirees, all the best that life has to offer, and to "rest easy" as they enter a new phase of life.

He's 14, Don't You Know....

A freckled nose looms large on his face
Darting eyes resist penetrating stares
Hearing audiences that are real or imagined
Staggered locks of hair frame innocence.

St. Bernard-like hands and feet
Tangled, lean and lengthy limbs
Create a portrait of unfinished work
Time alone will chisel into manhood.

Books tucked against his hip
And wielding a wanton gait
He glides in shrouded vulnerability
Beneath an air of nonchalance.

Tempered words and crafted thoughts
To fit the shape of audiences around him
He's a look-alike being
Caught in conformity.

Frozen emotions held tight at school
Liquefy at home volcanically.
A thousand forces plague his soul;
A million judgments passed.

Adolescence sculpts this growing man
Just now awash in vacillating thoughts
And turbulent emotions
Rest easy now, for God is his craftsman.

Cyndi Chipple

(Written during her tenure as an eighth grade teacher)

A Note from the PTA President

by Lisa Briegel

As the end of the school year approaches, I have been thinking back to all of the many activities that the McMurray PTA has organized this year. From the Walk-Thru Night in August,

Appreciation Committee
Chairs, Mary Pat
DeRienzo, Mary Ellen
Bruce and Ann Bondi for
the teacher
appreciation luncheon on
May 11.

Thanks to all of those who
donated side dishes,
desserts and drinks!

The teachers and staff
appreciate your time and
generosity!

McMURRAY DAY

Thursday, June 10th
(Rain Date: June 11th)
12:30-3:00pm

Please wear sensible
shoes, comfortable
clothes and sunscreen.

ALL STUDENTS PLEASE WEAR:

6th grade: GRAY shirt
5th grade: BLUE shirt
4th grade: RED shirt

VOLUNTEERS:

Parking is limited on this

McMurray Kickoff, classroom parties, movie nights, after-school classes, and numerous PTA meetings, it has been a busy, yet rewarding year. I feel so fortunate to have the opportunity to be able to interact with my children at school and be involved with the many activities they do at McMurray.

Big thank you's go to Dr. Freado and Mr. Stoehr for maintaining the close relationship with the PTA that allows parents to be involved with their children. I also want to thank Mrs. Buck and Mrs. Vesely personally for always greeting me with a smile when I come into school and for being so willing to help me with anything I need. I think it is safe to say that the PTA would not run nearly so smoothly without their help and support. I also want to thank all of the teachers and staff for their support during the year and providing our children with such a great education!

I have also been blessed to be able to work with many wonderful volunteers through the PTA. Special thanks go to the 2009-2010 PTA Executive Board. Carol Planitzer, Barb Calfo, Margaret Rauscher, and Andrea Michalski provided excellent leadership to all of the committee chairs and helped make so many events run smoothly! Nan Campbell and Jodi Hannah kept track of fundraising and membership monies, as well as the numerous budgets for each PTA-sponsored activity. Cathy Vargo stepped forward for the job of Secretary to make a record of PTA meetings and send out all PTA correspondence. There is a wealth of experience and organizational ability in this group and I am so pleased that most will be returning to serve on the Board next year. We will miss Barb, Andrea, and Cathy as they move on to other endeavors, and we welcome Sherie Lammers, Christine Belfiore, and Rochelle Saxon for the next school year.

This newsletter would be ridiculously long if I named every committee chair and volunteer that stepped forward this school year to help out. However, it needs to be said that I very much appreciate all of the hard work that you all put in this year to provide some really wonderful events for our children. Thank you so much!

I would say goodbye to those families who are moving on from McMurray, but I know that I will see them at the Middle and High Schools. I also look forward to meeting new families in September. Enjoy your summer and I hope to see you all in the fall!

Mosaic Celebration

On Wednesday, May 26 from 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., parents are invited to stop in the school to meet the artist who helped the students to create the new mosaic. It is a beautiful addition to the school!

PTA Committee Chairpeople!

day!

Please carpool if possible. The parking lot will be full with faculty, students, and vendors.

Please **DO NOT** park on both sides of the road from the McMurray School to McMurray Road. School busses and traffic must be able to pass through!

**ADVERTISE IN THE
2010-2011 DISTRICT-
WIDE
DIRECTORY**

Would you like to advertise your business in the

Peters Township School District directory?

To find out more about advertising or to place an ad, contact Shelli Banko at 724-942-2902 or svbanko@verizon.net.

**CALLING ALL 6TH
GRADERS!!!!!!**

**The PTA is sponsoring an
end of the year Spring
Celebration!**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 4TH
6:30-8:30PM**

**When they RSVP each 6th
grader will be given a raffle**

Please complete the Blue Committee Folders and return to the McMurray PTA room ASAP.

You can just put it on the table and we'll find it. If you do not have a folder, chances are that it is in your committee mailbox or in the box in the McMurray PTA room.

Please be as detailed as possible regarding activities and purchases for your event or committee. This way, you'll have the info for next year if you are continuing, or next year's chairperson will have the info!

Thank you!

**McMurray PTA Committee
Chair Positions Available!**

If you are interested in chairing or co-chairing any of the open committees for the 2010-2011 school year, please contact Carol Planitzer at cplanitzer@comcast.net.

BOOK FAIR: 4th grade parent needed to co-chair

McMURRAY KICKOFF: would like to have 4, 2 chairs needed

MOVIE NIGHT: one 5th grade parent needed

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION: 1 more needed

OPEN HOUSE: we have an experienced chair, need 2 more to help out

LEGISLATION & BYLAWS: one chairperson needed

BRUNCH W/ PRINCIPALS: need a second 4th grade chair and 2

ticket for a chance to win a great gift card!!

For every extra ten BoxTops brought to the Spring Celebration, students will be given ANOTHER raffle ticket for another chance to win. So remember your BoxTops!!!

To RSVP early and win \$10 gift cards,

**Email Jackie Platt:
djplatt@comcast.net**

Abitibi Paper Recycling

Drop off paper trash all summer long!

This recycling project benefits PTA sponsored programs for our children.

Save the Date! Walk Thru Night

**McMurray Elementary
School PTA will**

5th grade chairs

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR: looking for a 5th grade parent chair to join the 4th and 6th grade chairs

Box Tops Prize!!!!

It's almost time for the BoxTops final prize. The winner will be announced on McMurray Day during the school's announcements. The student that has brought in the most BoxTops this year will be awarded two movie theatre passes! The numbers are still being added, so remember to get yours in and have a chance to win!

Save your Box Tops all summer long for next year at McMurray and at the Middle School!

Thank You for Volunteering

It is more than just the time that you're giving,

More than support that you lend.

You are the foundation for our children

And the network on which we depend.

There is no one way to thank you for all that you do every day.

But you know, you too teach the children in a very special way.

From you they learn someone believes in them, someone cares enough to be here.

From you they learn the importance of taking time to volunteer.

They learn that it takes many people hand-in-hand, arm-in-arm every day.

To ensure that they get the best education, to ensure that they have a say.

They are who will lead us tomorrow.

They are the future's bright hope.

sponsor a walk through
night

AUGUST 16th
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Visit the school, find
your classroom, and see
your friends!

**PTA Reflections
Contest Theme for
2010-2011:
"Together We
Can....."**

**Categories: Film/Video
Production,
Photography, Visual
Art, Dance Choreography,
Musical Composition,
Literature**

Updated 2010-2011
contest guidelines and
entry forms will be
available
on the Peters Township
School District website
in mid September.

For more information,
go to
www.pta.org/2033.htm.

And from all of us here,
We thank you for getting involved.

~ McMurray Elementary PTA Officers

Peters Township Middle School Required Phys. Ed. Uniform

The Peters Township Middle School requires all 7th and 8th graders to wear standard gym clothing in the physical education classes. The required "uniform" is red shorts, of an appropriate length, and a white tee shirt with the student's name written on the front.

Students are required to change out of their street clothes into gym clothes for phys. ed. classes. Each student will be issued a gym locker for the duration of their phys. ed. rotation.

The PTMS is sharing this information through the McMurray PTA.

Help Wanted at the Peters Township Middle School

There are several Middle School PTA Chair openings available for the 2010-11 school year:

**Character Counts
Holiday Dance*
Spring Dance*
7th grade Celebration***

Lost and Found

There are a lot of items in the McMurray lost and found. If your child is missing a lunch box, sweatshirt, jacket or anything, please check our lost and found.

All unclaimed items will be donated at the end of the school year to the Washington City Mission.

8th grade Dance*
Hospitality
Library Volunteers
Spelling Bee
Student/Faculty Basketball Game*
Teacher/Staff Appreciation*

Committees with * indicate those that work well to have 2 co chairs; if you are interested, you may want to find a co chair to work with you!

If you are interested in finding out more about these committees or to volunteer as a chair, please contact Lisa Anderson.

The PTMS PTA is sharing this information through the McMurray PTA.

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