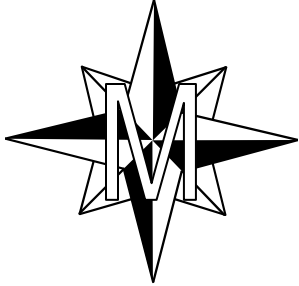


PTA President's Notes.....Geeta Welden



MCMURRAY ELEMENTARY PTA NEWSLETTER

The McMurray Star

Helping our students reach for the stars

McMurray PTA Newsletter

Articles and photos are due by the 2nd Friday of the month. Please submit to Jackie Platt @ djplatt@comcast.net or call 724-260-0096.

The PTA is sharing the attached information through the Peters Township School District. The events or programs of the PTA may not all be initiated or supervised by the District.

McMurray is going GREEN!!!!!!!!!!

You may already know that the Peters Township School District has made a serious commitment to being green. In that spirit, McMurray Elementary School and the McMurray PTA are initiating several efforts to help the school become green. First, the teachers and administrators have implemented a recycling program that will allow the students to recycle paper, plastic, and cardboard using designated recycling bins located in their classrooms and throughout the school. Not only will this effort help the McMurray "green" effort, it will help teach the students the importance of being good stewards of our environment.

Secondly, the PTA has arranged for Abitibi paper recycling bins to be placed on the grounds of McMurray Elementary School. This will help spread recycling into the community and create funds that will allow the PTA to continue their effort to improve the overall educational experience provided at McMurray Elementary School.

Lastly, the McMurray PTA is going paperless! This will be our last paper newsletter. Our January newsletter will be emailed to all parents who have registered on the PTA section of the McMurray Elementary web site. We are also working to put all PTA flyers online. Once these steps are completed, parents will be able to go online and access all PTA-related information with the click of a mouse. Going paperless will help save countless sheets of paper, which saves natural resources, time, and money. The thousands of dollars saved by going paperless will allow the PTA to continue working to improve the overall experience for the students of McMurray Elementary school.

Watch for more information on all of our current and upcoming "green" efforts!
Geeta Welden
President, McMurray PTA

Principal's Pen Dr. Robert Freado 941-5020

What Parents Need to Know About Friday After School "Walkers"

I have had the pleasure of speaking and meeting with many groups of parents, and I am often asked for my opinion on a variety of topics. Over the past two years, I have been asked, with increasing frequency, for my opinion on whether or not parents should allow their children to be "walkers" on Fridays after school. It seems that the number of students who present walker notes on Fridays continues to grow and the apparent reasons include going with friends to nearby places such as the public library and the various businesses at or near the intersection of East McMurray and Valley Brook Roads.

The question of whether or not parents should grant permission for their children to walk to these places on Fridays, or any other day for that matter, is one that parents have to answer for themselves. Of course, parents need to consider a number of factors including the age and maturity level of the children, the purpose or need in each case, and the children with whom the child may be walking to name a few.

My purpose in writing about this topic is to inform parents about the situations into which our students are walking on Fridays. Based upon my recent conversations with parents, it is clear to me that many are not aware of some important factors that they would want to consider.

There are frequently a few dozen or more of our students walking to the aforementioned places on Fridays. In addition, many middle school students converge on the same area. Most parents do not seem to be aware of the potential that their children will be among so many students ranging from fourth to eighth grade in what are essentially unsupervised settings.

It is also important for parents to know that there is not a crossing guard near the exit of the school or at the intersection. Equally important, there is no supervision for the children once they exit the doors of our school.

Continued on page 2

McMurray Mission Statement

McMurray Elementary School has established a character education initiative based upon core values... Respect, Responsibility, Honesty, and Caring. McMurray Elementary takes a comprehensive approach to character education. We recognize that parents play the primary role in the character development of their children and that we play an important supportive role to which we obligate ourselves. We work together with parents and the community to teach and promote positive character development by giving increased attention to our core values and other important character traits. It is our vision that we will promote good character in every aspect of life in our school and provide a positive school climate in which they can learn to the best of their abilities.

***A Good Mind and a Good Heart
Always Make a Great Combination!***

Principal's remarks continued.....

I have been informed by parents, residents, and business owners that the number of students and, at times, their behavior has resulted in problems and some unsafe situations. Thankfully, I am not aware of any of our students causing or having any problems on Fridays or other days as a result of walking after school.

We are fortunate to live in a township with dedicated parents, community members and an outstanding group of public safety employees and volunteers who work together to create and maintain a safe and orderly environment. Our students contribute to the positive environment in our community by the manner in which they conduct themselves in the majority of cases. It is in this spirit and for the purpose of helping parents to make informed decisions about the safety of their children that I provide this information. I hope that you find it helpful.

Robert G. Freado
Principal

Office DEPOT 5% Back to Schools Program

Help our school earn
FREE SUPPLIES!

Our school will earn credits equal to 5% of your purchases to use for FREE supplies. You can credit the school each time you shop at Office Depot. Remember to give our school ID #:

**School Name: McMurray Elementary School
ID #: 70087063**

- in stores
- at www.office depot.com
- when calling 1-800-GO-DEPOT



The McMurray PTA is still accepting donations for the 2008-2009 school year. Checks can be made payable to McMurray PTA and sent to school with your child. Remember, your donation is tax deductible.

Giant Eagle Apples for the Students

Remember to register your Giant Eagle Advantage card to participate in the Apples for the Students program. Only register once but, remember to change your school account to McMurray Elementary:

0683

FUNDRAISING SHORT FALL...

While reading this newsletter, members will come upon two notices of how they may still participate in Sally Foster or submit a donation to benefit the McMurray PTA. These notices are posted because we fell far short of the projected budgets for our fundraising efforts. The budgeted amounts were determined by past history and were very reasonable. The Sally Foster representative, unfortunately, stated that our school's result were typical of his clients as a whole and perhaps a reflection of the economy.

Due to the PTA's conservative spending over the past several years, our budgeted programs for this school year will not suffer and we anticipate having the required carryover for the next school year. But that is it. No cushion. No leeway. No extras.

Our fundraiser choice for the 2009/2010 school year will definitely be up for review. However, until that time, should anyone still want to place an order for Sally Foster products or submit a donation, just follow the instructions in the respective notices.

Thank you for your consideration and I hope this brings a clearer understanding to our members,
Karen Bovalina, PTA Assistant Treasurer



McMurray school continues to earn 50% profit on every purchase made at www.SallyFoster.com until June 30, 2009.

Click on the "Give Credit" box, click on "School/Group Account," enter our account number **0278965**.

"Continue" and be sure McMurray School is listed at the top of the next page. Have fun shopping!

Box Tops for Education

Our Box Tops goal for the 2008/2009 school year is to raise \$1008. We have raised \$490.00 so far! Thanks to everyone who has contributed so far. Let's help the students to reach that goal!

Three easy ways to earn cash for our school:

Clip — Clip Box Top coupons from hundreds of participating products and send them to school. Box Tops coupons are worth 10¢ each when our school redeems them from Box Tops for Education. (There are easy collection sheets to print out from the website.)

Shop — Shop at your favorite online stores through the Box Tops MarketplaceSM (btfe.com/marketplace). Up to 8% of each qualifying purchase is automatically donated to our school. There is no additional cost to your purchase and many exclusive deals and discounts can be found!

Buy books — Purchase books online at Barnes & Noble through the Box Tops Reading RoomSM. Our school will receive 6% of your new book purchases and 3% of all other online purchases.

One of the easiest ways you can help is to sign up to support our school at www.boxtops4education.com. You will learn about new and easy ways to help our school earn the extra cash it needs.

Thanks to everyone who has supported our efforts. Please continue to send in Box Tops. Mark the envelope with your child's name, grade and homeroom number. If you have any questions feel free to contact your coordinator, Tracey Lusk at 724-941-7062 or e-mail at tlusk@federatedinv.com.



Coming soon.....
**Abitibi Paper Recycling
at McMurray School!**

Please save your:

Magazines
Shopping catalogs
Newspaper
Office & School Papers
Junk Mail

Please, drop off in the green & yellow bin in the McMurray parking lot.

**DO NOT leave paper trash outside
of the recycle bin! Thank you!**

Wet paper can not be recycled and the slightest breeze will blow the paper all over the parking lot!



**Can You Help Once
in a "Blue Moon?"**

If you are unable to commit to volunteering on a regular basis but would like to help once in a while, please complete the information below, tear off and send to school with your child.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Please place in the PTA mailbox in the office!





The McMurray Star Newsletter is going GREEN!!

This will be the last distributed paper newsletter. The PTA will be using Constant Contact to send out future newsletters and information. To be included, sign up at the McMurray PTA's link on the Peters Township School District website. A direct link to the signup box is: http://www.ptsd.k12.pa.us/PTA/PTA_McM.htm .

Along with the newsletter you will receive upcoming dates, announcements, and future flyers. Stay informed by signing up!! If you are unable to reach the sign-up box by typing in the above link, go to the PTSD website: www.ptsd.k12.pa.us . Under the "Our Schools" drop down box at the top of the page, select McMurray Elementary. Once you are at the McMurray page, select PTA/PTSA link in the left column. You should see the sign-up box on the PTA's main page. If you are not able to receive newsletters and announcements via email, a limited number of hard copies will be available in the office.

A note from...

Peters Township High School National Honor Society

This year, the National Honor Society at the High School will be fundraising all year for a local animal shelter, Angels for Animals. Angels for Animals is a no-kill shelter run by Jessie Klepsic, who is a Peters Township School District bus driver. When she is not taking students to and from school, Jessie is busy caring for animals and placing them for adoption. However, buying food and supplies, purchasing medicine, and paying for veterinary care becomes expensive. We would like to ask you, parents of McMurray Elementary students, to help us in helping Jessie by recycling.

The National Honor Society is working in conjunction with Cartridge World in Peters Township to recycle used ink cartridges. Inkjet and laser cartridges are acceptable (HP, Brother, Canon, Samsung, Lexmark, Dell). There is a collection bin in the main office of the High School for the ink cartridges or you may email the students below to arrange for your cartridges to be picked up.

We are also collecting aluminum cans that will be recycled. All proceeds will be donated to Angels for Animals. If you would like to donate aluminum cans or empty ink cartridges, please contact the Co-Chairs of this fundraiser:

Andrew Paul at spoon1213@hotmail.com or Jessie Smith at JGSinSYD@aol.com

If you would prefer, drop off your aluminum cans in the two receptacles marked "Aluminum Cans" located at 416 Hays Road, Venetia PA. (Please crush the cans before dropping off.)

**Attention
All Girls in
K-6th
Grade**



**Join Us at
the PTHS
Cheer Clinic
Jan. 31st**

The Peters Township High School Cheerleaders will host their annual Cheer Clinic for children age 5 thru 6th Grade on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2009. You don't want your daughter to miss this great opportunity to learn new cheer techniques, **plus have a ton of fun**, from the award winning PTHS Cheerleading Squad.

Your daughter will learn cheers, a dance and stunts geared for their cheer level, taught by the Peters Township High School Cheerleaders and Coaches. These will be new routines and new skills that the PTHS Cheer program has learned this year. **Registration is Saturday, Jan. 31st from 12:15 to 1:00 at the High School. The clinic will run from 1:00 to 3:30. There will be a performance for friends and family starting at 3:45 p.m.** Refreshments will be sold to the cheer clinic audience before the performance. We will be raffling off a beautiful gift basket. The winner will be called right before the performance.

Also, all cheer clinic participants will be invited to show off her new cheer clinic skills at a half-time show during a Boy's or Girl's Varsity Basketball game at the Peters Township High School.

The Clinic Pre-registration is \$25.00 due by Wednesday, Jan. 21. This includes a t-shirt and refreshments for your daughter the day of the clinic. If you have more than one daughter in the clinic, you will receive a \$5.00 discount for each additional girl. We can not refund your registration money after Jan. 21.

If your unable to pre-register, walk ins are also welcome the day of the clinic for \$30.00.

We will also be hosting an Advanced Clinic for grades 6th, 7th & 8th Grade in March for those girls interested in trying out for PTHS Cheerleading in the future. Visit the PTHS Cheerleading Website for more information about the Advanced Clinic (website address below).

Registration forms will be available, via email from wilsonwomen@comcast.net or you can download a form off of the PTHS Cheerleading Website. Visit our website for more information pertaining to the K-6 Clinic and 6th, 7th & 8th Advanced Clinic. Our address is:

<http://eteamz.active.com/pthscheerleading/>

If you have additional questions, please email Lisa Wilson at: wilsonwomen@comcast.net

Hope to see you there!