



Happy Holidays!

It's hard to believe the holidays are already upon us! The PTA is looking forward to closing out the year with our **Annual Holiday Shop**, and we are already hard at work prepping for activities and events in the New Year.

November was chock full of PTA efforts—we provided dinner for teachers and staff during **Parent-Teacher Conferences**, hosted an online book fair for the first time, served dinner and hosted **Arlene Kielser** (retired Bird Rehabilitator) during our **Free Family Fun Night**, and hosted a pizza party for our **Square One Art** top-selling class (Grade 2)!

Our **Online Book Fair** with **Children's Bookstore** did not prove to be as fruitful as we would have hoped. We understand that it launched right on the tail of the **Square One Art** fundraiser, and there's certainly also something to be said for being able to feel and smell new books in your hands. We will consider all of these factors as we move forward and consider other fundraisers to grow and improve book

selections in the library and classrooms. While we are disappointed, it's also important to give new ideas a try.

Next week, we will usher in the season with our **Holiday Shop!** We'll open in the Art Room on Thursday 12/10 and Friday 12/11 for students to visit with their classrooms and make gift selections, if they so choose. Our selection has been replenished and we're excited to offer lots of great gift options for family members and friends—even pets! This always proves to be a great exercise in planning, budgeting and calculating for students while selecting special items that range in price from \$1 to \$5. **The Holiday Shop** will remain open until 3:30pm on Friday for any faculty, parents or guardians who wish to visit with their child.

Here's wishing you the happiest of holidays and all good things in the New Year!

wendy

ANNUAL HOLIDAY SHOP: DEC 10 & 11

Our beloved **Holiday Shop** is a Farmington River tradition! Children love being able to hand-pick fun and affordable gifts for family members, friends, pets or teachers. Thanks to Mrs. Catullo, we set up shop and "stock the shelves" of her Art Room at school with relatively inexpensive gifts, **ranging \$1 to \$5**. Our team of merry helpers are on hand to assist children—and **two of their gifts** will even be wrapped for them! Parents and guardians of preschoolers are welcome to accompany their child. **Please see hours listed to the right. See you there!**



WINTER CALENDAR

Next PTA Meeting

Thursday, Jan 14, 2016

3:15 pm in the School Library

Child Care During PTA Meetings!

We hope you'll join us! If you plan to attend, please send your child with a note stating they will be staying after school. Students are to meet Karen Yvon at the benches outside the gym.

HOLIDAY SHOP HOURS

Thursday, Dec 10, 9 am - 12 noon

Friday, Dec 11, 10 am - 3:30 pm

Annual Winter Ski Program

January 6 - February 10, 2016

Otis Ridge and the PTA are partnering once again to offer great ski lesson package discounts; see reverse for details!

★ SAVE THE DATE ★

Annual Chili Cook-Off At The Knox

Friday, January 22, 2016

Warming, winter fun with entertainment by David Reed and The Trio Traumatica!

Annual Cash Calendar Fundraiser

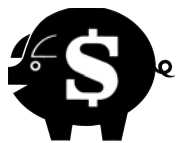
Coming in March 2016

Our primary fundraiser—see reverse for details!

"Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood."
—Marie Curie

"Education is teaching our children to desire the right things."
—Plato

"The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows."
—Sydney J. Harris



CHILDREN'S ONLINE BOOKSTORE

Our Online Book Fair concluded on Monday, November 23rd. We earned 30% of every book purchase for a total of \$266.39 to be used toward new books.



COLLECT YOUR BOX TOPS OVER WINTER VACATION!

Box Tops really add up! Affix them to a Box Tops for Education sheet or place them in an envelope or plastic zip bag. Please be sure to include your child's name and grade!



COLLECT YOUR LABELS FOR EDUCATION OVER WINTER VACATION!

Send in your Campbell's Labels for Education! Submit them in an envelope or sturdy plastic zip bag. Please be sure to include your child's name and grade!

ANNUAL WINTER SKI PROGRAM AT OTIS RIDGE

WEDNESDAYS: JANUARY 6 - FEBRUARY 10, 2016

Once again, the PTA will partner with our own local Otis Ridge to provide students in Grades K-6 and their siblings the opportunity to learn to ski or snowboard in an affordable fashion! Enrollment forms were recently sent home, just after the Thanksgiving holiday. The air is crisp and the snow sparkles by evening light at our charming, vintage-style family resort. Please fill yours out today and join in the fun!

ANNUAL CASH CALENDAR

During the month of November, we began reaching out to our generous donors to seek their support for the 2016 Cash Calendar! We've come a long way already, with a third of squares already filled. If you know anyone who would like to sponsor a square on the 2016 Cash Calendar, please have them contact Sherry DeCelle at sherryldecelle@gmail.com. Calendars are sold during January and February, with winners drawn every day during the month of March! The Cash Calendar Fundraiser is a hugely popular and long-running event, as well as the primary source of funding for all the programs our PTA conducts throughout the year. *It's super fun for all—be on the lookout!*

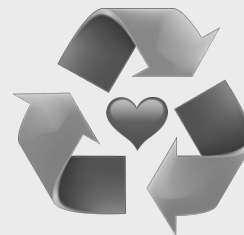


READ ACROSS AMERICA!

Volunteer to learn the ropes of "Read Across America" with Kathy Couch and take it over next year! It's part of the annual Dr. Seuss birthday celebration event! Please contact Kathy C. at pta@frrsd.org for more information.

WE WELCOME YOUR INPUT

Please get in touch with us at pta@frrsd.org for more information, to become involved, or if you're interested in helping with any of these efforts.



DONATE & FIND WANTED ITEMS

Our own Karen Yvon operates *K's Closet* where she welcomes donations, works to fill people's wish lists (think winter clothing and boots!) and connects donors with those who are looking for larger items (think furniture) ...

FOR FREE!

Her inventory is always changing, so if you have something you are considering donating, or need something—just email Karen at kay239@gfluniverse.org or call 413-848-2507. Arrange a donation, make a request or schedule a pick-up.

Happy Holidays!