

**From:** Mars Area Elementary PTO [marspto@gmail.com]  
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# April Meteor



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

A happy April to you all! Maybe the cold weather will now go away and we can enjoy some sunny, warm days!

As we begin our final two months of the year, I wanted to remind everyone that there are numerous opportunities for you to volunteer. From the teacher luncheons to the various field days, we need plenty of parent volunteers to help make all of these events a success. Some information has already gone home, more information will be coming home shortly...please be sure to respond!

Field trips are also to begin this month and there are still a few parents who have not gotten the clearances necessary to chaperone their child's field trip. Per district guidelines, those who have been Pennsylvania residents for at least the past three years must obtain an Act 34 (Criminal History) clearance and those who have not been Pennsylvania residents must obtain an FBI clearance. Directions on how to obtain these clearances can be found on the district website. Please remember, if these clearances are not secured you will not be permitted to chaperone your child's field trip. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me!

A Cyber Bullying Program is being offered at the Centennial and Middle

School in May. Details are included in this month's Meteor, so be sure to read the information and save the date!

On a last note, we are down to our last PTO meetings of the year. At our May meeting, we hold our annual elections for the PTO board and the executive board. If you have a child in one of the elementary schools, you are eligible to be a PTO board member. Please consider joining our team! You do a great service not only to our schools, but also your children. Plus, you make some great friends and are kept up to date on what is going on in the district. All board members are happy to answer any questions, so get in touch with us if you would like some more information!

I hope to see you this coming Tuesday, April 9th at 9:30 AM in the PTO room at the Primary Center.

Have a great month!

Carol Knox

cknox522@yahoo.com

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Tuesday April 9th-9:30am PTO Meeting- PC PTO Room**

**Wednesday April 17th-PC Open House**

**Thursday April 18th-2 Hour Delay**

**Wednesday April 24th-Market Day Pick Up MAE Cafeteria 6:30-7:30**

**Thursday April 24th-MAE Open House**

**Wednesday May 1st-Centennial Open House**

**Tuesday May 7th-9:30am PTO Meeting-PC PTO Room**

**Tuesday May 7th-MAE Teacher Luncheon**

**Wednesday May 8th-PC Teacher Luncheon**

**Thursday May 9th-Centennial Teacher Luncheon**

**Friday May 10th-NO SCHOOL**

## ATTENTION PARENTS

A Cyber Bullying Program will be offered at the Mars Centennial and Middle School with Elaine Surma on the following dates:

- May 8th, Mars Middle School School, 1:05 - 2:20 PM and 7:00 - 8:30 PM

- May 13th, Mars Centennial School 9:30 - 10:30 AM

At this time, Ms. Surma will be discussing the following topics:

- Cyber-worries: Dangers of social media information parents and students need to know! Educating themselves on the apps that their kids are using and teaching kids the safe way to use them.

- Internet-safety: keeping your children safe from predators and bullies
- Ways to improve your app savvy and help keep your kids safe
- Strategies youth need to learn to become "Cyber-savvy"

New cyber-worries are popping up daily.

Currently there are areas of the Web 2.0 that are hidden from adults but that are actively being used by youths: image boards, social media sites for self promotion, sites dedicated to gossip and bullying and image blogs promoting self harm, eating disorders and suicide. There is a virtual playground free from adult oversight in the palm of our students' hands. Much of what is being done on facebook, snapchat, tumblr, facetime, OOVVOO, etc. are federal offenses and more than that, can harm their futures.

Please plan to attend this very important meeting.

Please do not hesitate to contact Anna Saker at [asaker@marsk12.org](mailto:asaker@marsk12.org) if you have any questions.

## FIELD TRIP REMINDER

The following is a list of destinations for each grade.

Kindergarten - Soergels

First Grade - Phipps Conservatory

Second Grade - Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium

Third Grade - Heinz Field and PNC Park

Fourth Grade - Lutherlyn

Fifth Grade - Carnegie Museum of Natural History

Sixth Grade - PNC Park with a Pirates Game

For more specific dates and times, please check the website at [www.marspto.org](http://www.marspto.org)

## PRIMARY CENTER NEWS

Hello everyone,

The end of the year is approaching which means a few fun events are headed our way at the Primary Center. The Primary Center Open House is the evening of April 17th. This is a fun family event that the students really enjoy.

The PTO sponsored Black and White Photo Fundraiser will also be the evening of the Open House. You can purchase your photo now during our pre-sale or the night of the Open House. For more information on this you can contact:

Amy Riggio- [riggios@zoominternet.net](mailto:riggios@zoominternet.net)

The Teacher's Luncheon is Wednesday, May 8, 2013. This event is a very special. We honor our teachers as well as the entire staff for their hard work all year. For more information on this event you can contact:

Kim Cenci- [kim.cenci@gmail.com](mailto:kim.cenci@gmail.com)

A favorite event of many, is the PC Olympic Fun Day. OFD is Thursday, May 23, 2013. A fun filled day of games and activities for all PC students and parent volunteers. We are hoping for nice weather this year so the event can be held outside. If rain comes our way then we will hold the event indoors at the school. If you would like to volunteer for Olympic Fun Day please type in this link:

<http://vols.pt/h7kndU>

We are using Volunteerspot.com this year for all the OFD sign ups. This link will take you directly to the Mars PC Olympic Fun Day site and you can click on volunteer positions that would fit your schedule. There are spots for AM if you have a morning kindergartner, spots for PM if you have an afternoon Kindergartner and of course 1st grade will go all day. You will notice the name of each game is not listed, volunteers will be notified which game they are working at registration the morning of OFD. This is a wonderful day and the kids and parents have a great time. Thank you to all who volunteer for this special day, it could not happen without the help and support of all the volunteers. If anyone has any questions about OFD or the sign ups please feel free to call or email me.

**REMEMBER TO VOLUNTEER YOUR LICENSE MUST BE SCANNED BY  
MAY 10, 2013 AND NO SIBLINGS ALLOWED AT OFD**

Lastly, I would like to say Thank You to all of the Contact Parents and party volunteers. This year the parties ran smoothly and like always the students and teachers appreciate all the planning and hard work that goes into making them so special.

Katie Ray- PC PTO Chair    [raysinmars@gmail.com](mailto:raysinmars@gmail.com)    (412) 352-5391

## A SCIENCE FAIR THANK YOU

Thank you to all who turned out for the Mars Elementary Science Fair that was held on March 19th. Over 245 students in 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade took part in this year's fair. As a special treat to the participants, scientists from the University of Pittsburgh attended to ask the students about their projects. At the end of the night, all participants received a trophy to honor their hard work and commitment.

Finally, a big thank you to our wonderful Science Fair committee members: Sherry McEwen, Tracey Smith, Teresa Bissett, Christine Rocco, Tonya Blank and Christi Kolarcik. These ladies worked extremely hard to assure that the night was a success. We couldn't have done it without you ladies! We look forward to seeing you all next year at the 2014 Mars Science Fair!  
Carol Knox

## MAC FIELD DAY ANNOUNCED

The Mars Area Centennial School will hold its annual Field Day on Thursday, May 30. If you are unfamiliar with Field Day, it's a half-day of outdoor competitions at the Mars Athletic Complex (weather permitting). Fifth and sixth grade classes compete together in things like the Long Jump, 100 Yard Dash, and Soccer Kick. At the end of the event, the students head back inside for lunch, the 6th Grade Recognition Ceremony, and the Tug-of-War Competition.

This is the biggest event run by the PTO at MAC each year, and we couldn't do it without your help. The PTO requires several parents volunteers per game, volunteers at the scoring tables, and a few volunteers to handle snacks/beverages. The field day fun for volunteers usually runs from about 8:30 a.m. until noon or 12:30 p.m. If you are interested in helping on May 30, please contact Susan Cable at [cable\\_susan@yahoo.com](mailto:cable_susan@yahoo.com) or 724-625-1868.

## MARS AREA CENTENNIAL SCHOOL TALENT SHOW

The Mars Area Centennial School will present its annual Talent Show on Wednesday, May 22, 2013 in the afternoon. Fifth and sixth grade students are invited to demonstrate a variety of talents. Please look for specific information and guidelines in the weekly folders to follow in the next few weeks. Please contact Jacki Kearney at [kearneyjk@zoominternet.net](mailto:kearneyjk@zoominternet.net) or

724.625.8686 with any questions.

## MARS AREA CENTENNIAL SCHOOL TEACHER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

Planning is underway for the luncheon to be held on Thursday, May 9th. Forms were sent home with students last week, and are due back by Friday, April 12th.

If you would like to help or contribute to this event, please contact Karen Harvey at [kmharvey21@gmail.com](mailto:kmharvey21@gmail.com).

## MAC DECORATING COMMITTEE

A very big thank you to our loyal parents who helped us decorate the school throughout the year!

We appreciate all of the time and energy you gave to help make the school look a little bit brighter throughout each season!

Sincerely,

Mars Area Elementary PTO | 724-898-7248  
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