

Mars Area Elementary PTO Newsletter

Meteor

September, 2014

Important Upcoming Dates

September 2 - 5th Grade Orientation, Centennial

September 3 - 6th Grade Orientation, Centennial

September 4 - MAE Orientation

CONTACT PARENT MEETINGS

September 8 - PC (K 9-10, 1st 11-12)

September 9 - MAE (2nd 9-10, 3rd 10-11, 4th 11-12)

PICTURE DAYS

September 11 - PC Picture Day

September 17 - MAE Picture Day

September 18 - Centennial Picture Day

Market Day Pickup

September 17 ~ MAE Cafeteria 6:30-7:30pm

MARCH FOR MARS

September 30 (PC),

Mars PTO



We've MOVED!!!

~ ~ ~

Please join us for a housewarming at our first meeting of the school year in our new home:



September 2nd @ 9:30 a.m.
Centennial Building, room #218**

**You must have your license scanned to enter the building.

President's Passage

October 1 (CENN),
October 2 (MAE)

MARCH FOR MARS RAIN DATES

October 7 (PC), October
8 (CENN), October 9
(MAE)

MAE Book Fair

October 13-October 17 -
MAE Book Fair (Family
Night 10/13 3:30 - 8:00)

Spirit Wear Pickup

October 15 - Spirit Wear
Delivery ~ MAE
Cafeteria

Fall Festival Parties

October 24 - Centennial
Fall Festival (5th 1-2, 6th
2-3)

October 30 - PC Fall
Festival

October 31 - MAE Fall
Festival

2014-2015 PTO Meetings

**New location: Centennial
Room 218**

Sept. 2 at 9:30 a.m.
October 9 at 7:00 p.m.**
November 4 at 9:30 a.m.
December 2 at 9:30 a.m.
January 6 at 9:30 a.m.
Feb. 4 at 7:00 p.m.**
March 3 at 9:30 a.m.
April 7 at 9:30 a.m.
May 12 at 9:30 a.m.

Every August, some of us are sad to see carefree summer days come to an end. Others of us couldn't take one more carefree day with nothing going on except sibling arguments and children complaining. Either way, welcome to the new school year!

The PTO has already been hard at work, and we have many exciting new events:

- The March for Mars, our fundraiser, is already underway. I hope that you will find the official flyer in your child's Friday folder. We are excited about this event that promotes health and fitness outside of P.E. class and will help fund the many events and programs that the PTO sponsors for the kids.
- We have a new spirit wear vendor, and we think he's terrific. You should receive the brochure soon, and the website is already live. I'm looking forward to ordering the Women's ¼ Zip Dri Fit Fleece. You should check it out in the lobby of any of our elementary buildings!
- We hope that you'll join us in our new location - Centennial, room #218 - for any one of our morning meetings this year. Remember that we gather on the first Tuesday of each month at 9:30 in the PTO room. You must have your license scanned in order to be able to enter the building and join our meetings.
- I hope that we can meet more of you this year at two night meetings that we are offering. In October and February we will meet in the evening in the LGI room at the middle school. See Important Dates later in the newsletter for dates and times.

"I always wondered why somebody doesn't do something about that.

Then I realized I was somebody."

~Lily Tomlin

- I'd like to welcome four brand new members to the

PTO this year: Kristen Lutzic and Jessica Black at PC, Alison Painley at Centennial and Jenn Pro on Premiums. I'm glad that each of them realized she was somebody!

- "Like" us on Facebook! Search for Mars Elementary PTO. This will be a GREAT place to get updates and last-minute reminders and to see photos from recent events. We're live on Twitter, as well, so don't forget to follow us there if you spend time tweeting.

Read on in this newsletter for more details on these PTO developments.

Throughout the year, you can stay updated on PTO happenings in a variety of ways. In addition to our new Facebook page and Twitter feed, you can stay informed through our email system, the Mars PTO website (marspto.org), and by watching those Friday folders for important paper announcements and flyers. Via email we distribute our monthly electronic newsletter and make announcements or send reminders. All parents will have an opportunity to sign up in the next week or so to receive our emails. While providing an email address is strictly voluntary, I recommend that you do so. We have committed to going green and saving some trees!

I look forward to seeing many of you at our housewarming meeting on September 2.

Susan Cable
President

CONTACT PARENTS & March for Mars MARSHALS

For those of you new to the District, a Contact Parent helps plan the classroom parties, secures volunteers for a variety of school events, and serves as a liaison between the PTO and the classroom parents for grades

Kindergarten through fourth. There are only 3 Contact Parents per class.

This year, in addition to three Contact Parents, we will select two Marshals to assist each classroom during the March for Mars. You must be available on your school's scheduled March date in order to be selected.

The PTO will hold meetings to select Contact Parents and Marshals for classrooms on the following days*:

September 8 - Primary Center parents

Kindergarten 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

First Grade 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

September 9 - MAE parents

Second Grade 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Third Grade 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Fourth Grade 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

All meetings are held in the PTO room, Centennial #218. You must have your license scanned in order to attend the meeting.

If you are interested in becoming a Contact Parent for your child's class, please plan on attending the above meeting date at your scheduled time. If you cannot attend the meeting, please contact Karen Goul (kkgoul@yahoo.com) for PC or Jody Gagnon (jody_gagnon@yahoo.com) for MAE before September 8th so your name will be added to the list of interested parents.

*Please note: These meeting dates are listed incorrectly on the District paper calendar.

WEBSITE DESIGNER WANTED

The PTO would like to give its website a fresh, new look. If you have experience in website design and would be willing to donate your time, please contact Susan Cable @ cable_susan@yahoo.com or 724-759-0449.



March for Mars Fundraiser and Opt Out!

The flyer below explains the details of our new FUNdraiser. You can begin collecting pledges right now. Using our www.crowdrise.com/marchformars site, you can create your own team in order track the online donations o your child(ren).

In past years, the PTO has offered a fundraising "opt-out" for parents who choose not to participate in the annual fundraiser. This year, we rolled it into the March for Madness event. If you don't want to ask friends and family to sponsor your walker, you my contribute \$30 to the PTO, and your child will be credited with \$30 in pledges. This is important, since the classes will be competing to win the top spot for pledge collection and the coveted pizza lunch.

The PTO debuted the exclusive "safety yellow" t-shirt that the kids can earn with \$40 in donations. There are additional prizes at higher levels, and prizes are cumulative. We hope that the kids enjoy the March as much as we have enjoyed getting it underway.

We are announcing a new PTO FUNdraiser called the March for Mars! Our goal is to raise money for the Mars Elementary PTO while promoting health and fitness & having FUN! March for Mars will be a walk/jog-a-thon for which the students will collect pledges from friends

and family. ALL students will participate in a walk/run on campus during the school day on September 30th (PC), October 1st (Cent), and October 2nd (MAE) at a time designated by their principals. Proceeds from the event will fund PTO programs for the 2014-2015 school year, including: field trips and t-shirts, field days, holiday shops, a teacher-support fund, and special needs and projects. We expect this fundraiser to be a big success and the major fundraiser of the year! It includes the "opt out" program you are used to; if you raise \$30 in donations you will be considered opted out of any further fundraising for the year (see Prizes below).

We need you to:

Collect donations from friends and family to sponsor you for March for Mars. We are asking for a flat donation, not a per-lap donation.

Donations can be collected by:

1) Cash or Check: Checks can be made payable to Mars Elementary PTO

2) Online Donations: Use the following link to the website. This is a great way to reach out to those out-of-town friends and relatives and to use social media to help in your fundraising efforts.

www.crowdrise.com/marchformars/

*****ALL COLLECTION ENVELOPES ARE DUE ON
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH*****

~~~prizes~~~Prizes~~~PRIZES~~~Prizes~~~prizes~~~

All students will be eligible to earn the following prizes based upon the amount of donations they collect:

\$10 Statement Band March for Mars Bracelet

\$30 Congratulations, you have opted out of further fundraising for this year.

\$40 EXCLUSIVE March for Mars T-shirt to be worn the day of the event.

\$75 Mars Water Bottle

\$150 Mars Cinch Bag

\$300 Mars Under Armour Hoodie

The top earning class in each elementary building will earn a pizza lunch!

We can accept donations after the deadline, but canNOT guarantee the availability of prizes, so turn in your collection envelope with cash and/or checks NO LATER THAN FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 12TH!!!

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## MARKET DAY ~

### HELP YOUR SCHOOL RAISE MONEY & FEED YOUR FAMILY AT THE SAME TIME

This September you can get a FREE mixing bowl set with a \$50 purchase. You can order online at [marketday.com](http://marketday.com) until 11PM on Thursday, September 11, 2014 or send in your order sheet to the school by Wednesday, September 10, 2014. Market Day pickup will be Wednesday, September 17, 2014 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the MAE Cafeteria.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help, you can call Sheri McMaster, PTO Market Day Chair at (724) 625-3997.

## SPIRIT WEAR

Excited to announce Spirit Wear has a New Vendor and Great New Items including Under Armor. Spirit Wear Sale will run from August 21st to September 26th. This year you will be able to order online at [www.sportslocker.biz/teamflyer](http://www.sportslocker.biz/teamflyer) or/and a form will be coming home that you will be able to order by check. Spirit wear pick up will be October 15th at MAE. Order your spirit wear today.



## **Box Tops for Education Contest Begins October 6th!**

The annual "Box Tops for Education" contest begins Monday, October 6th! Box Tops collection earned more than \$8,000 for our three elementary schools last year.

Please remember to trim the coupons, check the expiration dates and have your child turn them in to their teacher. The last day to submit Box Tops for the contest is Friday, October 24th.

The PTO is keeping a count of all the coupons. One classroom from each grade level will win a prize! Stay tuned for details!

Counting dates for the contest are October 10th, 17th and 24th in the PTO room, Centennial #218. If you are interested in helping us, please contact Jenn Pro.

Please remember to have your license scanned before joining us.

In the meantime, keep clipping those Box Tops coupons at home. An update will be sent each week to indicate which classrooms are leading the contest. Good luck!

Jenn Pro

[bellaz\\_momm@hotmail.com](mailto:bellaz_momm@hotmail.com)

## **FIELD TRIPS**

-  
Although school has just begun, preparations for the field trips in Kindergarten through sixth grade are

already underway. This year, all the trips will be scheduled in the spring. Please note that teachers are responsible for selecting the chaperones for their classroom. ALL chaperones must have the necessary clearances and also have their license scanned. Don't put it off -- Take a moment now to complete the necessary forms online. The information you need can be found at <http://marspto.org>. On the right margin, go to Forms and then click on Background Check Information. Please contact Tracy Ashbaugh at [ashbaugh6@zoominternet.net](mailto:ashbaugh6@zoominternet.net) with any questions.

### **Primary Center News**

Welcome to school year 2014-15! The Mars Primary Center has a variety of activities for students (and parents) to participate in this year.

If you are interested in volunteering and did not already sign up, please contact the PC building chairperson.

September important dates:

Spirit wear sales all month  
9/2 PTO meeting  
9/8 Contact Parent meeting  
9/11 School Picture Day  
9/19 2-hour delay  
9/30 March for Mars

It's going be a great year!

Karen Goul  
PC building chairperson  
[Kkgoul@yahoo.com](mailto:Kkgoul@yahoo.com)

### **Mars Elementary School News**

Welcome to a new school year! We hope everyone had a wonderful summer and you are ready to get back into the swing of things. Please be sure to stop by our PTO table at Parent Orientation on Thursday September 4th. We will have our sign up sheets if you are interested in volunteering for any of our committees. If you don't get a chance to stop by please contact the committee chair in charge:

Jody Gagnon: [jody\\_gagnon@yahoo.com](mailto:jody_gagnon@yahoo.com) - Head Chair, Contact Parents, Decorating

Karen Harvey: [karenharvey21@gmail.com](mailto:karenharvey21@gmail.com) - Holiday Shop, Teacher Luncheon

Rachel Steigerwald: [rmsteig@gmail.com](mailto:rmsteig@gmail.com) - Fall and Spring Book Fairs

Tanya Yoshioka: [tyoshcolors@gmail.com](mailto:tyoshcolors@gmail.com) - Fundraising and World Record Day

### **[MAE Book Fair - October 13th - 17th](#)**

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The fall book fair will be held on October 13th - 17th. Preview night will be Monday Oct 13th between 3:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. More information will come out by the end of September. If you would like to volunteer to help with the book fair please contact: Rachel Steigerwald ([rmsteig@gmail.com](mailto:rmsteig@gmail.com)). You must have had your license scanned.

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**Sincerely,**

Mars PTO  
Mars Area Elementary PTO