



**March  
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## President's Corner



**Happy March!**

**We are coming down the home stretch! Only three more months of school and a lot of activities still planned! Planning will begin soon for the teacher luncheons and field day events, so please look for emails and details of these events coming soon.**

**As you all know, new guidelines were issued for holiday and birthday treats. Mrs. Saker, the schools nurses and a few parents spent much time discussing how to revise these guidelines to give more selections for all students. As a mother of an allergy child myself, great care was taken to make sure different options were available for those who do suffer from allergies. This is a work in progress, meaning that we attempted to come up with a wide variety of different snacks, but realize there may be other options available. If you have a snack that you feel should be added to the snack list, please make a copy of the ingredients and nutritional information and send it to myself or Anna Saker (I actually find taking a picture of the nutritional and ingredient list on my iphone is great!) We will be talking once a month and revising the holiday and birthday list as needed. The one thing we learned is that many food**

manufacturers will change their ingredient list, so you may find foods that are acceptable at this point may not be acceptable in a few months. It is a daunting task! Please know we are committed to not only keeping kids safe, but letting them have a special treat for the various celebrations throughout the year. Also, feel free to call me or email me with any questions!

I also wanted to mention to everyone the importance of reading all material that comes home with your child or sent to you via email. I know that we are all extremely busy and I often find myself just skimming over papers and email to save time. However, I am finding that many parents are missing important deadlines for functions that may prohibit them or their child from participating. Please take time to read the eCommunicator (this comes by email every Thursday), our PTO email blasts, The Meteor or even peruse the district website. I know how hard it is to squeeze it in when you are running one child here and another somewhere else, but I hate to see a parent turned away from attending an event because proper clearances weren't obtained or a deadline was missed.

Most information sent out from the district is via email, so it is so important to check your email constantly. Also, when you have a free minute, peruse the district website...there is so much informatin available and many do not realize it. If you have any questions or are having a hard time finding something on district website (I know if often do!) please do not hesitate to email or call me. We can struggle through it together!

Our next PTO meeting is this Tuesday, March 5th in the PTO roon at the Primary Center. If you are considering getting involved in the PTO next year, now is a good time to join us...we only have three meetings left in the school year! We always love seeing new faces!

Have a wonderful month!

Carol Knox

[cknox522@yahoo.com](mailto:cknox522@yahoo.com)

724 776-2615



## Important Dates:

**Monday March 4th - MAE Book Fair - Change Wars**

**Fundraiser: Pennies**

**Tuesday March 5th- 9:30am PTO Meeting PC PTO Room**

**Tuesday March 5th -MAE Book Fair - Change Wars Fundraiser:Nickels**

**Wednesday March 6th -MAE Book Fair - Change Wars Fundraiser: Dimes**

**Thursday March 7th -MAE Book Fair - Change Wars Fundraiser:Quarters**

**Friday March 8th - MAE Book Fair - Change Wars Fundraiser:Dollars**

**Monday March 11th, 3-8 p.m.MAE Book Fair Family Night**

**Tuesday-Thursday March 12th-14th MAE Book Fair**

**Tuesday March 19th-MAE Science Fair High School Gym**

**Wednesday March 20th-Pre Scheduled 2 Hour Delay**

**Wednesday March 20th, 6:30-7:30 - Market Day Pickup MAE Cafeteria**

**Wednesday March 20th, 3:30-7:00 p.m.-Sarris Candy Pickup: MAE Cafeteria**

**Friday March 22nd-End of Third Nine Weeks**

**Thursday March 28th-Tuesday April 2nd: NO SCHOOL**

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



## **Thank you MAE Party Parents**

A big thank you to all the parents who helped with the Valentines parties at MAE. Your help and time are very much appreciated. Also, a big thank you to all the parents who donated items for the parties. These parties are so much fun for the kids and could not happen without your help!



## **MARS ELEMENTARY SPRING BOOK FAIR**

**March 11th-14th**

The book fair is fast approaching and plans are in the works for a super event! Our theme this year is "Story Laboratory: Reading Gives you Super Power!"

We will be having the book fair in 2 classrooms at the Elementary building. Monday, March 11th will kick off the book fair with our Family Night

evening sale, starting at 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday are the days which your children will shop during class times. A flyer was sent home with all the class schedule times with your child last Friday.

You are welcome to come in and shop with your child during their assigned class time. In order to shop with your child during the classroom time, you **MUST** have your license scanned by March 8th.

### **CHANGE WARS RETURNS - March 4th-8th**

This year we are participating in the All for Books program again as well as doing the CHANGE WARS fundraiser! This program is run through Scholastic and for every dollar we collect they will purchase a book for a child in a distressed situation. Last year we raised over \$1500 which means 1500 books were donated to Kids in Distressed Situations!

Monday, March 4th will be pennies;  
Tuesday, March 5th will be nickels;  
Wednesday, March 6th will be dimes;  
Thursday, March 7th will be quarters; and  
Friday, March 8th will be dollars.

You can send these in with your children daily for collection in the classrooms. This is purely voluntary! Each grade will have a winning class that collects the most money. That class will receive a voucher for a "FREE" paperback reading book for each student, valued at no more than \$7.

Winners will be notified on Monday, March 11th and will be given vouchers on their classroom's shopping day.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sheri McMaster at [ssmcmaster@zoominternet.net](mailto:ssmcmaster@zoominternet.net)

or if you would like to volunteer,  
please contact Cara Schultz at [caraj3@live.com](mailto:caraj3@live.com) .



## Class Field Trips are Coming!!

With Spring just around the corner, it's almost time for field trips! 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 Baseball Game

Chaperones have all been chosen and need to complete the required clearances asap if not already done so. For more specific dates and times, please check the website at [www.marspto.org](http://www.marspto.org)

Thank you,  
Diana Volkar



## Field Trip Chaperones

If you were chosen as a chaperone, please complete and turn in a copy of your clearances

to Lori Kennedy at the Administrative Building as soon as possible. Please refer to the school website if you are unsure what clearances are required as more is needed than just the license scanning. These clearances must be completed and turned in by March 15th.

Thank you,  
Diana Volkar  
[diana.volkar@gmail.com](mailto:diana.volkar@gmail.com)



## **ATTENTION MAE SCIENCE FAIR PARENTS**

By now, all students participating in the Science Fair have been given back their Science Fair Proposals. The next step in the process is to complete the Scientific Method Form. The form was attached to your returned Science Fair Proposal. If you have misplaced yours, please obtain another copy from the elementary office, from the district website for from the PTO website, [marspto.org](http://marspto.org).

The Scientific Method form is due on March 8th. Please have your child turn their form into the elementary office. It is very important that this form is turned in, as we take the names from the Scientific Method Form for the program for the Science Fair. Please make sure your child's name and project is legible to alleviate any mistakes in the program.

We have been very impressed with the projects the students have chosen! We cannot wait to see the final results on the night of the Science Fair. Remember, the Science Fair is scheduled for Tuesday, March 19th, in the Mars High School gymnasiums! We look forward to seeing you then!

The Science Fair Committee  
Carol Knox  
Sherri McEwen  
Tracey Smith  
Christine Rocco  
Teresa Bissett  
Tonya Blank



## "Centennial Teacher Luncheon"

The Teacher/Staff Luncheon at Centennial has been scheduled for Thursday, May 9th. Our committee will be holding its first planning meeting within the coming weeks. If you would like to be included in the committee correspondence, or if you have a special interest or item you would like to donate for this special event, please contact Karen Harvey at [kmharvey21@gmail.com](mailto:kmharvey21@gmail.com). Thank you!



## Centennial Spring Party~Thank You!

We had a great time at our Hawaiian Luau, and I sincerely appreciate all of the volunteers who helped out at the party. We would not be able to host this event without your support!  
Also, a big thank you to all of the parents who gave monetary donations and/or supplies.

Aloha ~ Karen Harvey





## SARRIS CANDY-PICK UP

We have scheduled pick up of your Sarris Candy orders for Wednesday, March 20, 2013 starting from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the Mars Elementary School Cafeteria. **ALL ORDERS FROM ALL THREE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS WILL NEED TO BE PICKED UP AT THIS LOCATION AND TIME.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the following PTO Chairperson for your school:

Amy Riggio, Primary Center (724) 553-5068

Sheri McMaster, Mars Elementary (724) 625-3997

Jacki Kearney, Mars Centennial (724) 625-8686



## MARKET DAY ~ HELP YOUR SCHOOL & FEED YOUR FAMILY

This March you can get a FREE Peppercorn Pork Loin with a \$90 online purchase PROMO Code MARBONUS. Also this month they have 11 delicious pies to choose from for the Dessert Bonus Days! You can order online at [marketday.com](http://marketday.com) until 11PM on Thursday, March 14, 2013 or send in your order sheet to the school by Wednesday, March 13, 2013. Market Day pickup will be Wednesday, March 20, 2013 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 at (724) 625-3997.



**Support the Mars Band**

**Collect Cranberry Chick-Fil-A receipts to help the Mars Marching Band.**

**The Mars Band will receive 20% of the receipt value in Chick-Fil-A Rewards. Chick-Fil-A receipt collection boxes can be found in the Primary Center, Elementary School, and Centennial School box top collection areas. Receipts can also be deposited in the High School band room or given to a High School band member. So, remember to save your receipts!**



## **Mars Posti's Pizza Community Night**

**Support the Mars Marching Band by ordering from Posti's Pizza in Mars on Tuesday, March 12th from 4-9pm.**

**They are offering two specials that night:**

- **2 Medium cheese pizzas for \$12.99**
- **1 Large pizza with 2 toppings for \$10.99**

**The Marching Band will receive 50% of all sales on Tuesday, March 12th from 4-9pm at the Mars location of Posti's Pizza.**



## **Mars Area Public Library**

**Spring Story Time**

**Monday 10:30am  
March 11, 18, 25  
April 1, 8, 15, 22**

**Tuesday 1:00 pm**  
**March 12, 19, 26**  
**April 2, 9, 16, 23**

**Friday 10:30 am**  
**March 15, 22**  
**April 5, 12, 19, 26**

**Story Tots**  
**Wednesdays 10:30 am**



Sincerely,  
**Mars PTO**  
Mars Area Elementary PTO



Mars PTO / PO Box 173 / Mars, Pennsylvania 16046

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