



Mars Elementary PTO April Meteor

Presidents Corner

Volunteering. It's a term we hear often during the school year. At the beginning of the year, the PTO has tables set up at building visitation and orientations to urge parents to get involved with one of our many committees. We follow up quite often with those who expressed interest in helping so we can be sure our events go off without a hitch. Many times we see the same familiar faces every year and it is wonderful because we know we can rely on those people to do a stellar job. Other times we are surprised and happy to see a new face, one who often brings new ideas and breathes new life into our routine. Some like to volunteer for many activities, others just have one they hold dear. However you choose to help, your time and hard work is necessary for us to be successful in promoting and implementing our programs...and for that we are extremely grateful!

But do you also realize the other important part of being a volunteer? One which I do not think many realize or take into consideration? It is the example you set for your children. By volunteering, you show your child that their school is important to you...that you make a difference by giving of your time. You show how important teamwork is and how it takes many people working together to get a job done. When you give of your time, your children do notice (they really do) and they are indeed proud to see you involved.

There are also a few of you who really prefer to head and

oversee committees and therefore, may be interested in becoming a PTO Board member. Now I realize this job is not for everyone, as many of my close friends often looked at me in horror when I suggested they get involved in PTO! However, I have found it to be rather rewarding and beneficial. What better way to become familiar with the schools, the principals and the staff? It is also a great way to meet new parents, become better informed with what is happening in each school and bring your new, fresh ideas to the table. There is some work and responsibility, but I personally have found it to be well worth it.

Next month at our May 14th meeting, we will have our annual elections. A few board members, such as myself, will be leaving, as our time in the elementary system has come to a close. That means there are positions open. If you are interested in becoming a board member, then come to our meeting and add your name to the ballot! We would truly love to have you. In the meantime, if you have any questions about what being a board member is all about, please do not hesitate to contact me...I can give you the lowdown on what it means to be a member of the PTO!

We do have one more meeting before our election meeting...why not come and see what we are all about? Our next meeting is Tuesday, April 1st, 9:30 AM in the PTO room at the Primary Center. We look forward to seeing you!

Carol Knox
PTO President
cknox522@yahoo.com

Important Dates:

March 28th- End of Third Nine Weeks (revised)

March 31st-April 4th - MAE Change Wars for Scholastic Book Fair collection

April 1st- 9:30am - PTO Meeting:
PC PTO Room

April 7th - 3:30-7:00 p.m - Sarris Easter Candy pickup
:MAE Cafeteria

April 7th - 3:30-7:00pm -MAE Family Night Book Fair
Event
: Rooms C-017 & C-021

April 8th - 10th - MAE classrooms shop at book fair

April 9th - 6:00-8:15pm - Centennial Science Fair
:Centennial Cafeteria

April 10th- 5:30-7:30pm - MAE Open House

April 10th- 6:00-8:00pm - PC Open House

April 17th - Act 80 Day No School

April 18th-21st - No school

April 22nd - 2 Hour Delay

April 23rd - 6:30-7:30 p.m - Market Day pickup
: MAE Cafeteria

April 24th - 5:30pm - MAE Family Literacy Night

May 6th - Centennial Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

May 7th - MAE Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

May 8th - PC Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

May 13th - 9:30am - PTO Meeting
: PC PTO Room

***MARKET DAY ~ HELP YOUR SCHOOL
RAISE MONEY &
FEED YOUR FAMILY AT THE SAME
TIME***

This April you can get a FREE California Blend (1lb. bag) with a \$40 purchase plus FREE Chicken Gems with a \$90 online purchase using Promo Code: APRBONUS. You can order online at marketday.com until 11PM on Thursday, April 17, 2014 or send in your order sheet to the school by Wednesday, April 16, 2014. Market Day pickup will be Wednesday, April 23, 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.

PICK-UP REMINDER FOR SARRIS CANDY ORDERS

ALL SCHOOLS, PRIMARY CENTER, ELEMENTARY, CENTENNIAL

Your Sarris Candy orders will be ready for pick-up on Monday, April 7, 2014 starting from 3:30 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:

Karen Goul, Primary Center (724) 772-2679

Sheri McMaster, Mars Elementary (724) 625-3997

Jacki Kearney, Mars Centennial (724) 625-8686

Primary Center News:

Hello All

The Staff appreciation Luncheon is on Thursday, May 8, 2014. This is a very special event to honor our teachers and other staff members for their hard work and dedication throughout the school year. We are still in need of raffle items for our teachers. Do you have an old gift card lying around that you can't use? Perhaps you own a business and would like to donate something you

think the staff would enjoy. Anything you would like to donate is appreciated. We will also will be sending a note home soon with details of other items you can send in to make this a big success! For more information on this event or to inquire about donating a raffle item, please contact Susan Tirch (412)554-0171 or SDTPHARMD@Gmail.com.

Also, on Thursday May,22 is the PC Olympic Fun Day it is a great day for the kids, they get to do games and activities for the entire day. We need a lot of parents help to make this day run smoothly. This year we will be using Volunteer Spot to sign up for shifts that you can volunteer. Olympic Fun Day is a great time for both parents to volunteer so please mark your calenders. If you would like to volunteer you must use this link:

<http://vols.pt/Uu69y1>

As always you must have your license scanned two weeks prior to the event!

Please Volunteer!!

Rachel Steigerwald

MAE News

MAE SCIENCE FAIR THANK YOU!

What a spectacular night for the 241 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade students who participated in this year's MAE Science Fair. Despite the threat of inclement weather, many braved the elements to see the wonderful projects displayed by our students. The night was made even more special by the visiting "judges" from the University of Pittsburgh. These scientists asked many questions about the participant's projects and rewarded them with a trophy for all of their hard work.

We would like to thank all the students who participated in the Science Fair and the parents who supported them in their endeavors.

Last but not least, the Science Fair would not have been possible without the help and hard work of the Science

Fair Committee: Sherri McEwen, Tracy Smith, Christi Kolarcik, Tonya Blank, Teresa Bissett, Christine Rocco, Christine Valenta and Dede Khemani.

We look forward to seeing all of you next year at the 2015 MAE Science Fair!

Carol Knox
Science Fair Committee

**REMINDER NEXT WEEK 3/31-4/04
ALL FOR BOOKS/CHANGE WARS
MAE STUDENTS ONLY - 2ND, 3RD AND 4TH
Grades**

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.

Monday, March 31st will be pennies, Tuesday, April 1st will be nickels, Wednesday, April 2nd will be dimes, Thursday, April 3rd will be quarters, and Friday, April 4th will be dollars. You can send this money in with your children daily for collection in their classrooms. This is purely voluntary! Each grade level 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 and can be used during your child's classroom shopping time.

Winners will be notified on Monday, April 7th and will be given vouchers on their classroom's shopping day.

**MARS ELEMENTARY SPRING BOOK FAIR
PLEASE MARK YOUR CALANDARS**

April 7-10, 2014

The PTO sponsored spring book fair will be held during the week of April 7-10, 2014 at MAE for Grades 2-4; starting with our Family Night, Monday, April 7, 2014 from 3:30-7:00 p.m. in Rooms C-017 and C-021 and classes will be shopping on Tuesday through Thursday, April 8-10, 2014 from 9:15 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. You should have received a flyer in your child's Friday take home

folder by now with your child's classroom shopping schedule.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sheri McMaster at ssmcmaster@zoominternet.net or (724) 625-3997.

MAE Teacher Luncheon

The MAE Teacher Luncheon will be held Wednesday, May 7th 2014. Our theme this year is the Kentucky Derby. A flyer will go out shortly to sign up for food, decoration and gift card donations. Any monetary donations sent in should be addressed to PTO: Jody Gagnon. All checks should be made payable, to Mars Elementary PTO. Any questions please contact Jody Gagnon at jody_gagnon@yahoo.com.

Looking Ahead

Mars Elementary World Record Days

June 2nd, 3rd and 4th

Please mark your calendars for the best event of the year "World Record Days" at the Mars Elementary School will be held the following days:

Grade 4 - Monday, June 2nd

Grade 2 - Tuesday, June 3rd

Grade 3 - Wednesday, June 4th

The start time for each of these days will be 12:00 p.m. and run through 3:00 p.m. with the whole grade participating in a Tug-of-War at the end.

I will be sending out an email very soon to those of you who signed up at the beginning of the year to volunteer for this event to see if you are still willing to participate. If you have any questions concerning this event or would like to volunteer to help out, please contact me at ssmcmaster@zoominternet.net or (724) 625-3997.

Sheri McMaster

PTO Chair for World Record Days

Centennial News:

Mardi Gras Party Thank You!

A great big THANK YOU to all the parents that helped make the last party of the year a success!

Centennial Science Fair

It is almost here! The Centennial Science Fair will be held on April 9th from 6:00-8:15 PM at the Centennial Building. The doors will open at 5:00 PM for participants to set up their projects and the judging will begin promptly at 6:00 PM. The judges for the Centennial Science Fair will be scientists from Westinghouse.

We are looking forward to seeing you on April 9th!

Carol Knox
Science Fair Committee

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

The luncheon at Centennial is Tuesday, May 6th. If you would like to help with this event and/or make a monetary donation or donate a gift in-kind/gift card - please contact Karen Harvey (kmharvey21@gmail.com) A flyer will be sent home with students this week.

Talent Show

The Annual Centennial School Talent Show will be held on Friday, May 23 from 1-3 pm in the Centennial School Gym. Any Fifth or Sixth grade student is welcome to audition. Rehearsals will take place after school in May. Have your child start thinking about ideas for acts, routines, dances, songs and costumes. Please look for details to follow in your child's Friday folder in the next few weeks.

Thank you,
Jacki Kearney
kearneyjk@zoominternet.net

Centennial Field Day will be held on Thursday, June 5th. More information will be sent home in the next two months. If you have any questions, please contact Tracey Smith at natetray@zoominternet.net. Thanks!

Community News:

Mars Public Library

April Showers Story Time

Ages 4-6 years old The Mars High School Key Club students are sponsoring an after school story time at the Mars Public Library. In addition to listening to several stories, children will participate in group activities and crafts. Hope to see you there!

Also offering:

Three Thursdays 4:30 - 5:30 pm

April 10 Parachute Activities

April 17 Paper Easter Eggs

April 24 Paper Spring Flowers

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