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# Mars Area Elementary PTO

## September Meteor

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Presidents Corner:

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Welcome back! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and is ready to get back to the school routine!

The upcoming month will be a rather busy one, so please check the important date section of this newsletter so that you can mark your calendars accordingly.

As we start out this new year, I thought it might be helpful to review the different ways available to parents to access or receive information concerning PTO news and events, as well as district news and events.

One of the best ways to be kept informed of PTO events is through our email system. We send out monthly newsletters, announcements and reminders in this manner to save on paper. All parents will have an opportunity to sign up to receive our emails in the next week or so. While providing your email address is strictly voluntary, I highly recommend that you do so, as we have found many parents have missed important events as a result of not receiving our emails.

If you are looking for basic information concerning the PTO and our various committees, you can check out our website at [marspto.org](http://marspto.org). The names and contact information of our executive board and building chairs is on our website, as well as our yearly budget, meeting minutes and other pertinent information. Our website is easy to maneuver, so you should have no problem finding the information you are looking for.

Of course, the district website is one parents should consistently visit to get up-to-date and general information about our district as a whole. Each of the different schools have a calendar and announcement section that will give you dates and times for different events, as well as providing new information as it becomes available. If you are not yet comfortable navigating the website, take a few minutes each night to become familiar with the different sections and tabs. Trust me, in no time you will be able to peruse the site with ease and will be amazed how much information is available to you.

My last suggestion is actually very simple. Attend PTO and school board meetings regularly. I have always been shocked at the poor attendance at these meetings and I have never quite understood why. I do understand that we are all busy and there never seems to be enough hours in the day to accomplish everything we would like to. However, why not try and take just an hour out of your day once a month or even once every two months to attend a meeting. It really is worth it to discover what is happening in the district and at your child's school.

Our first meeting of the school year will be Tuesday, September 10th, at 9:30 AM in the PTO room at the Primary Center. We would love to see you and hear your ideas for this new year. Please plan to attend!

Carol Knox  
cknox522@yahoo.com

### **Important Dates:**

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- Monday September 2nd**-NO SCHOOL
- Tuesday September 3rd**-2 Hour Delay
- Tuesday September 10th**- PTO Meeting, PC PTO Room, 9:30AM
- Thursday September 12th**-Primary Center Contact Parent Meetings, PC PTO Room
 - Kindergarten is at 9-10am
 - 1st grade at 10-11am
- Friday September 13th**-Mars Elementary Contact Parent Meetings, PC PTO Room
 - 2nd grade 9 a.m.-10 a.m.
 - 3rd grade 10 a.m.-11 a.m.
 - 4th grade 11a.m.-12 p.m.
- Wednesday September 18th**-Mars Elementary Picture Day
- Wednesday September 18th**-Market Day Pick Up 6:30-7:30pm MAE Cafeteria
- Thursday September 19th**-Centennial School Picture Day
- Thursday September 26th**-Primary Center Picture Day
- Tuesday October 1st**- PTO Meeting, PC PTO Room, 9:30AM
- Thursday October 10th**-2 Hour Delay

Primary Center News

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Welcome to Mars Primary Center!!

Here are some things going on at PC:  
If you would like to be a contact parent for your child's class the meeting is Thursday, September 12 in the PTO room. Kindergarten is at 9-10am and

1st grade following at 10-11am. A contact parent helps plan the classroom parties, secures volunteers for different school events and is a liaison between the PTO and the classroom parents. If you are interested please plan on attending the meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting, please contact Rachel Steigerwald before September 12th at [rmsteig@gmail.com](mailto:rmsteig@gmail.com). to get your name added to the list. As always you must get your licensed scanned to be a contact parent.

If you would like to help on any of the committees for PTO and did not get to sign up at the orientations please contact Rachel Steigerwald.

The Primary Center always needs volunteers for Decorating, Holiday Shop, Olympic Fun Day, Teacher Luncheon, Market Day, and Premiums.

Rachel Steigerwald  
[rmsteig@gmail.com](mailto:rmsteig@gmail.com)

## **Mars Elementary School News:**

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Mars Area Elementary - PTO Chairs and Committees

The Mars PTO welcomes you back to a new school year! Hopefully you all had a chance to attend last night's Parent Orientation for MAE and sign up to volunteer for one of our committees, but if you did not get a chance to stop at our PTO table; you may contact the committee chair in charge as follows:

Sheri McMaster: ssmcmaster@zoominternet.net - Head Chair, Fundraising, Book Fairs,

World Record Day

Jody Gagnon: jody_gagnon@yahoo.com - Decorating, Teacher Luncheon

Katie Ray: raysinmars@gmail.com - Contact Parents, Spring Book Fair

Cara Shultz: caraj3@live.com - Holiday Shop, Fall Book Fair

Mars Area Elementary - Contact Parents

The **Contact Parent** meetings for MAE parents are Friday, September 13, 2013, in the PTO room at the Primary Center as follows:

-2nd grade 9 a.m.-10 a.m.

-3rd grade 10 a.m.-11 a.m.

-4th grade 11a.m.-12 p.m.

New to the district and would like to know what a Contact Parent is? A Contact Parent helps plan the classroom parties, secure volunteers for different school events and is a liaison between the PTO and the classroom parents. There are only 3 Contact Parents per class.

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 Katie Ray before September 13th so she can put you name on the list.

Katie Ray- raysinmars@gmail.com

LOOKING AHEAD!!

MARS ELEMENTARY FALL BOOK FAIR - October 14th-18th

Our fall book fair will be coming to MAE in the middle of October and more information will be sent home with your children by the end of September, so please keep an eye out for the book fair flyer!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sheri McMaster at [\(724\) 625-3997](tel:7246253997) or ssmcmaster@zoominternet.net. Also, if you would like to volunteer at the book fair, please contact Cara Schultz at caraj3@live.com .

Centennial School News:

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Welcome back for the 2013-2014 school year! If you were unable to attend our Orientation and would like to volunteer to help with one of the committees this year, please contact the Building Chair in charge of that committee.

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|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Laura Schultheis | Head Building Chair,<br>Holiday Shop,<br>Spring Party,<br>Meteor | <a href="mailto:candlechik@zoominternet.net">candlechik@zoominternet.net</a><br><a href="tel:7242449523">(724)244-9523</a> |
| Jacki Kearney    | Fundraising,<br>Talent Show                                      | <a href="mailto:kearneyjk@zoominternet.net">kearneyjk@zoominternet.net</a><br><a href="tel:7246258686">(724)625-8686</a>   |
| Karen Harvey     | Fall Party,<br>Teacher Luncheon,<br>Decorating                   | <a href="mailto:kmharvey21@gmail.com">kmharvey21@gmail.com</a><br><a href="tel:7577051184">(757)705-1184</a>               |
| Tracey Smith     | Holiday Party,<br>Field Day                                      | <a href="mailto:natetray@zoominternet.net">natetray@zoominternet.net</a><br><a href="tel:4129748660">(412)974-8660</a>     |

If you have any other questions about the PTO at Centennial, please contact:  
Laura Schultheis  
[candlechik@zoominternet.net](mailto:candlechik@zoominternet.net)

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

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Market Day is a frozen food fundraising program that the Mars PTO sponsors to help raise funds for our schools. Each month, starting in September and runs through May, you will see a Market Day order form come with your child. This program has been very successful and last year our PTO received over \$6,000.00 in profit from this once a month fundraiser. Please look for your first order form to come home with your child this Friday, August 30,

2013

This September you can get a FREE Nesting Glass Bowls with a \$40 purchase and FREE 4-pack of Cheese Pizza Eat-zzas with a \$90 online purchase PROMO Code SEPBONUS. You can order online at marketday.com until 11PM on Thursday, September 12, 2013 or send in your order sheet to the school by Wednesday, September 11, 2013. Market Day pickup will be Wednesday, September 18, 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, PTO Market Day Chair at [\(724\) 625-3997](tel:724-625-3997).

It's Collection Time! General Mills "Box Tops for Education" Contest



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It's time again for the annual "Box Tops for Education" contest! Every year we collect box top coupons in return for money for our schools from General Mills. Last year we turned in nearly 80,000 coupons. Wow! Let's see what we can do this year! If you are unfamiliar with box top coupons, they are small, rectangular coupons found on many General Mills products (for example: Betty Crocker Brownie Mixes, Honey Nut Cheerios, Fiber One Bars, Hefty products, etc.). A complete list of participating products can be found at www.boxtops4education.com. In addition, you may create a free account to learn more about earning coupons for your school through online shopping at various stores.

A three-week contest, from Monday, September 30 to Friday, October 18, will be held for the most box tops coupons collected, and one classroom from each grade level will win! The PTO will keep a count of all the coupons and announce which classes are in the lead after each week. Even after the contest ends, we will continue to collect box tops in bins found in the lobby of each school. Please feel free to keep saving throughout the school year. All box tops must be trimmed and checked to ensure that they are still valid before they can be submitted to General Mills. Expired coupons are not accepted. If you could trim your submitted coupons and check the dates at home we would greatly appreciate the help!

Still, the PTO needs you. On each Friday of the contest (October 4, 11 and 18), we will meet in the PTO Room at the Primary Center to prepare and count the box tops for General Mills. Volunteers are always welcomed! Please remember that you MUST have your license scanned in order to help on our Friday counting days. Thanks in advance for your help!

Start collecting and clipping those "Box Tops for Education" labels at home, and good luck in the classroom competition!

Tracy Ashbaugh, Premiums Coordinator
ashbaugh6@zoominternet.net

[724-625-1012](tel:724-625-1012)

Kindergarten Field Trip

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The kindergarten classes will be going on their field trip to Soergel's Orchards on October 24th for AM and PM Kindergarten during their normal class time. More information will be sent home with your child. Teachers are responsible for picking chaperones. If you wish to be a chaperone you must have your license scanned and also have the clearances required. If you have any questions, please contact Diana Volkar at [diana.volkar@gmail.com](mailto:diana.volkar@gmail.com).

All other field trips will occur in the spring.

## **Spirit Wear News:**

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Look for Spirit Wear info to be coming home soon. Excited about our new online ordering. Details to follow.

Thank you
Tanya Yoshioka

[414-807-6109](tel:414-807-6109)