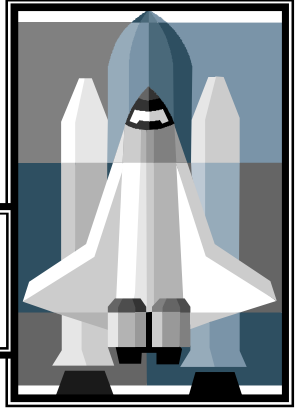




McAuliffe Heights at Irving
Elementary
110 Cherry Avenue
Altoona, PA 16601
814-946-8392



AUGUST 2009

PTO SHUTTLE SHUFFLE

From the Desk of Mrs. Buck...

President Obama announced that on September 8th- the first day of school for many children across America—he will deliver a national address directly to students on the importance of education. The President will challenge students to work hard, set educational goals, and take responsibility for their learning. He will also call for a shared responsibility and commitment on the part of students, parents and educators to ensure that every child in every school receives the best education possible, so they can compete in the global economy for good jobs, and live rewarding and productive lives as American citizens.

Since taking office, the President has repeatedly focused on education, even as the country faces two wars, the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, and major challenges on issues like energy and health care. The President believes that education is a critical part of building a new foundation for the American economy. Educated people are more active civically and better informed on issues affecting their lives, their families and their futures.

This is the first time an American President has spoken directly to the nation's school children about persisting and succeeding in school. We will use this historic moment to help our students get focused and begin the school year strong. We plan to watch the President together, as a **learning community**, when he speaks at 1:00 PM on September 8th.

In the McAuliffe Heights Learning Community Contract, our students are reminded to:

- Be responsible for their behavior
- Complete all homework and assignments on time, and to the best of their ability
- Come to school on time everyday, unless they are ill
- Obey rules at school, on the bus or van and in the cafeteria
- Treat adults and peers with respect and use good manners at all times

Parents are urged to:

- Provide a supportive environment at home, check homework, limit TV time and read daily to your child
- Support the discipline plan, including dress code
- Stress good attendance as a top priority

Stay informed about your child's education through notices, ProgressBook and attending all necessary conferences & meetings

Our dedicated teaching staff will:

- Ensure a safe and healthy learning environment
- Provide innovative instruction and meet each child as his/her level
- Create child-centered classrooms where students are actively engaged in hands-on activities
- Work closely with parents to create a positive learning community

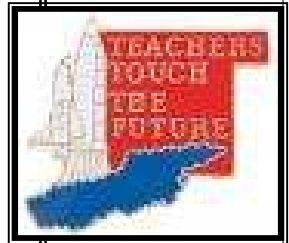
As our teachers recite during our openings, "WE TOUCH THE FUTURE WE TEACH." Your children respond, "WE ARE THE FUTURE, WE LEARN!"

We look forward to working with you and your child(ren) this year.

We will challenge them to reach for the stars!

Respectfully,

Sherry Buck, Principal



Inside this issue:

- Mrs. Buck
- PTO President/VP
- Committee Welcomes
 - Welcome Shuttle
 - School Wide
 - School Spirit
 - Treasurer
 - Sports
 - Parent/Staff Relations
- Help Wanted Ads



From our PTO President...

Welcome Back McAuliffe Heights Family! If you listen closely you can hear the collective groan of our student body signaling that summer is truly over. Fear not! This year promises to be very exciting with new changes and additions. One of the wonderful projects in the planning stages is a playground. Mrs. Buck has been working tirelessly on a vision to add this to our landscape. As PTO President, I and all the committees support her in this endeavor. More information to follow as it becomes available. One of the fun and educational events to come is a series presented by the Carnegie Science Center known as "Captain Green's Time Machine". This is a 'not to miss' show. This and so much more will coming our way this school year!

As many already know, McAuliffe Heights continues to set the bar for academic excellence. Another enviable quality is that McAuliffe Heights not only welcomes volunteering, but encourages it. Whether you offer you time in the capacity of Homeroom Parent, Coach or PTO, all are appreciated. We will be hosting our Annual PTO Open House on Tuesday, September 15th @ 6:30pm. There will be PTO committee members on hand to answer any question you may have. Please consider sharing you time and talents by joining a committee. We will also be voting on By-Law changes for the upcoming 2009-2010 school year. A copy of these proposed changes will be available for review in the Main Office. Remember, bring the whole family. There will be fun-filled activities and delicious treats available following a presentation.

Please look for a copy of our Fundraising Policy to come in the first days of school. Take time to read, sign and return the form to school with your child. Without your commitment, we would not be able to assist in providing much needed funding for some of our children's educational needs. Take a moment to read our Treasurer's article highlighting some of the wonderful items we were able to purchase with your support. We thank you and our children thank you.

If at any time you have a question or concern, please don't hesitate to contact me at (814) 940-8489 or email me at jndbzch@msn.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Deb Forrester

From our Vice President...

Welcome back Mc Auliffe Heights students, both old and new. I hope that you had a refreshing summer and are ready to start off the new year. I am please to let you know that we have new and exciting upcoming opportunities for our students this year. These opportunities are only made possible by the support that we recieve from you, the parents of our great students. Our first PTO event will be our Open House scheduled for Sept. 15th, from 6:30 - 8:30. As a parent of your child, we need your support, in and out of the classroom. One of the obligations you must uphold is fair share/fundraising, which make these opportunities possible. Another opportunity for you is by participating in our Box Tops/Campbell's contests. Our first upcoming contest will be held the September 21st and run through the 25th. This will be the individual contest. Please be sure to check all expiration dates on Box Tops, and only send in the UPC for Campbell's. It makes all of our jobs easier if you have them sent inside a zipper bag with your child's name, teacher/grade. This is a fun way for you to get involved with rewards, not only for the students, but for the parents, it provides a way for you to earn your hours by coming in the helping clip and count. The top 3 students who bring in the most points will recieve gift cards for \$25, \$15, & \$10. The monthly contest sheets will begin again in October, with new and exciting monthly prizes from the box, and some surprises for our end of the year drawing. Â I look forward to seeing each and every one of your smiling faces again. Let's all do our part to make this year our best one yet.

Jennifer Bidoli
PTO Vice President

School Spirit Committee



Start **SAVING YOUR BOXTOP LABELS NOW** because the contest starts soon. We will be having our individual contest beginning September 21st running through September 28th. A prize will be given to the top collectors. We will also be starting our monthly boxtop calendar contest. Your support for the program is greatly appreciated. All funds are used for the good of the school. Keep savings the boxtops and Campbells soup labels. More information will be coming home.

From Our Treasurer...



Welcome back to another exciting year at McAuliffe Heights. Due to last years wonderful support of our fundraisers and Monthly Box Tops for Education we made our 2008-2009 budget. After everything was accounted for last year it was calculated that Box Tops for education exceeds our guess as to how much we were going to receive. I'm happy to let everyone know of some areas we are applying the extra funds.

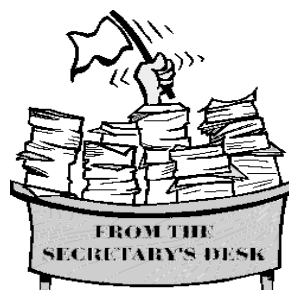
- A rug for Kindergarten room #3
- More books for the Library
- More Die cuts for the Ellison machine
- Carnegie Science Center Assembly
- Scanner system for tracking Volunteer hours
- A Fence for the play area courtyard

A few of these items you will see right away, others will take time to make sure we get all of the information needed to make the right choice for our school.

If you have any questions please email me at renettacmc@aol.

Looking forward to another great year.

Renetta Keagy, PTO Teasurerer



Copies of the monthly PTO Minutes are always available in the office.



Committee
Go Eagles!

Can you believe the football season is upon us? Our 4th and 5th/6th grade boys and girls flag football are getting started. A form was sent home at the end of school to see how many students were interested and these students have already been contacted by the coaches. If your child is interested in playing flag football, it's not too late! Both of our teams are in need of players. You can call Krena Leberfinger at 942-4620. The fee for flag football is \$41. A form will be given to your child. The money is due by September 16th. This year we will be instituting a uniform deposit policy. More details will follow on this policy.

Girls 5th and 6th grade volleyball will be getting underway in mid September. A form will be sent home to see how many students are interested. The fee will be \$41 if paid before September 22nd. If you are interested in helping to coach, please call Krena Leberfinger at 942-4620.

Our cheerleaders have already started. The Cheerleading Advisors, Wendy Faust and Renee Ardrey, held a three day mini-camp in August.

We are so excited to kick off the fall sports season and would like to remind the students to show good sportsmanship, teamwork, and most importantly have FUN!!!

If you have any questions or any suggestions, please let me know.

Thanks,

Krena

Membership

Well it's that time of the year again to start getting ready to sell those PTO memberships. We are having another contest this year for the student with the most memberships sold and the classroom with the most memberships sold. The contest will run from September 7th through September 25th and any family member is eligible to buy a membership for only **\$1.00** so start thinking about who you want to sell memberships to. The student who sells the most will get to be assistant principal for the day and the classroom with the most sold will get a \$50 gift card for the teacher to buy fun stuff to use. Let's make this a great year for the PTO!!!

Thanks,
Melissa Nolan and Justine Aveni
Membership Committee

Parent/Staff Relations Committee...

Parent/Staff Relations is in need of volunteers interested in helping out with the library, Kindergarten drop off, and in the lunch room. Library schedules will be available soon, and we'll be in need of help for all grades. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please email me at patty.high@gmail.com. I can also be reached at 940-1062.

Thanks,
Patty High

The Welcome Shuttle

"Welcome to McAuliffe Heights!" We had a fabulous turnout at the MHI Welcome Shuttle on August 20th. Thank you to the sixth grade parents for hosting our cookout, to Deb Forrester for coordinating the uniform sale, and to all of the teachers and parents that attended! Our New Parent Meeting will be held on September 15th at 6 pm in the school library prior to the PTO Open House. This is a brief and informal meeting for new parents to ask questions you may have once the school year gets underway. Look for more information to come on the first Volunteer Night in late September. Looking forward to a great year!"

Renee Ardrey, Chair Lisa Treese, Co-Chair

School Wide Committee

Welcome to the 2009-2010 School Year!! The School Wide Committee has been working hard over the summer months hanging all the postcards from all the places that McAuliffe Heights families traveled over the summer holiday. These are on the front bulletin board and will be up for a few weeks so be sure and check it out! A lot of excitement this year starting with Christa McAuliffe's birthday where each classroom will design a birthday card and each student will sign it. We will display the cards on the rolling bulletin board in the lobby. Each month we hope to display students work on the main bulletin board.

During the 2nd marking period, we will be implementing a new volunteer logging system which will replace the cards. Watch for more details! It will be computer based which will make tracking our volunteer hours much easier. We are also planning some great reward days and specialty days which will be announced in later newsletters. Please contact Jill Gingrich at jill.gingrich@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping on the School wide Committee.

FUNDRAISING CORNER...

It is that time of the year – back to school and time to talk Fundraising.

There will be 2 school wide fundraisers again this year, one in the Fall and another in the Spring. If a family prefers to do a buy out the cost is \$70.00 per family. The buyout can be paid in 1, 2 or 4 installments. If this is your choice, please send a check, no cash, into school with your child. The checks should be made out to McAuliffe Heights at Irving PTO. Please ask your student to place the check in the lock box outside the office. We will be implementing the same compliance policy as last year, if a family does not participate in fundraising unfortunately their students will not be able to take part in PTO sponsored events. If your family is experiencing a hardship and you are unable to comply for any reason, please contact Mrs. Buck directly.

Fall Bingo is Back!!!

Our Fall fundraiser will be another Fall Harvest Bingo. There are a limited number of tickets, so please get your tickets early. Each family is to sell 2 tickets to meet the Fundraising requirement or a \$35.00 buyout. Tickets will go on sale starting September 3, 2009 for Meet the Teacher Night. They will also be available in the morning in the school lobby on the same days as opening. Please watch for more flyers to be coming home. If anyone sells 8 tickets or more they will be identified as a Hostess. All of your Hostesses will be recognized and receive a special Thank you gift.

Date: Sunday October 18, 2009

Location: Father Kelly Hall

Doors Open: 1:00 pm and Bingo starts at 2:00pm

Tickets: \$25.00

Bonus Pack: An additional \$35.00

If you have any questions please contact Marcia Cumming at ltvandzura@yahoo.com or 944-8231.

Thank you for all your support in the past and we are looking forward to another successful year.

Marcia Cumming, Lory Cumming and Lisa Frye.

Sixth Grade Report

.In the newsletter, I would like to put thanks from the 6th grade to everybody for their help, donations and patronage at the welcome shuttle fundraiser. It was a successful fundraiser.

Thank you, see you in school.

Sudha Bhatnagar

NEWSLETTER...

Another exciting school year has begun. The Newsletter Committee is looking for those interested in helping put out an interesting and useful resource for the parents each month. All of those interested please stop by our table at the PTO Open House. Look forward to seeing you there.

Thanks,
Deb Leberfingher and



From the Counselor...

Back to School! What an exciting time for children and adults who work with them. We want to make the experience of coming to school a happy one that will help your child develop a new independence and learn skills that will serve them well as they progress through life.

Mrs. Kimmel, the Elementary Counselor for McAuliffe Heights School, is available to work with parents and children from kindergarten through sixth grade. School counseling is seen as an ongoing process of services designed to prevent small problems from growing. Sometimes Mrs. Kimmel works directly with children, but often she works through parents and/or Teachers to help your child. If your child meets with Mrs. Kimmel, you should not become unduly concerned. When an ongoing problem exists, you will be contacted directly by the school. Should you wish to contact Mrs. Kimmel simply call McAuliffe Heights School. Ext 4219. Best wishes for a successful school year.

Attention Parents/Volunteers:

Do Not go directly to the classroom after signing in unless you have an appointment with the teacher.

The secretary is required to call the teacher before anyone goes directly to the classroom if you do not have an appointment.

Thank you.



Memory Book Committee...

Memory Book Committee is preparing to launch its new and exciting Photography club and Journalism Club for the 2009-10 school year. These clubs will include participation from fifth and sixth grade students and information on how these students will be selected is forthcoming! In addition, if any parents wish to submit pictures for the Memory Book please do so either on a disc or via e-mail. We will be using an exciting new software program to build this years book and having the photos in digital form will make the process that much easier. Thank you for your assistance in the past and we are looking forward to an exciting and fun year!

News from the Classroom:

Fourth graders are starting off this school year learning about everyone's favorite summer fruit - WATERMELON!! They want to share what they learn. On Friday, September 4th, join them for a slice of watermelon for only 25 cents and they will tell you some interesting watermelon facts!! Watch for more information coming home the first week of school.

Also, 4th grade is have an exciting fundraiser. Please see the attached form.



RE-Register your Bonus Card today at Martin's or
online at: www.martinsaplus.com