

Hope Highlands PTO Newsletter

A Note from our President

It's hard to believe the school year has come to an end. This year has been a very busy year for me. My son started his first year of high school and keeps me very busy with all of his school activities and sports, my daughter entered 2nd grade and is equally busy with activities and I took on the role of PTO President. This has been a fast paced year for me, but one that I remember very vividly. Being the PTO President enables you to be part of so many of the happenings that go on in school on a day to day basis. As you know our PTO is a very active organization that strives to work with our school administration to be able to enhance our students experience to the fullest. I have a great amount of respect for our teachers, staff and our principal and all that they do to insure a positive and productive educational experience for all of our students. It has been pleasure to be part of such a wonderful group of parents and I'm looking forward to another successful 2011-2012 school year.

Our annual PTO dinner meeting was a fantastic evening. We celebrated all that we have accomplished in the year over a fantastic meal with friends. Thank you to Elaine Harrington for planning such a wonderful evening. I am very fortunate to have worked with such a fantastic group of parents volunteers. Thank you for all that you do for our students. I would like to say a special thank you to my Executive Board: Elaine Harrington, Paula DeRuosi, Karen DiFazio, Denise Principe and Mr. Cowart. I feel very honored have worked side by side with such an amazing group of women & one man. We are all unique, but together we make an amazing team. You are all kind, compassionate, hardworking and always have the best interest of the school at the forefront of any decision. I learned so much from each of you and I look forward to another spectacular year. Unfortunately we will be saying goodbye to Denise. She is graduating to middle school. We will miss you dearly. It has been a pleasure working with you. Ellen Tetreault will be taking over the Corresponding Secretary position. We look forward to working with you. Welcome aboard!

I have included a list of where we spent our PTO funds this year. We are very fortunate to have such a strong school community that not only supports our school but also supports charities like the Leukemia Society through Pennies for Patients and the American Heart Association as well as donations in our surrounding communities with our annual Coat Drive, The Giving Tree, Backpack Drive w/school supplies and the Thanksgiving Day food baskets complete with a turkey to help aid local families in need. We should be very proud of our students and their families for heir kindness and generosity.

We wish all of our 6th grade students much success in middle school! We will also miss all of the parents that will be moving on too! Thank you for all of the years of supporting the PTO and for helping our school be the best it can be!

Thank you again for making the 2010-2011 school year a great success.

On behalf of the Executive Board I would like to wish everyone a wonderful summer.
Stay safe!

Sincerely,
Dawn Sasa, PTO President

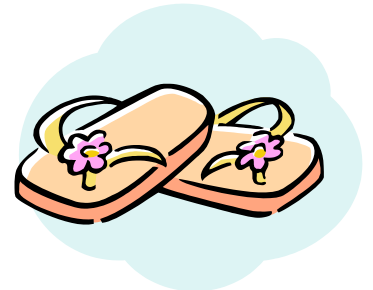


Top 10 Summer Regression Remedies By Don Cowart



10. Read 10 minutes each day for each grade you have completed (3rd grade=30 min.)
9. Keep a journal of places you visit
8. Go on mini field trips (zoo, museum, etc.)
7. Play on-line math fact building games
6. Have a family game night
5. Go to the local library weekly
4. Get a Summer Bridges workbook
3. Backyard or Beach nature hunt
2. Visit the State House or City Hall for history of your state or city
1. Start a book club with friends

The Summer Readiness Program is scheduled to run for 3 weeks in August. Each week consists of 1.5hour sessions on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 - 10:30. Enrollment is \$195 for the full three weeks. Space is still available. If you are interested, please complete the enrollment form and/or contact Barbara Ferraro at 942-6319 or bpferraro@verizon.net. Instructors for the Summer Readiness Program are Mrs. Young and Mrs. Stravato. Hope to see you there!



We would like to welcome the following new committee chairs for the 2011-2012 school year:
Kristin Cataldi, Renee D'Amico, Denise Dottor, Jessica Dalnas, Amy Bratter, Anna Hanley, Kathy Turchetta, Michelle Eastman, Milissa DeFusco & Sabrina Jenkins.

Open Positions

Fundraising - Entertainment Books

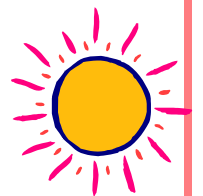
Co-Chairs needed for the following positions

Beautification

Huskeywear

Hospitality

If you have any questions please contact Dawn Sasa, PTO President- dawnsasa@verizon.net



The Sunshine Committee would like to thank everyone who helped make this past year such a huge success. Maybe you donated a gift for needy children in our area, or donated a food item for our Thanksgiving baskets, or volunteered your time. However big or small your contribution was, you helped to make Hope Highlands a special community. Thank you and have a wonderful summer.

Donna Hart and Julie Altieri



Sixth Grade Update ~ Farewell!

Our 6th graders have truly enjoyed many events this year. We have had spirit days, a bake sale, and the love bunch sale. They have been to the movies, bowling, Patriot Place and a Paw Sox game. Career day was a lot of fun and the art project of self portraits of future aspirations will truly be a monument for further students to cherish and admire. We challenged and conquered in our 6th Grade Basketball Tournament and showed our teamwork at our fun-filled day of "Minute to Win It" challenges. Our Career Day was fun and educational and we want to thank the parents that came to share what they do and they prepared themselves for their current careers; Mrs. Forcino, Mr. Ledversis, Mrs. Mason, Mr. Mobilia, Mrs. Paradis and Mrs. Will. We shared lots of laughs and expressions in the distribution of our yearbooks at field day created by our yearbook committee Patricia Mattera and Denise Principe. We visited our state capital and had a tour of the State House and participated in a mark trial as well as met some of our state representatives, congressmen and our governor.

Our Year End Celebration was a very special day. Awards were given to a boy and girl in each class that demonstrated both respect and responsibility throughout the year. They were each chosen by their classmates. The winners in Miss. Califano's class were Joey DelMastro and Abby Shideler. In Mr. Colantonio's class it was Griffin Mason and Mekenna Cook. A big thank you to Denise Principe for creating a memorable slide show that showed the class of 2011 through their years at Hope Highlands.

We wish the Class of 2010 all the best! The halls will be a little quieter without you next year, but we know that you are all ready to move on to middle school!



A Year In Review

I am pleased to say that we had another successful year with our fundraisers, the Walk-A-thon, Entertainment Books & cookie dough. We also received additional funds throughout the year from the Stop & Shop A+ Rewards, Cartridges for Kids, Corky & Co, Box Tops and our after school enrichment program.

Listed are some of the MANY things that the PTO paid for this year.

We purchased yearbooks for the entire 6th grade class of 2011 as well as allocated \$600.00 for the 6th grade end of the year celebration and \$300.00 for the 6th grade Art Project.

We purchased graduation DVD's for the kindergarten families as well as allocated \$5.00 per kindergarten student for the end of the year celebration.

Folders for every student & planners for grades 2-6 for the upcoming 2011-2012 school year.

Each teacher & staff member was reimbursed up to \$100.00 for classroom supplies.

Playground equipment was purchased throughout the year for recess such as jump ropes, footballs, Frisbees, wiffleball bats, kick balls & hula-hoops and badminton sets.

We allotted \$2450.00 for buses & field trips to be used by all grades.

Books for the school library & classrooms were purchased with proceeds from the Book Fair.

Birthday books for each child to receive on their Birthday for the 2011-2012 school year.

3 Free Family events: The Ice Cream Social, Movie Night & Game Night.

During Teacher Appreciation week, the staff was treated to breakfast & lunch and other special treats, compliments of the PTO.

Del's Lemonade was purchased for all of the students and staff for Field Day.

We enhanced our school ground by purchasing 54 plants & 12 yards of mulch.

We purchased 5 school spirit rugs for our school lobby and kindergarten entrance.

We made a \$250.00 donation to the "Basics Program".

M-Class subscriptions for the 1st grade to be used by the teachers to assess the students reading skills.

We purchased deodorant to coincide with Mrs. Flynn's health Class for the 5th & 6th grade boys.

We put together cleaning supply baskets for each of our teachers during cold & flu season.

Purchase of the school Trophy for winning our first annual 6th grade basketball tournament.

18 science DVD's & books were purchased to help support the science & health curriculum.

We funded 2 cultural arts shows for the entire school to enjoy: Steve Krasner's Writing Workshop and Mr. Deep Positivity.

Teacher requested items were purchased: headphones, white board, popcorn machine, cork boards, palm Z22, wooden puzzles, listening center and class subscriptions.

Thank you gifts were purchased for our Volunteer Appreciation meeting.

2 commercial fans were purchased to help keep our students cool.

Signs were purchased for drop off & pickup to help ensure our students safety.

We also voted at our dinner meeting to spend the excess funds from this year's school budget as follows:

\$2850.00 for 3 Mac Laptops.

\$3000.00 for 3 Dell Laser Printers for first and second floor classrooms.

