

Mason Preparatory School PTO Page April 2009

Mason Prep PTO Mission Statement

The purpose of the organization shall be to provide support for the Mason Prep School, its programs, activities, and events, as well as to further communication between the Headmistress and the parents. We will promote volunteerism through participation of the parents, faculty, and staff for the unified spirit of the school.

This From PTO Co-Presidents Carrie Singh and Lori Collins

Dear Parents,

How great is the new Mason Prep website?! We hope you all have had a chance to explore it and see all the wonderful features it has to offer parents, students and prospective MPS families. Special thanks to Mr. Kreutner for all his work in getting it up and running and to the Mason Prep Board of Directors for allocating significant funds towards this major upgrade. Be sure to watch the website for PTO information throughout the school year.

The spring issue of the *PTO Page* is normally dedicated to explaining to you how we have chosen to spend the PTO dollars this school year. We think you will be interested to see where the PTO money goes and how much your efforts combined with the tremendous efforts of our volunteer board members, have made these opportunities possible. Wrapping paper, cookbook and school supply sales + boxtops, ink recycling and grocery cards, + many volunteer hours + efficient and diligent money management = a lot of enrichment for our children!

Here are a few examples of how your PTO dollars have been used: significant contributions toward the 6th grade Earthshine field trip; the 7th grade Camp Tekoa, NC, field trip; the 8th grade Washington, DC, field trip; day field trips for grades 1-6; and refreshments at graduation. PTO has contributed to teacher enhancement to help outfit our classrooms, and to education reimbursement for our teachers seeking continuing education.

The PTO also is responsible for the beautiful planters you see outside the school; the bows on the fence at Christmas time; the Virginia Jantzen memorial bench in the entryway; a memorial contribution to First (Scots) Presbyterian in the name of Mrs. Nancy Hawk; a monthly teacher raffle and a spring teacher appreciation week luncheon; snacks and beverages in the teacher lounges; refreshments at Open House, Orientation, Parenting Night, and Quiz Bowl; various family fun nights with music and food; a New Families Welcome Committee which welcomes all new families in the spring and fall with refreshments, car pool signs, and PTO information packets; MPS Student Directories for PTO members...and the list continues.

You can see that it truly takes a village to make all of these things possible and we thank our board and all of our general membership for the selfless contribution to Mason Prep's success and the continued enrichment of our children's educational experience. It is hard to believe we are entering our final quarter of the school year. Keep your eyes open for the PTO Spring Volunteer Packets to come home later this month. You will find opportunities to get involved in this wonderful organization. As always, if you have any questions or comments, we are only a phone call or email away.

Lori Collins and Carrie Singh
2008-2009 PTO Co-Presidents
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Mark Your Calendar for April

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|-------|----------------------------|
| 1 | Drama shows grades 1-4 |
| 2 | Drama shows grades 5-8 |
| 3 | Drama shows for families |
| 8 | Field Day grades 4-6 |
| 9 | Field Day grades 1-3 |
| 10 | Easter Holiday (no school) |
| 17-29 | Achievement testing |
| 17 | Lunch website opens |
| 23 | Lunch website closes |

The PTO Board Asks for Your Help!

We are nearing the end of this school year and ask that you help us recognize our Mason Prep families by submitting nominations for the 2008-2009 Family Impact Award.

One award will be given to a family representing grades 1-4 and one award will be given to a family representing grades 5-8. Nomination forms are available at the front office. You may place your completed nomination form in the envelope labeled "Family Impact" at the front office. All nominations must be received by Friday, May 1.

Kathy Phlegar
Mason Prep PTO Goals and Evaluation



Look for the PTO Page at the beginning of each month!

WWW.MASONPREP.ORG

New MPS Website Launched!

We hope everyone has had a chance to experience the new and improved MPS website, full of functionality for the whole family. To take full advantage of all the features the new website has to offer, be sure to log on (using the username and password you received with report cards) and update

your profile. It is very important to get your email address on file with the school, as over time school communication will be done more and more via electronic means. Also, you can find the lunch website link on the new website through the parent portal and on the PTO pages. If you have questions or comments about the PTO content on the website, email us at: mpspto@gmail.com

Where your PTO Dollars Go

This is a partial listing of some of the enhancements paid for by the PTO this year:

- \$4000 6th-grade trip to Earthshine
- \$4000 7th-grade trip to Camp Tekoa
- \$8000 8th-grade trip to Washington
- \$2845 1st–5th-grade day field trips
- \$4800 in teacher enhancement checks to help outfit classrooms
- \$1200 towards 8th-grade graduation (refreshments & gifts for “seniors”)
- \$800 towards Red Ribbon Week activities
- \$200 in education reimbursement to teachers seeking continuing education

Spring Box Tops Drive: Coming Soon

Get ready to send in your box tops for our Spring Box Tops Drive. More information regarding the contest will follow by flyer. In the meantime, please check expiration dates on the box tops as expired tops do not count.

Collect Campbell's soup labels too, but we need only those labels (and only the part of the label) that says “UPC” or “Labels for Education.” (The UPC can be found on the label right next to the Campbell's soup boy in a mortar board cap.)

Mrs. Koon's Corner

Summer Enrichment Opportunities

Are you looking for fun and enriching summer activities? Here are a few options:

- Trident Academy OutReach Program: Half-day program providing academic, sport, and fine art activities.
- TASC summer camp at Trident Academy: For children who are experiencing problems with social skills.
- Carolina Master Scholars Adventure Series: On-campus camp for rising 6th–9th graders. Check it out at <http://saeu.sc.edu/adventures>.
- USC Camp Success: Career exploration program day camp for rising 6th, 7th, & 8th graders.
- Clemson University Reading Skills and Speed Reading Programs for Children & Adults: Offered once a week in Charleston and Summerville. Call 1-800-978-9596 or pick up an information sheet at the MPS reception desk.

Spoletto Festival USA Supports MPS Families and MPS PTO

MPS families, faculty and staff are invited to take advantage of an exclusive offer to save 10% on select world-class Spoletto Festival USA performances—and another 10% will be donated back to MPS. See details on Spoletto Festival USA flyer, which is also available on the website. This special offer is valid only until April 17.

Filling Positions on the 2009–2010 PTO Board

Board member nominations were solicited in January and February, and all nominations received by March 12 have been entered on a ballot for voting at the April PTO board meeting. The new board members will be announced after April 16 in the May PTO Page and on the Mason Prep website. Thanks to everyone involved in nominating themselves or others to join the board. Any remaining open positions will be advertised in the Spring Volunteer Packet.

Looking to Get Involved?

Look for Spring Volunteer Packets, coming home later this month. We will send one packet home per family (not per child) outlining opportunities to get involved with the PTO and MPS.

March Teacher Appreciation Lunch

Teacher Appreciation would like to thank the seventh grade moms for treating the teachers to lunch in March. Also, congratulations to Mrs. Weisskopf and Mrs. Colleen Barth, who each won a \$25 gift certificate to Abide Awhile garden center.

Coming in May

- 1 Spring dance for grades 6–8
- 4–8 Teacher appreciation week
- 4 Sports banquet
- 8 Media Center closes
- 20–21 Exams grades 7–8
- 22–26 Exams grades 6–8
- 25 Memorial Day: no school
- 27 Early dismissal
- 28 Graduation practice
- 28 Last day of school grades 1–7
- 29 Graduation

Back to School Supplies

We are pleased once again to offer you the chance to save time and money when you purchase back-to-school supplies this fall. In the next few weeks we will send home an Innisbrook school supplies order form, due back with payment by check to Mason Prep by May 13. (Or, you can order online and pay with a credit card through June 15 for MPS delivery with no shipping charges.)

Supplies are custom packed and delivered to school in a Memory Box. All school supplies will need to be picked up at Mason Prep on August 10. This service was a big hit last year, so we urge families to get orders in!

Family Fun Bingo Night

Gray Bailey was the caller and did a great job! A very special thank you to the Segal family for donating the pizzas; we really appreciate their willingness to help. Everyone enjoyed a great night with friends and the kids had a blast. Next, get ready for the Riverdogs game, coming soon!

—Kathleen Duffy

Your Monthly Money Saving Tip

Did you know that when Publix has a “Buy One Get One Free” special you only have to buy one item to get the deal? Publix also doubles the face value of all coupons up to \$.99. If you have a Publix Partners in Education card and a Publix Upromise card you will be earning money for Mason Prep and your college fund. Remember, Publix has given Mason Prep over \$10,000 since we joined a partnership with them.

One simple way to lower your office and home lighting expenses is by turning out the lights as you leave a room. You can also change to a lower energy light bulb. Besides saving money on electricity, this has the benefit of burning less energy.

Special Thanks Go Out To:

- Everyone who got involved by sending in nominations for PTO Board members for next year
- Mrs. Campbell, Ms. Jacobs, and all the teachers who worked so tirelessly to bring Enchanted Europe to Mason Prep's halls
- Kathleen Duffy, Gray Bailey and volunteers for making Bingo Night such fun
- The Mason Prep Board of Directors for funding the new MPS website