

Mason Preparatory School PTO Page February 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,

We hope you and your children are back into the groove after the Christmas holidays and the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday as well. The PTO has been busy with a variety of things. The lunch committee has been working hard to re-evaluate our lunch menus and vendors, to make sure we are providing the best possible lunch selections for your children. The members are always mindful of healthy, good tasting food while simultaneously trying to keep it within a price range that is affordable for all. This is a delicate balance and we appreciate so much their efforts. Please keep in mind, these people put in many hours of their time to make sure your children are getting their lunches.

As a result of even more volunteer efforts and your fundraising support, we have been able to sponsor several field trips this year. Trips to the SC Aquarium, Cypress Gardens, a local production of *A Christmas Carol*, the Barrier Island overnight trip (5th grade), and the overnight trip to Camp Tekoa (7th grade) were all paid for or supplemented by PTO dollars.

We also were able to make a donation to First (Scots) Presbyterian Church on behalf of the memory of Mrs. Nancy D. Hawk, our school's founder. Mrs. Hawk passed away recently, and in her honor we wanted to help support one of the many charitable institutions she held near and dear to her heart.

The programs we support all take funding, and the amounts add up quickly. Therefore, we ask you to keep on saving your box-tops and sending in your empty ink cartridges! This is a relatively easy, pain free way to earn some extra money. There will be another box-top collection contest coming up in the spring.

Those little, tiny box-tops bring in nearly \$1000 each year for us, which is a tremendous help to our PTO operating budget! During these tough times economically for many people this is a simple way for us to raise the additional dollars we need to help fund our various PTO programs.

We are also working on getting our newsletter published on the Mason Prep website. We are always trying to find new ways to improve our communication with parents and teachers, while at the same time trying to reduce our paper usage and keep our costs low. We'd much prefer to put PTO dollars back into the school or to parents' pockets! So, from this month on, look for the newsletter online at www.masonprep.org and follow the link.

Finally, we offer our congratulations to the many students who competed recently in the Spelling Bee, the Math Meet and the Regional Drama Meet. Our students and faculty had some great successes there! Congratulations and thanks to you all for your efforts.

Remember we are starting to fill positions for next year's board. We would love to have some new faces. Don't hesitate to contact us if you'd like to get involved. There are various opportunities with differing amounts of time commitment. Thank you all for your support and should you have any comments, questions or concerns, we are just a phone call or an email away!

Lori Collins and Carrie Singh
2008–2009 PTO Co-Presidents
mpspto@gmail.com

News From the Land of the Lost

Thanks to a few parents that who stepped up, we now have a system to organize and manage the lost-and-found and help keep it from taking over the gym foyer. The bins have been sorted twice already this year with items returned (when labeled) and others laundered and cataloged for parents. On January 27, parents manned a table with all the lost-and-found items on display, hoping to get parents to come and claim their children's items.

When items are labeled, they are returned to the appropriate children. If they are not labeled, they are washed, organized and cataloged, and the list of items will be posted on

the MPS website. Unclaimed items will eventually be donated to local charities. We will first give parents several opportunities to claim their items, but we need your help:

- PLEASE label your children's jackets, sweatshirts and sweaters as well as their PE Clothing;
- PLEASE check the lost and found bins when you are at school;
- PLEASE read the PTO Page and see what items are unclaimed;
- and PLEASE understand we are all volunteers working hard with you and your family's best interest at heart!

Mark Your Calendar for February

- 5 Quiz Bowl
- 6 Valentine's dance grades 7–8
- 12 Valentine's parties grades 1–4
- 13&16 Winter break
- 13 Lunch website opens
- 19 Lunch website closes
- 27 Multicultural month assembly

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

PTO Board Members

Executive Committee

Co-President	Lori Collins
Co-President	Carrie Singh
Secretary	Liane Kerr
Treasurer	Tiffany Dacuba
Assistant Treasurer	Rebecca Kay
Goals and Evaluation	Kathy Phlegar

Fundraising

Wrapping Paper/ Cookbook Chair	Linda Stevens
Wrapping Paper/ Cookbook Co-Chair	Suzanne Brown
Boxtops, Grocery & Retail Programs, Ink Recycling	Jeanne Lyles

Student Support

Lunch Chair	Mandy Costa
Lunch Co-Chair	Teresa Beischel
Lunch Check Reconciliation	Michelle Baxley
Lunch Website Coordinator	Elizabeth Oliver
Knights Say No Chair	Tracy Blanchard
Knights Say No Co-Chair	Kimberly Zimlich
Homeroom Coordinator	Kathleen Martin
PE Uniforms/ School Spirit Items	Michelle Baxley
Mason Used Clothes	Rene Palko
School Supplies Chair	Rosa Barnes
School Supplies Co-Chair	Kay Kiser

Teacher Support

Teacher Lounge	Kari Cribb
Teacher Appreciation Chair	Heather Walpole
Teacher Appreciation Co-Chair	Elisabeth Hanckel

Administration/Facility Support

Website Committee Rep	Carrie Singh
Neighborhood Relations	Nancy Miller
Beautification/Decoration	Tea Madden

Social/Community Building

Hospitality Chair	Rene Palko
Hospitality Co-Chair	Kathleen Duffy
Grandparents Day Chair	Renee Berry
Grandparents Day Co-Chair	Tiffany Dacuba
New Families	Diane Lewis
Family Fun/ Restaurant Nights	Kathleen Duffy

Communication

President Elect 2009/2010	Rebecca Kay
Student Directory	Sheri Cooper
Newsletter	Caroline Maas
Teacher Representative	Colleen Barth
Headmistress	Dawn Howell
Assistant Headmaster	Erik Kreutner
Admissions & Development	Lynn Kornya

Fundraising Notes

MPS Talent Show: Rock, Roll and Rehearse!

Friday, February 20
8:00 pm

Support the 8th graders going on their Washington, D.C., trip in the spring. Please come and support your friends! Snack food available for sale. It will be a great Family Fun Night!

Recycling Reminder

Don't forget about the easy ways to help our school!

Remember to recycle your old ink cartridges and phones in the box outside the gym. Please use your Mason Prep links when grocery shopping. Keep collecting your box tops and soup labels for our next drive!

The **Upromise Schools Program** is an exciting and powerful new fundraising program from **Upromise®**, the free service that helps parents save for college. With this innovative, high-impact fundraiser, you can save for your child's college education, while you and other parents can raise hundreds - even thousands - of dollars for their school.

www.upromise.com

Coming soon: Online PTO Page

Check the MPS website in the coming months to see the PTO Page newsletter, lost and found catalog, and other essential information, online!

Coming in March

8-13	8 th grade trip to Washington
11-13	6 th grade trip to Earthshine
16-20	Spring break
26	Head's Assembly
27	Family Fun Night

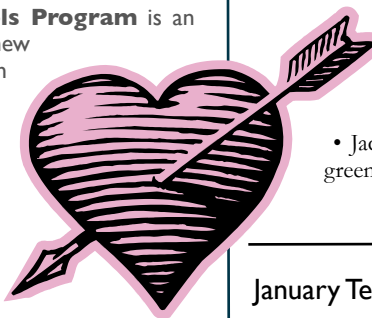
School Support

Has Anybody Seen My Jacket (Sweatshirt, Lunchbox, Etc.)?

Parents, have your kids lost a jacket that looks like one of these? Please come to the lost and found bins at school to collect your items.

This is just a small sampling of the items in the lost and found. In the coming weeks, the full log of items will be posted via a link on the MPS website.

- Jacket Adidas Lg. Dark grey with MPS Birthday ribbon on it
- Jacket Adidas Med Red "James Island Soccer Club"
- Jacket Columbia Med. Black fleece with nylon arms
- Jacket Danskin Lg. Pink with fuchsia accents and the number "79"
- Jacket Gap Sm. 6/7 Navy with corduroy trim, orange inside
- Jacket Gap XL Denim
- Jacket North Face XS Black fleece (solid)
- Jacket Old Navy S Navy and light blue fleece with nylon panel
- Jacket Patagonia XL 12 Orange fleece with navy trim
- Jacket Starter Med 9/10 Black, with green and white accent stripe



January Teacher Appreciation Lunch

Teacher appreciation would like to congratulate the January raffle winners: Mr. Krutner and Ms. Hendricks. Each won a \$25.00 gift book to the movies. Thanks to the fifth grade class for hosting the January lunch/breakfast.

Special Thanks Go Out To:

- All the families who attended the Holiday Teddy Bear Teas at Charleston Place, which helped raise funds for the PTO.
- Cindy Brams for her stellar Quickbooks knowledge.
- Mrs. Koon and all of our guest speakers for the informative educational Parenting Program.
- Nurse Duffy for always making sure our kids are cared for and loved when away from home.