



The Rams Reader

The Williams Township PTA Newsletter
September 2014

The President's Pen



Dear Williams Township Elementary School Families,

A big WELCOME to all the new families that have children beginning their education here at Williams Township! You are joining some fantastic families already enrolled here, and we are so glad to have you. The Williams Township PTA is very active within our school and we take pride in being involved in our children's education. This year, the PTA will sponsor many events that will enhance your child's education such as: Enrichment (After School Programs), Mobile Ag Lab, Book Fair, and Science Fair, just to name a few.

We will also be sprinkling some fun events throughout the year such as our Halloween Party, Holiday Bazaar and the Winter Carnival.

These events not only help your child, but they also help you as parents and guardians to get to know other families, teachers and aides. So get involved! It really is easy. Whether you have 30 minutes or a couple of hours, your ideas, time and talents are truly wanted and needed. For the PTA to be effective and truly representative of the school, everyone's participation is welcome. We understand that time seems to fly by and 24hrs just isn't enough sometimes! So we have tried to make things easier over the past year by creating a new website and Facebook Page. These two platforms help parents to stay on top of things quickly instead of digging through paperwork to find that date, or time you forgot about.

Just visit www.williams.my-pta.org or our Facebook Page: Williams Township Elementary School to find the answer!

We need you as a volunteer at our school! Volunteers are a necessity and research shows that students whose parents or guardians are involved in their education have better grades and fewer discipline problems. We promise that the time you give to the PTA and the school will be worth your while and fun! All volunteers must have their clearances, so start yours today! Visit our website and click on the Security Clearance tab at the top for more information. After you volunteer 6 times, you will be reimbursed for your out of pocket expenses too. How great is that!

Our PTA meetings are another great way to get involved. Meetings are held every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm in the school cafeteria (except December and January). These meetings are a great way to voice opinions and give ideas or feedback. We also have guest speakers!

As always, the board is open to any and all of your comments or ideas, so please don't hesitate to email or contact any one of us. We really are "In It For The Kids". Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Sincerely,

Rachelle Gibbs, PTA President
rachelle.m.gibbs@gmail.com

2014-2015

PTA Board Members

Rachelle Gibbs,
President

Julie Pektor,
Vice-President

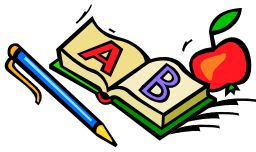
Kim Bailey,
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Inside This Issue

From The Principal's Desk	2
Ways To Help	2
Committee Heads	3
Committee Updates	4-5
Shout Outs	6
Upcoming Events	6
Advertisements	6

A Message From The Principal's Desk



The new school year at Williams Township Elementary School is off to a great start. I would like to thank the entire faculty and staff for their efforts to help make the transition from summer to the school year enjoyable for all.

I would also like to thank the students and families of the Williams Township community for making last year such a great success. The people of Williams Township continue to make being principal at our elementary school a great experience.

Students and staff are off to a great start. All students will soon be administered our benchmark DIBELS assessments, and from that data, teachers will be addressing specific needs of students in the area of reading. Please be sure to contact your child's teacher if you have any questions about interventions your child may be receiving during the course of the school day. I have high expectations for all students here at Williams and ask for your assistance to help our students build their achievement level. Please encourage your child to give their best effort and also ask them about their school day, particularly their academic endeavors.

Many additional learning opportunities will be coming up for our students. A host of field trips will take place that will offer educational experiences. We will also have the Mobile Agricultural Lab visiting our school. The lab offers students hands-on experiments that relate to our science curriculum. There are also after school enrichment activities that include art programs, computer programs, and French just to name a few. All of the above mentioned activities take place because of our wonderful Williams Township PTA. Parents have already volunteered many hours to help the PTA be a success. Please help support the PTA in their efforts; they provide many fun and educational opportunities for our children.

The RAMS of Williams Township are working hard at our school. Please ask your children if they have "earned their horns" or who may have been selected as the "Ram of the Month." Together let's continue to make our school "up on the hill" a success. I look forward to continuing to work with all of the students, staff, and families of Williams Township Elementary School!

Warmest Regards,

Kevin Steidle, Principal

Ways To Help...While You Shop!

Giant A+ Rewards Program

The A+ Giant rewards program runs from October 5 to March 21. Registration opens on September 15th. **NEW THIS YEAR:** If your bonuscard was registered last year, you do NOT need to re-register this year. However, please log into the program and be sure that your number is designated for Williams Township Elementary school #03417. You can register for up to two schools if you have children at other schools as well. Last year we raised over \$1200 for our school. It was easy, FREE money for our programs. Please ask family and friends to register their cards too!



"Like" Williams Township
Elementary School on
Facebook!



Target Take Charge of Education

Through the Take Charge of Education program, Target donates 1% of Target Visa or Card purchases made at Target and Target.com, and 1/2% of Target Visa purchases made elsewhere, to the school of your choice. To enroll in this program, please visit our PTA website and click on the "fundraisers" tab.



Box Tops For Education

General Mills "Box Tops for Education" can be found everywhere, on a wide variety of items, including Huggies, Cottonelle, Betty Crocker, Pillsbury products, cereal, Yoplait yogurt, Juicy Juice, and many more. **10 TOPS = \$1.00 for our school!!** Simply clip the Box Tops along the dotted lines (careful not to cut off the expiration date) and turn them in to your child's teacher.



Scrip Program

With scrip fundraising, families can easily fundraise for our school while they shop. No selling is involved! You can use scrip gift cards for everyday purchases like groceries, gas and gifts! Forms will be sent home with your child or you can visit the PTA website and click on the "fundraisers" tab. Help your kids by supporting the program every month!



Labels For Education

Collect Campbell's Labels For Education and our school can redeem them for educational resources! Campbell's soups, Pepperidge Farms products including Goldfish crackers, V-8 beverages, Spaghettios, and other products are eligible.



2014—2015 PTA Committee Heads

Page 3

A+ Giant Program - Beth Meuser: bethandbob@rcn.com
Art Fair - Jennifer Shunk: cjshunk@rcn.com
Book Fair - Jeannine Horinko: mom3pie@gmail.com
Book Swap - Dawn Dufal: ddufal@msn.com
Box Tops/Labels for Education - Joanne Goodman: jgoodman@rutgersln.com
Box Tops/Labels for Education - Maggie Brinker: mbrink31@rcn.com
Career Day - Annie Ritter: ritter965@ptd.net
Enrichment - Julie Burkart: j.a.wagner@wagnerfarms.com
Family Dinner - Lisa DiBiagio: ldibiagio@rcn.com
Fourth Grade Committee - Annie Ritter: ritter965@ptd.net
Halloween Party - Cathy Mueller: cmuelle@neostrata.com
Health and Wellness - Heather Fredericks: heather.fredericks@gmail.com
Heritage Day - Kim Bailey: kymandharri@hotmail.com
Holiday Bazaar - Cathy Mueller: cmuelle@neostrata.com
Holiday Gift - Michelle Causa: mcausa@ptd.net
Meeting Speakers and Programs - Rachelle Gibbs: rachelle.m.gibbs@gmail.com
Membership - Andrea Errico: aerricox6@yahoo.com
Newsletter - Melinda DiBartola: melinda.dibartola@honeywell.com
Playground - Sara and Joe Aquino: insaquino@rcn.com
Rams Apparel - Tina Freeman: tinafreeman13@gmail.com
Reflections - Rebecca Bossons: becka1980@gmail.com
Retirement - Christa Sagrestano: christasags@verizon.net
Room Parent - Beth Meuser: bethandbob@rcn.com
Scholarship - Jeannine Horinko: mom3pie@gmail.com
School Spirit Day - Deana and Greg Washburn: veana123@rcn.com
Science Fair - Heather Fredericks: heather.fredericks@gmail.com
Science Fair - Sue Bulette: sueb@ptd.net
Scrip Program - Denise Spencer: dmspencer@rcn.com
Staff Appreciation - Sue Bulette: sueb@ptd.net
Staff Appreciation - Jennifer Shunk: cjshunk@rcn.com
Talent Show - Annie Ritter: ritter965@ptd.net
Tricky Tray - Lisa DiBiagio: ldibiagio@rcn.com
Tricky Tray - Julie Pektor: cjpektor1@verizon.net
Ways and Means - Deana Washburn: veana123@rcn.com
Website/Social Media - Rachelle Gibbs: rachelle.m.gibbs@gmail.com
Winter Carnival - Beth Koehler: bethanddavidk@msn.com
Yearbook - Shea Bennett: ljbshea@aol.com
Yearbook - Lori Miller: parkplace035@rcn.com



More information regarding these committees can be found on the PTA website under the "committees" tab. If you have ideas you would like to share or would like to join a committee, please contact the committee head!

Committee Updates

Treasurer's Report

Our goal for the 2014-2015 School Year is \$28,035.



In addition to our traditional fundraisers, we will be having a Tricky Tray again in Spring 2015!!

This year all expense receipts can be sent into the school to my daughter, Alexa Koufalis, in Mrs. Moser's 3rd grade class, Attn: Stephanie Koufalis. If you need an Expense Reimbursement form, you can email me at stephaniekoufalis@gmail.com and I will email one to you.

Kidstuff Fundraiser

The Kidstuff fundraiser has begun!



Please remember that orders and unsold sample books are due back on September 19th.

Thanks for helping make this fundraiser a success! If you have any questions, please contact Deana Washburn at [908.500.8709](tel:908.500.8709) or veana123@rcn.com.

Health and Wellness

The Health and Wellness Committee wants your help! We attend Dining Services meetings and District Wellness Committee meetings, when possible, to share feedback to and from our WTES PTA and students. We also put up educational bulletin boards highlighting issues that effect our school population! If you are interested in helping and/or have ideas for bulletin boards, please contact Heather Fredericks at heather.fredericks@gmail.com or 610-258-8697.



Enrichment Program

By now, families have received Enrichment Registration Packets for this school year.

We are proud of the potpourri of after school programs being offered, including Reflections Art Contest, Mine-craft, WarriorFit Training, Mad-Science, Art Masters, French, Spotlight Drama, Yearbook Club and K-Kids Service Program.



Please remember to register your student by September 19th. The Lottery Deadline is September 17th.

Once students have registered, Parents and Guardians with necessary clearances are invited to volunteer to assist program proctors, so please use the PTA website to sign-up! We look forward to expanding and building upon the educational experience of our students. For questions, information or feedback, feel free to reach Julie Wagner Burkart at j.a.wagner@wagnerfarms.com.

Reflections

The world would be a better place if..... That is the theme for this year's reflection program. Reflections is a national PTA program which celebrates the arts. If your child is interested in participating in a national art program, please send back the enrichment enrollment form. The reflection enrichment dates are September 29-October 2. Entries will be due by October 8th.



Student Directory



Please return the form sent home in the PTA packet so that your contact information can be included in our student directory. This is a great tool to get in touch with a classmate for a homework question, play date etc!

Halloween Party

- ☠ What do you get when you cross Bambi with a ghost? Bamboo
- ☠ How did the ghost sew his sheet? With a pumpkin patch.
- ☠ What do ghosts like to dance to? Soul music!



This year the PTA will be making some modifications to our annual Halloween party! If you would like to help with the Halloween party this year, please contact Cathy Mueller at cmuelle@neostrata.com or 610-438-6227. More specific details will be set out to everyone in October!

Room Parent



The Room Parent committee will be coordinating Room Parent and room volunteer lists within the next few weeks. People wishing to volunteer

should complete the form in the PTA packet. Room Parents will be contacted and they in turn will contact their parent volunteers to coordinate with the teachers as needed.

Lunch Duty

Please consider volunteering for lunch duty at the school. You can sign up as many times as you would like each month.

During lunch, you will assist the children in opening lunch items, keeping them in lines and helping the staff in any way needed. Its just another way that you can stay involved in your child's daily school activity. You must have approved clearances! Please see the PTA website on the "volunteering" tab for sign up.



Volunteering

Don't forget that all volunteers are required to have all 3 clearances approved and on file in our school office prior to your volunteer date. Plan ahead since some of the clearances cannot be done online and need approval time! See our "Security Clearance" tab on the PTA website for more information.



RAMS Apparel



Please visit the RAMS Store on the PTA website to purchase your RAMS apparel.

We only accept

checks as payment at this time (made out to "Williams Township PTA") and they can be sent into school with your child in an envelope marked PTA. Thank you for shopping the "Rams School Store"!

Yearbook

Save those class photos for the yearbook!

Any class trips or events please bring a camera and click away. Details

on how to upload to the yearbook coming soon!



Facebook

Williams Township Elementary School is on Facebook!

Like us to get the latest updates and reminders. (No photos of students will appear on the site).

Find us at "Williams Township Elementary School".



Family Night Out



Too tired to cook? Join us for Family Night Out where a portion of your bill will go directly to the PTA! The first Family Night Out for the school year will be at Tommy's Sole Mio Italian Grille on October 14-16. Also, please mark your calendar for our Family Night Out at the Riegelsville Tavern on November 4th & 6th.

ReUse A Shoe

Our school is collecting old sneakers to recycle (any brand with a rubber sole). The sneakers will be donated to the Nike Reuse-a-Shoe Foundation to be made into new rubber based products such as gymnasium floors, tennis courts, and bicycle tires to benefit kids like you! Please remove laces before sending in your sneakers. They can be placed in the box in the front lobby.



Website Updates

Our new website is up and running with some exciting new interactive features.

You will find Volunteer opportunities, Rams Apparel for Sale, School and PTA Calendars, School Clearance Information, and much more!

The website address is www.williams.my-pta.org



Holiday Bazaar

Each December, the PTA provides a Holiday Gift program so that your child can shop for holiday gifts for their family and friends.

This year our program is changing so that all items at the Holiday Gift will be \$2 or under! **YES...\$2 or less!!!!**

This will make it easy for parents to send in the budgeted amount that they would like their child to spend on gifts. If you would like your child to purchase 2 gifts, then send in \$4...if you would like your child to purchase 5 gifts, then send in \$10!



The program takes place the first part of December and the specific shopping dates and times will be confirmed closer to the date.

We will need "savvy shoppers" as well as help setting up and working at the program. If you would like to help, please contact Cathy Mueller at cmuelle@neostrata.com or 610-438-6227.

Student Accident Insurance

Parents are encouraged to consider purchasing voluntary student accident insurance. The insurance is designed to help supplement any insurance parents may have, by satisfying deductibles or co-insurance requirements, or limiting the possible financial impact of an injury if a parent has no other insurance. The cost of the coverage ranges from \$36 to \$125 annually and provides coverage to children during school hours. For more details please go to the parents tab on our website at: www.wilsonaread.org. If you are unable to access this information, please contact the school.



We run many programs throughout the year to benefit our school and the education of our children. From fundraisers to school spirit day, it all happens through the PTA! Get involved - join our PTA today.



Good Luck To All Williams Township Football Players This Season!

Kassie Ritter: Happy 8th Birthday to our fearless little daughter! Congratulations on a fantastic swim season with the Wilson Whales & being the youngest on the team to make it to Championships! Congrats on your 1st Triathlon & taking 3rd place in the 7-9 age group! Love, Mom & Dad

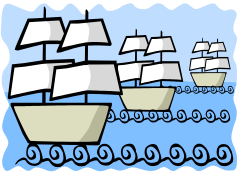
Williams Township Cheerleaders—Keep Up The Great Work!

Nicholas Ritter: Congratulations on a fantastic swim season with the Wilson Whales & making it to Championships! Love, Mom & Dad



Fall Book Fair is October 7th!

The Reflections Art Contest submissions are due October 8th!



School is closed on October 13th in observance of Columbus Day!

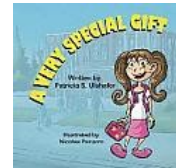


School Picture Make-Up Day is October 24th!



The next General Meeting of the PTA is scheduled for November 11th!

Patricia Ulshafer, a teacher in the Wilson School District, has published a book titled "A Very Special Gift". Please join her September 25th at 7pm at the Barnes and Noble on Route 33/Freemansburg Ave. to purchase and get a signed copy! On October 4th at 10am she will be reading the book (and doing a craft) at the Palmer Library.



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