



RAMS READER

Williams Township PTA Newsletter

Issue No.4

March 2013

The President's Pen:

Dear Friends,

Spring is in the air! Thank goodness. It has been a very busy winter! The activities our PTA has supported has kept our volunteers on their toes.

Thank you to all the PTA members and students who have supported the winter events and we look forward to seeing you at the TRICKY TRAY, ART FAIR and CAREER DAY!

As we enter the 4th marking period and another school year ends I think of next year and all the volunteer opportunities for many members to embrace. We are in need of many positions and I hope that if you are interested in giving back to our school you will consider running for president or being a committee head. We welcome and long for new ideas and this is the time to get involved with your child and their school. Before you know it the Elementary School Days will have past.

I look forward to working with you and enjoy the spring.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Shunk

WTES PTA President

Treasurers Report:

Our Goal for the 2012-2013 school year...

\$20,520.00.

Our Actual income so far this year is:
\$12,545.00



We are well on our way to making our goal. We still have Tricky Tray, Scrip Program, and more Box Top funds coming in!

Great Job to everyone fundraising this year!

A quick Note to our wonderful teachers: We have a few teachers that have not used their Teacher Funds for the year. It's not too late! Get those receipts to me and get reimbursed for those classroom extras!

Thanks,
Dawn Dufal, Treasurer WTES PTA



**WE
WANT
YOU!**

Elections will be here before you know it!

If you are interested in becoming a board member or heading a committee please contact Jennifer Shunk 610 252-1264 or 610 730-4666 or jennifershunk@gmail.com.

We welcome new members and new ideas!

Please see page 8 for all open positions!

Williams Township Elementary School

Special lessons, activities, and events during January and February--2013



Williams Township Elementary School has always worked closely with the Williams Township Elementary School PTA and community to ensure that a wide variety of experiences are available to our students. In addition to academic offerings, we strive to reach our building goals related to diversity and tolerance. This year we held our first annual **Heritage Day** to honor our families' ethnic and cultural backgrounds. All families were invited to join in the celebration and bring information and artifacts to share with our students on Heritage Day. We purposely chose January 21, 2013, the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, to underscore his message and his dream of world equality. Although the response from families was smaller than we had hoped, the event was a great success and we were excited to learn of the following places and

cultures: Germany, the Philippines, Portugal, Scotland, Hong Kong, and Latvia.

Also during the months of January and February, many additional lessons, activities, and events took place to continue to honor the diversity of our school:

- Kindergarten children read about Martin Luther King Jr. and took part in an activity designed to help students feel and understand the sting of intolerance. Using the color of one's clothing as criteria, some students were allowed to play while others had to continue to do work. In this very primary format, children came to realize the unfairness of discrimination. The children also completed a craft showing two different colored hands shaking and in the middle said "Peace begins with me." Further discussion followed about the ways that each one can make peace and be friends with everyone, even if they are different.
- First grade children engaged in a "Sneetches' Activity". This is another age appropriate way to provide children with an experience to help them understand the sting of discrimination. After reading the book by Dr. Suess (also a featured author for the month of March), star necklaces were handed out to about half of the students and the others were given nothing. Next they were told that everyone with a star necklace would get extra recess and those without a necklace would get extra homework. Discussion of inequality and feelings were then discussed.
- First grade also engaged in a lesson designed for President's Day and Black History Month. Students read a story about President Lincoln's life and his importance in freeing the African American slaves. Additional titles read this month include: Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by Doreen Rappaport; My Brother Martin; and The Story of Ruby Bridges. A book report assignment, **V.I.P (Very Important Person) Book Report**, focused on the student's choice of an important person in history.

- Second grade students learned about George Washington Carver, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks and their many accomplishments. In addition to reading books and watching videos about these important African-Americans, students completed writing projects.
- Third grade students focused on the lives of Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, Jr. Reading, video, and follow-up activities were centered on these two individuals. The students also learned about several significant contributions of famous African-Americans to our country, especially in the music world.
- Fourth grade guidance lessons related to two important books: The Other Side, by Jacqueline Woodson and Pink and Say, by Patricia Polacco. Topics of the Civil War, the issue of slavery, and the Jim Crow Laws that were passed after the Civil War, were discussed.
- Fourth grade classroom lessons included a play and an article about Martin Luther King, Jr. and his “I have a Dream” speech, readings about Rosa Parks and the Civil Rights Movement, as well as a selection by MLK’s sister on their shared childhood.
- The school library displayed a wide variety of biographies of many famous African-Americans and children were encouraged to borrow the books that interest them.
- Music classes dedicated time to learning African-American Spirituals and they discussed how the music of the slaves influenced “American” music. They learned songs connected to the Civil Rights Movement. “Follow the Drinking Gourd” allowed for discussion of the Underground Railroad and the ‘code songs’ used to help the slaves escape to freedom. A *Reading Rainbows* video also provided a fun and informative look at the music of African-American slaves.

I encourage all parents to become active in the PTA, so that the ideas and talents of many can assist us in continuing to offer our students a wide variety of activities. I thank all school staff, parents, and other community members, who are already highly involved in this year’s events.

With the advent of spring, comes the **Pennsylvania System of School Assessment** season. Our third and fourth grade students will be completing assessments in Math and Reading during a testing window that opens on Monday, April 8, 2013 and closes on Friday, April 19, 2013. The first six days of testing alternate between reading and math and these are the optimal testing days. The other days are designated for make-up tests. Fourth grade students will complete a Science assessment on Monday, April 22 and 23, 2013. Make-up tests will be administered through the remainder of that week. The children have been preparing for these state assessments all school year and we know they are most successful if they are present during the initial test dates. Students who take tests within the make-up window tend to score lower so it is imperative that you ensure they have adequate rest and nourishment so they can be present for each test day.

We have been successful in attaining Adequate Yearly Progress since the first tests were administered in the 2002-2003 school year. That is an exceptional feat that attests to the academic prowess of our students and the dedication of our teachers to provide appropriate instruction throughout the years. It also demonstrates the commitment that our families have to their children’s education. I am sure we will maintain our excellent record for the 2012-2013 testing.

Hopefully the warm weather will soon return and bless us with a beautiful spring. Enjoy it!

Dale Ann Brown, WT’ES Principal

LOOKING BACK: Just a few notes as to how our 2012-2013 school year is going!

Winter Craft Festival Thank you!

A big thank you to all of those who helped with the Winter Craft Festival.



There was an overwhelming amount of volunteers who did an awesome job. We had a great student turn out even with some snow falling outside. I received some great feedback from parents/students who truly enjoyed themselves and the crafts. This event could not be a success without all of the help.

Thanks Ladies!!!!

Thank you to all the volunteers that helped our children have a successful Jump Rope Event.

Mr. Hannis and I are extremely thankful for those as well who helped out in meeting our volunteer needs in each and every classroom!

Cristy Mette
Room Parent Coordinator



Thank you to the 85 students who participated in this year's Science Fair!

It was a fantastic group of projects and much enjoyed by all who came. Thanks, also, to the parent volunteers who gave their time to walk the classes though during the day, to those who helped set up and cover tables, and to those who helped clean up after the event!

A huge thank you, also, to Rizzo's Reptiles for joining us once again!

The WTES gymnasium was full of smiling faces, laughter, and creative minds!

Thanks,
Heather Fredericks



Our Gertrude Hawk Sale was an amazing success!

Total sales were \$4,846.00 and with a 50% profit, our PTA earned a whopping \$2,423.00!!!

Our top sellers were Logan Santiago, Ava Pektor and Conor Kish.

Thank you to all who participated and helped make this sale a success!



This is our profit from Giant Food stores as of February... \$1324.77

We have 106 designations (or people registered) for the year!

The program ends on March 28th so a huge thank you to everyone who participated!!

THIS IS THE EASIEST MONEY OUR PTA EVER MADE!



Another Great year for the Book Swap!

We had a wonderful selection of books for our children to choose from this year. Thank you to all who cleaned their book shelves and donated books!

Each child in our school picked at least one gently used book, our teachers were able to pick a few for the classroom as well as our school library.

All books left over were donated to the Cops n' Kids Reading Room in Easton.

Thank you to Jennifer Batdorf and her committee for the success of our annual Book Swap!

The Spring BOGO Book Fair is coming!!!

When: Tuesday, April 23rd and Wednesday, April 24th

Make up day will be Friday, April 26th.

Where: Room 311

A Flyer will be sent home soon...



Also, Community Night will be held Wednesday, April 23rd from 6-7:30, in conjunction with the Art Fair.

All Welcome!!



Mark Your Calendars For Career Day! We are now planning our school's annual Career Fair to be held at the school on Thursday, April 25, 2013 between the hours of 9 AM and 3 PM. Parents are invited to participate in the event by coming to the school and talking with the children about their occupations.

Please reserve the date if you are interested in participating in this fun and enlightening event for all.



The Art Fair will be held on April 23rd from 6-8pm. Parents should have received an invitation that was sent home on Monday March 18th! Please send the RSVP back to school by April 7th!!

Tricky Tray Saturday April 13th doors open at 10am until 4 pm.

Drawing starts at 4pm. You need not be present to win!

Currently taking advance sale ticket orders with payment. Buy 4 sheets (25 tickets per sheet) at \$20, get 1 sheet free! Also selling individual sheets for \$5. We will be accepting preorders until April 11th.



Looking for bake sale sign ups on signupgenius.com under the title "Williams Township Elementary School PTA Tricky Tray Event". We are Also still accepting basket/gift card donations.

Our Big Ticket items, for which you can buy tickets the day of the event are:

4 Disney 1 day hopper passes, 6 Hall of Fame Phillies Tickets, a PS3, an IPAD Mini, a signed Cowboys football, and a genuine Louis Vuitton Neverfull Tote!

We will have 50/50, food, and bake sale goods the day of the event.

Questions? Call or Email
Jennifer Batdorf 610-252-8067
mommyb@rcn.com

Lisa DiBiagio 610-253-2373 ldibiagio@rcn.com
Joan Gillent 610-253-2129 gilly3jms@aol.com
Julie Pektor 610-838-1722 cjpektor@verizon.net

PTA fundraising and additional upcoming events....

Box Tops is at \$1700. for the year!

**Congratulations to Mrs. Dickson's
Class our February Box Tops Winner!**



KEEP CLIPPING!

What a difference you make!

**Scrip is Fundraising
While You Shop!™**



Shopping with gift cards is an easy way to support our organization every time you shop. We offer a great variety of brands in addition to your weekly gas and grocery purchases. From dining and entertainment to home improvement and beyond, we have all your shopping needs covered!

There are so many opportunities to generate rebates for our organization with gift cards. Sharpen your shopping skills and visit ShopWithScrip.com to find a complete list of National and regional retailers.

START TODAY!

PLEASE CONTACT OUR SCRIP PROGRAM CHAIR- JENNIFER JANIK WITH ANY QUESTIONS. ubjanik@ptd.net 610-333-1799

Family Night Out

Thank you to everyone who out for Family Night Out in February at Bella's Ristorante and March at Terry's Italian Restaurant.

**April's Family Night Out
will be at:**

**Dubs on 5th
402 5th Street
West Easton, PA 18042
610-438-3827**

**Wednesday April 17th from
11 am to 9pm
and
Thursday April 18th from
11am to 9pm.**

To view the menu go to:
www.dubson5th.com

Hope to see you at Dubs on
5th..... in April!!!!



**2013 Williams Township Talent Show
YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS AN AMAZING NIGHT!**

**Wednesday March 27th at 6:30 PM
Wilson Area High School Auditorium**

**Singing, Dancing, Piano, And MORE!
We have got it all!**





**HELP SUPPORT OUR
PTA**

**WHILE WE SUPPORT
YOUR BUSINESS!**

Please contact Shelli Piparato with your Ad Information. shell3405@hotmail.com
610-597-1083

If you have your clearances and are looking for volunteer opportunities, Cops N'Kids Reading Room of Easton can use your help!

Volunteer in the Reading Room at the Easton Area Community Center, 901 Washington Street (Lower level), Easton, PA 18042 reading with kids and spreading the joys of literacy or work "behind the scenes" labeling and organizing books to be shared throughout the room and community venues.

For information, contact Judith Dickerson at chasjood@ptd.net.



PTA Global E-mail list:

Keep updated and informed with all the PTA events during the week and month!

If you are not already on the PTA global e-mail list, please e-mail Cathy Mueller at cmueller@neostrata.com so that you can be included!



Hello! We are looking for Junior Coaches for the upcoming 2013-2014 Cheering season!

Anyone interested, please contact Annie D. Ritter at anniedritter@ptd.net or 610-509-5554.

Go, R-A-M-S!

Our PTA needs you!

**We have many open positions
for the upcoming 2013-2014
school year!**

Which position is right for you?

**Actively looking for:
PTA PRESIDENT
PTA VICE PRESIDENT
PTA TREASURER**

**We are also looking for new
chairpersons or help with these
committees:**

**Halloween Party
Room Parent
Assistance with Scholarship
Winter Carnival
Winter Craft Festival
4th Grade Committee
Enrichment**

**Please contact our newly
appointed Nominating
Committee Annie Ritter or
Stephanie Koufalis if interested
in any of these positions or
committees!**

**May 14th 6:30 PM
Open PTA Meeting
ELECTIONS!**

There is no speaker at this meeting but elections will be held and the budget for 2013-2014 will be voted on.

Top 10 Internet Safety Tips for Parents:

1. Locate your computer in a central, open location- like the kitchen or family room.
2. Use internet filtering and tracking software. This will block certain content and let you see where your children are going.
3. Talk to your children about cyber bullying. Make sure they understand that there are serious consequences for harassing others on-line. Furthermore, encourage them to tell a trusted adult if someone is harassing them on-line.
4. Teach your children not to give out any personal information on-line. This includes information about themselves and other family members.
5. If your child has a facebook page or is on another social network site, make sure you have access. Children must be 14 years old to have a page on a social network.
6. If you have a social website page, do not post pictures of your children on-line.
7. Discourage your children from going into chat rooms.
8. Reinforce with your children that they should never, ever meet a person they've met on-line.
9. Encourage your children to tell a trusted adult if they see something on-line that makes them feel uncomfortable or if someone they do not know sends them inappropriate material.
10. Explain to your children who on-line predators are and why it is important for them not to talk to strangers on-line.