



The Rams Reader

The Williams Township PTA Newsletter
November 2014

The President's Pen



Dear Williams Township Elementary School Families,

With old man winter knocking on our door, we begin another fun holiday season here at Williams Township Elementary. The PTA recently had our 1st Annual Trunk-or-Treat and we aren't stopping there! Next up will be our Holiday Bazaar and Winter Carnival. These events are fully sponsored by the PTA with funds from our fundraisers, such as the Classic Recipes Cookie Dough that just concluded, Box Top Collections, etc. Without your participation in these important fundraisers, we would not have the funding to continue these wonderful events for our children. We thank all of you who participated in the recent fundraiser!

As the Thanksgiving Season is upon us, I would like to take a moment to say Thank You to the many parent volunteers that do so much for our school. We know how valuable your time is and we can't thank you all enough for the support you show our PTA and our school. I am so proud to be a part of a school in which parents are so dedicated to the children. If you would like to volunteer at the school, please visit our website at www.williams.my-pta.org and click on the Security Clearance tab for more information. All volunteers must have their clearances prior to assisting at the school. We have some exciting opportunities upcoming, so don't miss out!

Please don't hesitate to contact myself, or any of our wonderful board members if you should have any questions, concerns or ideas. We are always open to new things! See you all at the next General PTA Meeting on Tuesday, January 13th, 6:30pm in the Cafeteria. (Babysitting will be provided)

Sincerely,

Rachelle Gibbs, WTES PTA President

rachelle.m.gibbs@gmail.com



2014-2015

PTA Board Members

Rachelle Gibbs,
President

Julie Pektor,
Vice-President

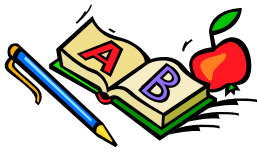
Kim Bailey,
Secretary

Stephanie Koufalis,
Treasurer

Inside This Issue

From The Principal's Desk	2
Your PTA Needs You	2
Reflections Art Contest	3
American Education Week	3
Committee Updates	4-5
Shout Outs	6
Upcoming Events	6

A Message From The Principal's Desk



The school year at Williams Township Elementary School has been moving along swiftly. We are already at the conclusion of the first quarter. Parent teacher conferences will be occurring shortly and 1st quarter re-

port cards will be delivered to parents at that time. Please be sure to schedule a time with your child's teacher to meet and discuss their progress.

Students and staff have been very busy with classroom and extracurricular activities. These events included Patriot's Day, during which we dedicated our lighted flagpole to Captain Christopher Seifert and Lance Corporal Joshua Klinger, both past students of Williams Township Elementary School who lost their lives defending our country. Our 1st graders showed off their creative side with their annual Hat Parade and all students learned about agriculture with a visit to the Mobile Agriculture Lab. Thank you to the PTA for that extra science opportunity for our students!

Our students have also been working hard to "Earn their Horns." Many students have been recognized for following the Rams Rules and going above and beyond in regard to behavior and academic performance. "Rams of the Month" have been selected; be sure to check out their "Ram" pictures in the lobby trophy case.

Our students are very caring and helpful to each other. A Thanksgiving "Thankfulness" Poll was recently taken and it says a lot about our Williams community. Students were thankful for such things as pets, food, and homes; however the overwhelming majority was thankful for their families. This shows how supported and loved our students feel. Our staff also feels lucky to serve the great families of Williams Township. Thank you for all of your support as we educate your children.

Be sure to mark your calendar for the upcoming classroom

Visitation Day. Parents can come to school and view your child's classroom in action on Wednesday November 19th from 9:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. for AM Kindergarten and grades 1 through 4. Visitation for PM Kindergarten is Friday November 21st from 1:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. I hope to see all of you here! Early dismissals will also take place on November 19th, 20th, and 26th. Students will be dismissed at 11:55 a.m. for conferences, please be sure to make appropriate plans for your children. PM Kindergarten students will begin at their regular start time of 12:20 p.m. and be dismissed at 3:15 p.m. on those days. PM Kindergarten students will arrive earlier than usual. Please make the necessary arrangements for your children on the early dismissal days.

I don't want to mention it, but winter is coming and many are predicting another difficult season. Please plan with your children so they will know what to do in the event of an unplanned early dismissal. It is sometimes upsetting, especially to younger children, when they are unsure if someone will be home when they arrive. Remember that bus schedules are adjusted according to dismissal times. Please plan to be at your bus stop ten minutes early and be prepared if the inclement weather delays the bus.

In closing, be sure to enjoy the upcoming Holiday Season with your family and friends. Our Williams Family is an important part of all of our lives and we would like to extend Seasons Greetings and a Happy New Year to all of you. Thank you again for all the support you give your children and the staff here at Williams. Together lets 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



Parents and Guardians of Kindergarten and 1st Graders:

The PTA is looking for you! Our PTA is a very strong organization within the school that supports our Staff and Students in every way possible, but we can't continue that tradition without your help. Our organization is only as strong as its members, and we have quite a few 4th grade members that will be moving on next year. This is where you come in...

We are asking for more participation from Kindergarten and 1st grade families. This could be anything from attending our PTA General Meetings, becoming a volunteer, joining a committee, heading a committee or running for a board position! The possibilities are endless to what great ideas and things we can do for our school, so please join us and continue our long standing tradition of excellence for our children. Getting involved also helps to meet new families and friends - spread the word! Our fantastic little school is just waiting for your thoughts, ideas and inspiration, so get involved today!



Reflections Art Contest

Great job to all who participated in this year's reflections program. Unfortunately, only 10 pieces could be chosen to move on.

Thank you to the staff for acting as our judges! The pieces were given a score based on how well the student's portrayed the theme "The world would be a better place if..." and their overall artistic ability.



The winners of this round are:

Ava Burkhart, Jada White, Melissa Shunk, Tessa Fredericks, Kassie Ritter, Amanda Koehler, Emily Drake, Abby Sagrestano, Andrew Sagrestano, and Halle Washburn.

These pieces will now be judged on a regional level with winners from that round moving on to the state and national levels. Good luck!

Next year's theme is: "Let your imagination fly". Start brain storming now and join us next year! A big thank you to Mrs. Cimino for volunteering so much of her time to help with this program.

Facebook

Our PTA 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".



From fundraisers to school spirit day, it all happens through the PTA! Get involved - join our PTA!

"The World Would Be A Better Place If..."



Abby Sagrestano

...there were no more wars."



Emily Drake

...the oceans were cleaner."



Jada White

...there was more singing."

American Education Week



The Wilson Area School District has annually celebrated American Education Week each November. This week provides our parents, guardians and grandparents the opportunity to observe the wonderful instruction and programs offered by our District. This November, we will continue to celebrate American Education Week and open our schools to the school community. In order to facilitate a safe environment for our children, we are looking for volunteers to assist parents and families that come into our building. Volunteers will sit in the lobby and greet visitors as they arrive. Duties will include asking visitors to sign-in the visitors log book and offering building maps to visitors. Please visit the PTA website to sign up!

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!! We raised \$2,200.00 with our recent KidStuff fundraiser.

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.

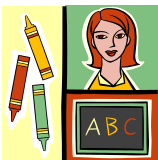
Room Parent

Room Parents have been assigned and all volunteers should have been contacted by their room parents at this time.

The room parents are as follows:

Mrs. Bennett AM - Niki Brown
 Mrs. Bennett- PM - Sara Aquino
 Mrs. Lombardo - Erin Halloran
 Mrs. Kohler - Lori Miller
 Mrs. Maginn - Jeanine Horinko
 Miss Strickler - Michele Acciarito
 Mrs. Buskirk - Melinda DiBartola
 Mrs. Fisher - Rachelle Gibbs
 Mrs. Silfies - Heather Fredericks
 Mrs. Moser - Torrie Ehlman
 Mrs. Dickson - Kim Bandi
 Mrs. Parry - Annie Ritter
 Mrs. Polgar - Andrea Errico

Hopefully everyone will have a fun year and enjoy seeing their children in their school environment!



Enrichment Program

Our Fall Session of the Enrichment Program is in full swing. Students have enjoyed the PTA Reflections Art Contest, Minecraft, WarriorFit Training, MadScience, French, Spotlight Drama, and Yearbook Club. Soon our Art Masters program and very own WTES Service Program will begin.



Thanks to all of the families and guardians who support the programs and who have made the process of running the programs a success! A special "Thank You" to all of the parents and guardians who volunteer!

We are excitedly preparing for the Spring Session and have already confirmed another, unique Mad Science program, the return of Minecraft, WarriorFit, and Writing with a Purpose, as well as some new programs including Hair & Cosmetology. We hope to also offer a Beginner Golf Program and Hip Hop Dance Program to the Spring line up!

Please look out for your Spring Session registration materials coming out after the winter break!

We look forward to continuing this enriching experience for our students. For questions, information or feedback, feel free to reach Julie Wagner Burkart at j.a.wagner@wagnerfarms.com.

Yearbook

Taking pictures during a class trip or event? Save them for the yearbook—details will be coming soon on how to upload them! We are also looking for digital camera donations. If you can help, please send your camera in marked "Yearbook" and we will make sure that it is put to good use!



Halloween Party

What did one ghost say to the other?? BOO HOO..The Halloween Trunk or Treat event is over!



A BIG Thank You goes out to ALL who helped and participated in this event....we had over 20+ cars for our first outdoor event and all families who participated (either with a trunk or came to get "treats") had a great time! Mother Nature also cooperated by giving us a beautiful weather. We look forward to next year's 2nd annual event!

Kidstuff Fundraiser

Total profit for the Kidstuff fundraiser is \$2200! A big thank you to everyone who helped to make this fundraiser a huge success!



We still have a few books that haven't been turned in. Please return the book with your child or submit a check for \$25 so that the PTA can get credit for these books.

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.

There is a 50% off sale for the existing inventory for our website. This is ongoing until inventory is depleted.

The winter rams sale flyer will come home with the children soon—all orders will be delivered in time for the holidays.

Thank you for shopping the "Rams School Store"!

Global Email/Website

To be added to the global email list, please register on our website!

You will also 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



Heritage Day

Please consider volunteering to share your families heritage at our Heritage Day Event. Heritage Day will be held in late January.

It is designed to be a celebration of the cultural diversity of our school. We welcome any level of participation. For more information, please contact Mrs. Moser or Kimberly Bailey (kymandharri@hotmail.com).



Winter Carnival

The much anticipated Winter Carnival is scheduled for December 23rd!

This day is packed full of fun activities for the children including crafts, games and a visit from Santa!



We will need volunteers keep an eye on the PTA website for sign ups!

Membership Cards



If you would like a membership card contact Andrea Errico at aerricox6@yahoo.com. If you register the card online, discounts are available to PTA cardholders.

Giant A+ Rewards Program

It's not too late to register your bonus card! The program runs through March 21st. Parents, grandparents, friends, neighbors, and relatives are all welcome to register their cards. Registration is online at giant-foodstores.com/aplus or by calling 1-888-814-4268.

There is no loss of gas/promotional points by signing up for this program. Last year our school earned \$1200 just by grocery shopping!



Holiday Bazaar

December 9, 10, and 11th all students will have an opportunity to "shop" for the holidays at school.

This year all items will be \$1 or \$2! Children can shop for family members, friends, neighbors, teachers, or anyone during our annual holiday gift event. Look for the specific day for your student to be sent home from school closer to the dates.



Script Program

The Scrip Program is off to a great start, but we need your help to keep it that way.

Did you know?

*Clothing retailers like the Gap, LLBean and Children's Place pay some of the highest rates—10+%!

*The list of participating retailers is even greater than the list provided - look online for the full selection www.shopwithscrip.com.

Buy giftcards for places you frequently visit - WaWa, Dunkin Donuts, Giant, Home Depot - etc!

Going on a trip? You can buy cards for Disney, Hilton, Hyatt Hotels and many others.

Don't forget to buy cards for holiday gifts, stocking stuffers or birthdays.

Also, please refer a friend or co-worker. Orders can be placed online and anyone can support our school.

Remember, this is the only fundraiser that doesn't cost the buyer anything extra to support our kids! The turnaround time is approximately 7 days from your order date!





A big shout out to Niki Brown and her mom, Linda Ellmo! These two wonderful women will be donating 8,000 Box Tops thanks to Walmart! That's right, 8,000 Box Tops!!! That equates to \$800 for our school! We can't thank Walmart enough for this very generous gift. It just goes to show you, our Williams Township families are "In It For The Kids!"

To All Williams Township Cheerleaders—what great spirit you had this year!!



Congratulations To All Williams Township Football Players For A Great Season!



**Cookie Sale
Pick Up!**
**December 9th
3:30 - 6pm in
the
Cafeteria!**



**The Winter Carnival is
December 23rd!**

**This is a day full of fun
for the students before
the start of winter break!**

Holiday Bazaar!!

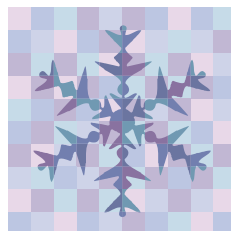
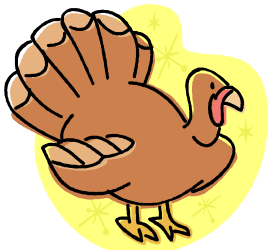
December 9, 10, 11

**All gifts \$1 or \$2!!!
A great opportunity for the
students to shop for the
special people in their lives!**



**November
Early Dismissals/Closings**

**11/19, 20, 26—Early Dismissal
11/27, 28—School Closed**



**December
Early Dismissals/Closings**

**12/1—School Closed
12/24 to 1/2 —School Closed**

SAVE THE DATE!

**Our Tricky Tray
Fundraiser is
scheduled for
April 11th!**

**More details to
come in January!**



**The next General
Meeting of the PTA
is scheduled for
January 13th!**