



It takes a village
to raise a child.
- African Proverb

Fall PTO News



*We had a wonderful turnout and
a ton of fun at the 2nd annual
Back-To-School Picnic!*

2019-2020 vol.1: Oct. 2, 2019



Inside...

Freaky Frightful Fun on the 31st!

Monster Bash is on Halloween this year! Join us for this annual event, full of games, treats, magic, and fun!

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We love the Sensory Pathway!

Thanks to last year's Fund Allocation Committee (FAC), Stormonth installed a fun, new sensory pathway on the playground!

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President's Corner

By Bridget Carlson

Welcome back Stormonth and Bayside families!

It's been a wild and fun kick off to the year so far, and the momentum of the PTO is fierce! Our executive board and chair people have been rocking these couple weeks with incredible events, but don't think we're taking a break... wait until you hear about what's to come!

First, I have to thank Robin Burns and Megan Smith, our power team communicators. These two are so creative in their marketing and social media; they've been the force behind the PTO's great start to the school year. For all of you who purchased a PTO Directory, they'll be here in a couple short weeks. Cheers to Sarah Leibham who heads up the directory details and to Amy Bazelon for designing the cover. This is a helpful tool, and we can't wait to get it in our hands!

Thanks to all of the volunteers who worked the Meet and Greet and Registration Day tables welcoming new families! The second annual Back to School Picnic was also a hit! Thanks to our team who set up and worked the crowd. Plus, we are so grateful for DJ Down-Low Kreitlow (Stormonth parent Tina Kreitlow)...



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Brand-new K4 kiddos excitedly ride the bus (with a parent volunteer) on the first day of school.



School Services

By Jesse Hillstrom

What a fantastic start of school! So many exciting things happen at the beginning of the school year for the PTO, especially with School Services!

What a fantastic start of school! So many exciting things happen at the beginning of the school year for the PTO.

When the glorious yellow buses start to ride through the streets, everyone gets excited! This year, Sara Connemara again was the amazing leader of the **BUS RIDER PROGRAM**. A huge shout-out is also owed to the always fantastic Carla Mueller in the Stormonth office. Carla provided amazing administrative support – serving as liaison to both Riteway and the local Police departments, generating bus lists, and making photocopies. A total of 31 amazing coffee-carrying, smiling, and excited parent volunteers (listed below) gave their time to provide peace of mind and a little extra support to students on the bus for the first few days of school. These amazing volunteers rode on a total of 21 bus routes (including AM, PM, and K4 mid-day routes), and many graciously covered multiple time slots on a familiar bus route, while others volunteered to pick up spots on unfamiliar routes in order to fill in holes! Thank you to: Becca Wahlberg, Melanie Berg, Katie Berg, Ann Berkoff, Abbey Line, Liz Sumner, Abby Janowiec, Laura Roberts, Randi Schachter, Trevor Shorey, Elvia Savage, Bekka Schneider, Henry Medeiros, Nicole Boemer,

Monica Arnstein, Jennifer Sharpe, Kiki Racine, Anne O'Donoghue, Megan Smith, Anne Lovitz, Lisa Ploszaj, Lindsey Suminski, Anne Schweiner, Abigail Bloom, Erika Siegel, Rebecca Taibleson, Consuelo Reyes, Grainne Jensen, Gay-Anne Ketter, Tamara Francois-Neubauer, and Jennifer LaManna.

Bayside had their **PICTURE DAY** on September 18th. The kids were all smiles as they sat for their pictures. These pictures will appear in the yearbook and on student IDs. Thank you to Anne O'Donoghue for chairing this event! Anne had two amazing ladies that helped her the whole day they made sure smiles were ready and on point – Michelle Buerger and Monica Arnstein!

Stormonth Picture day was on October 1st! Beth Heilmann was once again the fearless leader of the army of volunteers, who were there to corral the kiddos, and make sure that clothes were straightened and hair was in place. Although not all the volunteers who signed up to help were needed, we still want to thank everyone who carved out time in their day to help out (whether you were there physically or in spirit): Maggie Cain, Rebecca Wahlberg, Casey Cantwell, Monica Arnstein, Bridget Carlson, Eric Waldau, Grainne Jensen...

(continued on next page)



It's Taco Thursday for our teachers on Conference Night!

School Services *(continued from page 2)*

...Consuelo Orzal, Abby Janowiec, Kitty Brin, Helena Laven, Julie Werner, Megan Smith, Nicole Cook, and Jill Scheuer.

Oh no! Were you sick on picture day? Or maybe your eyes were closed? Never fear because both schools photo retake is on Monday, October 21st!

I would walk 500 miles! Or maybe I want to ride my bicycle, my bicycle! Get your walking shoes and bikes ready for Bayside's 2nd annual **PED 'N' PEDAL** event on the rescheduled rain date of October 4th! This is an awesome way to showcase the safe and correct ways to walk and bike to school. Every student will receive an awesome bag tag with a reflective back. Also, participants will be entered to win some amazing raffle prizes, courtesy of Wheel and Sprocket! Thank you to Heather Klug for taking the lead and planning this event again!

Stormonth – get ready for our first annual **WALK-TO-SCHOOL EVENT** on the rescheduled rain date of October 4th! This is a wonderful way to get some early morning steps in and make sure if kids want to walk to school, they know the correct and the safest route to take!

Erica Waldau is taking the lead on this awesome new event at Stormonth; thanks for organizing this!



Programs

By Amanda Singh

Welcome back to school, everyone! We are off to a wonderful start and have so much to look forward to in the coming months!

A big thank you to Katie Glaisner and Bridget Carlson for organizing the PTO-sponsored staff and teacher luncheon from Corner Bakery. Just before school started, Stormonth and Bayside teachers were fueled by a delicious meal as they prepared for the coming school year. It was a welcome and appreciated treat in the midst of a very busy day of workshops and planning. Thank you, teachers and staff, for all that you do!

5th and 6th grade students and parents: have you marked your calendars for Bayside Activity Night (BAN)? This exciting tradition is happening at the middle school on Friday, October 4th from 7-9 PM. There will be a DJ spinning, a bounce house, tons of games and prizes, snacks, and FUN. BAN is a great way to spend time with your friends and enjoy Bayside Middle School after dark – it puts a whole new twist on school. Special thanks to Dajen Bohacek, Monica Arnstein, Katie Glaisner, and Amy Bazelon for chairing this event. There are still volunteer and raffle donation opportunities open so, [please sign up!](#)

Keep your eye out for more information on PTO Fall Conference Dinners! Every year, the PTO treats the hungry teachers and staff to a delicious dinner during some of their longest days of the year. If you would like to donate food, supplies or set-up/clean up time for the Fall Conference Dinners, click on [Stormonth](#) and [Bayside](#) to sign up. Thanks to Cortney Roberts who always makes sure this is a fabulous feast!!



President's Corner (continued from page 1)

...who kept the party upbeat with her tunes and awesome commentary. Speaking of Tina, thanks to her for overseeing our Spirit Wear sale! So many of you ordered Stormonth and Bayside apparel with new, fun logos; I can't wait to see our students and teachers decked out in their new gear soon. Did you miss the sale? Don't worry; Tina's planning a flash sale before the holidays!

So what's next? First things first: our newest addition to the schools' calendars – **PED 'N PEDAL** day on *the rescheduled rain date of Friday, October 4th* – now at both Bayside and Stormonth schools. I salute Heather Klug and Erica Waldau along with Dajen Bohacek, Jesse Hillstrom, Katrina Lipman and many others. who have stepped up to this important task of increasing the safety of our kids who are biking and walking to school. Plus, with the incredible support of the Village of Bayside and the North Shore Police Department, this team is able to share important tips to our students and community about keeping our kids safe.

I'm certain you had a chance at some point to test out our **CLUB CHOICE** pizzas, garlic bread, and cookies that will be a part of one of our most important fundraisers! Thank you to Tamela Neyer who has been a busy chef's assistant and also the creator of super fun incentives for our kids to sell, sell, sell! Have fun with this one! The items will be here before the holidays, thank goodness, because my favorite gift ribbons are in one of those catalogs, and I have to make sure I get them again this year.

Be sure to save the date for the incredibly fun **MONSTER BASH** on Thursday, October 31st! I'm so excited to have this event actually on Halloween this year! Helena Laven and Becca Wahlberg are the head ghouls with the help of an incredible team of spooky committee people. Their creativity is so awesome. See you all there!

If you're a Bayside family, keep an eye out for our **BAYSIDE ACTIVITY NIGHTS** (also known as BAN); these are a middle-school favorite. The kids get to have a fun night out playing games, dancing, and doing trivia – all at their own school! We are so lucky to have two volunteer parents at each grade level who run these shows!

Stay tuned because soon we'll be announcing our **FALL BOOK FAIR** date! Thanks to volunteer Erika Siegel who makes shopping for books a fun, family evening by offering a dinner option to ease the load of busy families who want to get it all done in one trip!

Although I'm listing all of these incredible volunteer leaders, I want you to know that we will continue to need your help to offer fun events, hold fundraisers and support our teachers. You'll see calls for action on Facebook, Instagram, and in the schools' electronic communication folders. Please consider pitching in throughout the year. First of all, it's fun (at least I think so!) Second, it's important!

Our Parent Teacher Organization brings in around \$70,000 each year to: support our students' field trips at every grade level; offer enrichment programs, speakers, and cultural events; show appreciation to our teachers; put hundreds of new books in our classrooms; support our specialist teachers and special education programs; and add valuable additions to our schools like new picnic tables, playground equipment, and the Sensory Pathway to name a few!

Finally, please join us at our PTO monthly meetings. They take place on the first Wednesday morning of the month and rotate between the two schools. Check the district calendar for details. All are welcome, and you'll find the meetings an informative, fun way to be connected in person. If meetings aren't your jam, that's totally fine - our PTO team can be reached at foxpoint.bayside.pto.team@gmail.com or via our Facebook page. You can also check out the meeting minutes on social media and the district website. We are happy to be in touch!

Have a great, colorful Autumn!



Administrative Services

By Jolena Presti

DJ "Down-Low Kreitlow" and company show off some sweet dance moves at the Back-To-School Picnic.



Welcome back to school! The 2nd Annual BACK-TO-SCHOOL PICNIC was a great way to kick off the first week of school!

This new tradition is a great way to get together to meet friends new and old at a back-to-school party. Thank you to all who participated and helped out! If you have suggestions or ideas for the 2020 Back-to-School Picnic, please feel free to get in touch!

The **2019-2020 PTO DIRECTORY** is almost ready! If you signed up for the PTO/purchased a directory at registration, watch for notices about Directory delivery this month. Although PTO Directory purchase is now closed, *you can join the PTO at any time*. Membership is \$20/family. PTO membership shows your support for our schools, teachers, families, and community. You can join the PTO by visiting the fees section of your infinite campus portal or delivering a check to the school front office.

Look for me to come home later this month!



VOLUNTEERS ARE THE HEART OF OUR TEAM!

Thanks to each one of you for playing a role in making the PTO and our schools stronger. If you are new to the Fox Point Bayside School District, prepare to be wowed by all that the PTO does in terms of events, activities, and school support over the school year. There's something for everyone and volunteers are *critical* for every event and activity; we could not be successful without your support! Share your talents and interests! There are roles ranging from a 1-2 hour time commitment to chair opportunities that provide a chance to organize a full event. The easiest way to get involved over the school year is to either get your name on the volunteer email list and/or get in touch with someone on the PTO to talk about what you are interested in and where you could jump in. To add your name to the general volunteer email list for the school year, please contact Monica Arnstein at monicaarnstein@hotmail.com.

Ways and Means

By Rachel Weinberg



What a fantastic start to the school year we have had! This is my first year on the PTO Board for Ways and Means and I am blown away by the hard work and determination from all of my chair people. We kicked off the year with a **SPIRIT WEAR** sale and it was amazing. A special shout-out to Tina Kreitlow for all of her hard work, which helped us to top last year in sales. Thank you all for participating in the fall spirit wear sale; you should expect to receive your new Stormonth or Bayside gear in about four weeks. Keep your eyes open for a flash sale of Spirit Wear just in time for the holidays!

CLUB CHOICE is our current fundraiser going on, and it is shaping up to be the best one yet! Tamela Neyer has worked tirelessly sampling some of the delicious offerings that are part of the sale. You should've seen packets come home already with your kids and the sale is ON! Have your kids ask your neighbors, friends, and, of course, family! There is an online shop available at clubchoicefundraising.com where shoppers enter *FOXP22* as the code and the seller's name so he or she gets credit toward the total amount sold. The best part of shopping online besides how easy it is, is that the order ships directly to customers and doesn't need to be picked up from school. Please make a note of these important dates: *October 14th* - orders and money are due. There needs to be one check payable to Fox Point-Bayside PTO turned in with the orders. *November 13th* - pick up items from the Stormonth Cafeteria that did not ship directly. There are some truly incredible prizes this year. The *TOP SELLER* of either school, based on sales, will win an overnight stay at the Kalahari Resort Lodge. The Top three sellers from Stormonth will win a pizza party, and the Top 20 sellers from Bayside will win a Dodgeball and Donuts Party!

It is hard to believe, but Halloween is just around the corner and **MONSTER BASH** is back! Looking for something to do on Halloween since trick or treating is never on the 31st? Well, look no further! *Monster Bash is on Halloween from 5:30-7:30pm*. We have a great committee, led by Helena Laven and Becca Wahlberg, hard at work making sure this will be a monstrously fun evening. Highlights of the night include games, a creepy cupcake crawl, a fun craft activity, and best of all, the kids can wear their *COSTUMES!* Please don't toss your leftover candy, we will be asking for candy donations for the night! Registration opens on October 4th and stay tuned for further info on how to volunteer at the event and/or donate candy, cupcakes, and other Halloween-themed items.

(continued on next page)



Fall Events-at-a-Glance

- 10.04.19: Ped 'n' Pedal & Walk-to-School Events
- 10.04.19: 5th & 6th Grade Bayside Activity Night
- 10.14.19: Club Choice Sale Ends
- 10.24.19: Fall Conference Dinners
- 10.24.19: Noodles Restaurant Night
- 10.31.19: Monster Bash
- 10.31.19: Corner Closet Consignment Fundraiser Ends
- 11.01.19: 7th & 8th Grade Bayside Activity Night
- 11.06.19: PTO Meeting (Stormonth @ 9am)
- 11.13.19: Club Choice Pickup
- 12.04.19: PTO Meeting (Bayside @ 9am)
- TBD: Fall Book Fair
- TBD: Kinderkid Date Night

Ways and Means (continued from page 6)

Mark your calendars! Our first official **RESTAURANT NIGHT** will be *October 24th* at Noodles and Company. This is a great night to take a break from cooking and have a fun evening out where the kids can eat dinner with their friends, especially since there is no school the next day. Simply show up, mention our fundraiser, and Noodles will donate 25% of proceeds to our organization. Please note this is for dine-in orders only!

Last but not least, **BOX TOPS**. There is an amazing new feature making collecting box tops the easiest it has ever been...there's an app for that! It is as easy as installing the app on your phone, scanning your receipt, and done! You can also clip box tops the old-fashioned way and turn them in. Stay tuned for a super fun contest in the next couple of months.



Your PTO Board (pictured from left to right): Amanda, Xiaoting, Bridget, Melanie, Adria, Katie, Rachel, Jolena, Megan, and Jesse.

2019-2020 PTO Executive Board

Bridget Carlson	President
Katie Glaisner	Past President
Megan Smith	President Elect
Xiaoting Hao	Treasurer
Melanie Berg	Secretary
Rachel Weinberg	VP Ways and Means
Jesse Hillstrom	VP School Services
Jolena Presti	VP Administrative Services
Amanda Singh	VP Programs
Adria Willenson	VP Cultural Arts and Sciences



Treasurer's Snapshot

By Xiaoting Hao

Thank you for your participation and support for our PTO fundraising activities and programs! In the previous fiscal year, we raised a net \$40K from various fundraising events and this amount was used for classroom support, staff appreciation, and student enrichment. We also raised \$14K Scholastic dollars from the Fall and Spring book fairs and this amount has helped teachers to add more classroom supplies. By the end of the previous fiscal year, we were able to donate an additional \$4.4K to each school and this amount will be used with the assistance of the Fund Allocation Committee to further improve our schools and classrooms. (See the infographic on page 9.)

The 2019-2020 fiscal year started on August 1st. The main program expenses-to-date include the staff luncheon, meet and greet, and back-to-school events. Thank you to those who have submitted membership dues through Infinite Campus. Thanks to early dues payments and directory advertisements, our current income of \$3,872 has given us the funds to cover all these early, up-front expenses.

The main fall fundraising events, Club choice and Monster Bash, are just around the corner and we look forward to another successful year!

Chair Highlight

By Megan Smith

We want to take a moment to recognize an amazing parent who has gone above and beyond for our organization!

Hello! My name is **TAMELA NEYER**. We are new to the district after having attended Montessori schools for several years locally and in Nevada and New Zealand. My husband David and I have a son, MaxAlister, in 6th grade, and a daughter, Alex in 4th grade. Our newest addition is Lizzy, an 8-month-old puppy.

We have felt so welcome here! Our children are our top priority, as equally as their education. Both Stormonth and Bayside Middle schools have exemplified this quality. From the 1st day of school for Alex at Stormonth, it was so refreshing to see families walk in and congregate together, and all feel the jitters and joy that those first days hold. Then attending Parent Information Night for both kids, we were so impressed by the teachers' commitment to our kids' education as well as overall well-being. It is so important that a teacher acknowledges a child's IQ as well as EQ. I have been an educator for over 10 years. Having worked as a Social Worker, Itinerant Teacher and a Para, I feel compassion for those that enrich and spend so much of their day with our children.

I have always believed in altruism and giving back what you get in return. So, I was happy and honored to say yes to the Club Choice Fundraising Chair position. (Mrs. Singh and Mrs. Carlson are quite the lobbyists as well.) I also enjoy volunteering for lunch duty now and then. It is fun to see our kids in their "natural habitat!"

I'm very fortunate that my two passions complement each other. Anything having to do with food – I love to cook, bake and eat – and being active. I love a long run on a Sunday morning or just a walk with the dog. As a family we run/walk 5k's about two or three times a year. We loved the Cupcake Run event! Annually, I like to do a half-marathon, and then the kids always do a 1K fun run as well.

Thank you and gratitude to the members of the PTO, past present, and future. I'm looking forward to the rest of the school year!



Tamela and her kiddos!



Four Easy Ways to Stay Connected with Your PTO



Join us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/groups/FPBSPTO/



Follow us on Instagram!

username: fpbspto



Find us on the web!

bit.ly/fpbspto



Email us!

foxpoint.bayside.pto.team@gmail.com

FAC Update

By Katie Glaisner

The PTO's Fund Allocation Committee (FAC) is busy surveying teachers and staff about how to best spend the money raised by our events and membership.

The committee is comprised of principals, teachers and parents from Bayside Middle School and Stormonth Elementary, as well as the PTO's Past President. Members meet a few times during the school year to discuss funding requests like playground equipment, field trips, classroom seating, supplies and more.

At Stormonth, FAC funding was recently used for the new sensory pathway on the blacktop of the playground. Local artist James Tomasello painted the shapes and letters in a fun way that helps kids build motor skills while encouraging socialization, academic learning and problem solving. Please [check out the fun and cute video](#) of Stormonth teachers and staff using the sensory pathway, which was viewed by the kids at the first-day-of-school assembly.

The FAC will continue to provide updates on its projects throughout the school year.



A Stormonth student tests out the new sensory pathway.

WE INVEST IN OUR KIDS & SCHOOLS.

LAST SCHOOL YEAR, WE RAISED...

\$29K STUDENT ENRICHMENT & CULTURAL ARTS SCIENCES

includes artist-in-residence, special interest day, foreign language restaurant, field trips for all grades, 8th grade graduation, guidance, safety days, end-of-year party, meet & greet, and more



SCHOLASTIC DOLLARS \$14K



funds raised for classroom spending from the fall & spring book fairs, submitted through the fund allocation committee

\$8.8K PTO FUND ALLOCATION COMMITTEE BUDGET

funds to be invested this upcoming school year as determined by the PTO fund allocation committee, which consists of principals, teachers & parents of both schools



SCHOOL ENRICHMENT & CLASSROOM SUPPORT \$4.0K

classroom supplies for each grade level and specialist, principal accounts



\$2.6K STAFF APPRECIATION

welcome back staff luncheon, fall & spring conference dinners, teacher appreciation week





How Parents' Screen Time Impacts Kids

By Barbara Calkins, MD
Pediatrician, Westbrook Pediatrics



Kids are growing up in an increasingly digital world, with infants as young as 4 months being exposed to technology — but that isn't just when the child is looking at a screen.

As a pediatrician and a mom of teens, I encourage parents to be aware of their own use of electronics because not only does screen time impact a child's developing brain in both positive and negative ways, but parents' screen time also has implications.

POSITIVE SCREEN TIME

As a parent, the natural role for you to take with screen time is the gatekeeper for your kid — controlling access, monitoring use and enforcing rules. However, that role can be difficult to fulfill if you don't understand the technology you're gatekeeping. This is where it's important for parents to spend some time in front of a screen. The key is making that screen time positive by interacting with your kid where they're spending their time. You can foster healthy intellectual, psychological and social development in your kids by interacting with the digital media and technology they use. For parents of teens, this might mean joining the social media sites your kids use and "follow" or "friend" them. Playing video games and watching videos/shows/YouTube together are also good ways to engage and bond with your kids. By engaging with the same technology your kids are, you can better understand the platforms they're using and how and where rules need to be in place. These platforms are constantly evolving, and through your involvement, you can help kids navigate changes and what's appropriate for each platform. Engaging with kids through your own media use also helps to prevent exposure to inappropriate content, bullying and privacy risks.

NEGATIVE SCREEN TIME

Although interaction with your kid via technology can be

positive, in-person interaction continues to be vital. Technology can often interrupt the verbal and non-verbal in-person interaction that is imperative for their development. When you spend too much time in front of screens, you may not be giving your kids the appropriate amount of social and emotional bonding that is necessary for them to build emotional connections. This can lead to more conflicts as kids act out as a way to ask for attention. If you are using screens during important family interactions like in the car, dinnertime or bedtime, you are showing your kids that it's okay to disengage in these moments. And if they need to be told to turn the screen off in the future, they may have a harder time understanding why.

SETTING LIMITS

Setting media-friendly and media-free times establishes boundaries for both adults and kids. The AAP's Family Media Use Plan can help families develop a personalized plan. When screen time expectations and limitations are reinforced consistently with all caregivers, this can lead to less conflict and more enjoyable family time at home. Designate media-free times (in the car, during meals or homework) and media-free zones (the dining area and bedroom). During these times or in these zones, everyone in the family should avoid smart phones, computers, television, video games and tablets. Most importantly, be a role model with screen time. Being off our devices helps parents become more engaged with our children and teaches them to follow our lead. If you or your child have questions or concerns about screen time, talk to your pediatrician.