

It takes a village to raise a child.

- African Proverb

**Spring PTO News** 

2020-2021 vol. 3: March 26, 2021

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# President's Corner

Megan Smith

Here we are in the third trimester of school! The weather is getting warmer, plants are sprouting, and the sun is shining. All of us in the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) are feeling the sense of happiness and hopefulness during this season of growth, and are looking forward to our plans for the remaining months of school.

During the spring, things pick up for the PTO. We've got the Spring Book Fair, teacher appreciation week, Stormonth Safety Week, and more! Details on all our upcoming events can be found within the pages of this newsletter, so be sure to keep reading!

One program I want to call special attention to is the publication of our district-wide cookbook, in celebration of cultural heritage through the culinary arts! Because we could not have a traditional Artist-in-Residence program this year, we solicited our families to contribute a favorite family recipe or two to our community cookbook. Besides 100+ recipes, the book also contains a Q&A with Milwaukee Food Writer, Lori Friedrich. With PTO funds, we are providing a copy of this special cookbook to all district families and staff. We hope it will become a cherished household item for all! Thank you to Adria Willenson, Stephanie Bennett, and Stephanie's daughter, Abby, for all

## President's Corner

...continued

their hard work putting this cookbook together. And a HUGE thanks to all the families who contributed such wonderful recipes, and the stories and photos behind them!

I also want to make sure to call out that we have the rare opportunity to offer up our Premier Sponsorship spot for the next year. Please see page 5 for details on that. We will have additional sponsorships available, but the Premier Sponsorship is the only exclusive level we offer, so we wanted to get the word out there about this opening for a local community business to snag!

Right now, we are filling our Board and Chair positions for next year. Our nominating committee will be reaching out to current PTO volunteers, but we always love to have new people and fresh ideas involved in our events and programming. We have commitment levels of all types - from one time event chairing to programming that is worked on from home, on and off throughout the year. If you are interested in chairing, I know we can find the right fit for you and your schedule. Please email me at <a href="massitt912@gmail.com">msmith912@gmail.com</a> if you are interested in finding out about our openings!

Finally, be sure to "Save the Date" for the cupcakes! The 12th annual Cupcake Color Run has been moved back to August 21, and we are in the process of planning some exciting new add-ons to the event, encompassing more of the Fox Point-Bayside community. If you are interested in helping us plan this awesome event, please email us at <a href="mailto:cupcakecolorrun@gmail.com">cupcakecolorrun@gmail.com</a>. We need "all hands on deck" as we hope to make this run the best ever!

Wishing you all a happy spring break!



# **FAC Update**

#### Bridget Carlson, Past President

Incredible news! The KILN has been ordered! Before this memorable school year wraps up, we will have an energy-efficient, state of the art, and safe KILN installed at Stormonth for enjoyment and artistic assistance for decades to come. How excited are you?! I can't wait to see all of the incredible pottery in our students' futures!



The principals continue to check off items from the teachers' wish lists using the Fund Allocation money from last year. While we are about ready to wrap up the year's spending of cash, we are also working through our Scholastic Dollars spending.

Scholastic Dollars is the name of the credit we receive for our schools' book fair success.

We divvy up the credit throughout the schools and the teachers and specialists are able to shop online for books, classroom furniture, and supplies! This year's big need was... BOOKS! Last year when our teachers quickly prepped homelearning packs for our students, many books were not returned to classrooms. We are working to restock those shelves! The Scholastic Dollars shopping sprees are fun and so helpful to our teachers and students!

The Fund Allocation Committee is one of the most fun volunteer opportunities on the PTO, in my opinion. If you have questions on how to get involved in the PTO and want to chat, please reach out to me!

Have a great spring!

# Ways and Means

## Rachel Weinburg, VP of Ways and Means

Spring is here and we are so excited for warmer weather! It is so good to have the kids back in school and everyone seems thrilled parents, teachers, and students! And I hear the virtual families are happy as well! Here at Ways and Means, we are working to continue fundraising and having events to keep everyone connected and involved.



The date is set! Our Spring Book Fair will be held on May 4-5 with shopping times in the afternoon

and evening. Our fabulous co-chairs Molly Hoehn and Robyn Wilgreen are hard at work to make sure this book fair is a success! We will make sure that shopping at the book fair is safe and easy! Stay tuned for more exciting details as they are planned. There will be sign ups for shopping spots and volunteer opportunities. We will also be collecting gently read books to donate to Next Door. Be on the lookout for all of the information.



Don't forget all of the ways you can support our schools without leaving your house! Our newest partnership with Mabel's Labels has been wonderful so far! Any labels that you order can earn our PTO fundraising dollars. These labels are perfect for labeling stuff for summer camps or any activities and sports that your kids are involved in. Anything you order from Shutterfly can be applied to our PTO. Any order through Amazon can go

through Amazon Smile and earn our schools money. And last but never least, SCAN YOUR RECEIPTS for all of your grocery shopping on the Box Tops app for the funds to come back to the PTO.

We have a very exciting new fundraising opportunity with the Milwaukee Pretzel Company. Kids will be able to collect orders for these huge and delicious pretzels. Orders can be direct shipped to customers or picked up at the school. Stay tuned for this HOT, new fundraiser to launch in Mid-April!



Lastly, there are some open chair positions on Ways and Means. If you are looking to be involved and give back to the schools, please reach out to

Megan Smith or me, Rachel Weinberg, and we can discuss all of the amazing opportunities that are available to you!

Click the logos below to support the PTO.







**Coming in April...** 



## Administrative Services Jolena Presti, VP of Administrative Services



Businesses and families now have an opportunity to make a once-a-year contribution to go above and beyond the \$20 annual PTO membership to elevate their support for our schools and families.

The Fox Point-Bayside PTO invites you to join us in our efforts to make a difference in the academic lives of our elementary through middle school students. The PTO is a nonprofit organization that raises funds and coordinates volunteer efforts with Stormonth Elementary and Bayside Middle School. Funds are raised with the purpose of purchasing instructional items, and providing funding for events, activities, and school enhancements which are not otherwise provided for in the school budget.

Fox Point Bayside School District impacts at least 600 households with students in K4-8th grade. As a community, our families are active and supportive in so many ways. Along with filling ongoing volunteer roles, our school district families frequently go above and beyond to make sure our district teachers, families, and administration are well supported.

During this challenging time, the PTO has worked closely with District leadership to provide additional support for classrooms, families, and administration to make sure they can continue to offer the highest level of education and support that we are all accustomed to especially during this global pandemic. While COVID-19 has created unprecedented challenges, we now know that as a team we will all come through this stronger and more resilient than we could have expected.

As our school district has pivoted over the current school year, so has the PTO. As an organization we would like to plan for a stronger sponsorship base on an annual basis, so that we may further expand our ability to support district teachers, families, and the administration. We are updating the sponsorship opportunities for the PTO, providing various levels so that interested families and businesses can offer support beyond the annual \$20 PTO family membership. As these sponsorship updates are still in the works, we do want to highlight that our exclusive Premier Sponsorship is available this year. This sponsorship includes:

#### **Major Event/Premier Sponsor: \$5,000**

- Main event sponsor and naming rights for annual Cupcake Color Run event which attracts nearly 400 community-wide participants annually.
- 2. Opportunity to sit on Cupcake Run planning committee (if desired).
- 3. Opportunity to give brief remarks at the event.
- 4. Logo in prominent position on the Cupcake Color Run event t-shirts.
- 5. Sponsorship recognition on all flyers and posters for the Cupcake Color Run.
- 6. Logo on all website and social media articles and postings for the Cupcake Color Run with a link to your company's website.
- 7. Full page advertisement in the Fox Point-Bayside School Directory.
- 8. Sponsor promotional materials or product samples distribution at PTO school events (in addition to Cupcake Color Run).
- 9. Endorsement by our Superintendent in the District's Parent Newsletter.
- Feature articles (up to four) and advertisement space in each PTO newsletter, distributed quarterly to all district families.
- 11. Spotlights on our PTO Facebook page and Instagram feed.

## **Programs**

#### Amanda Singh, VP of Programs

Its official – spring is in the AIR!!! We are so proud of our school community: the teachers, administrators, school board members, staff, students, parents, and caregivers who have come together to make it to the one-year milestone of the Coronavirus Pandemic. It has been a tough year, and every person in our community has made sacrifices and persevered through challenges to get to this point. We aren't done yet, but it is important to mark milestones, and we are grateful for the unwavering dedication we have seen from all corners of our community. Thank you for everything YOU are doing, dear reader.

As our wonderful school district staff at Bayside Middle School and Stormonth Elementary have demonstrated, the key to success is the ability to adapt. Teachers and staff navigated a quick pivot to 4-day in person learning by ending the second trimester early. The PTO wanted to say thanks and welcome the teachers and staff back to the roar of noisy students and loud hallways all together in the same building once again. Bridget Carlson and Monica Arnstein spearheaded the PTO's show of gratitude with a coffee cart of treats for our in-person teachers and staff. Sometimes the smallest gestures can have the biggest impact, and we hope the teachers and staff felt the love with our little act of kindness on Random Acts of Kindness Day.

The PTO continued the celebrations with our COVID Vaccine clinic party! The PTO supplied balloons and lollipops to the vaccination area to mark the occasion. The PTO wishes a smooth recovery after the second dose for all

the teachers and staff. There weren't balloons and lollipops this time around, but we hope you enjoy your much-deserved spring break after vaccination!

Conference Dinners were a hit, thanks to our dedicated chair, Cortney Roberts. This year was a little different because many teachers chose to conduct conferences from the comfort of their own home. The teachers in the building were treated to a robust boxed dinner, courtesy of Corner Bakery. Thank you, Cortney, for always planning a treat for our teachers at the end of their long day of teaching and conferences.



As spring progresses, look for exciting opportunities to volunteer and donate to Teacher Appreciation Week. Until then, enjoy your day!

## **School Services**

## Jesse Hillstrom, VP of School Services

Spring is finally upon us and we have seen a few beautiful days - which means lots of fun activities outdoors! As the VP of School Services, this is a busy time - from Safety Week to yearbook orders!

But, we've also had a busy winter!

#### A recap from K4/K5 registration

January was an exciting time due to welcoming future new students in the form of K4/K5 registration which took place online this year! There were private tours given to perspective parents and families. A big thanks to Ms. Carla and Mrs. B! With this being online, they both worked very hard to get many questions answered and helped future families fill out paperwork. Thank you so much for a very successful registration. We look forward to seeing all the new faces in the fall!

#### **Safety Week**

Now that spring is here, it means Safety Week is coming for Stormonth!! This is sure to be an exciting learning event for grades K4-4th grade! Mark your calendars for the week of May 24th! The week's events will include fantastic events geared towards each grade level, with help from the Fox Point Police and Wheel & Sprocket. The week will include different events for each grade level. Some highlights include: learning how to cross the street, railroad safety, the much-loved Bike Rodeo and 911 safety! This is wonderful opportunity to stay current on our safety

methods and learn some new ones!! Safety Week will be here sooner than we know!!



The yearbook staff is working hard on getting photos on ALL things Stormonth and Bayside but could use YOUR help! They are looking for HIGH QUALITY photos from kids from each grade level. These can be from recess, any school-related event like virtual days at home or even pick up/drop off! When sending photos, this what we are ideally looking for:

- Not blurry, not the back of heads, no peace signs, bunny ears or other hand gestures.
- Pics with multiple kids represented are best.
- Edited and cropped before sending, including fixing red eye.
- When sending, they must be a large or actual size photo, not a grab from social media.

Thank you again for everyone's hard work this winter; I'm looking forward to a fun, exciting spring!

# A note from Principal Witkov



Our Stormonth Way theme this year has been "We can do hard things" and together, our students, staff and families have certainly taken on the challenge! As we near the end of March and spring break right around the corner, it is important to reflect on all our students have navigated and accomplished during this unprecedented year.

We shifted in-person learning to 4 days/week on February 15, and have had much success in mitigating risk of the virus in school. Students remain in their cohorts throughout the day in the classroom, at lunchtime and in specials, and are able to spread out a bit at recess time. Masks, hand washing and plexiglass allow for additional mitigation. Fortunately, our teachers and staff were offered vaccines on Thursday, March 4 and Thursday, March 25, adding to the safety of our school community.

We continue to offer a fully virtual section at each grade level at Stormonth (comprising approximately 20% of our student body), and our specialist classes in PE, Art, Music, Spanish and SEL (Social-Emotional Learning) are offered live on Fridays for virtual classes. Virtual families continue to pick up materials each Friday in preparation for the week ahead.

In-person and virtual learners have had the opportunity to engage in many social opportunities with classmates, including a 4th grade virtual musical entitled "Super Happy Awesome News" with Ms. O'Sullivan and Mrs. Ahles. We have also held all-school assemblies and incentives for following The Stormonth Way, including the climbing of Mt. Stormonth (in person or virtually!) and a treasure hunt around our school by earning pieces to a treasure map! Our students engage in weekly Social Emotional Learning lessons with Ms. French, our school counselor, to support them during these challenging times.

We are so grateful to our amazing PTO board and PTO members. Our teachers loved the boxed dinners from Corner Bakery during parent-teacher conferences, and the lovely surprise for RAOK (Random Acts of Kindness) Day with a cart of goodies provided for our teachers and staff in hallways! We also loved the balloons and candy on vaccine day – thank you so much for your support! We are also very excited to announce that we will be able to purchase a new kiln this summer for the art room, thanks to the Fund Allocation Committee within the PTO!

As we look forward to hosting Summer Pathways at Stormonth in June and July, and our new inclusive playground is built, we have a lot to look forward to this summer! Thank you to our incredible support network of students, families and staff. Thank you for your patience, understanding and flexibility to "do hard things" as we continue on this journey.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful spring! Laura Witkov, Stormonth Principal

# Treasurer's Snapshot

Xiaoting Hao, Treasurer



I hope you are enjoying the recent warm weather and the coming of the spring season! Here are some updates of PTO financials since last quarter.

On the fundraising side, the PTO has received over \$370 from the AmazonSmile program, about \$120 from Shutterfly, just under \$70 from Mabel's Labels, and over \$130 from Box Tops for Education®. Thank you for contributing to

the PTO when you shop on various websites and purchase groceries. We hope you find it convenient to submit your grocery receipts using the Box Tops app. If you have any questions regarding this process, please don't hesitate to contact us.

We received a \$200 donation from the wonderful Kohl's Cares volunteer program for the Fall Book Fair and the final cash income for this event was just about \$100, as most of the profits from the book fair is in the form of Scholastic Dollars (\$3,078), which we have been using it to purchase classroom supplies for both schools. Please refer back to page 3 for more details on Scholastic Dollars.

The PTO also received a \$485 generous donation from Kapco's Kids2Kids Christmas Lights event. This amount includes profits from the charity night, as well as additional funds in honor of the PTO members who volunteered at the event. Thank you to the Willenson family for connecting us with this fundraising opportunity! We also want to thank Jaime Wooten, who in partnership with Robin Burns, ran an online Zyia Active fundraiser in which Jaime generously donated the \$300 profit from that event to our organization!

On the program side, the PTO has successfully sponsored the spring teacher conference dinners and the Random Acts of Kindness efforts for both schools. We also started the reimbursement process for virtual field trips at different grade levels. For the upcoming yearbook, please consider sending us photos and put in the orders if you haven't done so! The deadlines to order are coming up soon; see the Friday Folders and Daily Communications for more information. If you can't remember if you ordered a yearbook at the start of the school year, with the rest of your school fees, you can look it up in Infinite Campus.

Looking ahead, the PTO is busy planning for the Spring Book Fair in May and Cupcake Color Run in August. Many thanks to the PTO volunteers for helping out at various PTO events and programs. Without your dedication, we cannot achieve our mission of supporting our schools, teachers, and students. Here's to a successful final trimester!

## **Cultural Arts & Sciences**

Adria Willenson, VP of Cultural Arts & Sciences



# Eagle Scout Troop 391 (chartered by our PTO)

Is your child more than ready for outdoor adventures, an amazing and affordable summer camp experience, leadership development, and FUN! Are you looking for memory-making adventures for you and your child? Please

reach out for information about this great opportunity to discover all that scouting has to offer! Contact us at: <a href="mailto:scoutsbsatroop391@gmail.com">scoutsbsatroop391@gmail.com</a> and/or <a href="mailto:visit our Facebook page">visit our Facebook page</a>.

# Hula Hoop Artist, Mrs. Kristi Tarantino comes to BMS



After almost a year of hybrid learning, the Bayside Middle School Artist-in-Residence committee is excited to announce we are hula hooping to get moving again. She will be leading our students in a fun and interactive program.

Modern day hoopers combine dance moves and hoop manipulation into a flowing art form. Hula hoop artists can perform elaborate routines to music or practice routines for exercise. Hoopers use a heavier, thicker hula hoop than the traditional plastic hoops. They are wrapped in special tape so the artist can place a secure grip on the hoop. A heavier hoop also allows the artist to spin it in more places than just the middle of their body. These hoops may be disassembled for travel and can be decorative or filled with items for effects like water or LED lights.

The Bayside Artist-in-Residence committee would like to thank the Fox Point Bayside PTO for generously funding our hula hoop artist, Mrs. Kristi Tarantino, a retired MPS teacher. She originally started hooping with friends to stay fit and to have fun.

A special thanks also goes to Mrs. Laurie Asch, Bayside Middle School orchestra teacher, for suggesting this fun activity for our Artist-in-Residence program. We are looking forward to this unique opportunity during the first week of May and hooping outside, if the weather permits.

Learn more about hooping by <u>visiting this link!</u>

#### **PTO District Wide Cookbook Sneak Peek!**

Thank you to all the district families who have contributed to our cookbook for this 2020-21 school year. During Covid-19, we want to give families an opportunity to learn about one another's cultures through the art of cooking.



Korean dish, Japache from Tamela Nayer and Alexandre (5<sup>th</sup>) & MaxAlister (7<sup>th</sup>)

We have received many wonderful recipes from our district families ranging from a wide variety of cultures and countries including Argentinian, Swedish, Jewish, English, German (Bavarian), Irish, Swiss,

Hungarian, Mexican, Lebanese, Italian, Chinese, Korean, Braziian, and more...

The cookbooks will be available mid-to-late May 2021.

# **Chair Highlights**

Megan Smith, PTO President

In each newsletter, we like to take a moment to say a special thanks to a couple of parents who step up and volunteer to chair a PTO event or program. This round, we knew we wanted to highlight our book fair dynamic duo! Thank you for all that you do for our schools and community!

"Hello, hello! I'm Molly Hoehn. My husband Jeff and I are originally from Indiana (Go Hoosiers!) and love claiming Fox Point as home. When first offered the transfer to Wisconsin the thought of going 'MORE NORTH???' seemed crazy to us. Yet, despite the snow starting in October that first winter and not stopping until it dropped a final 14 inches in March, we couldn't imagine raising our children anywhere else.

When we first arrived in the North Shore area, we only had Charles but soon enough came Catherine followed by Claire. Charlie (7th) and Caity (5<sup>th</sup>) are both at Bayside Middle School while Claire is at Stormonth Elementary hanging out four days a week in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade with the wonderful Mrs. Hudson. Much to our surprise, all three kids love the ice. Charlie and Claire play hockey at Milwaukee Winter Club and Caity is an avid ice skater. In the warmer months, Charlie is picking up lacrosse while both girls play soccer for Bavarian. We enjoy biking to Doctors Park (especially when Sprecher is visiting), cheering on the Brewers, ordering chocolate chip pancakes from Maxfield's and grilling with friends when that was a thing.

I'm excited to be joining Robyn Wilgreen for the Spring Scholastic Book Fair. We made a great team (with amazing support from the PTO top brass) in the fall and we're looking forward to another opportunity to gather the community together and fundraise for the school.

Thanks so much and we hope to see you at the Spring Book Fair!"



# Chair Highlights cont.

Megan Smith, PTO President

"Hi, my name is Robyn Wilgreen. I was born and raised in Bayside and couldn't be more thrilled that my children are growing up in a community that I know and love so much! My husband, Paul, and I have three children; Lillian (8yo), Lucas (6yo) and Clark (2yo). We enjoy frequent trips to the upper peninsula of Michigan for ski, water, and family fun. Local activities that we never tire of are weekly visits to the Audubon, bike rides to Baskin Robbins, browsing Bayside Gardens, and cheering on the kids in their sporting events.

Over the past two years that we have been part of the Stormonth community, I had the opportunity to volunteer for recess duty, read to the class, and go on a couple of field trips. It warms my heart to see my kids in their school environment! My daughter's favorite is when her Dad surprises her for recess duty. He is a fan favorite; getting into some intense games of kickball, tag, and building snowmen! Being the co-chair of the Book Fair with Molly Hoehn has been a highlight of my volunteer time. We converted our first fair during quarantine to online, adapted the Fall 2020 fair to pandemic guidelines, and look forward to seeing everyone at another fun Spring Book Fair coming up in early May!

