

## 2020-2021 vol. 2: December 18, 2020

*Megan Smith*

In the past couple of months, modified fundraising events, like Monster Bash-In-A-Bag, allowed us to purchase extra classroom supplies, such as individual whiteboards for middle school math students, so our educators may continue their exceptional teaching in a safe environment.

## President's Corner

...continued

Your generosity at the Longacre Pavilion "Shop-by-Appointment" Fall Book Fair permitted us to fill bags with new books for many of our teachers. Additional funding is under discussion and review via the Fund Allocation Committees at both schools, and we are excited about the potential purchases coming down the pipeline. Stay tuned for further information!

Again, this financial support would not be possible without our amazing team of chairs and volunteers who have managed to execute our events during a global pandemic. Monster Bash-In-A-Bag was a massive success thanks to Co-Chairs Helena Laven and Becca Wahlberg. The Fall Book Fair offered everyone a safe way to stock up for the holidays and refill their home bookshelves because of the hard work from Co-Chairs Molly Hoehn and Robyn Wilgreen. Our VP of Ways and Means, Rachel Weinberg, along with Past President, Bridget Carlson, teamed up to implement our annual Club's Choice fundraiser, with incredible online sales leading to a profitable event.

Anh Clausen, in her freshman year as our Membership and Directory Chair, took on the monumental task of getting our School District Directory out just as we all moved into our temporary virtual learning situation, making our ability to stay connected to one another so much easier. In addition, her efforts to secure advertisers and your support through your PTO dues, brought in the funds we rely on to keep our programs going.

Of course, we cannot forget the ways we've worked to support our teachers during these challenging times. Cortney Roberts, our Conference Dinners Chair, came up with the brilliant idea of having snack grab bags available in both teachers' lounges during fall conferences. This allowed each teacher the flexibility to grab some refreshments of their choice, whenever they were in the school building for virtual conferences, and take some goodies home. Monica Arnstein, Teacher Appreciation Chair extraordinaire, instigated our inaugural "Chalk It Up To Teachers" event to show our teachers and staff how thankful we are for them during this season of gratitude.

I continue to be amazed daily by this school community, and by the support we continue to offer each other, especially during these difficult times. I hope we all continue to lean on each other as we head into a new, and definitely better, year. See you in 2021!



## FAC Update

*Bridget Carlson, Past President*



The Fund Allocation Committee works together with volunteers and our principals to invest last year's funds raised into our schools to support our teachers and students.

Each year the committee creates a wish list survey for our teachers and staff. The results of this survey are evaluated so that we have an idea of how we can help make our classrooms run smoothly or best support our community. As you can imagine, the needs and wants of our classrooms are a bit different this year!

It's been really fun to work on this committee as our principals are energized to reach out now to make sure these funds are invested in an impactful way. So far, dollars have been spent on a new microphone for the music department at Bayside, whiteboards, markers, and erasers for classrooms, and we're in the process of approving a larger investment that will positively affect all students at both schools – stay tuned!

Also, you'll remember from last year that the Fund Allocation Committee invested in a Free Little Library after a successful (and adorable) pitch from Mrs. Mullen's first grade class. Great news! The post for the library has been installed in the front of the school and the library will be set in place in

early Spring 2021! We are so excited to see this incredible addition to our school and community! What books would you like to see in there? Stay tuned for more information and photos of the incredible sales team (now 2<sup>nd</sup> graders) painting this library and bringing it to life!

PTO funds were used for the signs but the idea and execution were all the brain child of the district counseling department.



*Isaac Shabangu - 2nd grade*

These are quite the silver linings in this crazy time. Questions on the Fund Allocation Committee? Let me know!



# Ways and Means

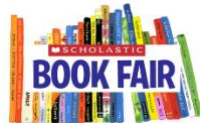
*Rachel Weinburg, VP of Ways and Means*

Happy beginning of winter to everyone! I know it is challenging to feel connected to our schools right now, but we are busy at Ways and Means headquarters creating fun and safe ways to stay involved and give back to our schools!



Club's Choice ended in October and was a HUGE success! Thank you to all of our students for working so hard to sell lots of items and earn lots of \$\$\$ back to the schools. With everyone's amazing efforts, we were able to raise almost \$5000. We had the largest amount of online sales ever, which really helped minimize orders to be picked up and helped with our large increase in sales! The top ten sellers at both Bayside and Stormonth received lots of amazing prizes thanks to Club's Choice. We will also have a Dodgeball and Donuts party at each school in the spring to celebrate!

We had our Fall Book Fair in November and it was AMAZING!!!!!! First of all, a huge thank you to our incredible co-chairs Molly Hoehn and Robyn Wilgreen! They worked tirelessly to ensure that shopping at the book fair was safe and easy! We loved having it at Longacre Pavilion; the roaring fire and wide open space created a relaxing and fun shopping environment! We also want to thank all of the parent volunteers. We know that your time is precious these days and truly appreciate all of you coming to help ensure that the book fair was a success! We also need to thank Kohl's for the generous donation we received due to their incredible volunteers!!!! They say it takes a village, and it really does! Because of everyone's hard work, we were able to add to our Scholastic Dollars which lets the teachers shop for all of their classroom needs. Parents donated lots of new books to teachers, which the kids will get to enjoy once



they are back in the classroom. Families donated lots of gently loved books when they came to shop which we were then able to donate to Next Door Foundation. It is always nice to donate items to make room for the new ones!

If you haven't heard Sarah Langerman screaming about all of the amazing passive ways to support our schools, let me fill you in.....think Shutterfly for your holiday cards, as 15% of what you spend comes back to our PTO. Shop through Amazon Smile while making all of your holiday gift purchases to give a percentage back to the PTO. And last but not never least, **SCAN YOUR RECEIPTS** for all of your holiday baking and cooking on the Box Tops app for the funds to come back to the PTO.



We participated with other school districts in the area for the "Be a Ninja, Wear a Mask" T-shirt promotion. JK Lee Black Belt, a local organization, sold items printed with the logo "Be a Ninja, Wear a Mask", with the funds going back to the PTO. While this fundraiser wasn't a huge success, we were thrilled to partner with JK Lee and support a local business and look forward to other potential fundraisers in the future!

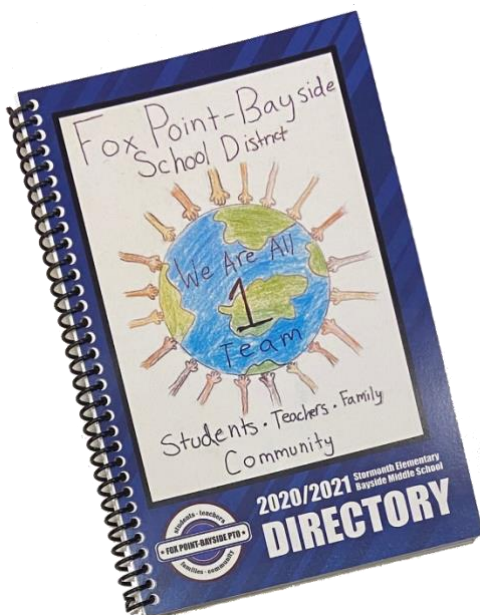
This past Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup>, we partnered with Kapco's Kids 2 Kids Christmas Wonderland during their charity night. 25% of the profits for tickets purchased using our organization's promo code went back to our fundraising coffers! The rest of the ticket proceeds benefited the Kids 2 Kids holiday toy drive. A win/win for both organizations, while district families got to enjoy a spectacular lights display from the warmth and safety of their vehicles. Thanks to all those that purchased tickets to benefit such a great cause!

## Administrative Services *Jolena Presti, VP of Administrative Services*

### **PTO Membership and Community Support is stronger than ever!**

We are grateful to our district families, staff, and businesses who have continued to show their support during this challenging time. Whether through membership, acts of service, or support through ads in the directory, our community is strong!

When you join the PTO during registration at the beginning of the school year, you are guaranteed a school directory – however, did you know you can become a member anytime throughout the school year? If you missed signing up during the flurry of back to school activity, log in to Infinite Campus and join today. Your membership to the PTO (a 501c3 nonprofit organization) solidifies your support for the amazing work—and most importantly fun and school enrichment— accomplished each school year to positively impact the lives of students and our administration and teachers.



Speaking of membership and the directory, it's time to thank an amazingly dedicated volunteer, Anh Clausen, who has chaired the membership and directory position for the first time under the most challenging conditions. This detail-oriented position requires dedication and we are so grateful to Anh for doing this work! As we look into next year for this important role, we would like to add a co-chair to have two volunteers working on the various aspects of membership, directory ads, and directory production. Please get in touch with one of us if you would like to learn more about this position. This is a PTO role with a quick turnaround, completed by the end of the calendar year every school year.

We are grateful for all of our volunteers; we could not accomplish what we all do as a PTO without your engagement and ready-to-help attitude! As the second half of the school year begins, we will have many opportunities to get involved. Please contact me at [jolenapresti@yahoo.com](mailto:jolenapresti@yahoo.com) or fill out the PTO volunteer form at [bit.ly/pto-vol2020](http://bit.ly/pto-vol2020).

## Programs

*Amanda Singh, VP of Programs*

Wow! It has been a wonderful fall for Programs. Thank you to our many participants who have made our events fun for our teachers, students, and families.

Some of the longest days of the year for our beloved school staff are conference nights. After a full day of teaching, teachers meet with the parents and guardians of our kids to share their insights on every students' needs and growth. This year, with the added stresses of the pandemic, the awesome Cortney Roberts (PTO Conference Dinner chair), organized a grab and go snack bag for the teachers to refuel wherever they were conducting conferences. The teachers loved the offerings of healthy and indulgent snacks. Thank you to Suzette Broennimann and Patty DeGraff for your help with set up! And a huge thanks to Cortney Roberts for putting it all together!!

This fall, the Programs team and our wonderful teacher appreciation chair, Monica Arnstein, spearheaded "Chalk It Up!"--an effort to remind the teachers and staff at Stormonth and Bayside how much we appreciate their dedication and care as they educate their students. Students and families from our district were encouraged to sign up for a slot to decorate the Stormonth blacktop and the Bayside sidewalk with messages of encouragement, gratitude, and appreciation. So many families and students showed up, chalk in hand, to articulate the love we feel for our teachers and staff. The end result was an ephemeral, visual feast of color captured (*on the right*) by Mike DiSisti of the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*! We can't thank everyone who participated in this show-of-gratitude enough!!





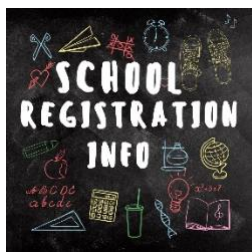
## School Services

*Jesse Hillstrom, VP of School Services*

This is normally the slower time for School Services and this year is definitely the same! With the shift to virtual learning for our students this would be a wonderful time to capture some photos for the yearbook! Get some cool photos of the science projects or PE outside!



To submit photos to the Stormonth Yearbook, please visit [bit.ly/StormonthGoogleForm](https://bit.ly/StormonthGoogleForm). To submit photo to the Bayside Yearbook, please visit [bit.ly/BaysideGoogleDoc](https://bit.ly/BaysideGoogleDoc). Thanks in advance for your participation to ensure this unprecedented, yet memorable, year is documented fully for our kids!



January marks an exciting time for new families to the district that want to register their children for Stormonth K4 or K5!

- *Did the house next to you have a new family move in?*
- *Have you had someone ask you questions about the school district for their children?*
- *Maybe you've had friends ask, "How and when can I register for my children for school for 2020-2021?"*

You can pass this information on to them!

### To Learn More About Stormonth School:

Please call our office, beginning Monday, January 21, 2021 to register.

Office Hours 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Carla Mueller (414) 247- 4102

#### STEP 1:

New residents and families with children eligible to start school in the 2021-2022 school year, please **CALL** Carla Mueller in the Stormonth Office at (414) 247-4102 to verify that your address is within the Fox Point Bayside School District boundaries.

#### STEP 2:

Once your address is verified, you will be emailed a link to begin the registration process. Our application process is **ONLINE ONLY** this year!

#### STEP 3:

To complete your registration, you will need to bring in the following documents to the Stormonth Office or email a copy to [cmueller@foxbay.org](mailto:cmueller@foxbay.org).

- Birth certificate of child
- Proof of residency (i.e. tax bill, utilities bill with you name and address)
- Immunization Records

#### STEP 4:

Schedule a tour for your family with Principal Laura Witkov. Welcome to the Stormonth family!

**\*\*Current students do not need to register each year. You are automatically enrolled for the following year.**

## A note from Principal Witkov



As November comes to a close, we have focused on “gratitude” and what we are most thankful for. Our teachers and staff would like to extend gratitude to our amazing PTO Board and PTO members. We loved our to-go “snack bags” during Parent Teacher Conferences, and the beautiful surprise Chalk It Up messages on the Stormonth playground! Our teachers LOVED the very generous book donations from the Scholastic Book Fair for each of our classrooms. THANK YOU so much for your support of our school.

Our students and staff have been quite busy these past few months! We’ve focused on ways to create and build community, whether students are learning 4 days/week in person in K4 and K5, in our Hybrid model in grades 1-4, or fully virtually. We held our first All School Assembly - live streamed! At our assembly, our teachers presented awards to classes and students sang (and played the ukulele!) along with our Stormonth Song. We even did an all-school dance! Throughout the month of November, students had the opportunity to earn a “Glow Stick Dance Party!” as an incentive for following The Stormonth Way. Students participated in a socially-distanced dance party at school, or from home with their glow sticks.

In a temporary shift to virtual instruction between the holiday seasons, we have been offering live “social meets” for students to see friends across their grade level, and live help sessions on Fridays. Our specialist classes in PE, Art, Music, Spanish and SEL (Social-Emotional Learning) are offered live, as well as having asynchronous lessons posted each week. We are also offering “Virtual Connection Mentors” who connect with students at home who may be struggling to keep up with school work or join live meetings. Our teachers and staff are committed to ensuring everyone succeeds during this time. We hope you all enjoyed the special surprise signs that came to your home, sponsored by our PTO!

Thank you to our incredible support network of students, families, and staff. This COMMUNITY is truly remarkable and is second to none. Thank you for your patience, understanding, and flexibility as we continue on a truly unique journey.

Wishing you and your family a happy and healthy holiday season,  
Laura Witkov, Stormonth Principal



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**Follow us on Instagram!**

username: fpbspto



**Find us on the web!**

[www.bit.ly/fpbspto](http://www.bit.ly/fpbspto)



**Email us!**

[foxpoint.bayside.pto.team@gmail.com](mailto:foxpoint.bayside.pto.team@gmail.com)



## Treasurer's Snapshot

*Xiaoting Hao, Treasurer*

It's hard to believe that we are already in December. Many successful fundraising events and programs took place in the past few months.

On the fundraising side, the Amazon Smile program has brought in just over \$200. Thank you for choosing our PTO as your supported charity when you shop on both Amazon and Shutterfly! The current net profit from the Fall Book Fair is just over \$150. Most of the profit from this event is in Scholastic dollars (with a current balance of \$975). This amount will be put to good use to help teachers purchase additional classroom supplies. The Spirit Wear sales brought in just over \$570 and the income from Membership is \$6,818. The current Club's Choice income is \$3,669 and the final net profit from

Monster Bash is just over \$8,550. We could not have achieved this without the dedication of the PTO volunteers and generous support from district families. We are grateful for all of you!

On the program side, the Directory brought in \$1,084 of net income from ad sales. The current Yearbook net income is \$4,796. The PTO also successfully sponsored the Fall teacher conference snack bags for both schools.

Looking ahead, there are many wonderful community wide programs awaiting us in the new year. We wish you a safe and happy holiday season!

## Mark your calendars!

December 21-January 1	No School – Winter Break
January 6	PTO Meeting (all are welcome)
January 18	No School
January 19	School Board meeting
January 21	Registration begins for K4/5 and new families
January 22 & 25	Red Cohort Day of instruction
February 3	PTO meeting
February 15	Red Cohort Day of instruction
February 15	School Board meeting
February 26	No School
March 3	PTO Meeting
March 5	No School
March 11	End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Trimester
March 15	School Board meeting
March 29-April 5	No School – Spring Break

# How to celebrate the holidays during COVID-19

*By Frank Zhu, MD Medical Director, Infectious Diseases*

I know most of us didn't think we'd be here — preparing for the holiday season while facing rising COVID-19 cases. No matter what you're celebrating — Diwali, Thanksgiving, Día de la Virgen de Guadalupe, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas or New Year's — the holidays will look different this year, but that doesn't mean they can't still be celebratory and filled with love.

## **Communication is key**

Many people are already having conversations about what their holidays will look like this year and I want to encourage continued communication. Talk to those who you typically celebrate with ahead of time, and discuss risks and expectations. Each person may have different risk factors, like a weakened immune system or family member who may be at higher risk of complications from COVID-19. Those at a higher risk should strongly consider adjusting their celebrations this year (read more on how to do that below). Having those open conversations will help everyone come to an agreement on how you'll celebrate this year and be more comfortable during your celebration, however it looks.

## **Be kind and understanding**

Everyone is dealing with different family considerations, such as an elderly grandparent or family member with an underlying disease, and it's an important reminder that you don't know what other households are considering. Everyone is making decisions that are best for them and the holidays may look different for each family this year. Respect their decisions and don't pressure or judge others.

## **Recommendations and considerations**

No matter how you celebrate holidays this year, remember COVID-19 is still in our environment so precautions need to be taken whenever possible — wear a mask, maintain distance from others as much as possible and wash hands frequently.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provided considerations that are meant to supplement any state, local, territorial or tribal health and safety laws, rules and regulations. Their considerations include:

- Make sure you understand current COVID-19 levels in your community and use that information to determine what's best for your holiday celebration. High levels may require you to postpone, cancel or limit the number of attendees. If you will be hosting a celebration, the CDC provides a few tips:
  - Stay outside or, if that's not an option, at least avoid crowded, poorly ventilated or fully enclosed indoor spaces.
  - Increase ventilation by opening windows and doors when possible.
  - Don't host people from outside your local area.
  - Limit the number of people you invite.
  - Remind everyone to follow local guidelines.
  - Provide supplies like unused masks, hand sanitizer and tissues.
  - Consider encouraging quarantining for all those you invite 14 days before you get together.
- For more information, [visit the CDC website](#) where they breakdown what activities are lower, moderate or higher risk.

Wisconsin is currently one of the states with the highest community spread of COVID-19, so it's important to follow the recommendations of our local health departments. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) provided guidance for celebrating the holidays this year, which includes:

- Avoid travel if possible. If you must travel, [know the risks involved](#).
- Avoid these events:
  - Gatherings with people from outside your household.
  - Bars, especially those where you have to be inside.
  - Indoor dining at restaurants.
  - Shopping in crowded stores.
  -

For more information and considerations, visit the Wisconsin DHS website where they have a [decision tool for individuals and families](#).

### New ideas for the holidays

COVID-19 has forced us to adapt and get creative in nearly every aspect of our lives — from work and school, to birthday celebrations and more. The holidays can be a part of those changes. While being together physically may not be an option for your family, there are plenty of ways to connect virtually to spread holiday joy.

The Wisconsin DHS provides ideas on their website for a safer holiday celebration, which include:

- Shop online for gifts and send them rather than giving them in-person.
- Stay home. Share a meal and watch big sporting events, parades and movies with those in your household.
- Consider a virtual dinner and celebration with family and friends outside your household.
- Deliver meals and treats rather than sharing in-person together. As long as you deliver the items without contact, it's a much safer way to share

the holidays, especially for those at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

People are being more creative than ever and I've heard so many great ideas for making this holiday unique and celebratory, including:

- *The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* partnered with some local restaurants to talk about how to make meals even more special this year. [Check it out here](#).
- Some families are splitting up their typical holiday meals, putting each household in charge of an item to make, split up and drop on the doorsteps of others without contact.
- Online games have become very popular during the pandemic and they can be a great way to interact with other households for the holidays. [Check out Jackbox Games](#).
- Consider a virtual holiday celebration with your typical traditions, like taking turns saying what you're grateful for this year.
- Set up a holiday-themed movie viewing from your individual households. Tools like [Teleparty](#) allow you to watch a movie together and chat throughout.
- You could make something together to help remember this unique holiday season. For example, you could set up a video chat on your phone or computer while you make ornaments from your own households.

This year's holidays may look different, but I hope with these recommendations and a little creativity, they can still feel celebratory and filled with love.

Accidents still happen and all of these considerations may lead to questions. Should anything come up related to your child's health, please do not hesitate to call your child's doctor's office. If they don't have a doctor, visit [our website](#) or [impactinc.org/impact-2-1-1](https://www.impactinc.org/impact-2-1-1). You can also call 2-1-1, where an operator can direct you to the nearest community health clinic or other needed resources.



## Chair Highlights

*Megan Smith, President*

In each newsletter, we like to take a moment to say a special thanks to a few parents who step up and volunteer to chair a PTO event or program. Thank you for all that you do for our schools and community!



"Hello! My name is **Anh Clausen** and this is my first year as the Chair of Membership and Directory. My husband Andy and I have three children: Drew (2nd grade), Lizzie (5th grade) and Peter (8th grade). Like all

parents, I didn't expect to have to make so many adjustments and adaptations to my personal and professional life this year but it has helped me to focus on simplifying our family's once crazy and hectic schedule, and it made me grateful for all the good in our lives. I love my job as the Director of Family Ministry and Religious Formation for four Catholic parishes on the Eastside. The programs that I direct are now all on Zoom so I understand first-hand the challenges of online learning. Professionally, I am embracing this time as an opportunity to reimagine what is possible through technology and I'm thankful that I am seeing the fruits of it. In a year full of distractions and challenges, I've found it very helpful to focus on three things: family, faith, and fun! I am grateful that this year has allowed me to explore different parks and nature areas with my family. I also enjoy gardening and learning about nutrition and alternative healing modalities. I'm very

thankful that the PTO is providing such creative and easy ways for families to stay connected to the school community even during these challenging times. Together we can get through this!"



"My name is **Helena** (pronounced He-LAY-nuh) **Laven**. I live in the Barnett Lane neighborhood of Fox Point with my husband Brett, our children Noah (7th grade), Andreas (6th grade) and Adina (3rd grade) and our dog Freya. I was born in Sweden but moved to the US for graduate school (I have a PhD in Immunology). Brett and I met at the U of C while I was working in research and he was doing his urology residency. We lived in Sweden for a year after we got married, and then moved to the 3rd Ward. Having our children in public school is something that is important to both Brett and me, and we moved to Fox Point in part because of the excellent schools. I have been and continue to be incredibly impressed with all our children's teachers, and also with my fellow parents, and it's been my privilege to get to know and work with many of you over the years! I'm also happy that my Swedish-American family is part of a multi-cultural neighborhood, and

## Chair Highlights, continued

*Megan Smith, President*

hope to see even more diversity in our schools and community in the future.

I love Halloween, and being involved in the Monster Bash has been a big part of my fall the last several years. I've been co-chair the last 3 years, and I'm so happy we were able to put together an event even this year! I want to send a special shout-out to my co-chair Becca Wahlberg who conceived the idea of "Bash in a Bag" and who worked so hard on making the event fun and successful. We also had an absolutely amazing committee. Besides Monster Bash, I've also been involved in the Cupcake Run, and try to volunteer for other school events as well. I also serve as treasurer for the Fox Point-Bayside Educational Foundation and the Swedish Society of Milwaukee. In my free time, I love to read, bake, knit, ski, skate/play hockey and spend time outdoors - the more wilderness the better."



"Hi! My name is **Becca Wahlberg**. I grew up in Fox Point and I find it hard to believe my two boys are enrolled in FPB. They even have some of the same teachers I did! My husband, Seth, also grew up in Fox

Point, and we knew we wanted to raise our family near friends and loved ones. Seth and I own A Gift of Time, a move management company. We help people through traditional or difficult transitions from one home to

another. In a normal year, Nate, our 4<sup>th</sup> grader, and Jake, our 1<sup>st</sup> grader, enjoy school, football, tennis, and being with friends. We enjoy traveling and playing Lego as a family.

When my family and business don't need me, I like to volunteer in the community. Most recently, I helped plan and execute the Monster Bash event. I enjoy being at Stormonth for lunch duty and helping out in my children's classrooms. Outside of the school, I have enjoyed volunteering at Alverno College, Milwaukee Public Museum, and other nonprofits in our community. Currently, I am Board President of Jewish Beginnings and spend my summers at JCC Rainbow Day Camp as Office Administrator and Arts & Crafts Director."