

PTO is looking forward to a great year supporting the Bishop Community. We welcome your comments and questions and hope to see you at our PTO meetings, the second Wednesday of every month in the library at 7pm.

Introducing our new website. <http://www.bishopschoolpto.com> Thank you to Debby Pajerowski, for volunteering to keep it updated. If you have any questions or comments please email her at debbypaj@gmail.com

Fall events:

9/5/17	Back to School Coffee
9/8/17	Family Picnic & Ice Cream Social
9/23/17	Fall Clean-Up Day
10/2/17	Picture Day
10/6/17	Spirit Day
10/14/17	Pumpkin Sale (2 nd Grade)
10/20/17	Walkathon (5 th Grade)
10/27/17	Original Works Due
11/3/17	Spirit Day
12/8/17	Craft Fair (3 rd Grade)

Please Support the PTO Annual Fund

The PTO is asking for a donation of \$125 per child for the 2017-2018 school year.

Each year, the PTO funds enrichment programs and events to supplement your children's school experience as well as to foster a sense of community within the school.

What does this fee pay for?

The 2017-2018 contribution of \$125 per child includes the \$25 classroom donation (historically collected separately by room parents for each classroom), as well as \$100 (annual fund donation) to cover various school-year enrichment activities, classroom expenses, and supplies.

In an effort to simplify the various payments, the PTO will collect the single amount of \$125.

The PTO will fund the classroom activities (i.e. class parties, class gifts, etc.) through the annual fund.

How will we collect this fee?

This year, in addition to paying by check via backpack mail, we have added the option to pay by credit card. We will have the electronic payment option available at all of our events.

What is the PTO's annual budget?

For the 2016-17 school year, the PTO raised \$48,820 and spent \$63,736, for an average spend of \$160 per student (with an approximate 400 student enrollment). The budget deficit that resulted from this spending (\$15,000) was paid for through surpluses that had been accrued over several years. These surpluses have now been depleted so we need to collect a per child

fee that allows us to maintain our ability to pay for the activities and supplies expected of the PTO.

For the 2017-18 school year, the PTO plans to spend \$96,645 (including the newly added budget line item of \$9,000 to support the classroom activities as described above). We plan to fundraise \$58,000 through our events, such as Bear Fair, Walk-a-thon, Parents Night Out, etc. The \$125 per student contribution will fund the remaining \$39,000 shortfall between the anticipated spend and our planned fundraisers.

What types of activities and supplies does the PTO support?	2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR	2017- 2018 SCHOOL YEAR
Enrichment for the students. Themes were around Science, Engineering, Math, Art, Culture, Social Studies and Geography.	\$14,000	\$15,500
Field trips and event busses	\$5,500	\$5,600
Bishop garden. This pays for a professional garden coordinator and supplies and for curriculum connected to each grade.	\$4,200	\$4,200
Teacher checks. This gives each teacher \$200 twice a year to pay for necessary classroom items that they would otherwise have to pay for themselves.	\$12,000	\$13,000
Community grants (including this year, \$10,000 to be used for new speakers in each classroom for the projectors - the speakers are in response to teachers reporting that students are not able to sufficiently hear the sound from the existing projectors)	\$7,000	\$14,500
Classroom supplies, including agenda books, paper towels, wipes, tissues, glue sticks, etc. Volunteers shop a few times a year to stock up a supply closet that the teachers can utilize all year long (and carpet cleaning)	\$5,300	\$5,400
Playground and grounds improvements (including this year, a permanent seating area in the garden)	\$5,000	\$10,000
Library to pay for books and supplies	\$2,000	\$2,000
5th grade recognition	\$3,000	\$3,500
Scholarships for science camp	\$2,000	\$2,500
Subscriptions (Scholastic, movie license, etc.)	\$2,000	\$2,500
Science Night	\$1,600	\$1,600
Teacher appreciation and holiday recognition	\$3,000	\$3,300
PTO general and administrative expenses	\$3,800	\$3,800
Increased enrollment NEW THIS YEAR		\$8,000
Classroom donations (previously collected and administered by room parents as a separate fee) NEW THIS YEAR		\$9,000

2016-2017 BISHOP SCHOOL PTO ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Kindergarten Enrichment Activities:

- Mass Audubon, Habitat: Life Cycles of Frogs
- Science Made Fun New England: Survive and Thrive
- New England Aquarium: Tide pools
- Kemp Harris, Storyteller

First grade Enrichment Activities:

- Eyes on Owls: Alaska Wilderness
- Audubon Habitat: Soils workshops
- Discovery Museum: Light and Lasers Workshop
- African Storyteller
- Purchase of eggs for annual unit on hatching chicks

Second grade Enrichment Activities:

- Drumlin Farms: Soil Investigations
- Motoko, Japanese Storytelling assembly and classroom workshop
- Jessie Brown, poetry assembly and classroom workshops
- Field Trips to Museum of Science to learn about Butterflies and Children's Museum to learn about Japan and the tour the Japanese House

Third grade Enrichment Activities:

- Museum of Science: Weather, Wind and Water Temperature
- Origamido, math and origami workshops
- Plimoth Plantation Pilgrim and Native American visits to Bishop
- Field Trips to Jason Russell House, Concord Museum & Museum of Science

Fourth grade Enrichment Activities:

- Museum of Science: Electromagnetism
- Museum of Science: Geology, Rock Detectives
- Spellman Stamp Museum
- Origamido, math and origami workshops

Fifth grade Enrichment Activities:

- Museum of Science: Animal Adaptations
- Origamido, math and origami workshops
- Theatre Espresso: Uprising on King Street Play (with Stratton 5th grade)

All-School Enrichment Assembly:

Capoeira: Afro-Brazilian Martial Arts, Music, and Dance

Afro-Brazilian drumming, acrobatic flips and tumbles, traditional costumes, colorful maps, live music, Portuguese language lessons, and more filled the Bishop gym during two assemblies.

Student volunteers were called upon throughout the program to try out traditional dance moves.

Enrichment Committee: Jen Davidson, Maile Hedlund, Emily Kathan, Brecky Peabody, Laura Pierce, Heather Spector, Skye Stewart

Bishop Phone Directory Coordinator for 2018-19

Are you wanting to contribute to the Bishop community, but can't due to all-consuming daytime commitments? We are in search of a detailed-oriented person who is interested in creating and distributing the printed Bishop phone directory. The current volunteer's family is aging out of Bishop and will need to be replaced for the 2018-19 school year. Familiarity with MS Office and excellent communication skills are essential. Please contact leah.nelson109@gmail.com for more information.

Help Run the Bishop Green Team!

What is a green team? A green team is a group of students (with the support of parent and/or teacher advisors) passionate about taking care of the environment and engaging the school community in activities around waste reduction, recycling, composting, energy conservation, pollution prevention, and more! Green teams participate in town events like Town Day, EcoFest, and the Patriots' Day Parade. School green teams register at no cost with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and receive resources and end of year prizes.

Do any other Arlington schools have a green team? All the other Arlington public schools have a green team (middle and high school included)! The Sustainable Materials Recovery Program Grant the Town of Arlington received to support a School Sustainability Coordinator and give waste reduction equipment and resources to the schools requires all schools in the district to have registered green teams.

What is the commitment? Most teams meet weekly before or after school, others meet less frequently. There are monthly meetings for Green Team parent and teacher advisors to come together, hear what different schools are doing, and share ideas. An online resource library of green team activities will be available at the start of the school year.

For more information, contact Rachel Oliveri, School Sustainability Coordinator, roliveri@arlington.k12.ma.

Welcome Coffee

PTO will host a welcome coffee for parents and caregivers on **Tuesday, September 5, after drop off in front of the school.**

Back to School Picnic

Friday, September 8, 6- 7:30 p.m.

Bishop Picnic and Ice Cream Social: Bring a picnic dinner and blanket and join the Bishop community for some back-to-school fun on the school field. Come purchase your Bishop School Spiritware too! **Free Popsicles and Hoodsie Cups** provided by the PTO!

Eat at NYAJ in September to Benefit Bishop

Every Tuesday Night in September

Once again this school year, "Bishop Dines Out at Not Your Average Joe's" is taking place every Tuesday night in September. A certificate will go home in backpack mail during the first week of school and is also available on the Bishop PTO web site (<http://bishopschoolpto.com/>) and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BishopPTO/>). All you have to do is show the

certificate and the Bishop School PTO will receive 15% of your purchase. Please help support Enrichment activities by dining out at NYAJ!

Room Parents

Want to be a Room Parent this year? Please consider volunteering to help communication between the teacher and the families! Still looking for Room Parents for:

Thom: 1

Holden: 1

Cook (Allan): 2

Brubaker: 2

Bell: 2

Frank: 1

Hess-Mahan: 1

If you are interested or want to find out more, please reach out to Anna Pisania (apisania@gmail.com)!

Spirit Days

This school year, students have the chance to showcase their Bishop Pride one day per month. The first Friday of every month, students are encouraged to wear their Bishop T-shirts or Bishop colors (yellow/ gold and blue). Bishop T-shirts will be available through an order form that will go home the first week of school. (And we are offering long-sleeve shirts and hoodies this year!)

First PTO Meeting

September 13, 7 pm, Bishop Library

Please join the PTO for its first meeting of the year on Wednesday, September 13 from 7- 9 PM in the Bishop School library. Everybody is welcome! These meetings are a great way to stay updated and to meet other parents. We will share examples of how PTO funding supports our students, teachers and staff throughout the year, as well as provide orientation for Room Parents.

Interested in Getting Information to the Bishop Community?

Information that you'd like to share with the Bishop community can be included in the weekly Principal's Update. Please email the relevant information to Sheelagh Stirling (Communications Coordinator, Bishop PTO) at sheelaghstirling@yahoo.com

Keep Up To Date

Bishop PTO Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/BishopPTO/>

Twitter:

Follow Principal McAneny @markmmcaneny (<https://twitter.com/markmmcaneny>)

Follow the PTO @BishopPTO (<https://twitter.com/BishopPTO>)

Web sites:

Bishop School: <http://www.arlington.k12.ma.us/BISHOP>

Bishop PTO: <http://bishopschoolpto.com/>

John A. Bishop School PTO

John A. Bishop Elementary School PTO web site
