

BISHOP SCHOOL PTO

2021-2022 ANNUAL REVIEW

Thank you to the 2021-22 PTO Board

Co-Presidents: Laura Tikonoff and Anna Pisania

Co-Treasurers: Kyle Chiang and Lindsay Pacheco

Communications Coordinator: Amanda Maltais

Class Parent Coordinator: Lindsay Sweeney

Fundraising Coordinator: Tai Sokoloff

Recording Secretary: Jessica Nordgren

Welcome to the 2022-23 PTO Board

Co-Presidents: Anna Pisania and Mary Perry

Co-Treasurer: Lindsay Pacheco and Leonie Lennon

Communications Coordinator: Valerie Geary

Room Parent Coordinator: Julie Moscatel

Fundraising Coordinator: Lori Hennelly

Recording Secretary: Jessica Nordgren



The Bishop School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is a group of parents, teachers, and community members that strive to enrich our children's educational experience and build community spirit. We accomplish this by funding events and activities throughout the year to supplement the resources available to the school and our teachers. All Bishop parents and caregivers are invited to attend PTO meetings on the first Wednesday of every other month over Zoom from 7-8PM.

Highlights

- Welcoming back the *entire* Bishop student body and staff to campus in September!
- **Teacher grants** issued to fund classroom seating, science materials, field trip buses and subscriptions and learning resources for all grade levels.
- The **Enrichment Committee** worked hard to bring back most of the pre-pandemic in-person workshops.
- Hiring a new Garden Education Coordinator in the Spring to facilitate the existing curriculum and rebuilding three of the decaying beds in the **Bishop Garden**.
- Return of donuts and cider to the annual **Pumpkin Sale**, as well as the return of the **Walk-A-Thon** to an in-person event.
- Our second annual **Read-A-Thon** continued to break records – students logged over 155,000 reading minutes and raised over \$14,000.
- **Science Night** and the **Bear Fair** returned after a two-year absence!
- A **School Directory** was issued in the Spring to assist with connecting the Bishop community.
- New **Spirit Wear** items were rolled out throughout the year to refresh the community's wardrobes.

Your Dollars at Work: 2021-22 Bishop PTO Spending

Due to lingering challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and uncertainty about the ability to hold in-person events, the AY2021-2022 fundraising goal was conservative. However, the AY2021-2022 spending budget was increased by 28% from pandemic years. We proposed a budget with a deficit believing that if the school year looked more like a “typical” year, we would be able to raise the funds necessary to support the spending. If we did not, however, we could lean on excess funds raised during the 2020-21 school year. With that in mind, in AY2021-2022, the PTO managed a spending budget of about \$69,000. Three areas received the bulk of that funding: **Enrichment, Teacher/Staff Support, and Grants/Subscriptions**. We are pleased to report that we raised all the funds necessary to cover our spending projections with surplus that will allow us to complete the garden bed rebuild project next school year. As always, we consistently look at ways to continue to invest in our school and its future.

The **Enrichment Committee** organized a great line-up of programs. Presenters included favorites such as Japanese storytelling with Motoko, math and origami workshops with Origamido, storytelling with Kemp Harris, and presentations from the New England Aquarium, Plimoth/Pawtuxet Museums, Discovery Museum, Mass Audubon, Spellman Museum and Museum of Science. Thanks to a grant from the Arlington Education Foundation, Bishop hosted educators from Eyes on Owls in the Spring. The PTO spent **nearly \$11,000 on Enrichment and Student Events**.

The **Bishop Garden** was open during the AY2021-2022 school year. Led by parent volunteers Amanda Maltais and Alex Rehm, a new Garden Educator, Amanda Munsie, was hired in the Spring to facilitate the pre-existing curriculum. Learning in the Bishop Garden is supported by lesson plans that link garden activities to the science curriculum standards. All grades have the opportunity to plant, care, harvest and participate in the maintenance of our flourishing garden. In addition, to help sustain the longevity of the garden, parent volunteers led by Ramin Haghgooie replaced three of the thirteen wood beds in most need of repair with new beds composed of aluminum frames and concrete pavers. The remaining beds will be replaced next school year.

PTO Grants provided about \$4,000 of support in the areas of technology, facilities, and curriculum enhancement. Specific items funded included flexible seating, storage bins, headphones, a balls and ramps exploration kit, field day supplies, and additional caterpillars for one grade. The PTO also funded a one-year subscription for the online programs Padlet and Raz Kids. The PTO also funded buses for the 3rd Grade field trip to the Museum of Science in June. Finally, the PTO issued the library a one-time grant of \$2,000 to replace books lost during the pandemic.

The PTO also provided **over \$15,000 to Bishop Teachers and Staff** to reimburse them for personal expenses made for the benefit of the school and their classrooms. Other significant spending included: **Classroom Supplies**, including paper towels, tissues, disinfecting wipes and glue sticks; new books for the **School Library**; and **teacher/staff appreciation** to bolster spirits throughout the year.

Fundraising: 2021-22 Bishop PTO Income

The Bishop School PTO raised **\$75,249, 18% more than planned**. Five activities contributed to more than 97% of our income this school year: Annual Fund, Read-A-Thon, Walk-A-Thon, the Bear Fair and the Pumpkin Sale. These events, as well as our Partner Shopping Programs, Original Works, the Used Goods Sale and Picture Day (all of which provide additional fundraising opportunities), could not be a success without your continued and generous support.

Annual Fund: Each year, the PTO asks parents and community members to donate to the PTO's Annual Fund, which contributed 48% of the PTO's income this year. Thanks to the generosity of our Bishop families and community, we were able to exceed our Annual Fund goal by 19%. Also, thanks to our Bishop families and community members who submitted their Annual Fund donations for corporate match!

Pumpkin Sale: Our first in-person event of the year, the Pumpkin Sale looked similar to pre-pandemic years. We were thrilled to offer donuts and hot apple cider again! We also offered some new spirit wear items. This event raised more than \$2,100 to support the Bishop PTO. Thank you to our Pumpkin Sale organizer, Karin Moellering!

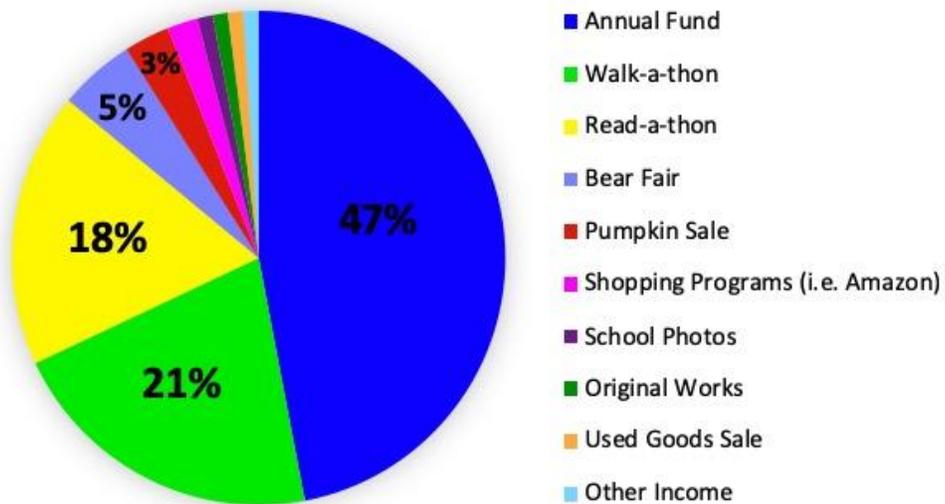
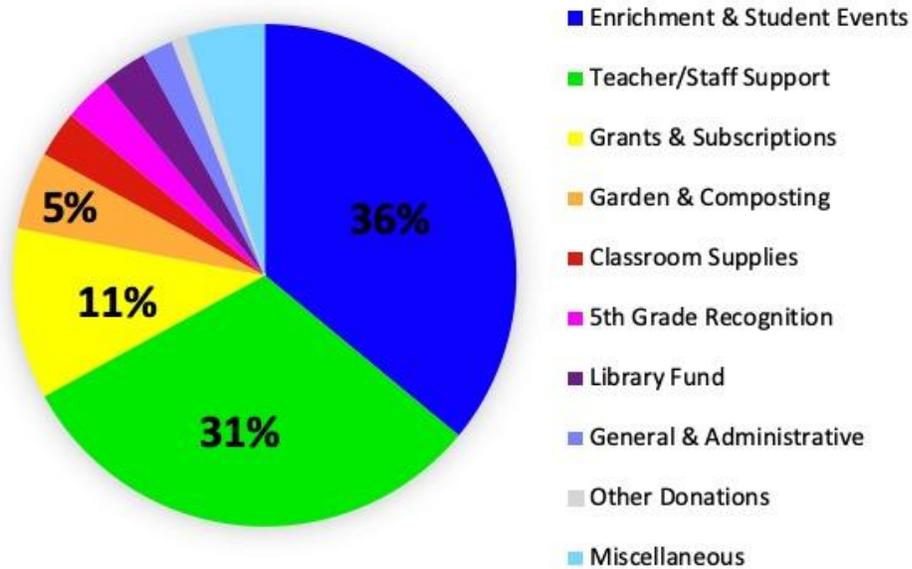
Walk-A-Thon: The Walk-A-Thon returned to an in-person event this year divided over two days to allow for smaller walking (running!) groups. The community's enthusiasm for this event was awesome and the event raised more than \$16,000! Thank you to our Walk-A-Thon organizer, Elisa Komoni!

Read-A-Thon: The second annual Bishop Read-A-Thon returned in February 2022, with students logging reading minutes during a three-week period, including the week of February break. Students received participation bookmarks where they could log their time. There were also individual, classroom and whole school "prizes" based on minutes read. The grand prize for the winning student was the opportunity to "pie" Mr. McAneny. The grand prize for the winning classroom was a class vote for a special day. Collectively, the Bishop students logged 155,000 minutes of reading time and raised over \$14,000 in donations to support the Bishop PTO! This event was, once again, a huge success thanks in part to the dedication of our event coordinators, Tai Sokoloff, Grace Judge, and Sarah Phoenix, the immense support from teachers, staff, and Mr. McAneny, and of course, our Bishop student readers—THANK YOU!

Bear Fair: The Bear Fair returned in May after a two-year absence! Led by parent volunteer Heather Breslau, the event featured usual favorites such as the tarp maze, bounce houses, dunk tank, cake walk, face painting, teacher auction and lawn games. Given our successful fundraising ahead of the event, the Bear Fair was planned as a community event as opposed to a fundraiser, which required less volunteer time and community donations. Despite this, the Bishop community came out in full support and the event ended up raising about \$4,000!

Partner Programs: The PTO raised nearly \$4,000 through partner programs. Our partnership with [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) generates the greatest results. In addition, partner programs with **BoxTops** and **Stop & Shop A+ Rewards**, and programs such as **Original Works** (coordinated by Lindsay Sweeney) and school pictures with **Coffee Pond** helped to provide additional funding.

Allocation of PTO Spending and Fundraising AY2021-22



Volunteering: 2021-22 Contribution of Time

The Bishop PTO credits its achievements and success to its many volunteers. Several significant programs organized by the PTO have nothing to do with fundraising, or financial support, but rely on your time and hands-on commitment. We thank all our volunteers or those who organized our volunteers. It really takes a village and the Bishop village is impressive!

Class Parents: As liaisons between the Bishop parents, teachers, and PTO, Class Parents provide a great service to students and families. Thank you to the 38 terrific class parents who volunteered their time this year and energy to their child's classroom, as many "traditional" events had to be re-imagined in the face of COVID-19 health and safety restrictions.

Event Coordinators and Committee Chairs: Our event coordinators and committee chairs are the working machinery of the Bishop PTO. They plan, promote, and support activities for our children, Bishop teachers and staff, and the Bishop community at large, and the Bishop PTO is deeply thankful to all those who volunteered their time and abilities to coordinate an event or chair and/or serve on a committee.