

# BISHOP SCHOOL PTO

## 2014-2015 ANNUAL REVIEW

### Thank you to the 2014-15 PTO Board

Co-Presidents: Laura Fuller & Rosemary Foster

Co-Treasurers: Jen Hahn & Renata Thomas

Communications Coordinator: Amy McManus

Recording Secretary: Jean Clark

Room Parent Coordinator: Katherine Reisz-Hanson

Fundraising Coordinator: Courtney Zwirn

### Welcome to the 2015-16 PTO Board

Co-Presidents: Rosemary Foster & Heather Breslau

Co-Treasurers: Renata Thomas & Melina Salerno

Communications Coordinator: Jennifer Badua

Recording Secretary: Jean Clark

Room Parent Coordinator: Katherine Reisz-Hanson

Fundraising Coordinator: Shannon Knuth

### Connect with us

BishopSchoolPTO.weebly.com

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Twitter: @BishopPTO



The Bishop School's 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 second Wednesday of each month in the school library from 7-9 p.m.

### Highlights

- Awesome enrichment programming including **The Amazing Nano Brothers** and a week-long visit by **Nicola Davies**, children's author and zoologist.
- **Teacher grants** to fund technology in the classroom, subscriptions and learning resources.
- Creation of the **Bishop School Garden**, an outdoor classroom space with focused grade level curriculum on the science of growing food.
- The return of **Science Night** - student scientists, hands on experiments and exhibits, and an egg drop contest!
- A fabulous *Dolphin Tale* **Movie Night** in January with over 300 in attendance and run by the Kindergarten class.
- **Electronics Recycling Event** for Earth Day led by the 4<sup>th</sup> grade.
- The **Bishop Craft Fair**, a welcome tradition among parents, staff and students who can showcase their handmade crafts.
- Launched Bishop's participation in **ArlingtonEATS!**, providing healthy snacks to students at school.

## Your Dollars At Work: 2014-15 Bishop PTO Spending

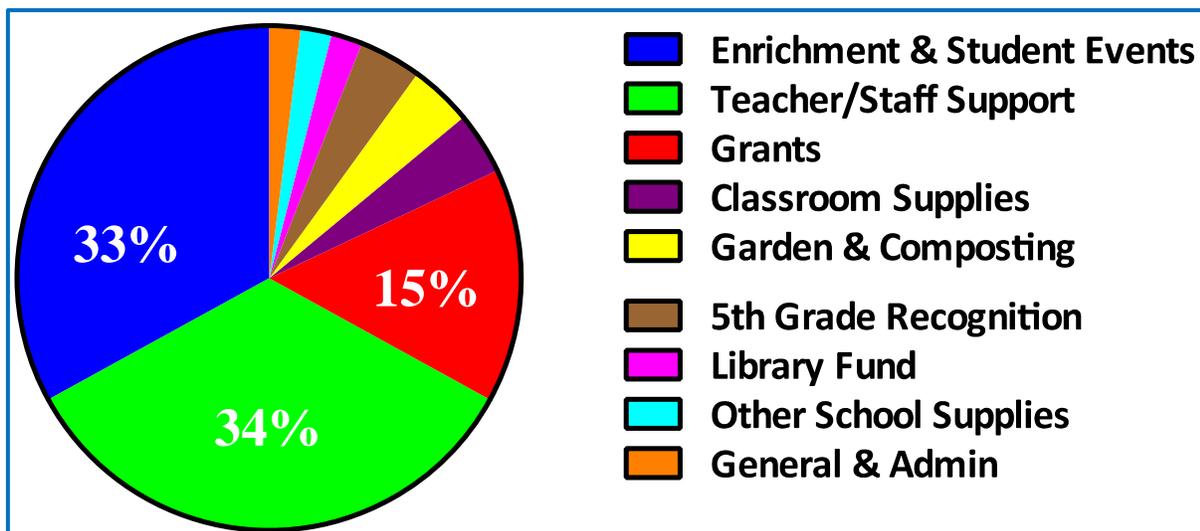
Over school year, the PTO managed a spending budget in excess of \$65,000. Three areas received the bulk of that funding: **Enrichment, Teacher/Staff Support and PTO Grants**. PTO spending exceeded income, by design. Since 2012, the Bishop PTO has operated with a surplus due to exceptional results of the Bishop Bear Fair. Our plan was to spend some of those excess balances in a measured and thoughtful way by investing in the school and its future.

The **Enrichment** Committee organized a great line-up of programs, many targeted towards the year's Science theme. Nicola Davies, an author and zoologist, spent a week in Bishop classrooms working with students on non-fiction writing. The Amazing Nano Brothers performed their comedy/juggling show to share the wonders of nanotechnology in an all school assembly. We also hosted visits from educators from the Museum of Science, Habitat, Eyes on Owls, and several others. The PTO spent approx. \$17,000 on Enrichment. Other spending to support enrichment included: buses for two **Field Trips** per grade, 5th grade **Science Camp Scholarships** to ensure that all 5th graders have the opportunity to attend.

The **PTO Grants** provided nearly \$10,000 in the areas of technology, infrastructure and community, including new overhead screens in every classroom, overhead document readers for Grades 2 - 5, ceiling mounted overhead projectors in six classrooms and the library, online and paper subscriptions to 298 Bishop students across four grades, and some smaller curriculum enhancements as well.

The PTO also provided support to Bishop **Teacher and Staff** to reimburse them for personal expenses made for the benefit of the school and their classrooms. These supports totaled \$14,872.

Other significant spending included: **Classroom Supplies** so that parents are no longer asked to send in paper towels, tissues, disinfecting wipes and glue sticks; new books for the **School Library**; and support to build the new **Bishop School Garden**.



## Fundraising: 2014-15 Bishop PTO Income

The Bishop School PTO raised \$54,557, 11% more than planned. Four activities contribute more than 80% of our income: Bishop Bear Fair, Annual Fund, Walk-a-thon and Partner Shopping Programs. In addition, we ask each grade-level to support one fundraising event during the year. These events, such as the Pumpkin Sale, Craft Fair and Movie Night, could not be a success without your continued and generous support.

**41st Annual Bishop Bear Fair:** By far our largest fundraiser, the Bishop Bear Fair was a huge success helping to raise nearly \$23,000. Staffed with over 300 volunteer man-hours on the day of the event (parents, teachers, alumni, and 5th graders), and many more involved in planning and organizing, the Bear Fair is a true community event. Bounce Houses, Cake Walk, Used Goods Sale, Silent Auction, Tarp Maze, Music (including a set by Mr.Ham - the music teacher), Games, Food, Slush, Prizes, Plant Sale and more! Many thanks to everyone who attended, volunteered, donated, baked, built, sorted and sold used goods, or cleaned up - we couldn't have done it without you!

**Annual Fund:** Each year, the PTO asks parents and community members to donate to the PTO's Annual Fund, which contributed 19% of the PTO's income. We thank the many Bishop families who donated to the PTO very generously. We were able to surpass our \$10,000 goal before mid-year, limiting further requests.

**Walk-A-Thon:** On a warm autumn day in mid-October, hundreds of Bishop students participated in the annual walk-a-thon around the field. The event, led by the 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents, utilized an online pledge system so students and families were able to raise money in an efficient and fun way.

**Partner Programs:** The PTO raised over \$6,800 through partner programs during the 2014/15 school year. Our partnership with **Amazon.com** generates the greatest results. During the last school year, families bought 2,151 items on Amazon for \$43,664, netting the PTO \$2,769! In addition, partner programs with **Shutterfly/Tiny Prints, Target, BoxTops, Stop & Shop A+ Rewards** and dining and shopping at **Not Your Average Joe's** and **Wilson Farm's** help provide additional funding.



## Volunteering: 2014-15 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!

**Room Parents:** As liaisons between the classroom parents, teacher and PTO, Room Parents provide a great service to students and families. Thank you to the 36 terrific room parents who volunteered their time and energy to their child's classroom.

**The Bishop Play:** Over the March 19 - 21, 2015 weekend, 153 student performers and tech crew members, in 2 Casts, supported by 110 parent volunteers, performed in *The Jungle Book Kids!* Truly a volunteer effort, the Bishop Play has one paid position (the Director), keeps tuition and ticket prices very low to allow access to everyone, and provides a great experience for performers of all ages.

**The Bishop Garden:** A school garden has been a vision of Principal Mark McAneny since he joined Bishop, and about two years ago, he found a willing team of parents, teachers and community leaders who began planning for a garden and compost center that would be integrated into the curriculum for each grade level. In the spring of 2015, that vision and effort became a reality with the building of the new Bishop Garden in the rear of the school. This summer, parent volunteer, Wendy Johnecheck, and Ms. Abigail Wolf, a Garden Educator with HomeHarvest, worked with many Bishop teachers and the school district to develop lesson plans which link garden activities to the science curriculum standards. As of September 2015, all Bishop students will have an opportunity to work in our garden.

The Bishop Garden relied on PTO funding as well as external funding to support its development. We would like to thank Whole Foods Market in Arlington which provided initial funding through a 5% Day, a grant from the Whole Kids Foundation, our partners at HomeHarvest, and the Town of Arlington. Special thanks to Arlington Parks and Recreation Commission for providing the garden space on the Bishop Field and their encouragement throughout the project.

We would also like to thank the School Garden Task Force, the Bishop Teachers and Staff, Greg Wright and Dennis Viveiros, the Bishop School Cafeteria, and the Bright Start Afterschool Program. Many thanks to the Bishop families who helped build the garden. There were over 100 volunteers present for the Garden Build Day, led by Wendy Johnecheck, Sarah Lynch, and our partners at HomeHarvest. Finally, thank you to the Arlington Education Foundation for their grant to support Garden Curriculum Development.

