

BISHOP SCHOOL PTO

2015-2016 ANNUAL REVIEW

Thank you to the 2015-16 PTO Board

Co-Presidents: Rosemary Foster and Heather Breslau

Co-Treasurers: Renata Thomas and Melina Salerno

Communications Coordinator: Jennifer Badua

Room Parent Coordinator: Katherine Reisz-Hanson

Fundraising Coordinator: Shannon Knuth

Recording Secretary: Jean Clark

Welcome to the 2016-17 PTO Board

Co-Presidents: Heather Breslau and Meredith DiMola

Co-Treasurer: Melina Salerno and Deborah Kokinos

Communications Coordinator: Jennifer Badua

Room Parent Coordinator: Anna Pisania

Fundraising Coordinator: Shannon Knuth

Recording Secretary: Jeannine Ranaghan

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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

- Engaging enrichment programming including **Rob Surette**, Amazing Hero Art Painter; **Illstyle & Peace Productions** for Building Your Dreams (through Hip Hop); **Museum of Science**; and **Mass Audubon/Habitat**.
- **Teacher grants** to fund technology, subscriptions and learning resources for all grade levels.
- Funding and support of the first full year of the **Bishop School Garden**, an outdoor classroom space with focused grade level curriculum on the science of growing food.
- Annual **Science Night** with student scientists, hands on experiments and exhibits, and an egg drop contest!
- A fun-filled **Movie Night** in January with over 300 in attendance, run by the Kindergarten class.
- The **Bishop Craft Fair**, a welcome tradition among parents, staff and students who can showcase their handmade crafts.
- An **incredible production of Aladdin**, with nearly half of our student population involved in the acting, singing, stage production and TECH crew...and 164 parent volunteers!

Your Dollars At Work: 2015-16 Bishop PTO Spending

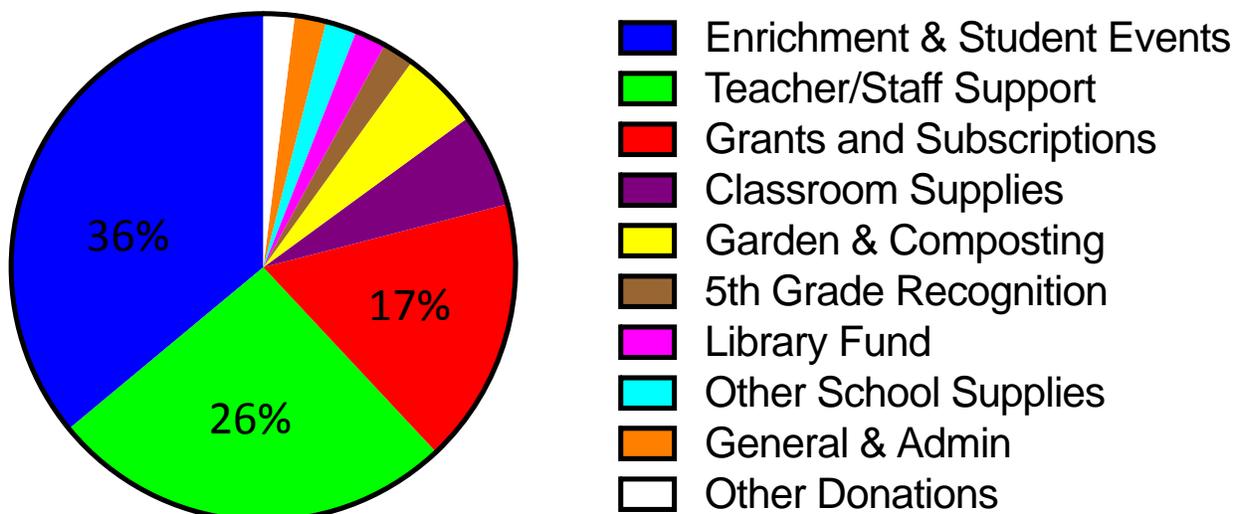
Over the school year, the PTO managed a spending budget in excess of \$65,000. Three areas received the bulk of that funding: **Enrichment, Teacher/Staff Support and PTO Grants**. PTO spending exceeded income, by design. Since 2012, the Bishop PTO has operated with a surplus due to strong results from the Bishop Bear Fair. 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, including all school assemblies with artist Rob Surette and Hip Hop entertainers who showed through dance that it's possible to reach your goals. Bishop 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 **Field Trips** and 5th grade **Science Camp Scholarships** to ensure that all 5th graders have the opportunity to attend.

The Bishop Garden opened during the spring of 2015 with the strong support of Principal Mark McAneny, teachers and staff, the parent and PTO community. In partnership with a Garden Educator from HomeHarvest, Bishop teachers and parent Wendy Johnecheck worked to develop lesson plans which 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. The Bishop Garden relied on PTO funding as well as external funding to support its development and launch. 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 this project.

PTO Grants provided **nearly \$9,000** in the areas of technology, infrastructure and community, including ceiling mounted overhead projectors in several classrooms, online and paper subscriptions to students across four grades.

The PTO also provided **nearly \$13,000 to Bishop Teacher 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 **snowshoes** for physical education to use during wintry months.



Fundraising: 2015-16 Bishop PTO Income

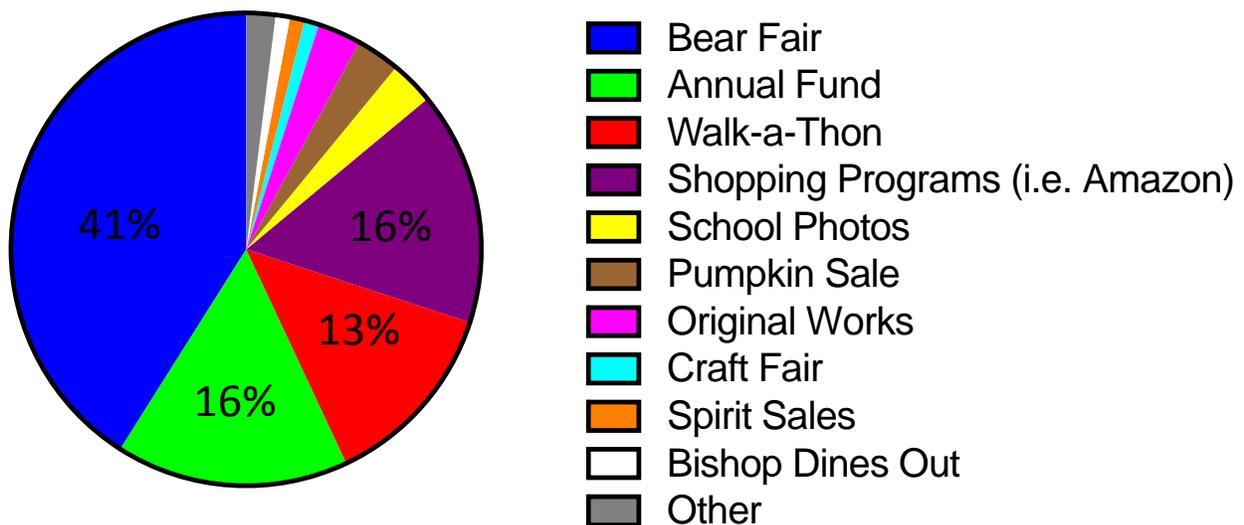
The Bishop School PTO raised \$53,991, 4% more than estimated. Four activities contribute more than 80% of our income: **Bishop Bear Fair, Annual Fund, Walk-A-Thon and Partner Shopping Programs**. In addition, we ask each grade-level to support one fundraising or community event during the year. These events, such as the Walk-A-Thon, Pumpkin Sale and Craft Fair could not be a success without your continued and generous support.

42nd Annual Bishop Bear Fair: By far our largest fundraiser, the Bishop Bear Fair was a huge success helping to raise **\$22,000**. Staffed with over 300 volunteer hours on the day of the event (parents, teachers and alumni) and many more involved in planning and organizing, the Bear Fair is a true community event. Bounce Houses, *new addition* Photo Booth, Cake Walk, an amazing Used Goods Sale, Silent Auction, Tarp Maze, Music (including a set by music teacher Mr. Ham), 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 16% of the PTO's income. We thank the many Bishop families who donated to the PTO very generously.

Walk-A-Thon: On a sunny Friday in October, Bishop students participated in the annual walk/run around the field and raised over \$7,000. The fundraising potential for this event continues to grow with our use of an online pledge system that makes asking for pledges easy and fun.

Partner Programs: The PTO raised over \$9,600 through partner programs with retailers. Our partnership with **Amazon.com** generates the greatest results. 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: 2015-16 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 of 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.

Science Night: A highlight of winter is our annual science night that brings together student scientists of all ages along with over 20 parent volunteers to help plan the evening, host demonstrations, organize poster presentations, set-up, clean-up and serve pizza. Fifth grade teacher Aly Lydon was instrumental in the event's content.

The Bishop Play: Our largest performance yet, Aladdin was a huge undertaking and it's a great example of the capacity and energy of our community. We had **194 student performers and tech crew members**, in two casts, supported by **164 parent volunteers**. The Bishop Play keeps tuition and ticket prices low, and provides a great experience for performers of all ages.

