



## What happened at the PTO meeting in March?

**This month's meeting was March 28<sup>th</sup> 2012, in the Bishop Library.  
All parents are PTO members and are welcome to attend PTO meetings.**

**Mark your Calendar \*\*\* Next PTO meeting May 2nd @ 7:00.  
Immediately AFTER the meeting, there will be a meeting to discuss plans for theater enrichment and a Bishop Play next year. Please plan to attend. (8:00-9:00)**

Mary Ellen Aronow and Brecky Peabody (PTO co-Presidents) began by welcoming everyone. Brecky is organizing a PTO steering committee to help guide review of bylaws and make recommendations for changes. Ideas currently under review are the modification of the treasurer's role to bring on a second treasurer to help share the duties, a parent survey, and plans for a year-end letter from the PTO. Brecky has developed a 'Event Coordinator post-survey' as a way to gather from people who help run events throughout the year and make it easier for those organizing the events for future years. The date for the next Steering Committee meeting is TBD. Please contact Brecky if you are interested in participating.

Fundraising events continue to go well this year, with \$510 from the Shop Wilson Farms day and a total of \$660 from the Stop and Shop rewards program, which recently ended for the year. Thank you to everyone who participated in this and the dine-out programs.

Volunteers are always needed and the PTO is considering assigning a 'volunteer coordinator', who will help organize all those who offer their help early and throughout the year. As much as possible, we will plan to use on-line sign up tools to help.

Catherine Hoffman (our PTO Treasurer) distributed the updated budget. Revenues are on-track, as are expenses. Thank you Catherine for all your help with this!

The ice-skating party has not been scheduled due to a problem getting a coordinator scheduling problems.

Enrichment: Alison Vaishnaw presented a brief update on Enrichment. In March, African Drumming was featured at an all-grade assembly. In April, there will be Tide Pool visits from NEAQ for Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade, Japan Day for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and Origamido enrichment visit for grades 3,4, and 5.

Mr. McAneny thanked the PTO again for the funds used to purchase projectors to support the document cameras that are now in every classroom. This has enhanced and upgraded t

tools teachers have at their disposal and they are using the technology to supplement their instruction in many ways.

April 11<sup>th</sup>, Kindergarten registration begins.

April 12<sup>th</sup> will be the Spring Concert for Parents

April 13<sup>th</sup> will be the Earth Day celebration at school, with an earth-conscious Den Meeting.

Looking ahead to next year, the administration is anticipating the same number of teachers at Bishop, with 5 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms again (including Thompson). Placement letters for next year's classes will go out in early July. The teachers will be soliciting parental input with a form that will go home.

First day of school will be September 7<sup>th</sup>.

Coming Up:

The Bishop Bear Fair will be on May 19<sup>th</sup> (rain date May 20<sup>th</sup>). Our excellent coordinating committee has lined up coordinators for all the events at the fair. An e-mail will be sent out soon to remind families to start collecting little items for the prize table, used goods for the used goods sale, and plants for the plant sale. If you are willing to help solicit donations for the silent auction, let Sarah Sontag know. Teachers will be donating 'experience' prizes, as well as some will be helping on the day of the Fair.

Art Night will be May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Coming up in April, and the week of Earth Day, Bishop will be having a Go-Green week, featuring the lunch-room (waste) challenge and playground cleanups. Contact Mary Ellen Aronow or Brecky Peabody for more details.

The meeting to discuss Bishop Drama/Enrichment that was originally scheduled for March 28<sup>th</sup> has been postponed to following the next PTO meeting, at 8:00 on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. All interested parents and community members are invited to come and consider plans for next year's theater/drama theme for Enrichment, plus discuss the future for a cooperative theater program at Bishop.