

March 8th 2011 Citywide PTO

- Fundraising burnout...how much PTO fundraising is too much? We discussed how parents feel about the constant fundraising done by some PTOs. Is PTO fundraising approached with specific goals in mind, or is spending simply expanded based on how much money is brought in? Should PTOs fund all school related "parties", or limit their support to school wide, community building activities? Should the focus of PTO fundraising be to support the educational mission of the school? Now that Melrose PTO Inc. is a registered non-profit, should PTOs be concerned about the legal implications of subsidizing activities that are not supported by our mission statement?
- Have all after school clubs at the elementary level been "folded into" the Education Station after school program? Parents who do not need after school care are concerned that clubs and activities that used to be offered to all students for a small fee are no longer available unless their child enrolls in after school care. Practices vary by school.
- After purchasing a science guided reading program for their teachers, the Winthrop PTO was informed that a district wide guided reading program was purchased. Were Winthrop school teachers involved in the selection of the district wide curriculum?
- The Rotary Club Exchange Program is looking for a family to host a Junior boy from India from March 20th to the end of

school. Anyone interested should contact Ainsley Donaldson at ainsleyd@aol.com or 781-665-5468.

- Some curriculum changes will be made at the High School to align with Race to the Top guidelines; for example, all students will need four years of math to graduate instead of three.
- Does the district keep data on students who leave Melrose, then come back? The guidance department does have data on this.
- The movie "Race to No Where" will be shown Friday, March 18th at 7:00PM at the Middle School. For more information, go to <http://www.melroseschools.com/mms/RacetoNoWhere18Mar11.cfm>
- The provocative documentary on public education "Waiting for Superman" is now available on DVD.
- The Third Annual Celebrate the Arts event will be held on Thursday, April 14, 2011 at the MVMMS.
- The next Citywide PTO meeting will be April 12th.