

November 10th, 2009 Citywide PTO Minutes

- We discussed the use of visual media in the classroom. How do we define what constitutes the appropriate use of movies and television shows as educational aides? How much input should parents have regarding what types of movies/TV shows a teacher can show students? How do we protect students from inappropriate material while simultaneously protecting teachers from censorship? Is recreational movie watching ever appropriate in our public schools? If so, how much, and under what circumstances? We concluded that this is an area where principals need to set the parameters; parents who have concerns regarding use/overuse of visual media should express their concerns to the principal.
- The school committee is soliciting feedback regarding possible changes in scheduling professional development days for teachers. Currently, days are spaced throughout the year, to give teachers the opportunity to use and evaluate new concepts and teaching strategies in the classroom. Many districts find it beneficial to schedule shorter sessions more frequently (early release days every week or two) What are the pros and cons of each method? Is it easier for working parents to schedule full days off, or more frequent half days? Does the existence of on-site aftercare make it any easier?
- How can schools ensure the safety of students who are unattended and using the playground during after school hours? Schools can emphasize to students and families that “school rules” for playground conduct still apply during after school hours.
- National Grid is running a rebate program which offers a \$50.00 rebate when you recycle your old refrigerator; you can donate your

rebate directly to your school. More information about this program can be found at www.coolturnin.com or by calling 1-877-545-4113.

- The Melrose Robotics team is sponsoring a Melrose Kitchen Tour on Sunday, November 15th, from 1-5. The Melrose Kitchen Tour is a self-guided driving tour of 10 of the most interesting kitchens in Melrose. Owners will be onsite to tell their kitchen stories – how they use their kitchens, what their renovation goals were (if renovated), challenges, solutions, and in retrospect, what works and what doesn't. Munchies provided by local Melrose eateries will be featured in each kitchen. Tickets are \$20.00. For more information, or to order tickets, go to http://melrosefirstrobotics.typepad.com/melrose_first_robotics/kitchens-of-melrose-tour-2009.html .
- Students Against Destructive Decisions (S.A.D.D.) will be holding a Toys for Tots Drive from November 30th to December 14th. Donations of toys can be dropped off in the MHS lobby.
- Cradles to Crayons Drive has partnered with several elementary schools to provide new and gently used children's essentials to children in need. There will also be a citywide drive on November 14th at the MVMMS, from 10:00AM to 1:00PM. For more information, go to www.cradlestocrayons.org , or contact Katherine O'Koniewski at 617-722-2220
- A Roosevelt School 5th grade fundraiser will be held on Thursday evening, November 19th at Grimsbys Restaurant . A portion of the proceeds from diners will go toward Roosevelt 5th grade activities.
- Horace Mann School will be holding their book fair on Thursday, November 19th.
- Have all PTO's changed their bylaws to reflect the fact that we are now a 501C3 organization? Language referring to "dues" should be changed to "contributions".

- The MVMMS will be presenting the musical “Annie” on Friday November 20th and Saturday November 21st at 7:30. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students and seniors.
- Roosevelt School has begun a successful program of recognizing excellence in students, staff, and parent volunteers. The program, “Roosevelt Rock Stars” features a different student, staff, and parent each month. While anyone can nominate parents or staff, only staff can nominate a student. The individuals are honored with a photo display and tribute in the school lobby.
- We discussed what types of funds belong in the revolving account. Picture money, Target contributions, Box Top money, etc. Is transparency a problem when money is put into the revolving account? Could the lack of specific information as to how much money is being raised affect contributions?