

The Melrose Veterans Memorial Middle School PTO News

"Knoll News is Good News", January 2010

Quarterly newsletter online under PTO @ www.melroseschools.com/mms

PTO Executive Board

President, Lisa Gentile, 781.662.1785, gentile54@msn.com,
Treasurer, Bonnie Kelley, 781.665.9007, bonkel3@yahoo.com

PTO SUPPORTS The First Annual Melrose Veterans Memorial Middle School "[Acts of Kindness Summit](#)" held on Monday-Friday, November 30, 2009 – December 4, 2009. This anti-bullying program focused on acts of kindness. The goals of the Summit were as follows: 1) To promote school-wide acts of kindness. 2) To hear stories of the positive impact of acts and kindness and the negative impact of bullying. 3) To highlight the importance of the following five personal qualities stressed at Melrose Veterans Memorial Middle School: honesty, responsibility, self-management, sociability, and self-esteem. There was a host of assemblies, skits, lessons, videos, guest speakers, projects, assignments, and other activities held throughout the school. [A-Okay Club](#). For more information contact Mrs. Warren at wwarren@melrose.mec.edu. Portion of this program was funded through PTO Contributions.

A TOUCHING letter from the "Choices Program at MVMMS" with Varis Blaus...

Hi -- I would like to say that today our students, with your help, brought much happiness into someone's life. There is a wonderful 82 year old woman named Deloras (Mary or Dee) T. who despite recent hardships, continues giving her time to others. About 5 years ago Dee's son, Gary, (a police officer) was murdered. She lost her husband, Joe, only a few short years ago. She currently lives with another son, Jerome, who she has been helping with issues of mental retardation throughout his 55 years. When Jerome goes to his workshop, Dee spends her time looking after a big house and cooking for friends, hungry strangers and church people. Sometimes she gets lonely and was thrilled to hear that our students wanted to have lunch with her and hear some stories. (They even politely listened to some life advice, which most kids I know struggle to do.)

I did not prep Dee in the least, but her number one suggestion for happiness was to work on selfishness. She went on to say that, when life is hard, we have a natural tendency to think of our own needs. If we can remind ourselves to think of others, our actions miraculously bring happiness to our lives. We had a great lunch at the Hometown Buffet in Medford and the students said that they had way more fun than they thought they would. I said, "See! Dee is right!"

On the last day before winter vacation, we did a practice run at Liberty Bell where our goal was to hold doors, let people go first in line and say something positive to as many people as we can. Our goals were met that day and it gave us the confidence to try our spectacular second trip!

Thanks for helping this great stuff come true and on the good Girl Scout advice. I hope your holidays went well, and I would like to welcome you to a brand new year. ---

Varis Blaus, Choices Program

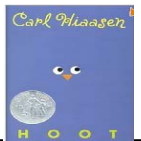
Funding provided from Popcorn Sales



Thank you so much for this great news! The books arrived just as school was ending yesterday. Students who saw the books were excited! I explained to my Literature class that the PTO had made this possible, and how important the PTO is to the overall well-being of MVMMS. I cannot imagine how we would manage without the generous giving of parents--not only financially, but in time and talent as well. I hope all your members realize the great contribution they make to the lives of the students, faculty, and staff here at Melrose Veterans Memorial Middle School. Thank you!

Bert Whittier,
6C Team Leader

Funding provided from Popcorn Sales



Peer Power: From Bystanders to Allies

MAAV was proud to participate in the Melrose Veteran Memorial Middle School's first-ever "[Acts of Kindness Summit](#)," a week-long series of presentations designed to prevent bullying and promote respect. MAAV Director Rebecca Mooney showed a [PSA from Sweden](#) and helped students brainstorm strategies for bystanders to become allies, such as distracting the bully, speaking up, telling a trusted adult, or befriending the target. MAAV Training Specialist Alice Wadley and members of the [Student Action Board](#) helped lead the assembly, with several students sharing personal stories of bullying where bystanders made a difference. [Click here](#) to learn more about MAAV's approach to bullying prevention. [Contact us](#) for more information about bullying prevention trainings for students, staff and parents.

SIGN UP FOR MVMMS E-NEWS EMAIL ALERTS/REMINDERS

There will be no text in the body of the email – just a reminder of an upcoming event posted in the subject line (extensive information will also be posted on the website). Please ask your child to bring this slip into homeroom to be signed up immediately!

NAME

GRADE(S)

EMAIL ADDRESS(S)

LIBRARY NEWS: The Bookfair was a success, raising just over \$1,000 in cash and an additional \$250 in books. Students and staff enjoyed browsing books and having a short break from the routine of the day. Thanks to all the parents who volunteered their time and good humor.

The Melrose Alliance Against Violence (MAAV), in partnership with MVMMS Health educator Jean Keefe, has recently completed the Healthy Relationships program in the 8th grade Health classes. This 6-session program teaches students the warning signs of abuse and the ingredients of a healthy relationship. For more information go to www.maav.org

Melrose Anonymous Tip Line

781-665-TIPS

Confidential. No caller ID.
Call 911 for Emergencies.

Sponsored by the City of Melrose Police Department and the Melrose Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition



PLEASE HELP PROMOTE THE MELROSE TIP LINE!

- Be specific. No information is too small or unimportant
- Date and time of the incident
- Exact address of the incident
- Describe the people involved: Height, weight, hair color, skin color, distinguishing marks, names if known, whereabouts if known, weapons if involved
- Describe the vehicles involved: Make, model, color, license plate
- Patterns of suspicious or criminal activity

Tips have contributed to at least 4 important arrests. The more we talk it up, the more the line lights up ... Please help by spreading the word!!
HAVE A TIP ON Substance Abuse -- call 665-TIPS
 Kara Showers, MPH, CHES
 Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator
 City of Melrose Health Department
 562 Main Street
 Melrose, MA 02176
 Tel: (781) 979-4128
 Fax: (781) 979-7696
 Email: kshowers@cityofmelrose.org
 Web: www.cityofmelrose.org/departments/health/SubstanceAbuse.htm

Library - \$500.00	2009/2010 GOAL
Mini Grants - \$3250	800 FAMILIES
SUMMIT - \$1000	@ \$25.00 DUES
ENRICHMENT - \$4,000	= \$20,000.00

Contributions	2009/2010
Grants	PTO
Popcorn	ECCO FUNDRAISER
Box Tops	\$67
Campbell's	BOX TOPS
	\$1297.60
	POPCORN TO DATE
	\$1467.00
	FALL SPORTSWEAR
	\$304.00
	\$7380

PTO CONTRIBUTIONS TO DATE

Did you know you can pay contributions all year long. They are also tax deductible in the year you pay them.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.



The Middle School Drama Club will be presenting Agatha Christie's "And Then There Were None" on Friday, March 5, at 7pm and on Saturday, March 6, at 5pm. General admission will be \$5 for all. The middle school drama club will be presenting "Little Women" on Friday, April 30, at 5pm and 7pm and on Saturday, May 1, at 1pm, 3pm and 5pm. General admission will be \$5 for all. The cast of "Little Women" will also be competing in the Middle School Drama Festival on May 8.

The Coalition's Youth Action Team would like to continue to promote its [Melrose Draws the Line](#) campaign. Modeled after a successful campaign in Wyoming, Melrose teens created an interactive Web site, in addition to traditional advertising pieces, such as street signs, banners, wallet cards, decals and posters. On the web, you can post your story anonymously, view upcoming events, and access resources. This campaign will hopefully compel parents, youth, and others discuss to examine their actions and ways they can prevent underage drinking and other drug use.
 If you have a list of upcoming events or a link to your calendar, please email myself, our Youth Advisor [Charlie Ciccone](#), Teen Leader [Joe Singer](#), or Teen Leader [Natalie Emerson](#).

Working together....PTO dues

The PTO depends on your support via dues participation to provide many exciting programs and to purchase equipment that enhances each and every one of our middle school students. PTO dues are \$25.00 per year, per family. **Anything additional is considered a donation for which we are most appreciative.**

Name: _____ Grade/Team _____ \$5 _____ \$10 _____ \$20 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ Other \$ _____

Make checks payable to MVMMS PTO

Please mail check and this slip to Melrose Veterans Memorial Middle School, 350 Lynn Fells Parkway, Melrose, MA 02176 **or** ask your child to bring it in to homeroom. Thank you very much!

GREAT THINGS ARE POPPING...

As of December 10, Enrichment popcorn sales has grossed \$1467. Twenty eight parent volunteers, working in groups of three, sell freshly popped popcorn at all three lunches each Thursday in the cafeteria. The price, \$1 per bag, has not changed since popcorn sales began in 2001. The last two years have seen the greatest number of volunteers. The money earned, after expenses (which includes popcorn and bags) provides the teachers and students with tangible materials and occasionally programs to augment the curriculum. The teachers apply for the funding of their materials/programs and the Enrichment committee reviews the applications and determines if the request can be granted.

Our Popcorn Sales have supported the following: "Poisoned Waters" DVD for Health and Wellness classes; Materials to build Electronic Lie Detectors--Tech Ed. Classes; DVD's used in Health classes: Amazing Changes Inside and Out: Puberty for Boys, Puberty for Girls: Healthy Habits - Teen Hygiene; OTC Drugs and Inhalants; Tobacco-The Truth Behind the Smokescreen: Health Curriculum DVDs: Publications of Hoot. If you would like a more detailed list of what your contributions support, please check out the PTO Web site

Enrichment at MVMMS – Through your contributions, we are able to support all grades at MVMMS Museum of Science presentation Weather, Wind, Water, Temperature Geography--Antarctica presentation Raven, Inc. Holocaust Survivor presentation



Box Tops 4 Education – IT'S TIME FOR A NEW COLLECTION!!

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CHILD SEND IN BOX TOPS THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 8-12 TO ALL HOME ROOMS.

Welcome to the newest way to earn from box tops!

My Class Essentials is a free teacher registry that allows K-8 teachers to create a list of all the supplies their classroom needs, similar to a bridal registry. **CONTACT JILL BROGAN AT [JILLBRO123@GMAIL.COM](mailto:jillbro123@gmail.com)**

How it works: <http://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/classessentials/Default.aspx>

Teachers create a registry of supplies the class needs.

Parents, friends and supporters buy supplies on the registry-or make a cash donation.

Classes get the supplies and the school gets a 2% donation on all purchases.

TOTAL EARNINGS TO DATE

\$1,297.10



+



= **\$304.00**

FALL SPORTSWEAR SALE PROCEEDS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

M is for March and Melrose! Keep a look out for the sportswear sale coming this March! Check backpacks and the Web site for order forms! Contact debwalz@comcast.net for more info!

Campbell's Labels for America offers the opportunity for your school to earn 500 bonus points when you complete a project or program that promotes learning, caring and sharing in the community. MVMMS PTO just received 500 bonus points

CURRENT BANK BALANCE AS OF 1/15/2010 = 550

Email Patricia Nunley at pattisplace@yahoo.com



REMEMBER!

Click on [Principal's](#) Web site for day-to-day happenings at [MVMMS](#).

**Come to a PTO meeting,
all are welcome!**

Wednesday evenings – 7:00- 8:30PM

Jan 20 Feb 10

Mar 17 Apr 14

May 19

Jun 16 - to plan for the work of 2010/2011
Meetings held in community room on 1st floor.

Upcoming Events in February:

- Roller World Skating Night - February Vacation Week -- (check PTO Web site after January 22, for more info)
- Box Tops 1st collection Prize to be distributed to winning teams

Upcoming Events in March:

- Community Movie Night at MVMMSI (check PTO website after February 1, for more info)

Upcoming Events in April:

- Parent Shopping Night

The MVMMS PTO NEEDS YOUR HELP! – Please take a moment to review the positions that need to be filled – We are fortunate to have these wonderful people on our Committees this year and in years past – they have put a lot of hard work into making things happen at the Middle School for our children. Nominating Committee papers will be sent in the next newsletter. If you know someone you would like to nominate and can step in to help, please email Lisa Gentile at gentile54@msn.com. We need to keep our PTO active. Thank you!

HELP WANTED

PTO Volunteer Opportunities 2009-2010: There are many opportunities to volunteer at MVMMS this year and next. If you would like to help on a committee, please contact the committee chair and the PTO President. Whether you can commit an hour, be put on a call list or email list, we are flexible. We can use your support.

***President or Co-President:** Share responsibilities with president or co-president to preside at meetings of the organization and of the executive committees; Coordinate the work of the officers, committees of the organization, and the organization as a whole in order that the objectives may be accomplished; be a co-signer on the account; be the liaison between staff, families and PTO. Lisa Gentile gentile54@msn.com (looking for members for 2010/2011)

***Recording Secretary:** working directly with the committees on compiling, organizing and sharing meeting minutes and agendas.

***Enrichment Committee chairperson and **members** - Responsible for bringing enrichment programs and assemblies to MVMMS to enhance the academic and social environment. vpasciuto@comcast.net (looking for members for 2010/2011)

***Popcorn Sales Committee chairperson and **members** - Works closely with the Enrichment Committee Chair; assist with the making and selling of popcorn on Thursdays throughout the school year. Contact Gina Pasciuto, Popcorn vpasciuto@comcast.net (looking for members for 2010/2011)

Mini-Grants Committee chairperson and **members - Members are responsible for awarding grants to the MVMMS faculty throughout the year after reading mini-grant proposals. Grant writers are always welcome. Edith Ackerman edith_Ackerman@yahoo.com; Christine Zarzour zarzour@verizon.net

****Authors-in-Residence Committee liaisons (formerly Writers' Week)** - Looking for 1 committee member per grade level to act as a liaison between teachers, principal and authors. This program is funded through the MVMMS Magazine Drive and will focus on the writing aspect of people's jobs (past guests have included authors, journalists, poets, and city employees). Christine Zarzour zarzour@verizon.net (Grade 6 & 8). Lisa Gentile gentile54@msn.com (Grade 7).

***Ways and Means Committee chairperson and **members** - Members are responsible for communicating with school Principal to organize and executing fund raising and social events. Deb Walz (Sportswear Sale) debwalz@comcast.net (looking for members for 2010/2011)

Newsletter Communications chairperson - Member is responsible for communicating with each committee chair or co-chair to produce updated and upcoming events information for Knoll News. Contact: Kristin Bolton, krisbolton@comcast.net

Newsletter **members - Members are responsible for compilation and distribution of the MVMMS PTO "Knoll News" Newsletter that is published three or four times a year. Commitment can only be as much as an hour of your time. Chairperson contact: Kristin Bolton, krisbolton@comcast.net or Lisa Gentile, gentile54@msn.com

Box Tops for Education chairperson and **members - Responsible for collecting, cutting and mailing to Company and maintaining website resources (can be done from home). Jill Brogan, JillBro123@gmail.com.

Campbell's Labels for Education and ** members - Responsible for collecting, cutting and mailing to Company and maintaining website resources (can be done from home). Patti Nunley, pattisplace@yahoo.com

****TerraCycle Committee **members-** Responsible for organizing and collecting recyclables, mailing to Company and maintaining website resources (can be done from home)

KEY

* Committee Chair Positions to be filled for the 2010/2011 school year.

**Need committee members to help chairperson out with responsibilities throughout the year. (Time commitment can be flexible.)

If you have any questions and/or you would like to volunteer for a committee, please contact Chairperson listed or Lisa Gentile at gentile54@msn.com

Introducing Take 1! If you can give 1 hour of your time to the PTO and/or the school as a volunteer, you receive a star. In turn, your collection of stars will be put in to a drawing to receive a gift certificate at the end of the month. The more stars you receive, the better chances you have. Stars can accumulate, so you can receive more than one gift certificate throughout the year. **NOTE: The gift certificates will not be purchased with PTO contributions. NOTE: Hours of service are taken from black book in office.**



SAVE THE DATE: The Annual Bridge Trivia Bee Fundraiser will be held on **Saturday, March 27**. MVMMS PTO is looking to recruit a team to represent the school. **CONTACT EMILY RUBENSTEIN AT ERUBENSTEIN@MELROSE.MEC.EDU FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.**