



February 13, 2009

2008-2009 School Year, No. 6

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Kristen Ruiz

The weather really has had all of us fooled lately. One week it is bitter cold and snowing and the next week the weather is showing promising signs of spring. It is very confusing and we never know how we should dress our children.

As everyone knows, the economy has not been doing well and it is affecting all aspects of our lives. The PTO is not immune to the effects of the economy. We are definitely taking a look at our budget and cutting back on our spending. Our fundraisers have not netted the PTO as much money as we had hoped for. When we have a fundraiser, whatever we net we take half of the profits and we give the other half to the school. This year we have raised about \$13,000, which is below our goal of \$20,000 (\$10,000 for the school and \$10,000 for the PTO). I am not writing this letter to ask for more money, but I wanted the families and the staff to know what the PTO's state of the economy is. We are very happy for everyone's generosity when it comes to fundraising. We still remain a school with great families and parents that give very generously, but we realize that it is difficult for families to give in times like these.

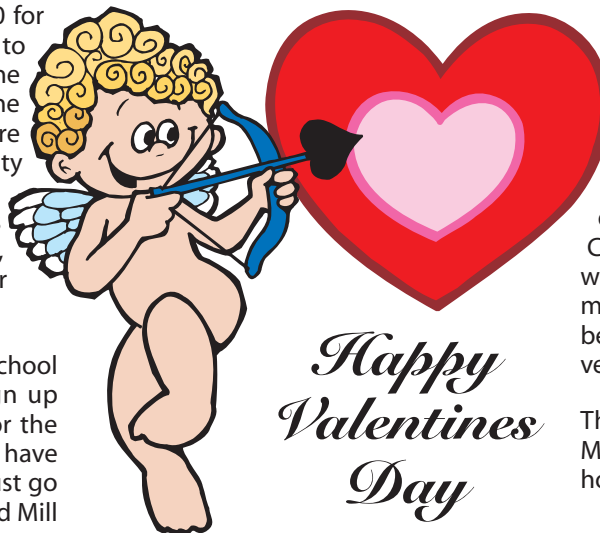
There are ways to give back to the school without giving money. Please sign up for the Giant A Plus bonus bucks or the scrip program at Safeway. All you have to do is buy groceries. To sign up, just go to their websites and designate Bond Mill

as your school. Keep collecting box tops and Campbell's soup labels. The school receives money for all of those labels that we send to the school. Recycling is also a big way that we can raise money for the PTO. All you have to do is bring your paper recycling and put it in the dumpster. If the dumpster is full, let the office know. You can also bring in old cell phones and toner cartridges and place them in the box behind the showcases. Also, if you order things on-line you can order them through the Box Tops portal (www.boxtops4education.com) and the school will receive credit. There are many other places where you can give the school credit, such as Target, Land's End, Coke Rewards, etc. These are small things but every bit helps.

On that note, we will only do one more fundraiser this year. We will hold our 2nd annual Revved up for Reading program. Look for more information coming home soon in the Friday folders.

Please keep the date of May 16th for the Bond Mill Carnival. It is a day of great fun. However, it takes many volunteers to pull off this wonderful tradition for our Bond Mill students. Please contact Linda Landau or Mary Lehman if you would like to volunteer.

Also, save the date of March 14th at 7pm for the Bond Mill Drama Club's production of "The Nifty Fifties." The children have worked extremely hard and you will be amazed at their skill. So come out and support our students.



I would like to give a huge THANK YOU to Jennifer and Rick Hinkle for their hard work chairing the Write a Book Committee. All of the books have been judged. Congratulations to the students whose books are moving on to the County competition and to all students who participated. It is a huge accomplishment just to create a bound book. It will be something that the students should be very proud of.

The next PTO meeting will be held on March 19th at 6pm in the media center. We hope to see all of you there.

- Kristen

PTO EXECUTIVE BOARD — 2008-2009

President	Kristen Ruiz.....	(301) 725-5850	murphruiz@pmkinc.com
Vice President.....	Howard Rosenberg.....	(301) 776-4228	hmrkr@comcast.net
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Newsletter	Chip Gribben	(301) 490-0657	futurev@radix.net
Staff Members.....	Mr. FitzGerald, Dr. Belton, Mrs. Fisher, Ms. Jacobs, Mrs. Oakes and Mrs. Kennedy		

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RECYCLING NEWS

Printer Cartridges/Cell Phones


We are collecting empty printer cartridges and used cell phones as an ongoing fundraiser. Through the FundingFactory Recycling Program, we can earn new technology, classroom tools, playground equipment and more just by recycling printer cartridges and cell phones. Please save cartridges from your home printer and send those along with your used cell phones to the school with your child.

If you work for a business that is using laser or inkjet printer cartridges or cell phones, please inquire as to what is done with those items once they are used. Our school would love to have your employer as a business supporter. FundingFactory offers FREE prepaid shipping labels to all businesses that collect cartridges and cell phones on our behalf. If you think that your employer might be interested in participating, please contact Cindy Dollen at ces625@hotmail.com or 301-325-0810.

Paper/Cardboard

Thanks for your continued participation in our mixed paper and cardboard recycling program. We fill up our bin faster than any other schools in the area. We are working with Georgetown Paper to ensure that the bin is emptied regularly so that you can continue to fill it up! Please be sure to break down any cardboard boxes that you contribute to leave more room for other paper and cardboard. I am checking the bin weekly; if you find it full, please call Cindy at 301-325-0810.

Metal Recycling

Would you be interested in participating in a metal recycling program to benefit the PTO? Please send your comments and suggestions to Cindy at the address above. 

CORRECTIONS

Corrections to Committee Chair Listings in PTO Directory

Kim Jones is the chair of the Box Tops and Campbell's Soup Labels. Carolyn Vincent is the chair of the Website committee.

PTO CALENDAR

Schools Closed	Feb 16
Black History Program	Feb 19
Drama Club "Nifty Fifties"	Mar 14
PTO Meeting	Mar 19
Spring Carnival	May 16

PLAYGROUND

RENOVATION UPDATE

We're excited about the current planning in progress for a new play space at Bond Mill! The Play Space Committee has researched many companies and equipment vendors to determine the best approach to building a new playground. The committee will be working with "Learning Structures Community Built Playgrounds." If you would like to know more about the company, you can visit the website, www.learningstructures.com. We hope that parents, students, teachers, and everyone will join us in supporting the planning and building efforts so that in the near future we can enjoy a safer, more fun recreational and educational space for our kids and community! Currently, we're looking for some additional volunteers to help with public relations and/or fundraising. If interested, please contact one of the committee chairs, Dawn Bell or Stephanie Brown at 301-725-3407 or 301-266-7949. Soon we will have a planning day with the company. Look for e-mails and flyer updates on the current happenings of the Bond Mill Play Space project! 

PTO DIRECTORY

UPDATES

We have two additions to the directory. Please update your directories with the following information:

Kuria, Joy K Pergerson
Rose Kuria
15810 Kerr Road
301-498-9912
rose.kangethe@marriott.com
Raymond Kuria

Moody, Derrick 1 Mosier
Moody, Danielle K Hyder
15515 Straughn Drive
301-483-6033

COMMITTEE CORNER


Yearbook Committee

Do you have a creative side that is just waiting to be expressed? Do you like to take pictures? If so, the Yearbook Committee is looking for someone like you!!! The committee is in need of members as well as someone interested in chairing the yearbook for the 2009/10 school year! The yearbook is designed and produced via a Lifetouch online web based application. Interested volunteers also would need to be computer savvy, have a large storage device, and reliable internet access. The current chair, Amanda Berard, will help the new person(s), although will not be able to take a planning or leadership role. For more detailed information about the Yearbook Committee, please call Amanda Berard at 301-659-0075.

PTO Bylaws Committee Formation

A committee is forming to review and update the Bond Mill PTO Bylaws. Here's your chance to provide input on how the PTO will function in the coming years! Last year when Bond Mill switched from being a nationally- and state-associated PTA (parent-teacher association) to a local PTO (parent teacher organization), it had to develop new bylaws. The new bylaws were written last summer and included basic language to meet non-profit organization requirements. We'd like to get a committee of 6 volunteers together to review and augment the current bylaws. We're interested in reviewing what currently is working well or not working well and including or modifying, respectively, this information in the bylaws. If you would like to volunteer and have time to meet 2-3 times in the next month or so for about an hour, please contact Dawn Bell at coronadobell@verizon.net or 301-725-3407.

Hospitality Committee

The Hospitality Committee would like to thank all of the families who provided food for the February 10th staff luncheon. The staff look forward to this date each month. The next luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, March 10th. 

MARCH PTO MEETING

March 19, 6:00 pm at Bond Mill.