

Voorheesville PTA 2008-2009 Year end review

The Voorheesville PTA is proud of our accomplishments this year; please take a look at all we've done!

We also want to sincerely thank all the volunteers... room parents, chairpeople, volunteers at events, boxtop and soup label cutters... every person who helped out in big and small ways throughout the year... we couldn't have done all this without you!

A special thank you to those who are active in PTA, helping us make decisions, run programs, and especially to the officers who coordinate and facilitate it all.

Here's what you helped us do...

PTA 2008-2009 YEAR IN REVIEW

Bike Ride for Missing and Exploited Children- group of volunteers made 120 egg sandwiches for the bike riders. (We'll be doing it again 9/25/09 if you want to help!)

Elementary Stage Project- Thanks to a grant from the Community Fund for the Greater Capital District's Standish Family Fund and oversight by PTA, we donated sorely needed new stage curtains for the elementary school. We also contributed toward the purchase of new spotlights for the stage.

Gazebo- Thanks to donations made to honor Mr. Diegel when he retired, the PTA purchased the gazebo and we plan to dedicate the gazebo on Field Day.

Garden Project- We provided \$3000 to the Garden project at the elementary school. We also provided organizational support to the group.

Parent-teacher survey- Conducted a survey to determine needs/interests of the school community. Results from this survey were reviewed at a meeting, will be posted on the web, and will be referred to as decisions are made throughout next year.

Cultivating Readers Pamphlets- We donated pamphlets about beginning reading and writing to parents of incoming kindergartners at the time of screening.

Budget presentation and Question/Answer session- We hosted the Superintendent Dr. Raymond Colucciello and Business Administrator Sarita Winchell for a presentation and question and answer session about the budget.

Superintendent, Elementary, Middle School Principal searches- We participated in all three searches, providing volunteers to screen and interview candidates.

Readathon- We co-hosted the second annual Readathon with New Scotland Kiwanis and raised \$576 for First Book to give books to kids who have few if any of their own.

Superintendent Reception- We welcomed our new superintendent with a lovely reception to help us begin to get acquainted.

Annual programs and activities

- 5th grade Activity Nights- Held several nights of music and fun for the 5th graders throughout the year.
- Odyssey of the Mind- Over 100 kids participated, and two teams went to states and one to Worlds! We organized the teams, supported the coaches, and provided a workshop and dress rehearsal for the teams to prepare for tournament.
- Chess Club- Chess Club graduated to the middle school this year, and the elementary club stayed strong.
- Fun Fest- Games of skill and chance... and lots of fun had by all!

- HS BBQ- We made the first day of school sweet by giving out ice cream to all the middle/high school students.
- Box Tops and Soup Labels: We received over \$700 from the BoxTops for Education program. The recess aides were able to purchase many outdoor and indoor recess items with this money, including skip-its, jump ropes, puzzles, and more. The kids have truly been enjoying those items. We recently tallied up our points from the Campbell's soup label program as well, and Mr. Diegel was able to order several microscopes for the Science Lab, along with some supplies for the art room.
- Book Fairs- Lots of books in the hands of our readers, and lots of excitement to read
- Science Fair- Over 140 kids participated, and great visiting scientists asking questions and rewarding them for their efforts.
- Room Parents- We organized and supported room parents for every classroom teacher.
- School Banking- Tuesday is Saving Day... lots of money set aside for the future!
- Spirit Merchandise- Water bottles and fleece vests were added to the line this year to help you show your school spirit.
- Scholarships- 10 scholarships of \$500 each will be handed out in June to community-minded members of the senior class. Those scholarships are to be matched by colleges, bringing those to \$1000 benefits to the kids.
- Staff Luncheons- A truly relaxing lunch with a full compliment of our favorite dishes and most of all, a show of our appreciation.
- PARP- A month filled with many nights of reading with a parent... quality time together!
- Elementary school yearbook- It has just arrived... and in color!!
- Retirement recognition- We hosted a reception for retirees to thank them for their service to the district and provided each with a retirement gift.
- Art fundraiser- We did our first ever art fundraiser and got lots of positive feedback while enjoying seeing all the kids' art.

PTA Sponsorship

Humanities Programs: We gave almost \$7000 (over \$2,000 to each of the three schools: elem, middle, and high) for humanities programs. Many theater and arts programs are brought to the schools with this money. This year, the Melody of Dragon Traditional Chinese Music concert program (HS), Catskill Puppet Theater's presentation of Willow girl (ES), Jeannine Laverty's storytelling residency (ES), and Shakespeare and Company's production of Romeo and Juliet (HS) were all made possible through this program.

Character Education: We help each school provide recognition and encouragement to students for demonstrating the qualities we hope they all acquire as they develop (e.g., honesty, trustworthiness, caring for others, civic mindedness, moral behavior).

Want to get involved? We have positions open (e.g., Secretary, Fun Fest chair, volunteers for committees). Contact Jen Hampston at jenhampston@yahoo.com or 765-3112 for more information.

**These and many more projects
were possible due to your involvement and support.**

Thank you!!!