

# ***WINTERHAVEN PTSA BIMONTHLY – SEPT 14, 2016***

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**Get added to the PTSA Email list:** [admin@winterhavenschool.org](mailto:admin@winterhavenschool.org)

## ***PTSA SUPPORTED EVENTS & DATES***

- Monday Sept 19 – PTSA community meeting, featuring description of Science program & Fair – 6:30p
- Wednesday Sept 21 – Last day to donate clothing for the PPS Clothing Closet
- Thursday Sept 22 – PPS Clothing Closet Volunteering
- Friday, Sept 30 – Native Gardening event, North side of school – 6 pm to 8 pm
- October 13 – Fall Frolic Event on Winterhaven grounds 6pm

## ***FROM THE PRESIDENT***

Welcome back to school - the year is off to a great start! I hope you and your kids are settling into the post-Summer break routine. I want to highlight the PTSA Community Meeting scheduled for next Monday, the 19<sup>th</sup>. In addition to some updates from Mr. Sandilands and a chance to hear about PTSA initiatives and to meet and socialize with other parents, we are fortunate to have Mr. Dyer, our middle school science teacher, and Ms. Sexton, or new 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher join us to give an overview of Winterhaven’s accelerated k-8 science program and to help parents and students prepare for the annual Science Fair.

I am very excited about our technology changes (see below) that will make it easy for all of us to stay connected without our inboxes overflowing. I want to offer another huge thank you to Rebekah Folsom for creating the fantastic new website and setting up our upcoming directory, and to Tam Boleyn for her tireless work to set up and transition the email list. Please give them your own kudos when you see them around the school.

We are still in need of an assistant to the Treasurer, a new non-elected position, offering a chance to learn both about PTSA board activities and pick up (or maintain) some accounting related experience. And finally we are super excited about having room parents, and hope to find some of you interested. Please contact Alan Scott, Board President, at [alanscott3604@gmail.com](mailto:alanscott3604@gmail.com) for more information.

## ***TECHNOLOGY CHANGES***

Confused? Join the club. This year is full of all kinds of technology changes, and we are so grateful for your patience as the PTSA figures out how to make the new Google website and email lists work. Additionally, some new or updated technology is administered by the school or by the district. We (the PTSA) try to stay in the loop, but because we aren’t tied directly to school or district tech policies, we don’t always have the answers. On another note: THANK YOU SO MUCH for the many kind words of support and patience we’ve received from parents during this transition. Here’s are a few answers to some of the most frequent questions we’ve received:

### **You@Winterhavenschool.org - Google ID**

PTSA email lists are now managed by Google email / Google Groups. At the start of the school year, each parent was given a unique domain ID and a password ([firstname.lastname@winterhavenschool.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@winterhavenschool.org)). This was required in order to make the email lists work, but in most cases, email should automatically forward to

your provided personal email account (there are a few exceptions – please email [admin@winterhavenschool.org](mailto:admin@winterhavenschool.org) if forwarding doesn't seem to be working). A few parents aren't in the system, but if you submitted a PTSA Communication Permission form at the start of the year, you should be set up at this point. Our plan for this email address is to use it as a domain login to protect certain personally identifying information on the [Winterhaven PTSA website](#).

### **PTSA email lists**

The PTSA provides a per-grade email list so that parents can easily stay connected with each other and with what is happening in their child's classroom. Teachers can request to be on this list, but they typically are not; they email you separately. There is also an all-school email list for parents and the PTSA to discuss events that affect families across multiple grades. There is a general agreement that we use this list sparingly and that using Reply All is discourteous. This is not the email list that the office or the district uses. Parents are added to or removed from this list by filling out the PTSA Communication Permission form that was in the Welcome packet at the beginning of the year, using the unsubscribe links at the bottom of any received classroom or all-school email, or by emailing [admin@winterhavenschool.org](mailto:admin@winterhavenschool.org).

### **Winterhaven PTSA website**

This is a great way to keep up on school happenings and find out current school information – from classroom links to events to hot topics. Since it might eventually contain student-related information or even our school directory, our goal is to make that portion of it password protected using your [You@Winterhavenschool.org](mailto:You@Winterhavenschool.org) Google ID (see above) and password.

### **Classroom.google.com**

This is used and managed by teachers to track homework (most kids have their own login), and is completely separate from the PTSA Google initiatives.

### **ParentVue / Synergy**

Middle school teachers use Synergy to track homework, assignments and grades. The school and the district also use Synergy / ParentVue to track all student attendance.

### **Winterhaven Weekly newsletter**

Emailed from the Winterhaven administration (Mark Sandilands, principal, and Nancy Cooper, principal's secretary). Typically emailed on Thursday afternoons.

### **PTSA Bimonthly Bulletin**

If you read one thing from the PTSA this is it. It is a recap of all of our initiatives and happenings. We try to get it out every couple of weeks. Watch for it in your email box (as long as you are on the email lists!) We also post a few paper copies in the hallway on main bulletin board for those who need them.

### **Winterhaven PPS web page**

The official Portland Public Schools link about Winterhaven. [www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/winterhaven/](http://www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/winterhaven/)

## *INITIATIVES & ANNOUNCEMENTS*

**Science Fair 101 - for Winterhaven Parents!** What does Winterhaven differently do to focus on science? How can you support your kids who struggle or excel with science?? Our Science Fair starts at Kindergarten and continues all the way through. What should your child be getting out of it at different ages and how much should help them? Come hear what teachers Mr. Dyer and Ms. Sexton have to say at the next PTSA community meeting and also view examples of each grade level science boards. **Monday September 19, 6:30** Winterhaven auditorium.

**Clothing Drive** - Please bring in your bagged, gently used - kids clothes and leave them in the plastic bins in

the front hallway, Sep 12-21. Clothes will be donated to the PPS PTA Clothing Closet. The Mission of the PTSA Clothing Center is to furnish age appropriate clothing that fits children requesting these services. By caring for the basic needs of our youth and allowing them to dress as their peers, we are encouraging positive self-esteem, academic success and regular class attendance

**Cultural Exposures** - Kids adapt to the world around them if they learn about cultures that are different from their own. What ideas do you have to help expand the cultural curiosity quotient of your kids and how would you like to be involved? Maybe a day of making sugar skulls for Dia de los Muertos? Or a parade around the school celebrating the Hindu festival, Dussehra? How about a tasting table of foods around the world? Or a Know Your City guided tour around the school/Brooklyn neighborhood? Contact marisha.childs@gmail.com for more information.

**Chinook books** - Chinook books are here again and they are an important part of the PTSA's fundraising efforts and a great investment. Half of the cost goes directly to support our kids and their teachers, by using just a few coupons at local businesses you likely already patronize, you can recoup the full cost of the book, and then you can use the rest of the book to discover and enjoy new experiences while supporting local businesses and organizations. The books pay for themselves and it is a win-win! How cool is that? Books (\$22), Apps (\$15), and combo packs (a book and an app for \$30 - it's the best deal!). To purchase, contact Nicole Cordan at Rcordan@pewtrusts.org.

**Garden Work Party** - Stick around after school with your kiddos on Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup> for a work party in the native garden on the north side of the school. Bring your garden gloves and tools for this fun and social event.

## ***HOW YOU CAN HELP - OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED***

Find our volunteer sign up page at <http://www.winterhavenschool.org/volunteer>, or email [volunteer@winterhavenschool.org](mailto:volunteer@winterhavenschool.org) for more info:

- **Community Service/Clothing Drive** - PPS Clothing Closet at Marshall High School: Thursday, September 22nd from 9:30 - 1:00 pm. If you can help at the Clothing Closet on this day, it is always much appreciated and HUGELY rewarding! For many kids this is their only chance to get new clothes for the school year. Contact Rebekah (rsatz@yahoo.com) or Kristin (kristinwdoherty@yahoo.com) for more info.
- **Fall Frolic**: Save the date Thursday, October 13th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Winterhaven. This is a school-wide, parent-run even that the kids really look forward to and it won't be possible without your help! We will be sending out a link to an online sign up so that we can divide the work up into manageable shifts that won't keep you from joining in on the fun.
- **Teacher Appreciation**: Meals for the teachers during Parent-Teacher Conferences. Our teachers go from sun up to sun down during conferences. We set up meals to be brought in to help them refuel on the fly. We will be sending out a sign up for families to bring in a portion of these meals. Contact [volunteer@winterhavenschool.org](mailto:volunteer@winterhavenschool.org) for more info.
- **Room Parent Coordinators**: This is a fun way to be involved in your child's class, a much needed service to the teachers, a way to get to know fellow families, and part of improving communications among parents. Please consider participating in this role (or sharing it with a friend or two). Email Rebekah Folsom, Community Service Chair (rsatz@yahoo.com) to sign up or for more info!
- **Lost and Found**: *Who?* Brave Lunch pail Wrangler. *When?* 5-10 minutes /1 day a week. (If you are looking for a way to pitch in, but short on time – this is for you). *What?* Hang up missing coats, Rinse abandoned Tupperware before it gets gross, and organize shelves. Contact Rebekah (rsatz@yahoo.com) or just swing by and pitch in (supplies
- **Electives**: All year long, your kids look forward to a few parent / community led special interest classes held on Fridays (mornings for middle schoolers, afternoons for elementary). These have

been huge successes over the years and have been as diverse as Holiday paper crafts (gorgeous wreaths made from old sheet music, for example), Hunger Games (fight to the end!) blindness awareness by our wonderful Bobi Earp, music, circus acts, DIY chair upcycling, pottery, magic, theater, comedy, coding, Google Earth. If you have a skill you want to share with a small group of kids once a week for 4-5 weeks this year, the school and the kids would be delighted and your talents are both needed and welcome!

Session 2: 10/28, 11/18, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16; Session 3: 1/13, 1/20, 2/3, 2/10, 2/17; Session 4: 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24; Session 5 (MS only): 4/28, 5/5, 5/12, 5/19, 5/26

Please shoot any one of us a note with your interest as a teacher, assistant, or if you know of a person in your family or community who would be a great fit. (We would love to get Red Cross certification for middle schoolers and Ms. Dixon would love to have someone engineer her a mister to cool off runners during Mac Attack – there are so many great ideas, we just need parents to take charge of them!) --, Erin Taylor (erinlynett.taylor@gmail.com), Barb Fisher (barb@fisherbusiness.net) & (rsatz@yahoo.com).

## *ACCOMPLISHMENTS & UPDATES*

**PTSA funds to support teacher wish lists:** Over the summer the PTSA met and made a final budget allocation to support the school. Thanks to all of you we were able to complete the remaining items on last years teacher wish lists, add computers to the school, and even start working on adding a kiln!

**Community Care Day:** Many thanks to all the kids, parents and staff who turned out for Community Care Day before classes started in August. We had a great turnout and were about to spruce up the front and side yards of the school. Many hands made a big difference. A special thank you to Nicole Cordon and William Thompson for planning, organizing and directly the successful event.

## *DRAFT MINUTES FROM LAST PTSA MEETING*

Winterhaven PTSA Board Meeting, August 31 2016

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Present: Alan Scott, Marisha Childs, Rebekah Folsom, Heather Dickinson, Tam Boleyn, Jonathan Caver, Amy Rees, Nicole Cordan, Jason Giles, Nicole King & Ana Rivas-Scott

Minutes from last meeting will be approved by email.

Alan: Goal today is to discuss goals for the year and fundraising efforts to support the goals.

Activity suggestions from group:

Shore up electives (interest classes), review how they are supported, and what the needs are to make the electives program successful.

Community meetings: speakers that will interest people such as: How to survive science fair - what are the expectations, what your kid is supposed to get out of it.

Discussed purpose of electives: planning time for teachers, started at a time when there was no art or music, time to put interesting enrichment activities into kids lives, creative outlet.

Discussed difficulties with getting middle school parent volunteers to lead electives. Discussed suggestions for getting word out to parents about needs for volunteers.

Decision: Community meetings topics

**September 19:** Science fair discussion

**November 14:** Math discussion, something fun and information on electives.

Discussed basics about website and need for a website developer, finding a parent and possibly students to work on the site.

Room parents will be recruited fliers will be distributed at back to school night. Rebekah will attend each grade to talk with parents.

**Budget discussion:** Precise numbers were not available at the meeting. Ended last year about \$500 in the black, in June meeting decided to support Chromebook carts (cart w/ 30 laptops for classroom use) and support for kiln for art classes, and agreed to fund the full teacher wish list featured at spring auction, some of these purchases were not made, so funds will be moved to this year's budget. Starting year with \$37K with carryover.

Discussed some potential changes to the budget, last year we used some of the money from the savings account so we need to raise more funds or cut back some budget items. Board members will review budget items and make suggestions for reductions/changes to meet budget. Budget is currently in draft form.

*Update: Mr. Sandilands was able to purchase one Chromebook cart with school funds and noted that the second one is not a high priority.*

Detailed budget numbers will be shared at the community meeting.

Julie Young graciously agreed to coordinate the Fall Frolic, she previously had asked the PTSA to find a replacement. Ideally, we would like to recruit a few parents to take this on next year, prior to this year's event so they can learn from Julie's experience.

Discussed frequency of newsletter, will try twice a month.

Many people are still not on the email list; development is ongoing for the Winterhaven all list.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50.