Dear Wellington Community,

Welcome to the last issue of the PTO Newsletter for the 2008-2009 School Year. We’d like to thank the Executive Committee, Committee Coordinators and our many volunteers for their excellent work this year. And, many, many thanks to Sue Black and Laurie Slap for their dedication to the Wellington PTO and the Wellington community as a whole.

From,
The Wellington PTO Board 2008-2009

Looking Forward to a Great Year with the new PTO Leadership

Co-Presidents: Heidi Sawyer & Lisa Mehrez
Co-Treasurers: Susan Black & Susan Pergamo
Co-Secretaries: Heidi Steinert & Aygul Balcioglu
Assistant Treasurers: Denise Madden & Sandy Smith* (main responsibilities=afterschool programs)
VP, Programs: Carolyn Boyle & Lynne Czamanske
VP, Community Events: Linnea Coutrip and Michelle Coppollo
VP, Fundraising: Theresa Johnston
VP, Corporate Fundraising: Michelle Oishi

*Sandy is to be voted on in Sept 2009 due to Linda Arnold's recent news of relocating back to Colorado. Linda has made many contributions this year as co-secretary and was the driving force in completing our website earlier this year. Best of luck to the Arnolds!

PTO Executive Committee Corner

A Wise Investment, A Good Return

As the 2008-2009 academic year draws to a close, thoughts are already turning toward next year and strategic planning. We base so many of our decisions on the successes and failures of programs past and try to lay a foundation for improvement, or in the present economy, "a softer landing." Given the economic drama visited upon us in the last ten months, it is necessary to take a hard look at our situation. It turns out that despite the downturns, cutbacks, and reality checks, there was at least one really good place to invest: the Wellington PTO.

You may ask, "How did my money grow?" Look at your kindergartener through fourth grader and see for yourself. "Is my money safe?" As a non-profit corporation the PTO undergoes yearly audit to account for every check that goes out and every dime that comes in. "Who decides how my money is spent?" You do, when you attend and vote for the budget and the executive officers at General PTO Meetings. "Are our funds in the hands of economic geniuses?" No (emphatically), it is...
in the hands of dedicated parents such as yourselves, intent on helping each other do it right on behalf of the kids.

While investments in many other venues lost value in staggering amounts, there were no reductions in our enrichment programs, no cutbacks on field trips, no fewer and even increased opportunities for community, festivity, and family friendly recreation. In fact, despite the hand wringing and belt tightening, PTO fundraising met many of its projected goals. How? By being a great place to spend and save at the same time. Where else can you take your whole family to a movie for ten bucks, have dinner, and still make money for the PTO? Save your frequent flyer miles - you can see the world at Multicultural night. No Disney this year? Come to the Winter Carnival. And forget Foxwoods, we have Moira Gavin Bingo which enhances our music offerings. Talk about a rewards program-a percentage of every PTO purchase by Wellington parents, from pumpkins and pies, books and baked goods, PJs and bottles, went straight back to the programs that enrich our own children. Wellington parents even found free money for the school by turning in Shaw's receipts, cell phones, and box tops for education, among other methods. Hey, maybe we should run Wall Street, too!

Well, maybe not, and our current successes do not allow us to ignore the long road to economic recovery ahead or the tough choices that many families may be facing right now. It's sobering and surprising to know that only about half of the Wellington families are PTO members. While it's true that not all of the members of the Wellington community are available to run the popcorn machine, man the Moonwalk, organize books, or sell tickets, ALL of the children in this community do benefit, whether their parents have joined the PTO or not. Time spent with your child, either at school or at home, is invaluable. And involvement in the PTO, either through your time or through membership and tax-deductible donations, makes good sense.

So when you are reviewing your portfolio, be sure to congratulate yourself on one wise financial decision. Your participation, time, talent, and good faith investment in the Wellington PTO have made it all possible. Thank you for another great year!

Best Wishes for the Summer,
Dot Tolls, Treasurer 2008-2009

Nurse's Notes - Thank you for supporting our efforts to keep everyone healthy!

Thank you to the PTO, and all the parents, for your support in making this year's health programs possible. We have been able to update the dental program, add to the promotion of hand hygiene, and continue the focus on healthy eating and exercise. You truly have been a supportive group! Our children benefit so much when we work together to promote nutrition, exercise, dental hygiene, skin care, and other healthy habits, both at home and in school.

Have a safe and healthy summer!
Terry Grimm RN

METCO Celebration

METCO Families and friends gathered on Saturday, May 9 at the Payson Park Congregational Church on Belmont Street for a Family Appreciation event. Mr. S was there for games, fun crafts were provided, and good discussion among Belmont and Boston parents getting to know each other. While the kids were having fun, METCO parents talked about the difficulty of setting up play dates for their children or participating at fun events after school because of the bus transportation schedule. If a good support network could be developed for the Wellington METCO families, the children from Boston would have those chances to deepen friendships. This type of network would also be important during snow emergency days or other similar situations. Next year, the METCO Family & Friends Committee will be co-chaired by Winnie Keung and Margaret Hegarty, and we hope you will participate in supporting Wellington's Boston families!

Thank you.
The METCO Family & Friends Committee-Madeline Cronin and Grace Schmelzer.

VOLUNTEER WITH THE PTO IN 2009-2010

It's never too late to get involved!
There are many ways to volunteer with the PTO and we welcome your help no matter how big or small. Please contact Susan Black at 617-489-2251 if interested in helping. We especially need coordinators for the following ongoing PTO efforts:

**Field Day Liaison** - Event held in June for 3rd and 4th graders
**In School Enrichment Coordinators** needed for Kindergarten and Third Grade
**Insider's Guide/FAQ** - New position
**National PTO Advisor** - New position, help us find out what other PTO's are doing!
**Traffic Supervisor** - Help in the morning with drop off traffic and keep it rollin!
**Welcoming Families to Wellington** - New position

**Wellington Bricks** - Once the building comes down, help with a fundraiser

**Be a member of a PTO team** — Look for the PTO volunteer flier coming out in September with our Welcome packet, where we will ask for people to help our coordinators run our events and programs. Get energized over the summer!

**THANK YOU FOR ALL LIBRARY GIFT BOOK DONATIONS!!!**

Library Gift Book Program - May '09
Coordinators: Jane Slavin (jane.slavin@verizon.net), & Mirela Duda (mireladuda@yahoo.com).

Thank you to the following people who purchased new books for Wellington's library:

| Barry, Aaliyah | Marco Polo
|----------------|-------------------|
| Corderi, Jack  | La Mariposa, The Nancy Drew Notebooks
| Coultrop, Ryan | A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever
| Hlotyak, Hannah| Best of Nancy Drew Classic Collection
| Klingbeil, Daniel | Ghosts! Ghostly Tales from Folklore
| Legere, Mattea | The Case of the Missing Monkey, Poppleton in Spring
| Madden, Aisling | The Doll People
| Senthi, Lavi   | The House in the Night
| Silletto, Elisabeth | The Jade Dragon, Piano Starts Here
| Smialek, Jake  | Baseball's Best Shots, Star Wars
| Steinert, Andrew | City Homes
| Trodden, Christian | If You'll Be My Valentine
| Tucker, Audrey | Flush
| Wetzel, Eric   | Holly, the Christmas Fairy, Zelda and Ivy - Keeping Secrets
| Yoshida, Keito | Mia's Story

**PTO Coordinators for 2009-2010**

We're excited and grateful that they've agreed to help out! **THANK YOU!!**

**Accounts Receivable**
- Trish Ball and membership chair

**After School Enrichment** - Denise Madden and Sandy Smith
**Art Cards Fundraiser** - Kate Ascione and Stacey Conroy
**Attorney Advisor** - Adam Dash
**Book Fair** - Joanna Loveluck, Jessica Sattler and Charlene Colt
**Bookkeeper** - Susan Pergamo and Susan Black
**Box Tops** - Hilary Donovan
**BSEAC (SPED) Advisory Observer** - Jane Slavin
**Communication Folders** - Artemis Tingos
**Food Pantry** - Hank Thidemann
**Fourth Grade Send-Off** - Gretchen McClain, Jen Allard and Jackie Hardy
**Fundraising REcycling (corp FR) Staples & Funding Factory** - Lauren Coyne
**Grant Writing** - Linda Ficiciello and Jamison Jacobs
**Helping Hands** - Benita Gold
**Hospitality and Staff Appreciation Lunch** - Meghan Newberry, Yvonne Cheung
**Ice Cream Social** - Kate Sacca and Meghan Newberry
**Ice Skating Day** - Meg Bailey and Susan McLaughlin
**Incoming Kindergarten** - Liz Carracini
**Library Gift Book Program** - Jane Slavin and Mirela Duda
**Library Volunteer Coordinator** - Christel Libenson and Melina Jacobides
Membership Coordinators - Theresa Johnston and Julie Donahue
METCO Family/Friends - Winnie Keung and Margaret Hegarty
Moira Gavin Bingo and Fund - Linnea Coultrip
Movie and Pizza Nights (Fall and Spring) - Anne Curtis
Mr S Parties - Denise Madden and Sandy Smith
MultiCultural Events - Patty Brownlee and Sherri Lowery
New Wellington Liaison - Dennis Swinford
Readathon Coordinator - Marissa Andersen and Sherri Lowery
Room Parent Coordinator - Melina Jacovides
School Committee Observer - Karen Parmett
School Directory - Danielle Green and Jane Slavin
School Picture Day - Meg Bailey
Shaw's Cards - Jane Slavin
Sports - Day and Evening Coordinators - Denise Madden and Sandy Smith
Staff Appreciation Lunch - Hospitality
Staff Photos and Directory - Joanna Loveluck
Student Care Rep - Student Care Board has appointed Cyndy Coburn
Talent Show - Lisa Mehrez and Michele Coppolo
Volunteer Coordinator - Theresa Johnston
Walk to School - Karen Allendoerfer
Website and Listserve - Susan Black (coordinator), Jason Smith (website), Michelle Oishi (listserve)
Welcome Coffees and Open House Liaison - Chris Doyle
Wellington Recycling Committee - Mary Domincuez and Mirela Duda
Wellington Weekly News PTO Coordinators - Angela Chen and Julie Barton
Winter Carnival - Heidi Sawyer and Lynn Findlay

Upcoming Dates to Remember
- September 2nd - School starts for Grade 1-4 - Early Release Day
- September 3rd and 4th - School starts for 1/2 Kindergarten - Look for details over the summer

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

HAVE A HEALTHY, HAPPY SUMMER!