



Wellington Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization Annual Report 2016-17

The Wellington Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) would like to thank you for your contributions of time, money, energy, and expertise. The PTO is an all-volunteer 501c3 charitable organization that relies on the generous involvement of parents and teachers. By working together, we are able to make a big difference to the school!

The purpose of the PTO is to enrich the educational experience of the children; build a stronger school community; and facilitate and foster communication between the home and school. We are pleased to report on this year's progress towards these goals.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the PTO! Have a great summer, and see you next year!

Melissa McKenna & Lynne Standish
Wellington PTO Co-Presidents 2016-17

Enriching the Educational Experience

A significant portion of PTO funds – over \$28,000 supports in-school enrichment programs. A wide variety of visiting programs and field trips provide experiential learning opportunities that enhance the curriculum.

PTO events also provide opportunities for families to come together and celebrate learning. Science Night saw enthusiastic participation from amazing third and fourth grade scientists and a broad range of hands-on activities for all ages. This year's Multicultural Night had the largest number of family-sponsored tables ever and was an impressive display of diverse culture and backgrounds.

The PTO also runs an outstanding After School Enrichment (ASE) program that offers a diverse selection of after school clubs to complement and enhance students' learning experience. In addition to being a fundraiser, ASE provides students with an opportunity to explore enriching activities and socialize with other students in a fun, no pressure environment. For the 2016-17 school year, there were:

- 299 individual students in the program
- 19 choices in the fall (with 250 registrations), 19 choices in the winter (with 288 registrations) and 21 choices in the spring (with 255 registrations)

Science & Math Enrichment

Animal Habitats by Museum of Science (K)
Rainforest Reptiles Show (1)
Weather by The ScienceWorks (1)
Bugs & Insects by The ScienceWorks (1)
Amphibians by Mass Audubon's Habitat (1)
Franklin Park Zoo (1)
Soils by Mass Audubon's Habitat (2)
Land's Sake (2)
Electromagnetism by Museum of Science (3)
Sound Workshop by Techsploration (4)
New England Aquarium Field Experience (4)
Honey Bee Presentation (4)
Peabody Museum &
Harvard Museum of Natural History (4)

Language Arts & Social Studies Enrichment

Cinderella by the Tanglewood Marionettes (K)
Storyteller Diane Edgecomb (1)
Sled Dogs by Patriot Siberian Husky Rescue (2)
Jambo Africa by Gail LaRocca (2)
Brian Lies Writer Workshop (2)
Debbie Miller Alaska Presentation (2)
Plimoth Plantation (3)
The Owl Lady (3)
Freedom Trail, Paul Revere House & Swan Boats (3)
Liberty Tour of Lexington and Concord (3)
Colonial Day (3)
Sharon Kennedy / Mill Girl (4)
Lowell Mills (4)
National Geographic Traveling Map (K-4)

Music & Art Enrichment

Greater Worcester Opera (2)
David Coffin (3)

Building a Strong Community

The PTO builds community at Wellington by helping families connect with each other and with the school. The PTO spent \$1408 on community programs and social events this year. Friendships deepen as we picnic together, skate together, walk to school together, and support our children's education.

Last year saw terrific participation by families, from our first day Welcome Back Coffees to a fun-filled Movie Night and meaningful Helping Hands Gift Card Drive to support Wellington families in need.

The PTO nurtures school pride by providing every kindergartener and new student/staff with a Wellington t-shirt to welcome them to the community. We also hold Spirit Wear sales so families can show off their Wellington pride!

Though funded independently from our general budget, PTO volunteers also coordinate the annual Fourth Grade Send Off (4GSO) event. This special party is held just for the fourth graders and their parents/guardians to celebrate the end of the students' time in elementary school and the transition to middle school. All students receive a t-shirt with the names of all their classmates, a memory book, and other small souvenirs.

Our Green Team conducted a week-long food waste audit to learn more about the types of waste that we might be able to reduce as a school community. Wellington students throw out an average of 200 lbs of compostable waste, 40 lbs trash, 60 lbs recyclables, 120 lbs liquids, and 27 lbs unopened/uneaten food each week! To help make our community a little greener, the PTO sponsored the Trex Recycling Challenge, to recycle as much plastic film as possible. Through our school community's efforts, we earned a new recycled bench for our school! It will be installed near Spangler Flats!

Facilitating Communication

The PTO provides every student with a Home-School Communication Folder. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped stuff the various flyers and forms and bundled the folders for delivery to each classroom on the first day!

The PTO also holds four meetings during the school year to share updates about school happenings as well as provide an opportunity for parent learning. This year, we hosted the following special guest speakers: teachers Mina Vahedi and Colleen McBride, who presented about Growth Mindset Principles; teachers Steve Tenhor and Devin Mailloux who gave a presentation on the Playworks Recess Curriculum; Superintendent John Phelan who shared an update on district enrollment and the BHS building project; and Nurse Terry Grimm who gave an informative presentation on lice prevention and treatment.

We offer many channels of communication including an electronic weekly newsletter that includes a summary of PTO news, upcoming events, and opportunities to get involved; and news and events are also posted on the Community Bulletin Board near the main entryways.

The PTO creates and distributes the School Directory (using information the school district shares with the PTO), a great resource for connecting with your student's classmates and other Wellington families, planning play dates, birthday parties, etc.

Supporting the School

The PTO works closely with Principal Spangler to respond to needs and support progress towards school goals. An important aspect of the PTO's work is to support Wellington staff and their excellent teaching. With that in mind, the PTO provides funding for numerous supplies and programs not covered by the Belmont Public Schools budget. This school year we provided: \$8346 in funding for

classroom materials, \$1735 for teacher initiatives, \$1437 for the Principal's discretionary fund, \$1139 to support the school library, \$850 for RAZ Kids, and \$800 for Jump Start Lite.

We also organized and funded \$1003 for a staff appreciation luncheon for all Wellington teachers and staff and had expenses of \$523 to provide healthy snacks for all 3rd and 4th graders taking the MCAS test.

PTO volunteers staffed 25 shifts in the school library each week! Many thanks to all the parents and caregivers who helped re-shelve books, tidy the shelves, and process check-outs. Without you, the students would not have

Thank you for making it possible for the PTO to go above and beyond to support Wellington!

Financials

The PTO is funded through the generosity of our donors – primarily Wellington families. In addition to our annual Membership Drive, we also coordinate a number of community-oriented fundraisers.

