



# Wellington Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization Annual Report 2019-20

The Wellington Parent Teacher Organization (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. Though this school year did not end in the way we hoped, 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!

*Kim Swanson & Kara Sassone*

Wellington PTO Co-Presidents 2019-20

## ***Enriching the Educational Experience***

A significant portion of the PTO's budget supports experiential learning opportunities to enhance the curriculum in grades Kindergarten through four. This year, the PTO budgeted more than \$38,000 to support a wide variety of in-school enrichment programs and field trips (see box on right). Due to the ongoing pandemic, several programs (noted with an asterisk) had to be cancelled. In addition, the PTO funded \$2,350 for student news subscriptions in all grade levels.

PTO events also provided opportunities for families to come together and celebrate learning. This year's Heroes and Heroines themed Multicultural Night had the largest number of family-sponsored tables ever and was an impressive display of diverse culture and backgrounds. Our second annual Wellington Storytime brought together more than 50 families to celebrate literacy with some teachers' favorite read alouds.

The PTO also ran an outstanding After School Enrichment (ASE) program that offered a wonderful variety of after school clubs to complement and enhance students' learning experience. In addition to being a modest fundraiser, ASE provided students with opportunities to explore enriching activities and socialize with other students in a fun, no pressure environment. For the 2019-20 school year, there were:

- 259 individual students in the program; 46% of K-4 students
- 21 choices in the fall (with 255 registrations) and 23 choices in the winter (with 266 registrations); the spring session was cancelled due to the school closure

### ***Science & Math Enrichment***

- \* Mass Audubon's Habitat (K)
- Force in Motion by Acton Discovery Museum (K)
- Liquids & Solids by Acton Discovery Museum (K)
- Weather by Acton Discovery Museum (1)
- Sound by Acton Discovery Museum (1)
- \* Aquatic Invertebrates by Mass Audubon's Habitat (1)
- \* Rainforest Reptiles Show (1)
- \* Pollinators by Mass Audubon's Habitat (2)
- Physical Changes of Matter by Acton Discovery Museum (2)
- \* Museum of Science (2)
- \* Sound Workshop by Techsploration (4)
- \* Energy Workshop by Techsploration (4)
- \* Honey Bee Presentation (4)
- Peabody Museum & Harvard Museum of Natural History (4)

### ***Language Arts & Social Studies Enrichment***

- Cinderella by the Tanglewood Marionettes (K)
- \* Puppet Showplace Theater (1)
- \* Jambo Africa by Gail LaRocca (2)
- David Kelly Author Visit (2)
- Belmont Walking Tour (2)
- Plimoth Plantation (3)
- The Owl Lady (3)
- \* Boston Tea Party Ship & Museum (3)
- \* Colonial Day (3)
- \* Sharon Kennedy / Mill Girl (4)
- \* Lowell Mills (4)

## ***Building a Strong Community***

The PTO builds community at Wellington by helping families connect with each other and with the school.

This year, the PTO spent \$2,705 on community programs and social events. Friendships deepened as we picnicked together, walked to school together, and supported our children's education. We saw terrific participation by families, from our first day Welcome Back Coffees to a fun-filled Movie Night and meaningful Coat Drive to support Wellington & Boston families in need.

The PTO nurtured school pride by providing every kindergartener and new student/staff with a Wellington t-shirt to welcome them to our community. The PTO supported funding for each 4th grader to receive a t-shirt with the names of their classmates & a memory book.

Though typically funded independently from our general budget, the PTO stepped up to support this year's Fourth Grade Send Off (4GSO) coordinators and provided a modest amount of funding to ensure that fourth graders and their parents/guardians were able to celebrate the end of the students' time in elementary school and the transition to middle school in a unique drive through event.

Our Green Team had a very busy year! To help make our community a little greener, the PTO sponsored the Trex Recycling Challenge, to recycle as much plastic film as possible. We also continued our participation in the Crayola ColorCycle program.

## ***Facilitating Communication***

For the third year, PTO provided an upgraded, more durable plastic Home-School Communication Folder to every student. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped stuff and bundle the folders at the end of the summer for delivery to each classroom on the first day!

The PTO also held three alternating morning and evening meetings during the school year to share updates about school happenings as well as to provide an opportunity for parent learning. This year, we hosted the following special guest speakers: Jessica DeFrances, Belmont's Elementary Science Curriculum Specialist, who spoke about strengthening number sense and Christa Bauge, President of Foundation for Belmont Education (FBE), who shared information about the organization and how it supports schools and teachers in town.

Moreover, we continued to modify our communications to reduce redundancy and streamline our messaging. In addition to sending regular emails via room parents and papers sent home with your students, we provided a monthly newsletter with a summary of PTO news, upcoming events, and opportunities to get involved; and news and events were also posted on the Community Bulletin Board and lettered sandwich boards near the main entryways.

The PTO created and distributed the School Directory (using information the school district shared 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***

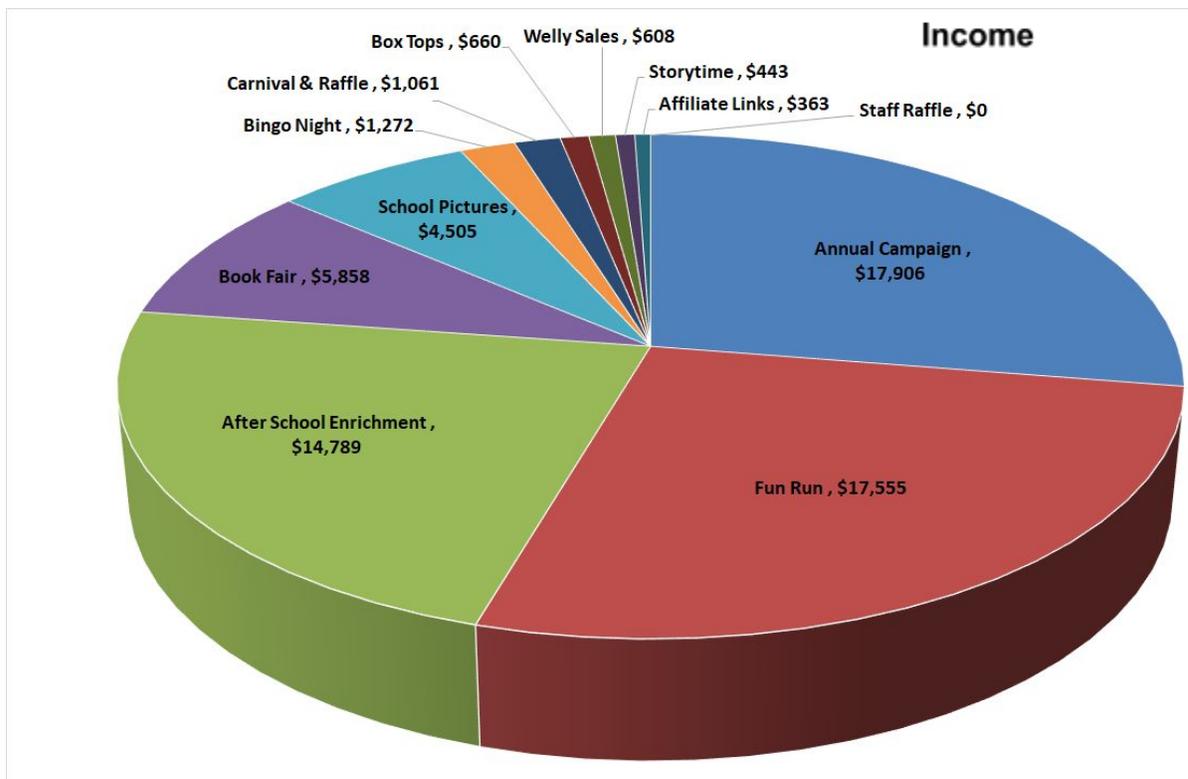
An important aspect of the PTO's work is to support Wellington staff and their excellent teaching. With that in mind, the PTO provides funding for numerous supplies and programs not covered by the Belmont Public Schools budget.

This past year, the PTO worked closely with Principal Heidi Paisner to respond to staff needs and support progress toward school & district goals. Though funding was paused when school closed in March, the PTO provided: \$8,415 in funding for classroom equipment & materials; \$775 to support the school library; \$500 for the Principal's discretionary fund; \$1,099 for RAZ Kids literacy program; and \$4900 for Jump Start & Jump Start Lite.

PTO volunteers staffed 25 shifts in the school library each week! Many thanks to the 100+ parents and caregivers who helped re-shelve books, tidy the shelves, and process check-outs. Your contribution of your time made the library a wonderful place for children to develop and continue their love of reading! Thank you for making it possible for the PTO to go above and beyond to support the entire Wellington community!

### ***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 handful of community-oriented fundraisers each year.



# Expenses

