

Fall Creek PTA



September/October 2008 Newsletter

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KEEP UP TO DATE WITH SCHOOL AND PTA EVENTS

Our newly designed web page:
www.fallcreekpta.org features
information about school
activities and events, regularly
updated.



PTA MEETING - MONDAY OCT. 6

You are invited to the Fall
Creek PTA's next
meeting: Monday, Oct. 6.

Join us for free pizza and salad
at 5:30 p.m. and a business
meeting at 6 p.m. The PTA
provides childcare. We end by
7:30 p.m.

Meet our new gym teacher Carl
Williamson. He will lead us in
some stretches that he's
introduced to our children and
can answer any questions you
have about our physical
education program.

Librarian Sharon Ossont and
Parent Vikki Armstrong will talk
about our new audio book drive.
We think it would help many
children increase their love of

reading if they had the
opportunity to listen to books
on tape or CD. If you have
books on tape you would like to
donate, please bring them to the
meeting or give them to Sharon.

Also, it's time to approve our
budget for the year. If you have
opinions about what we should
do for fundraising, please let us
know.

Hear updates on: the talent
show, Halloween party, Election
Day bake sale, room parents and
the Ithaca Public Education
Initiative, along with our efforts
to get an adult team for an
upcoming IPEI spelling bee.

Letter from the President



Did you hear that our school was voted "best elementary school" by the Ithaca Times?

And I didn't even stuff the ballot box!

The year is off to an incredible start. I continue to be amazed at how many parents are deeply involved in our school community. I believe we have many people who are committed to helping parents feel comfortable and welcome at the school.

Principal Karen Keller is committed to an open-door policy. (Feel free to ask her anything that's on your mind at Monday's PTA meeting.) Teachers are eager to have parents working in the classroom.

For our part, the PTA's main mission is to create ways that parents can get involved and follow their interests and passions. Almost every event and program we do was started because a parent had a great idea. Usually the enthusiasm is contagious and others join the effort.

If you have an idea, please let me know. And if you want to find out more about the PTA, and tap into the enthusiasm already there, check out our Web site and come to our monthly meetings.

Rebecca James

What a great effort so far this year! Many thanks to...

- Kelly Ross for processing the mountain of paperwork we produce and all her work in the office.
- Dave Leonard for doing so much to coordinate and run the best childcare ever.
- Karen Berggren for sharing her kitchen with us on PTA nights.
- Karen Keller for her thoughtful, responsive and insightful leadership--what a great match and gift for Fall Creek!
- Linda Shaul and George Iglthaler for all the setup and cleanup help.
- Holley Mitchell for stepping up as our new banner lady
- Mary Waisbrot for countless things but among them helping at the welcome and childcare signup tables for meetings and curriculum nights
- Patty Sipman for helping at the childcare table at a curriculum night she didn't need to attend so that other table attendees could be on time for their children's meeting.
- Darcy Bedore for filling in so graciously to serve as our childcare coordinator while we continue to look for her replacement.
- The crew that helped get food ready for the PTA meeting: Chris Mize, Ron Mize, Tori Mize, Chris Bell, Rich Steadman, Tom Clavel, Peter Wissoker and their fearless leader, Laurie Dykoschak-Hill.
- The fourth-graders who served pizza: Lucy, Anna, Sophie, Sophia and Coco
- Tisa Hill and Anne Modlin for getting up early and picking up the coffee and bagels before school started for our Welcome Back Coffee. And to those who hosted: Vikki Armstrong, Peter Wissoker, Will Kay and Jane Cullings.
- Chris Mize for coordinating our new group of room parents and to those who have stepped up for that critical role: Lisa Witchey, Jen Demarest, Yvette deBoer, Mike Miller, Craig Duncan, Patty Sipman, Sarah Cummings, Chris Mize (again!), Trena Haffenden, Diane Conuel, Liz Wilson, Amy Willard and Jamie Zervos.
- Nancy Gruen for volunteering to collect Box Tops to raise money for the PTA and to her predecessor Marcia Smith who took that role for years.
- Chad Randl for his fantastic design and editing of our newsletter.
- Jacquelyn and Aaron Buechel, new to Fall Creek as the parents of a kindergartener with two younger kids too, for taking on the leadership of the Butterfly Garden. And to all the gardeners who are stepping up to weed and trim the garden.
- Apologies to anyone not mentioned. Please bring oversights to the attention of any PTA officer.

Meet Some New Teachers at Fall Creek:

Caitlin Baxter - Art and Reading Teacher



I grew up in Geneva, NY and went to college at Hobart and William Smith. I teach both art and reading at Fall Creek. Before coming to Fall Creek, I was a fifth grade teacher at Enfield Elementary (for 6 years). Before that, I taught second grade at Northeast Elementary. And before going into teaching, I was a goldsmith. Something really important to me is my book group. My closest friends get together once a month and discuss a book we've all been reading. Right now we're reading *Roughing It* by Mark Twain. My role model is my father because he values kindness above all and works tirelessly to make the world a more peaceful place. I also admire Fred Rogers a great deal because of how much he honored children. Interestingly, he and my father were friends. They had a lot in common. On Saturday, I like to sleep until I wake up naturally, eat lots of good food, read, and make things (like knit, or

make art out of old junk that I find around). I don't like to do housework, but sometimes I do it on Saturday because it seems extra sad to do it on Sunday. What makes me happy is seeing that people are trying really hard to improve things around them (in little or big ways), and laughing. I think laughter is the best thing going! When I'm sick, I like to watch the Marx Brothers; I think it makes me get well faster.

Carl Williamson - Gym Teacher



I grew up in Trumansburg New York, and attended Trumansburg Central School District. I graduated from SUNY Cortland with a Physical Education Degree and have a Masters in Health as well. I am the physical education teacher here at Fall Creek, and before this position I worked for two years as an adapted physical education teacher for the Ithaca City School district. My favorite food is any kind of Pizza. I am a big dog person and have two mixed dogs from the Cortland SPCA. Their names are Emma and Bella and they are sisters. They are hound and american bulldog mixes. My role model has always been my father, who has showed me what it takes to be a good person, and what hard work is! My favorite vacation involves any type of camping and/or fishing up north in the Adirondacks or Canada. I love to fish and sit around a camp fire.

Volunteer Opportunity

I am a special education teacher, and since I don't have my own class, I've never have anyone volunteer. However, I have lots of things that parents could help with! Please let me know if you would like to contribute.

Carrie Nolan
cnolan@icsd.k12.ny.us

And Meet a PTA Volunteer...



Name: Lisa Witchey

Family: Husband Brian, 4th graders, Alyssa and Joshua

Something that you might not know

about: How many pounds the raffle pumpkin will weigh this year?

favorite food: Mmmm seafood

pet peeve: littering of any kind

what scares me: my kids growing up too quickly

what makes me happy: dancing barefoot in the sun

Upcoming Events:



Ithaca Community Fine Arts Booster Group

101 East State Street #182 - The Commons

CONTACT: Martha Frommelt (277-4631) fabg_president@yahoo.com

FUNDING ARTS ACTIVITY IN YOUR SCHOOL

Learn about local funding for your arts projects. Tell us about the arts in your schools. The Fine Arts Booster Group (FABG), an affiliate of IPEI, will hold its first general meeting of the 2008-09 school year on October 7, 2008, Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in the Ithaca High School Activities Room, near Kulp Auditorium. All interested parents and community members are invited to attend. Come join us for information about local funding resources. And tell us about your vision for the arts in your school. We want to hear about your experiences at your school – elementary, middle and high school.

Upcoming grant deadlines to be discussed are: Fine Arts Booster mini-grants October 15 and February 1
IPEI Teachers Grants November 1 and Red and Gold deadlines monthly
Community Arts Partnership Local Capacity Building November 10



School Picture Day has Been Changed

New date: TUESDAY, OCT 14th.

Look for order forms in Thursday envelopes soon! Please remember to submit order forms WITH payment to your student's teacher on or before Picture Day.

If you would like to help comb, straighten & otherwise wrangle happy shiny dressed up kids, please sign up in the lobby on the PTA bulletin board or contact Mary

Waisbrot: 277-6380 or mwaisbro@twcnny.rr.com

Did you know that the PTA is committed to providing a yearbook for every child who cannot order one alone or automatically with their picture package? If you do not wish to order pictures, you can still order your student a yearbook by checking the "Yearbook Only" box on the order form & submitting your payment. If you do order pictures, a yearbook is automatically included in your picture package.



Election Day Bake Sale

This is going to be HUGE! Every major election, the Fall Creek PTA tradition of selling yummy baked goods & coffee gets rave reviews from the community and is a big fund raising event! Please help out by donating (or soliciting) baked goods, sweet treats, fruit, whole cakes, pies, breads, or anything that someone could easily take with them for a donation to the FCPTA. Or, come by & help out at the table for a while & get to see & chat with your neighbors and friends.

Donations can be brought in starting the afternoon before the election (on Monday, Nov. 3) & left at the table in the Main Lobby. Please remember to label with ingredients, especially if anything contains nuts! Having items wrapped to transport is also a great help to our donors.

Thanks very much for your help! Last Primary Day...our very first ever Primary Day Bake Sale...we made over \$600! This will be an even BIGGER voting day and we expect to sell HUGE quantities of goods!

Questions? Donations? Volunteering? Contact Mary Waisbrot: 277-6380 or mwaisbro@twcnny.rr.com