



# The Pony Express

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January 2010

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[www.prettyboyschool.com](http://www.prettyboyschool.com)

## PTA Meetings

All parents are welcome to join our meetings, which are held in the Prettyboy Library from 7:00 - 9:00 pm on the following dates:

1/19, 2/16, 3/16, 4/20,  
and 5/25 (date change!)

We hope to see you there!

## From the President

Welcome back to school after the long winter break. I hope that you enjoyed quality time with your friends and family. Perhaps you created a few memories playing in the snow or starting a new family tradition. It is always nice to take a break and recharge your batteries!

Now that we are back to school and work, the PTA is getting refocused on our crusade to "Go Green" with the PTA newsletter. Mrs. Cox's class will receive a celebratory popcorn party for having the highest percentage of families join the PTA Parent Group on Yahoo Groups. The families who signed up for the PTA Parent Group will receive messages via email that include the link to the newsletter and other pertinent PTA information. The emails are sent seamlessly to existing email accounts. It is not necessary to have a Yahoo email account as your primary account. I also want to assure you that you will not be flooded with emails from the PTA.

Unfortunately, only 95 out of total of 355 PBE families have joined the mailing list at this time. In order to keep an open line of communication with our community, we feel that it is necessary to continue distributing a paper copy of the newsletter. We encourage all families to sign up for the PTA Parent Group so that we can make an effective transition to electronic delivery. Please follow the simple directions in this newsletter to join the email group. I promise that it will be easy and not consume too much of your valuable time!

Tracy McGuigan and her Mardi Gras crew have been working tirelessly to plan a fantastic event. The flier with the ticket order form on it has already been sent home with your child. There are only 225 tickets available, so be sure to buy your tickets early! You would not want to miss the best PBE grown-up activity of the year. Mardi Gras tickets will be sold for \$35 per person. There are a limited number of tables of 12 people for sale at a discounted price.

The Mardi Gras committee has already received many exciting donations, but we would still welcome additional donations. Did you receive a Christmas present that doesn't suit your fancy or a gift card that you can't use? We would be happy to take them off of your hands. Please call Stacy Little at 410-374-4491 or Tracy McGuigan at 410-357-8273 to coordinate the pick-up of your donation.

Happy New Year!

Joyce Charles

## Mardi Gras Madness Night

This event benefits the students of Prettyboy Elementary School, so plan to join us for Food, Silent Auction, Live Auction, and Music on Saturday, March 20, 2010 at Hereford Fire Company's Summit Manor. Everyone is invited so mark your calendars and ask your friends!

Tickets are \$35 per person, and since there are only 225 tickets available, you'll want to buy yours early! There are a limited number of tables of 12 for sale at a discounted price. A flier containing a ticket order form has been sent home with your child — please be sure to send it in soon!

We are still collecting donations of new items, as well as cash, to fill our "Chair-ity" Auction Items. These will be part of the Silent Auction this year. Each grade level will offer a unique

themed chair filled with items based upon that theme.

**Kindergarten** - Cracker Barrel Rocking Chair, donated by GBL Custom Home Design, Inc. - filled with arts and crafts supplies!

**First Grade** - Orioles Stadium Chair, donated by Tracy & Gary McGuigan - filled with Orioles' and other baseball items!

**Second Grade** - Ravens Tailgate Chair, donated by Meg & Brian McGuigan - filled with anything and everything Ravens!

**Third Grade** - Swiveling/Reclining Beach Chair, donated by Atlantic Financial Services, Registered Investment Advisors, Craig Fischer, Vice President-filled with all your supplies for down the ocean!

**Fourth Grade** - Camping Chair, donated by Tara & Greg Westra -

filled with plenty of supplies for your next camping trip!

**Fifth Grade** - Gaming Chair, donated by Donna & Marco Avila - filled with lots of games and electronics for the family!

If you have a new item that would go into any of these chairs, please call Stacy Little at 410-374-4491 or Tracy McGuigan at 410-357-8273 so that we may pick it up. If you are able to make a cash donation, please send it to school in an envelope marked *Chair-ity Auction c/o Stacy Little, the grade(s) for which your donation is for, and your name*. Checks should be made payable to Prettyboy Elementary PTA. Donations will be collected up to February 1st. Thank you!



## Online Newsletter Update & Popcorn Party Winner!

Thank you very much to those parents who responded to our call to action to help take our PTA Newsletter online in 2010! There were 48 children's names submitted via the returned certificates for entry into our Popcorn Party Contest. The winning class, with the highest percentage of participation, was Mrs. Cox's class with 32%! Congratulations and we enjoyed celebrating with you at the popcorn party on January 14th!

Parents - we still need your help! Please sign up to join the PTA Parent Group. You will not get inundated with emails, as this will only be used to send out the link to the newsletter and other pertinent PTA information. Only the President and the Technology Chairman have

the ability to send emails using this venue.

Signing up is easy! Just go to the PTA website at [www.prettyboyschool.com](http://www.prettyboyschool.com) and click on the "Yahoo Groups! Join Now" button on the left-hand side of the screen. If you already have a yahoo account, just sign in. If not, you will need to set up a new account so that you can join the PTA Parent Group. Please note that there is an option for you to use your current email address to receive your notifications and links to the newsletters. The Yahoo account does not have to be your primary account.

If you have any questions or problems signing up, please contact Allison Beyer at [abeyerfamily@comcast.net](mailto:abeyerfamily@comcast.net) or 410-329-8315.

## Prettyboy Staff — Up Close & Personal

### Kelly Robertson — 1st Grade Teacher

Kelly Robertson has been a teacher at PBE for 2 years. She has three pets—2 dogs and 1 cat. Mrs. Robertson loves to travel, and has been scuba diving with her husband all over the world! They've been to Ireland, Canada, Catalina, Belize, Bahamas, Mexico, and the Caribbean. They also like to try new foods, although her favorite treat is anything sour (like Warheads!). Mrs. Robertson loves to read — right now, Jodi Piccoult is her favorite author, but it changes often! As a matter of fact, reading was her favorite subject in school and it still is. She loves Ravens football, Rock Music (Kings of Leon), and her favorite car is a GT Mustang.

### Hope Baier — School Counselor

Hope Baier, PBE's School Counselor for 3 years, has a dog named Rufus and a fish named Guppy. She loves to cook and do home-decorating projects. Her favorite sweet treat is milk chocolate. While she's not a huge sports fan, she does follow the Ravens and her music selection spans the dial, from Country to Rock n' Roll. Mrs. Baier's favorite subject, both when she was in elementary school as well as now, is history. She loves reading nonfiction or historical fiction books, in addition to mysteries by author Patricia Cornwell.

### Kathy Rambo — 2nd Grade Teacher

Kathy Rambo has been with the PBE staff for 17 years. She has two grandchildren, Ethan and Ava. She enjoys playing tennis, reading, piano and creative writing. Her favorite sport is tennis, and she likes Rock and Classical music. Her favorite subject in elementary school was reading, which she still loves, along with writing. She doesn't have just one favorite author or book—in fact, there are too many to name! However, when she does have time to sit down with a book, Mrs. Rambo enjoys reading historical fiction such as the Elizabethan England time period.

### Stacey Durković — Principal

Stacey Durkovic, PBE's Principal for 2 years, has one pet, Tiha, who is a mixed-breed SPCA rescue-dog that looks like a fox. She enjoys reading mysteries and riding bikes, but she also spends much of her free time playing Candyland, Don't Break the Ice, and Moon Sand or Playdoh with her four-year-old daughter, Maja. Dr. Durkovic didn't have just one favorite school subject in elementary school—they were ALL her favorites, and still are! Among her other favorites, she loves to watch the Ravens and enjoys eating anything chocolate.

### Rachel Pardew — Kindergarten Teacher

This is Rachel Pardew's second year at PBE. She loves spending time with her family and friends, and enjoys scrapbooking and going to the movies. Dark chocolate truffles are her favorite treat. Her favorite subject is social studies, and she loves to learn and to teach. She likes swimming and watching football — Go Ravens! Her favorite band is Hillsong United and her favorite author is Ted Dekker. Ms. Pardew has one pet, a cat named Sydney. As for her dream car, Ms. Pardew loves the car she has, a 2008 Honda Civic.

## Market Day

Thank you for your continued support of the Market Day program. We have raised over \$1,000 so far this school year. The deadline for ordering this month is January 28th, with a pick-up date of February 3rd at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria.

If you would like to place an order, please visit [www.marketday.com](http://www.marketday.com), and use acct# 9448.

If you have any questions or would like to help with pick-up, please contact Misty Hough at 410-357-0619 or [mistylhough@aol.com](mailto:mistylhough@aol.com).

## Library News

### 2009 Scholastic Book Fair

A huge thank you to all the families and volunteers who supported this year's Scholastic Book Fair. This was one of the most successful Book Fairs we have had.

A special thanks to Mrs. Bohlayer and Mrs. Luhrman, the co-chairwomen who dedicated so much of their free time to helping organize and schedule this outstanding event! Happy reading!

### Library Collection Enhancement Project

Be on the look out for new biography books coming home with the students in the new year. With the generous financial help from Prettyboy's PTA, the school library was able to enhance its biography section by adding over \$1,000 worth of new biographies.

The new biographies range from great scientists of the past, to modern day sports and movies stars, to famous women who helped shape our world. The ideas for what biographies to purchase were created by student wish lists. They should make for years of enjoyable reading.

## School Spirit Days 2009-2010

Mark these upcoming Spirit days on your calendar!

January 22	Tie Dye Day
February 5th	Twin Day
February 26th	Dress like another time period
March 5th	Camouflage Day
April 9th	Dress like a teacher
April 16th	Dress like a career



The Prettyboy Elementary School PTA advocates for all children in the Prettyboy community.

## HomeBASE Program Receives Award at the Festival of Trees!

Prettyboy HomeBASE was a proud sponsor of a seven-foot tree and a two-foot tree at the Festival of Trees in Timonium this year. They were so happy to have received a beautiful ribbon for winning the Designer category for their two-foot tree! Both trees sold, and the proceeds went to Kennedy Krieger.

Prettyboy HomeBASE has openings now for both before and after school care. We also have a few spaces left in our three-year-old and four-year-old classes.

For more information on availability and rates, please call 410-329-9509.



## Directory Changes/Additions

Please be sure to add the following new student to your directory!

**Fisch, Joseline (Jossey) - Grade 1**

17 English Saddle Court

Parkton, MD 21120

410-343-2327

Missy & Fred Fisch

[4fisch.inc@comcast.net](mailto:4fisch.inc@comcast.net)

If you have any corrections to your directory listing, or would like to have your information posted in the student directory, please contact Jennifer Huber at [j-huber@comcast.net](mailto:j-huber@comcast.net).

Along with address and contact listings, the Directory provides you with other important information on such things as the PTA, PBE Staff Email Addresses, Health Suite and School Improvement Team, Room Parent List, Rec Council Information and a Community Reference Sheet with some helpful numbers.