



The Pony Express

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www.prettyboyschool.com

7th Annual Great Pumpkin Fest

Join fellow Prettyboy families in celebrating all the fun of the Fall season on Sunday, October 25, 2009 from 1:00-3:00 pm for our 7th Annual Great Pumpkin Fest. This is a family celebration where everyone can dress up in costume, play games, make crafts, win prizes, and best of all, "trunk-or-treat."

Get in the spirit and have your children work on posters that will promote the event. The posters will be proudly displayed throughout the school through October 25th. Just decorate any size paper or poster board with the event name, date, and time and bring it to the front office. The Pumpkin Committee will hang it in the school.

We are looking for families interested in: creating new stations and games for our day, helping to put together supplies for games and decorations, and setting up and cleaning up the day of the event. If you are interested in participating in trunk-or-treating, let Sally Carper know that you plan to help out in that venue and she will add you to the list. All of the cars will be directed to park in the area behind the tennis courts, trunks facing one another. Around 2:30 that day, you'll be asked to go to your car to hand out treats (several bags of candy work well). Consider doubling up with another family to share a trunk and reduce costs. If you can pitch in, please contact Sally at 410-374-3154 or sallycarper@verizon.net.

Do you have a few bales of straw, corn stalks, gourds, pumpkins, apples and other items that you might be able to donate? Do you have mean baking skills in the kitchen? Consider baking a cake for the "cake walk" game. The more families that bring cakes, the more winners we have and the longer the game can continue. Children can bake and decorate cakes, and proudly show their friends their donation. If you can help with any of these items, please contact Laura Thibodeaux at 410-357-4646 or thibodeaux@comcast.net.



From the President

The mornings are cooler, leaves are beginning to change, and local apples are ready to be picked...it is Fall in the Hereford Zone.

I hope that you are enjoying the myriad of activities that accompany the new season. With the new school year well under way, the PTA has been busy welcoming new families and familiar faces at Back to School Night, the New Parent Breakfast, and Popsicles on the Playground. New students should be on the lookout for their free PBE Spirit t-shirts that can be worn on spirit days to promote Prettyboy pride.

The PTA would like to encourage every family to be an active part of the PBE community. At last count, 429 people have joined the PTA as members for this school year. It is not too late to join! Please send in your envelope, so we can reach our goal of 100% participation.

Information for upcoming events can be found in this newsletter and on the PTA website at www.prettyboyschool.com. The website includes contact information for PTA officers, the school lunch calendar, archived newsletters, minutes from the PTA meeting, and more! Please visit our website and explore.

Happy Autumn!

Joyce Charles

Market Day

Don't like going to the grocery store? Try Market Day! With convenient online ordering, monthly promotions, delicious food and easy pick-up, this is a viable and practical alternative to grocery shopping - and, it supports the children at Prettyboy!

The deadline for ordering this month is October 22nd, and the pickup date is October 28th at 6:30 pm in the cafeteria.

To place an order, visit www.marketday.com and use account number 9448. If you have any questions or would like to help with pick-up, please contact Misty Hough at 410-357-0619 or mistylough@aol.com.

Spirit Wear

Spirit Wear is now available! Look for our New Spirit Wear in the glass showcase at school, and you can also view it on the website.

Look for an order from coming home next week.

We will be taking orders at the Spirit Wear Booth at the Great Pumpkin Fest.

Have your PBE student wear their spirit wear on Fridays... you never know when we will be in the cafeteria looking for you with our stamps or prizes!!!

If you have any questions contact Kelly Martino at 410-357-4972 or kmartino2@comcast.net.



PRETTYBOY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Membership

"Growing For Our Future" is the 2009-10 PTA Membership theme. The Prettyboy PTA is comprised of parents, teachers and others who work together to promote educational, cultural, and enrichment opportunities for our children. Your membership directly affects the programs the PTA is able to sponsor for our children each year. **Show your support and join Prettyboy PTA.**

Dues are \$6.00 per person and we encourage both parents to join, as well as any relatives or friends that may be interested in helping the children and the Prettyboy PTA.

The Homeroom with the highest percentage of participation will receive an EXTRA gym period! (To be eligible for the contest, memberships MUST be submitted by October 31, 2009) As of September 30th, the top three classes are: Mrs. Cox, 148%; Ms. Paris, 118% and Mrs. Warns, 115%. Keep them coming!

Contact PTA Membership Chairpersons Jen Talbott at talbott1@hughes.net or Mardi Hasson at hasson3@usa.net with questions, or if you are interested in joining. Thank you for your support!

Prettyboy Staff — Up Close & Personal

Laurie Collacchi, Kindergarten Teacher

Laurie Collacchi, a teacher at PBE for 3 years, enjoys photography and writing poems (creative writing was her favorite subject). She has two children who both went to PBE and now attend HHS and HMS. She has a 4 pound Yorkie named Calvin, loves Reese's Peanut Butter Cups and listening to any 80's music. While watching her daughter play soccer and lacrosse is a favorite pastime, she also enjoys watching football and college basketball. When she's not teaching, she loves traveling—especially to islands and beaches!

Michele Paris, 1st Grade Teacher

Originally from Missouri, Michele Paris has lived in Pennsylvania for six years now and has just joined the PBE staff. She has two Yorkies named Magen and Bogie, and one cat named KK. The rest of her family still lives in the Kansas City area (go, Chiefs!), where twice a year she goes to visit them. They then take turns visiting her during the summers. While Math and Music were her favorite subjects in elementary school, Science is now her favorite. Among her other favorites are peanut butter M&Ms, golf (especially Tiger Woods), mystery books, any type of convertible car and all kinds of music. She likes to spend some of her free time at hand-sewing crafts and gardening.

Linda Jones, Art Teacher

A teacher at PBE for 28 years, Linda Jones lives on a farm with her husband and two of their three children. They have a multitude of pets: three dogs, three cats, six goats, six sheep, and one turtle! Not surprisingly, Art was her favorite subject back in school and it still is!! She would like something small and fast to drive through the country roads, and anything dark chocolate helps that sweet tooth! She enjoys gardening, art, and spending time with her family. Her favorite authors are Jodi Piccolt and Susan Whitting Albert, she enjoys all types of music and there's no particular sport team she follows!

Kathy Kelbaugh, 4th Grade Teacher

Having just joined the staff this year, Kathy Kelbaugh loves being a teacher at PBE! Besides her husband, Tom, and their three children who attend 5th District and HHS, she shares the house with Bella the dog, and two cats named Potter and Lily. She loves Rock and Pop music, and reading - especially Twilight, Harry Potter and Jane Austin books. Her favorite vacation spots are the Outer Banks and Williamsburg, and Sushi is her favorite food (along with Peanut M&Ms). When she was in elementary school (at 5th District), her favorite subject was Reading/Grammar, but now Math is her favorite. In addition to watching her children's basketball and field hockey games, she enjoys the Ravens and the Orioles.

Innisbrook Fundraiser

The pick up date for your Innisbrook order is Monday, November 16th from 3:15 -6:00 pm in the cafeteria hallway. Thanks to everybody who placed an order in support of our school!

Online ordering is available year round at www.innisbrook.com, making it easy for friends and family to continue to support our PTA! They can enter Prettyboy's number (105360) and their orders will ship directly to their home. Call Jean Barranco at 410-357-4148 with any questions.

Music

All 4th graders and 5th graders have brought home a concert letter that should be signed and returned to Mrs. Rodriguez.

The Music Department thanks all parents for their support. They could not do this without you!

Health & Safety

The **Marathon Kids** program kicked off on September 26th, but it's not too late to sign up your child for the 2009/2010 school year. This program is co-sponsored by the PTA and our Physical Education Department, and it is a free, nationwide running and nutritional program that promotes the development of a healthy lifestyle in your child. It challenges children to run and/or walk 26.2 miles over six months, in quarter and half mile increments.

Walking, jogging, and running can be done at home, before school, during recess, or anytime you can devote some activity time with your child. Adults are encouraged to participate with their child as it helps your child feel a sense of accomplishment and pride in his/her own body and achievements. The program also promotes individual activity. A small prize will be given when students complete all 26.2 miles. Free finisher shirts will be sent to the school in the Spring for those children completing the Marathon Kids Program.

Please come and walk with us on *Tuesday and Thursday mornings* at 8:00 am. To register for the Marathon Kids program, please contact Denise Chenoweth at dchenoweth@bcps.org.

Green Hands Committee

Welcome to the Fall Equinox from the Green Hands Committee (formerly Beautification).



This year we plan to continue with our collection of juice box containers in the lunch room in conjunction with the Terra Cycle Program. This teaches our children to find a creative way to use their old containers.

Instead of just sending more "stuff" to the landfill, we are sending all of our empty juice boxes to a company which then reuses them and creates new products, thus reducing our waste. Look for new collection containers in the cafeteria soon.

We plan to continue our work maintaining the front gardens, in addition to the Butterfly Garden in the roundabout and the Rain Garden near the playground. Stop by and take a look!

Check out the PTA website for some of our Green Hands Eco-Friendly Tips coming soon!

Prettyboy Recreation Council

Commissioner Updates: This year, the new Baseball commissioner is Jason Delawder and the Softball commissioner will again be Lia Arnold. Karen Rhoads and Jon Capan are going to be taking over the Basketball program.

New this year! Flyers will not be sent out for every Rec Council activity as has been done in the past. Instead, a quarterly newsletter (as seen in September when it was sent home with your child) will be sent out showcasing all the programs from area Rec Councils. Look for the next newsletter in November.

The Rec Council is looking for a Chairperson for the **Spanish program** and for teachers as well. This program was well received last year, but they are unable to offer Spanish to the community until all of the positions can be filled. Please contact Jen Talbott at talbott1@hughes.net or Wendy Hallameyer at wrhalla4@netzero.net for any additional information, or if you are interested in filling any of the needed positions.

The **Kinderbase and Tots programs** are available for our community. If you would like more information on either of these programs, please visit the Rec Council website at www.prettyboyrecreationcouncil.com.

The website will be updated regularly with the latest information on all programs offered by the rec council. **The Prettyboy Recreation Council relies on the volunteers in our community to make our programs work!**

Special Education

The Resource Center for Families and Schools supports parents of children with disabilities, ages birth to 21. Its mission is to promote positive, effective partnerships within the school community. Staffed by parents of children with disabilities, the center activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Maintains a lending library of articles, newsletters, books, and videotapes on a wide range of special education topics such as special education law, types of disabilities, support groups and recreational opportunities.
- Seeks ways to encourage and strengthen communication between parents and school personnel.
- Teams with educators to teach free workshops.

If your child is currently receiving special education services at Prettyboy Elementary School or you would like to learn more about Special Education Programs and resources in your community, please call PTA Special Education Liaison, Pam Cusick, at 410-357-0366.

Looking to Volunteer?

There are many ways YOU can be part of the action and part of the Prettyboy Spirit when you FALL IN and volunteer!

A pink sign-up form with "FALL IN" across the top was sent home with your child and handed out at the volunteer training sessions earlier this year. If you have it and would still like to sign up to volunteer, please fill out and return the form to school and you will be contacted with more information.

If you don't have the form, or have any questions, please contact Renee White at renegary@verizon.net.

Mardi Gras Madness Night

This annual event, known last year as the Pot O' Gold Fest, is now planned for March 20, 2010 from 6:30 pm – 11:30 pm. Proceeds benefit Prettyboy Elementary School and its students.

This year's Mardi Gras event will be held at Hereford Volunteer Fire Company's Summit Manor. There will be incredible auction items on which you can bid. Mark your calendars – invite your friends!

If you would like to volunteer or donate an auction item, please contact Tracy McGuigan at 410-357-8273.

Donate Direct

Don't forget to send in your contribution to the Donate Direct program. The Direct Donate program is a fund raising program that allows you to contribute money to the PTA, knowing that 100% of the amount you donate goes directly to support the programs sponsored by the PTA.

For more information, or if you need a donation form, contact Karen Rhoads at kmrhoads@msn.com. Thanks for your support!

PTA Meetings

All parents are welcome to join our 2009-2010 meetings which are held in the Prettyboy Library from 7:00 -9:00 pm on the following dates: 10/20, 11/17, 1/19, 2/16, 3/16, 4/20, and 5/18.

Library Volunteers Needed

Mr. Finckel needs help during Mrs. Robertson's library time to assist the students in checking books out. Mrs. Robertson's library time is Tuesday at 1:15. Please contact Mr. Finckel at kfinckel@bcps.org or Melissa Alderson at melissaalderson@comcast.net if you are available



Dear Parents and Guardians of Prettyboy Elementary Students,

As mentioned at the Back to School Night, Prettyboy PTA is continuing the Donate Direct program for the 2009 - 2010 school year.

The Donate Direct program is a fund raising program that allows you to contribute money to the PTA, knowing that 100% of the amount you donate goes directly to support the programs sponsored by the PTA.



The Donate Direct program is geared to offer families an option to write one check in the beginning of the year and lessen the overload of fundraising. **The program is easy to do, budget friendly, tax deductible, and VOLUNTARY.**

Our target goal is to raise \$3500 this year through Donate Direct. We ask that if you choose to give, you give what is comfortable for your family. Your generous contribution will support our many programs including: curriculum enhancement, enrichment programs, classroom resources, Scholastic subscriptions, and family fun events.

I hope that you will consider donating to this program as it helps to reduce the number of fund raising requests of our many families. I thank you for your support of the program.

Sincerely,
Karen Rhoads
Donate Direct

**** If you would like to contribute to Donate Direct, please complete the form below. ****

(Detach this portion and return with contribution)

2009 - 2010 Donate Direct Program ~ Prettyboy Elementary School PTA

Parent Name _____

Child's Name _____

Child's Homeroom Teacher _____

Please make check payable to 'Prettyboy Elementary School PTA' and enclose with this form in a sealed envelope and return to school to the attention of Karen Rhoads – Donate Direct. Your support is greatly appreciated.

A receipt will be sent home to you for your tax preparation and records. Some corporations have a matching program; please contact Karen Rhoads at kmrhoads@msn.com for more details.

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