



# St. Francis PTO Newsletter

## September PTO Events

- 9/9 — 2nd Grade Popcorn Day
- 9/23 — 2nd Grade Popcorn Day
- 9/29 — 2nd Grade Family Hot Dog Day

## September School Events

- 9/13 — Grandparent's Day Mass & Brunch
- 9/16 — Jeans Day
- 9/23 — September Birthday Lunch
- 9/30 — Jeans Day

## Family Hot Dog Days

In having a Family Hot Dog Day, we are encouraging family time together. It isn't often that we get to have lunch with our children in the middle of a work/school day.

Family Hot Dog Days occur monthly, with the exception of November, December and May. Each grade will be assigned a month in which they are responsible. The month of September is allocated to 2nd Grade. 2nd Grade parents/guardians are responsible for preparing the food, distributing the food, collecting money, and also for bringing in a dessert for all of the children to eat! We ask that each parent for the grade responsible, bring in a container of cookies, or something of the sort. Just as a reminder... we are a peanut free school, so please avoid any nuts or peanut butter in the items you bring to share.

For each Hot Dog Day we need a minimum of 3 volunteers. We need someone to collect money, set-up, dress the hot dogs, prepare teacher lunches, clean up, etc. The more volunteers, the better!! We ask that you arrive at the school no later than 10am to begin setting up.

We will be keeping the menu for parents a little more simple this year. We will be serving hot dogs, chips, desserts, and drinks.

Looking ahead...3rd Grade will be responsible for Family Hot Dog Day on October 20th. If you know you are available, please let us know!

## Message From The Board

We are anticipating an exciting and eventful school year! As always, we greatly appreciate your help and support with each and every event. Without you, the events would not be a success! We are always looking for additional ideas and suggestions!

## Updates

In an effort to "keep it simple" this year, we will have each grade responsible for a specific month. In the past we have alternated each popcorn day between classes. To be quite honest, it gets a little confusing for everyone. For example, the month of September is allocated to 2nd grade. So, the two popcorn days, along with the Family Hot Dog Day scheduled in September will be the responsibility of 2nd grade parents.

## Upcoming Events

Our annual Oktoberfest is going to be held on October 22nd from 11am-3pm.

Oktoberfest is bringing some new attractions this year! How does a Dunking Booth sound? Speed Pitch? Costume Contest?

We will still have the 50/50 Raffle, Themed Basket Raffle, Concessions, Jupiter Jump, Prizes, Music, and MORE! Teachers will be deciding on basket themes soon! We would like to have all donations received by September 30th.

In efforts to promote "outside ticket sales" we are requesting homeroom moms put together a list of every item in the basket. In doing so, we will provide everyone with a copy of the list to sell tickets to your friends, family, etc. They do not have to be present to win. More details to come...

**Have You Seen Our PTO Bulletin Board? Check It Out! We will post upcoming events, PTO meeting dates, and other important information!!**

## September 2011

## Newsletter News

This is the first year we have distributed a PTO newsletter. We are hoping by creating the newsletter, that everyone will remain "in the know." If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact any of the PTO officers.

## Popcorn Days

Popcorn day occurs every other Friday. If your child would like a bag of delicious popcorn for their snack that day, the cost is only 25¢. All funds raised that day will go directly to the teacher whose class is responsible for Popcorn Day.

Each month we will be asking for volunteers from specific grades to assist with Popcorn Day.

We are going to begin with 2nd grade for the month of September. We began with 2nd grade so that any parents that have not, but would like to, participate in Popcorn Day could learn from a pro!

Drew O'Neill has volunteered for 2nd Grade to prepare the popcorn for both days for the month of September.

If you would like to help, or would like to be educated on the technique of popping popcorn, please let us know!

### **THANK YOU DREW!!**

Funds this month, will go to Ms. McCutcheon!!

Looking ahead...3rd Grade will be responsible for Popcorn Days in October. The dates are 10/7 & 10/21.

For November & December we will need additional volunteers for the Popcorn Days because those months do not contain a "Family Hot Dog Day," so those months are not allocated to any specific grade. The dates are 11/4, 12/2, & 12/16. If you are available any of these dates, please let us know!

## Oktoberfest

Oktoberfest is our "big" fall event of the year. We have so many exciting attractions during Oktoberfest. We will have games, a cake walk, a Jupiter jump, a dunking booth, and much more!

Just to give you an idea of some of the details regarding Oktoberfest...

We sell tickets for the attractions at the price of 25¢ each or 5 for \$1. Each attraction "costs" one ticket. Once the event gets a little closer, we will send home tickets for presale. When your child plays the games at the event, they will receive a golden coin, which can be traded in for prizes at our "store." The store will be displayed on the stage in the gym.

During Oktoberfest we have a 50/50 Raffle as well. You purchase tickets for \$1 and we split the total ticket sales with you! Last year the winner walked away with over \$450! We will send home the 50/50 raffle tickets home as well!

We have each teacher come up with a "child" theme. For example, last year, one theme chosen was Crayola. We asked parents to donate one item pertaining to the Crayola theme, such as crayons, markers, etc. At Oktoberfest, and before, we sell tickets for \$1 to be put into a drawing. If your ticket is drawn, you are the winner for that basket!! You do not have to be present to win!

We will also be having a costume contest at 1pm. The winner is chosen by the audience in regards to how loud they applaud. The winner will receive a basket of goodies provided by the PTO.

We have a concession stand, which offers a variety of delicious items! We will be offering cotton candy this year as well!!

We will need ample volunteers to make this event a success. Each class has one attraction they are responsible for. We ask that volunteers take shifts for the event so we can all spend time with our children throughout the day.

## Wish Lists

This year, we have asked teachers to prepare a list of items needed for their classrooms. Once we receive all of the wish lists, we will be allocating proceeds from events toward these items. We will be notifying you ahead of time what the proceeds will be going toward.

We are excited to be able to provide our hard working teachers and staff with the items they need to enhance our children's learning experience.

In an effort to be able to provide our teachers with these much needed items, we will be conducting a few additional fundraisers this year. For example, in November we intend to have a "Thirty-One" fundraiser and in January we are looking into hosting a Zumba-thon.

These are just a few examples of fundraisers we are planning for the future!

If you have any other exciting fundraiser event ideas, please let us know!

## Contact Information

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## Volunteer Sheets

Please be sure to turn in your PTO volunteer sheets as soon as possible. Once we receive all of the volunteer sheets, we will be able to let you know who your homeroom parent is...We will keep you posted!

## Homeroom Parent

Several of you have asked for a description of the Homeroom Parent responsibilities. The Homeroom Parent is an extremely important asset to each grade, each teacher, and to the PTO!

The homeroom parent assists in gathering volunteers for events, obtains and organizes donations, organizes homeroom parties, and sends home reminders for events.

For example, we have each grade responsible for an attraction at Oktoberfest. It is the homeroom parent's responsibility to obtain volunteers for each shift of the attraction. Another example includes the Halloween Classroom Party. The homeroom parent is responsible for obtaining refreshments and organizing crafts/games, etc.

It is totally up to the Homeroom Parent as to what is done at each of the classroom parties.

Being the Homeroom Parent does require a lot of time, but it is an extremely rewarding responsibility. Your efforts do not go unnoticed and we will be there to assist you!

If you are interested, or need additional information, please let us know.