



Williams Township PTA Newsletter

October 2009



Coming Attractions

Market Day

Order forms are due :

4:30 pm - Friday, October 30th

Online orders are due:

noon - Saturday, October 31st

Pick-up orders at

4:30-5:30 pm Friday, November 6th

Order at www.marketday.com

Schwan's Truck Sale

9:00 am - 1:00 pm Saturday, October 10th

Pick orders or buy product direct from the truck. Visa, MC, Cash, Check or EBT

Next sale date Saturday, November 21st

Bon-Ton Coupon Books

20%, 30% and \$10 off Coupons

Cost \$5.00 (all proceeds go to the PTA)

Contact Jenny Frindt (j.frindt@rcn.com or 610-253-2262)

Scripts Orders

Orders will be taken throughout the year.

Contact our scripts coordinator, Jennifer Janik at ubjanik@ptd.net (610-333-1799) or

purchase your scrip cards online at shopwithscrip.com (code 9BF8A76712869).

Presto Pay or make checks payable to "Wms. Twp. PTA" and mark your envelope "Scrip Order".

PTA Meeting

Wednesday, November 11th at 6:00pm

Baby sitting will be available in room #311 for a small donation.

Annual Halloween Party

October 24th from 10:00am- noon.

One of the most enjoyed events of the year is just around the corner. Plenty of opportunities exist to volunteer during the event as well as set up and tear down.



A Letter from Our President

The fall is off to an amazing start here at the Williams Township Elementary School. We had over 100 people in attendance at our first open meeting on September 23, 2009! The faculty game show was an enormous success. Congratulations to our winner Mrs. Skutches. We hope this will become an annual event. Many thanks to our 8 teacher contestants and 8 teacher helpers. Keep a lookout for further details to follow.

The number of involved PTA members continues to grow. The PTA is successful due to the broad range of talents everyone contributes. Don't miss our next open PTA meeting on Wednesday, November 11, 2009 at 6:00 PM. Mr. David Wright, Director of Curriculum and Instruction for Wilson Area School District, will report the results of the PSSA tests. Also, Mrs. Brown and several of the teachers will make a presentation about the School District's homework policy and how parents can help their children make the most of homework assignments. Hope to see you there.

The PTA is always looking for ways to help more parents become involved in their children's education and to develop a partnership with the school. We welcome your ideas, feedback and suggestions. I can be reached at 610.253.8560.

Deana Washburn

The Newsletter needs sponsors!!

Would you like to see your business highlighted here and on the PTA website? Sponsorship costs \$25 per individual or business per issue. The newsletter is distributed to all parents of Williams Township Elementary students. To sponsor the newsletter, contact Jeannine Horinko at (610) 258-7686 or by email at mrpsmomme2@rcn.com.

Do you have a some publishing experience and a few hours to donate monthly? The newsletter is looking for a few reporters to help write about the happenings of the PTA and our school. We have many talented members in our PTA, and if this is one of your talents please call Jeannine Horinko to lend a hand.

A Letter from Our Principal

[People] may be said to resemble not the bricks of which a house is built, but the pieces of a picture puzzle, each differing in shape, but matching the rest, and thus bringing out the picture. Felix Adler

We opened this school year with a renewed dedication to honoring diversity and preventing bullying. On the second day of school, the students attended an assembly that was designed by their teachers to reiterate the RAMS Rules. Funny skits reintroduced the rules and reinforced the need to follow our school rules. (You can find a listing of these simple but powerful rules on the inside of our student folders.) This year, we also included an additional pledge to make our school-- "No Place for Hate." In this initiative we join not only our Middle School and High School in this important project, but many other schools throughout the state who are taking steps to develop school environments that are anti-bias and anti-bullying safe havens. We will continue with several more projects during the year to expand our understanding and acceptance of all and increase our knowledge of ways to avoid bullying.

Preparing for the flu season is another high priority for us this year. We are educating our students on the ways to help prevent contracting and spreading the flu, especially the H1N1 flu, through both our audio and video broadcasts daily. Our Channel 21 News Studio held a poster contest in September with the theme: "What To Do So You Don't Get the Flu." After judging thirty-nine entries, eight winners were announced: Cara Brunner, Leah Dombroski, Cooper Freeman, Lydia Houser, Brynn Montoro, Chloe Park, Nicole Vogt, and Sebastian Wood.

If your child displays flu-like symptoms, it is important to keep him/her home until he/she has been fever free for a full twenty-four hours. If the doctor confirms the illness as flu of any variety, including H1N1, please inform our school nurse as we are keeping records of flu incidences this year.

The beginning of the new school year is also the time to create your child's school routine with an early bedtime to ensure a good night's sleep. Provide a well-balanced breakfast after a wake up call that allows an appropriate amount of time to get ready. A cheery farewell that gets your child out the door in time to catch the bus and arrive at school on time is imperative. After a busy school day, remember to provide some down time and perhaps some quiet sharing time when you and your child can share the highlights of the day. Homework time needs to be determined so that it allows your child adequate time and appropriate space to finish tasks in a timely manner. Family dinner hour can also provide interesting conversation about newly learned ideas and concepts and allow family members to share the excitement and enjoyment of the day. Relax time and/or recreational reading time is a way to unwind before bedtime. Setting a daily routine with your child that can be followed except in unusual circumstances is a key to a successful school year.

Another key to a successful school year is to create a positive home school connection. I encourage all parents to get to know their child's teacher(s) early in the school year. Remember, the teacher is your most important ally in providing your child with a sound education. The teacher is with your child about six hours out of each day, influencing and teaching him/her. They get to know your child in the school setting, which is different from the home setting. It is important that communication between school and home be strong, as it is very likely that your child behaves differently in each setting. Working with the teacher to develop strong lines of communication will ensure that both of your child's greatest advocates are working toward the same goals. Good relationships grow when communication is positive on both sides. Don't wait for a problem to contact your child's teacher(s) and remember to be patient and listen to both sides of the issue when a problem does arise. You can call the school at any time to inquire about the best time to contact the teacher. Teachers have voice mail and email accessibility and they are attentive to returning either in a timely manner. Be sure that you leave detailed information on how to best contact you. Attending school-sponsored events on a regular basis connects you appropriately and routinely to school personnel. When you do have a parent/teacher conference scheduled it is wise to carefully plan what you'd like to have addressed, making a list to bring along is a good idea. Maintaining good relationships and open lines of communication will make your respective jobs of parenting and teaching more effective, ensuring your child's success in school and life.

Enjoy the 2009-2010 school year!

Dale Ann Brown

A Note from the Music Room

Recordings of Williams Township students performing favorite songs can now be heard online via Mrs. Dillon's teacher web page.

Simply go to <http://teacherweb.com/PA/WilliamsTownshipElementary/Dillon/> and click on "Podcasts". Then, select the performance you would like to hear. This site can also be accessed through the Wilson Area School District website.

Performance selections will be changed on a regular basis. We are so happy to be able to share our musical talents with you on a regular basis! Enjoy!!



Just a reminder – There are still Enjoy the City and Kid Stuff Books available for purchase. Contact Carol Hoskins at carol.hoskins@rcn.com or 610-838-0508.

It's a Halloween Party!

Saturday, October 24th

10:00 am to 12:00 pm

- Listen to spooky stories
- Decorate scary pumpkins
- Play frighteningly fun games
- March in the Halloween Parade

Drop off at 10am. Kids, wear your costumes!
The parade starts at 11:30, so parents, return then to see them parade around the cul-de-sac.



We need lots of parent volunteers to help, so come and join the fun!

For questions or to volunteer call

Joy Wharen at (610) 250-8835 or

wharenj@rcn.com

Hope to see you there!

Turn Your Tra\$ into Treasure!



Look for **Labels for Education** on Campbell's soups, V8 Juices, Pepperidge Farms & Pace products & some Market Day packages. No need to send the whole label, **we just need the UPC** from participating items. The PTA redeems the UPC labels for classroom supplies.



Clip and save **Box Tops For Education**. They're worth 10c each to the school and help to fund many of the PTA's programs. Box Tops are collected the first Friday of every month. The teacher with the most collected each month wins a gift card of their choice for the classroom. All proceeds from Box Tops go directly to the teachers fund.

Thanks for helping us turn your trash into treasure!

Classroom Donations Needed

Perhaps sniffles and coughs have started to make an appearance at your home as the fall allergy and cold season gets underway. These symptoms have been noted in the classroom and teachers and students alike are requesting donations of boxes of tissues and bottles of hand sanitizer to help keep the germs at bay. Please send your donated items to the classroom with your child at your convenience. Thank you!





The Faculty Game Show

At the first PTA meeting of the year, we held our long-awaited Faculty Game Show. We had an audience of over 100 people, and we earned over \$1,200 for the PTA! We had eight brave teacher contestants and eight teachers helping us to run the show. Mrs. De Luca kept score, Mrs. Judy Fisher kept time, Mrs. Binn and Mr. Garry Musselman ran the lights and music, Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Bennett sold snacks and drinks, and Mrs. Buskirk and Mrs. Jabeir sold signs, hats, flags, banners, and streamers. I wrote the questions and served as emcee.

I did my best to stump the teachers, but they ran circles around me and used up every single question I had, including all my tie-breaker questions. Although they displayed varying degrees of modesty, they were all razor sharp.

Ms. Colletta started off the show, giving a shy smile and professing that she was "a little bit nervous." However, the gloves came off quickly as she proceeded to pound her opponents throughout the evening, correctly answering questions about the Pilgrims, Galileo, Istanbul, Mesopotamia, and A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens. I finally tripped her up with a totally unfair question of grammar trivia. (What else could I do? She had to be stopped.)

Mrs. Fisher pleaded for mercy from the mob, repeatedly crying out, "I'm just an aide!" However, our sympathy evaporated as she correctly knocked down one question after another, to the point where she began whispering answers to the other contestants. She calmly racked up points and dollars with correct answers on the Samurai warriors, Attila the Hun, obtuse angles, irrational numbers, and the Norwegian Symbolist painter Edvard Munch. "Aide," my foot!

Mrs. Kohler correctly informed us that the process of protecting steel by coating it with zinc is called "galvanizing." She then took our breath away with correct answers on transversal lines, Joan of Arc and the Siege of Orleans, and the quantitative value of the irrational number "Pi." In order to finally make her miss one, I was forced to resort to questions about obscure details of world history. Even then, I had to make her nauseous by showing her a photograph of an Aztec mask made from a human skull. That did it.

Mrs. Moser (a/k/a "The Hustler") attempted to milk sympathy from the crowd by missing her first question. Her ploy worked, because everyone in the audience felt sorry for her and gave me dirty looks. But they soon realized that she had been toying with them, when she proceeded to nail every single question after that. She blew the crowd away with her extensive knowledge of the Code of Hammurabi, the Pythagorean Theorem, misplaced modifiers, Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa, and catalytic converters. We won't fall for those doe eyes again anytime soon, will we?

Mrs. Parry correctly identified the author of Frankenstein as Mary Shelley and the holy city of the Incas as Machu Picchu. But her supporters got more than a little huffy when I caught her off-guard with a tricky question about Viking funerals. (I don't know what they were so mad about. Doesn't everybody know that the person who set the boat on fire would be naked?)

Mrs. Skutches, mild-mannered instructor of P.E. and square dancing, was a vision of intensity. She knew that a verb used as a noun is a gerund, that blood is carried away from the heart by the aorta, that Shakespeare's "Scottish play" was Macbeth, that The Thinker was sculpted by Auguste Rodin, that King Tut's stepmother was Nefertiti, and that the music in Walt Disney's Fantasia was conducted by Leopold Stokowski. Bravo! (I mean, "Brava.")

Mrs. Dickson, cool as a cucumber, also got her six questions right. She knew that the Black Death was the Bubonic Plague, that Julius Caesar's friend and murderer was Brutus, that an Isosceles triangle has two equal sides, that a collapsed supernova is a "black hole," that the two principal rivers in Mesopotamia were the Tigris and the Euphrates, and that the fresco on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel was painted by Michelangelo. And we never saw her sweat!

continued ...

The Faculty Game Show (continued)

Mr. Reagan deliberately asked me to give him hard questions, which I did. To my amazement, he answered all six correctly. He knew that the word "bit" was coined from "binary digit," that the noun to which a pronoun refers is called its antecedent, that Ira Hayes was one of the U.S. Marines who raised the American flag on Iwo Jima in 1945, that every number in the Fibonacci sequence is calculated by adding the previous two numbers together, that it was Thomas Hobbes who said life in the state of nature was "nasty, brutish, and short," and that Grant Wood's painting American Gothic was used in TV commercials in the 1960's to advertise corn flakes cereal. He totally smoked me.

We had a three-way tie at the end, so we went into a sudden death shootout. When I asked Mrs. Skutches what event in 1618 triggered the Thirty Years' War, she didn't even bat an eye. She stared fixedly at me over her half-glasses and said, "The defenestration of Prague." Can you believe she knew that? Poor Mrs. Dickson then got the impossible question, "What is a defenestration?" which she did not know means, "Throwing someone out a window." (Surprise, surprise.) So out the window she went. Then I asked Mr. Reagan who served as Chancellor for Queen Christina of Sweden, daughter of Gustavus Adolphus, in the seventeenth century. He was visibly annoyed at me when he didn't get that one. But now, for the rest of his life, I'll bet you he will never forget the name "Axel Oxenstierna." Someday when he really needs to know that particular bit of information, he will thank me.

So, Mrs. Skutches was our overall winner. However, Mrs. Parry won the award for most money raised. Despite my efforts to shoot her down with trick questions about naked Vikings, she was the only teacher to break \$200. Apparently, she had a huge number of adoring fans who turned out for the show, and they plunked down big dollars on her. Mrs. Skutches came in second on money raised, with \$196, and Mr. Reagan came in third, with \$168. The rest of the teachers were close behind, all in the range of \$120 to \$150.

All kidding aside, the PTA owes the teachers a huge debt of gratitude for being so outrageously smart (and so brave) and for making our game show such a wonderful success. Thank you, teachers!

Lisa Tresslar



raising funds for education

If you have never tried Market Day before, why not order a few things just to test it out and see how you like it? Market Day is a fantastic way to support the PTA without purchasing items you wouldn't have bought at the grocery store anyway. So please give it a try! See this month's specials and order online at www.marketday.com



Calling all Shutterbugs!

The Yearbook Committee is already hard at work gathering photos for this year's edition of the yearbook, and they would like to include your photos taken during school activities. Please email your high-quality candid images for yearbook purposes to Shea Bennett (libshea@aol.com) or Jennifer Shunk (cjshunk@rcn.com). Thank you!
(please no still images created from video)

Clothing Donations Requested

Our School Nurse, Mrs. Rath likes to keep some clothing on hand for occasions when children have accidents at school. If any of you have some K-5 children's clothing you would like to donate (boys' or girls'), Mrs. Rath would greatly appreciate it.

Sweat pants or stretch pants and blousy tops are ideal, since they can fit a variety of sizes. If you have any items you would like to donate, you can deliver them to Mrs. Rath at the school office. Many thanks.



SCRIP ORDER CALENDAR

Scrip Ordering is an ongoing fundraiser throughout the school year which helps support our PTA. Orders will be placed every month according to the following schedule:

October 2009 – Orders Due October 20th

November 2009 – Orders Due November 17th

December 2009 – Orders Due December 8th

January 2010 – Orders Due January 19th

February 2010 – Orders Due February 16th

March 2010 – Orders Due March 16th

April 2010 – Orders Due April 20th

May 2010 – Orders Due May 18th

** Remember** GIANT gift cards in \$25/\$50/\$100 amounts and BARNES & NOBLE gift cards in \$10/\$20/\$25 amounts are always in stock and available.

Keep SCRIP in mind for ALL your shopping needs!

Jennifer Janik, Scrip Committee Chair (ubjanik@ptd.net or 610-333-1799)

SCHWAN'S FUNDRAISING PROGRAM

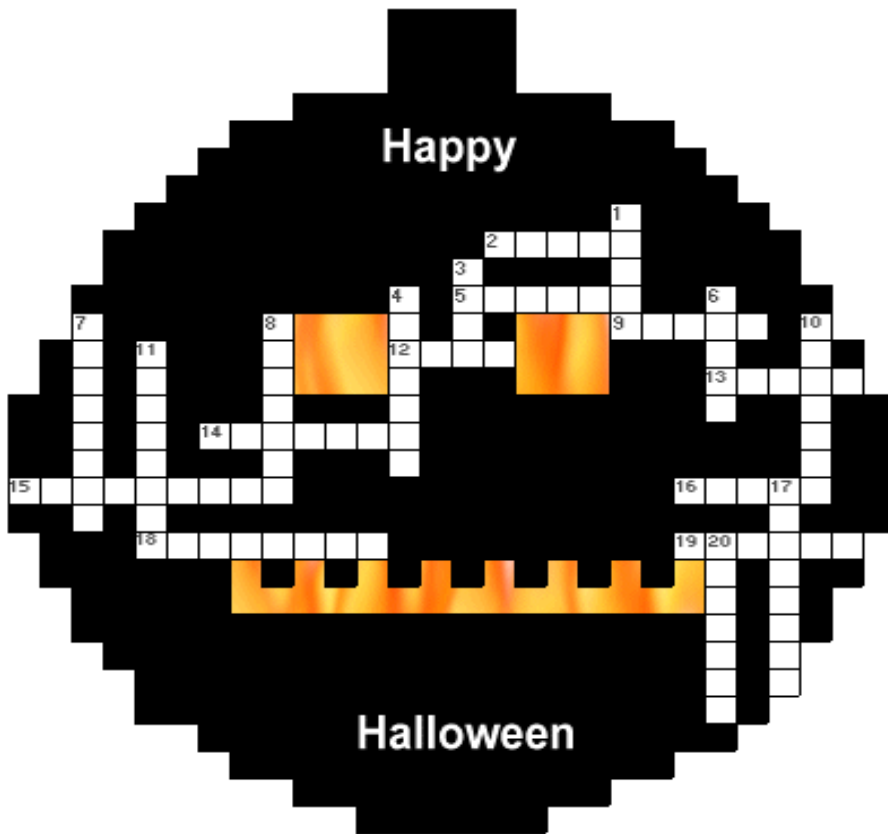
Saturday, October 10th, 9:00am – 1:00 pm

Pick-up Orders or Purchase Items from the Truck

This is a new fundraising program this year for the PTA and we hope to make it an ongoing success. You may place your orders online at schwansfundraising.com, call 1-888-724-9267 and order by phone, send a written order form to school or simply show up the day of the sale and purchase directly from the truck. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Let's make this a super sale!! **Next Sale – Saturday, November 21st**

Wandra Cain (freeone4j@aol.com or 610-253-5292)

KIDS FUN PAGE



ACROSS

2. This kind of person may cast a spell on you
5. Bob for _____
9. Child go door to door and say trick or _____
12. To disguise your face, you put on a _____
13. You stuff leaves into clothes to make one of these
14. The month that Halloween is in
15. Many of the stones in this place say RIP
16. "It's a Great Pumpkin, Charlie _____"
18. A bunch of bones
19. When something frightens you, you are _____

DOWN

1. Put on a white sheet and you are this.
3. At night these creatures fly around
4. This guy may come and bite your neck
6. When you go door to door you often get this
7. Don't cross the path of a _____
8. Many communities will create a _____ house for you to go through.
10. What you carve and put a candle in for Halloween
11. A famous character is the _____ Horseman
17. Don't let this guy see the full moon or he will turn into this.
20. You dress up in a _____

Halloween Riddles

Why didn't the skeleton cross the road?
He didn't have the guts.

What do skeletons say before they begin dining?
Bone appetit!

What do ghosts serve for dessert?
Ice scream.

Why do witches fly on brooms?
Their vacuum cords aren't long enough.

When is it bad luck to meet a black cat?
When you're a mouse.

What was the witch's favorite subject in school?
Spelling.

What do you call a friendly dead Egyptian?
A chummy mummy.

What do you call a skeleton who won't work?
Lazy Bones.

Help the fly find his way to the candy corn.

