

MARION CROSS SCHOOL

PTO **June** NEWS

Upcoming PTO Events

Monday, June 13: Watermelon pick-up — After-school near the main entrance

Important MCS Reminders

Monday, June 13: 6th Grade Celebration and Potluck — 5 p.m. in the Multi-purpose Room and On the Green

Tuesday, June 14: Field Day — On the Green

Wednesday, June 15: Last day of School — Noon dismissal

PTO needs watermelon slicers for Field Day!

Please [sign up](#) to slice a watermelon for MCS Field Day on June 14. We will hand out watermelons after school on Monday, June 13. We're asking volunteers to take one home, slice it up, and return the next morning for the kids to enjoy after Field Day. Thank you!

PTO launches Facebook page

The Marion Cross PTO is [now on Facebook](#). Join us to keep up to date with MCS news and events, and to enjoy great photos from the very talented Emma Cottage. Thank you to Emma and Amy Staggs for getting our page up and running!

MCS Welcome Committee

Thank you to Emma, Amy, and Lorena Markov for volunteering to head up the MCS Welcome Committee. Last August we had a great Popsicles on the Playground event for MCS families new and old and plan to continue this new tradition. Stay tuned for more fun events this summer and opportunities to meet new families and welcome them to MCS! If you would like to help out or have ideas for the Welcome Committee, please email [Emma](#), [Amy](#), or [Lorena](#). And don't forget to check the Marion Cross PTO page on Facebook for additional events.

Good-bye and thank you to PTO Co-chair Tracy Zuckerman!

The end of the school year marks the end of Tracy Zuckerman's two years as PTO co-chair. It's been an amazing two years, full of fun community activities and fundraising events. Thank you Tracy for your great leadership, commitment to MCS, and the unflagging energy and enthusiasm you brought to your role. You will be missed!

Welcome to Susan Simmers, new PTO co-chair

While we are sad to see Tracy go, we are very excited to welcome Susan Simmers as PTO co-chair for next year. Susan will work with Stephanie McCaull who is starting her second year as co-chair. Thank you Susan!

PTO grants update for 2015-2016

Many of you are aware of the various PTO fundraisers that take place throughout the year. That's the highly visible part of the PTO. What's less visible is where that money goes. A portion goes to fund visiting authors, artists, and musicians; the supplemental food program; staff appreciation and retirement events; and the MCS community gardens. The bulk of it however goes back to MCS in the form of grants. The PTO awards grants each fall and spring and every teacher, staff member or parent is welcome to submit grant requests to the PTO Finance Committee. Below is a summary of the grants awarded for the 2015-2016 school year. Thank you to everyone who has supported the PTO and helped to make these grants possible.

Fall 2015 Grants Awarded: \$1,888

Allison Litten & Kathryn Hyams: French dictionaries for all classrooms, \$500

3rd grade teachers: Imaginary animal themed books, \$250

2nd grade teachers: Individual student white boards, \$138.50

Lindsay Putnam & Molly Riordan: Community garden supplies, \$500

Karen Dwyer: Norwich Community Skating Rink: \$500

Spring 2016 Grants Awarded: \$2,875

Ginny Moore: Purchasing new MCS ice skates and refurbishing old skates, \$550

Signe Taylor: Playground balls for recess and after school (2 four-square balls, 2 soccer balls, and 2 basketballs), \$150

Nathaniel Perron (Thetford Eagle Scout): Outdoor classroom, \$1000

Brie Swenson: Kindergarten stage and sandbox, \$700

Lindsay Putnam: 50 riparian shrubs for stream bank in Nature Area, \$475

Bike to School and Pie Day thank you

Once again two traditional spring events—Bike to School and Staff Appreciation Pie Day—were great successes! Thank you to Dan McGinley-Smith for organizing volunteers, logistics, and publicity to ensure another fun, fabulous, and safe Bike to School Day on May 4. An eager peloton of riders departed Huntley, biked past the library where younger riders and unicyclists joined the parade, then ended at MCS where the bike rack was full to bursting. It was a great morning, and we can't wait to do it again in the fall.

Thank you also to Corin Benedict and Tamar Schreibman for organizing 80 pie bakers and orchestrating a beautiful and impressive display of pies in the Multi. The MCS staff was very appreciative. Thank you for Corin and Tamar for continuing this wonderful tradition.

2015-2016 Box Tops program a rousing success

Thank you to all the students, faculty, families, and community members who participated in the Box Tops for Education program this year. Also a HUGE round of applause to Jo Ellen Gardner and her team of classroom box tops counters who counted nearly 14,000 units this year, and to Laura DiPiazza for her beautiful calligraphy which makes the classroom awards that much more special.

If my calculations are correct, during this school year, we raised approximately \$1,400 simply through collecting Box Tops coupons and dimes! With this money the PTO has been able to provide money for the purchase of a floor mic for the Multi-purpose room, fruit trees for the green, spike ball sets for the PE program, and playground balls for each classroom. Every child in the school will have the opportunity to use these items and benefit from their presence in the school. Plus, the BTE program provides the students with a great sense of camaraderie and teamwork, as well as a real experience of ownership and recognition of the value of fundraising. If only more of you could see the excitement and cheering at REP every time I announce that a Box Tops goal has been met. Their joy and enthusiasm makes this program so rewarding to organize.

The Box Tops Collection containers will fly out of classrooms this Friday, June 10. So please do one last check of your pantries and send in any coupons you might discover there...and remember to start saving for the fall when the collection (and competitions!) will begin anew. Thanks and congratulations to all! - *Katie Kitchel*

Thank you business partners!

