

## **Chestnut Hill Elementary Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)**

***\*All PTO Correspondence will be on Yellow Paper – Be on the look out!!\****

The CHE PTO would like to take this opportunity to welcome all new and returning students, as well as their families, back to school!! We are very excited about the upcoming 2015-2016 school year!

*Our Mission Statement: The Chestnut Hill Elementary PTO is a non-profit organization whose membership includes parents, guardians and staff at Chestnut Hill Elementary. Our goal is to promote open communication and understanding between parents and the staff of Chestnut Hill Elementary. Our efforts serve to enhance and maximize the education of every child while aiding them in achieving their highest potential. The PTO sponsors assistance to teachers in the classroom settings, holds fundraisers for supplemental educational materials and experiences, supports school and family social interaction, and provides a non-biased forum for sharing information on issues that impact our children. It our belief that the team effort of a parent teacher organization offers the best possible environment for our children. We will help families without any prejudice. All children and families will be treated equally.*

The PTO is a group of parents and school personnel who plan events for the students, families and staff in our building throughout the year. Our meetings are generally held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm in the library of CHE @ WRE . Our first meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome to attend!

The 2015 – 2016 PTO Board members are:

<b>Co President:</b> Susan Longale	email: susan.longale@gmail.com	Phone: (315)720-8320
<b>Co President:</b> Kara Brooker	email: karabrooker@yahoo.com	Phone: (315)345-4432
<b>Co Vice President:</b> Jodi Szymanoski	email: kids3arewe@yahoo.com	Phone: (315)403-1843
<b>Co Vice President:</b> Tabitha Dinnerson	email: dtabby37@aol.com	Phone: (315)
<b>Secretary:</b> Kathie Barnes	email: abarnes3@twcny.rr.com	Phone: (315)727-5767
<b>Co Treasurer:</b> Tracy Fasen	email: tfasen@verizon.net	Phone: (315)558-0821
<b>Co Treasurer:</b> Brenda Pendergast	email: pendergb@upstate.edu	Phone: (315)751-5564

Visit our Facebook Page, Chestnut Hill Elementary PTO and stay updated on events and other happenings.

For the PTO to be effective and truly representative of the school, it is essential to have involvement from as many parents as possible. Many working parents feel that they cannot be included in the PTO because they cannot come to every meeting or be on campus during the day, however, that is far from the truth! There are endless ways you can help. Whatever your level of flexibility, Chestnut Hill Elementary PTO always appreciates their parent volunteers, as does our teachers and staff. Keep in mind that by volunteering, you will get to enjoy interacting with the kids, become friends with other parents, and accomplish things that truly make a difference. Whether you have 30 minutes or a couple of hours, your ideas, your time, and your talents are truly needed. We can match your time constraints and interests to needed tasks. We have many ways in which Moms, Dads, Aunts, Uncles, and Grandparents can contribute. To make it easier, we have included an outline of our activities for the upcoming school year at the end of this letter. Please consider volunteering, it really does make a difference in the lives of

our children! We are always looking for new and exciting activities for our school community. If you have an idea, or if you have a suggestion to pass along, we encourage you to please contact one of the members by email, phone, or send a note to school.

**Playground Update:** CHE has been awarded a Grant from Assemblyman Al Stirpe's office for \$17,500!!! Therefore, with the money that our school community raised from fundraisers last year, we now have enough money to purchase Phase II of our playground!! We cannot thank everyone enough for their tremendous efforts!! Due to the construction taking place at the CHE/CHM complex, we are anticipating installation of Phase II to take place in the Spring of 2016.

**Fundraising:** Besides working towards our Playground goal, the money earned from fundraisers are used for many important things. For example, at the beginning of each school year the PTO designates an amount of money for every classroom teacher, special area, computer area, nurses office, counselor, and support staff to use for their "Wish List". This money is used to supplement their supplies for student enrichment. - additional reading material for the classrooms, additional computer software, for the nurse to provide new undergarments as needed, crackers for upset stomachs, and the list goes on. The PTO provides planners for students in grades 3-6, covers the registration fee for the Scripps Spelling Bee, covers the cost of busing for student field trips, etc.

This year we will be doing a separate fundraiser for each grade level (one for kindergarten, one for 1<sup>st</sup> grade, one for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, etc.) to help cover the cost of a Field Trip. The teachers are in the process of finalizing plans for their respective trips. More information will be coming soon.

We understand that all of this fundraising can be overwhelming and not everyone can or wishes to participate in each one. Please do what you are comfortable with – every little bit helps! We will continue this year with our Go Fund Me donation page. If you would rather donate in this manner, please make checks payable to the CHE PTO and note Go Fund Me on the memo section of your check. We cannot stress enough how truly appreciative we are of anything that you can do to help our school!

**New This Year:** We are partnering with Edge Federal Credit Union to offer students the opportunity to open a Cub Saver Account. Once a week a representative from Edge will come in the morning to collect the deposits, and return later that day with a deposit slip for your records. More information will be sent home in the next couple of weeks for you to read over.

**School Store:** Beginning the first Thursday of October, during students lunch periods, we will have our School Store open. The store sells a wide variety of items ranging from \$0.05 to \$1.00 - such as erasers, crayons, mechanical pencils, pens, notebooks, etc. The students love to visit the store, and it is so much fun to see them using their math skills!

**Redemption Center for Bottle & Cans:** CHE has opened an account at MSK Bottle & Can Return, located at 7871 Oswego Road, Liverpool, 13090. No need to wait for our bottle & can drive! You can drop them off at your convenience. Please be sure to tell them that they are for CHE!

**Our first event to kick off the school year is our annual Back to School Picnic on Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup> from 5pm-7pm rain or shine at CHE @WRE!!**

**Chestnut Hill Elementary PTO/Playground Events for 2015/2016**

**September:**

9/09-9/30 – Save Around Books Fundraiser

09/15 – PTO Meeting at 6:30pm at **CHM@CHE** Library

9/17 – Back to School Picnic at **CHE@WRE**

**October:**

10/05 – Dance Program Begins – classes held at CHM@CHE gymnasium (Dance Expressions by Pamela & Co.)

10/06 – PTO Meeting at 6:30pm at **CHM@CHE** Library

10/16 – Fall Family Fun Night at **CHE@WRE** – 6-8pm

10/16 – Scholastic Book Fair 6-8pm

10/17 – Distribute Flyers in the neighborhood for our Bottle & Can Drive

10/24 – Bottle & Can Drive 9-12p

10/19-10/23 – Scholastic Book Fair during students Library time

10/23 – Cherrydale Fundraiser starts

**November:**

11/02 – Scripts Fundraiser Begins

11/06 – Cherrydale Fundraiser Ends

11/10 – PTO Meeting at 6:30pm at **CHM@CHE** Library

11/12 – Scrips Fundraiser Ends

**December:**

12/01 – PTO Meeting at 6:30pm at **CHM@CHE** Library

12/07 – 12/11 – Penguin Patch Holiday Shoppe – teachers will sign up for a convenient time for their students to shop.

12/11 – Talent Show at **CHE@WRE**

12/11 – Penguin Patch Holiday Shoppe will be open during the Talent Show

**January:**

01/05 – PTO Meeting at 6:30pm at **CHM@CHE** Library

01/22 – Bingo Night

**February:**

02/02 – PTO Meeting at 6:30pm at **CHM@CHE** Library

02/05 – Father/Daughter Dance - held at CHM

02/08 – Gertrude Hawk Fundraiser

02/29 – Gertrude Hawk Fundraiser Ends

**March:**

03/01 – PTO Meeting at 6:30pm at **CHM@CHE** Library

03/11 – Mother/Son Night – held at CHM

**April:**

04/01 – Gold Canyon Fundraiser

04/05 – PTO Meeting at 6:30pm at **CHM@CHE** Library

**May:**

05/03 – PTO Meeting at 6:30pm at **CHM@CHE** Library

05/06 – Muffins with Mom

05/06 – Walk-A-Thon Paperwork goes home

**June:**

06/02 – Walk-A-Thon

06/10 – Donuts with Dad

There are many ways that you can help the PTO raise funds that wouldn't cost you anything extra!

**Target** Register your Target Red Card with our school and we receive 1% of every purchase you make using that card.

**Shoparoo** If you have a smartphone, download the app and take pictures of all your receipts! We receive a % of all purchases.

**Price Chopper Tools For Schools:** Sign up online or at the Customer Service Desk with your Advantage Card & school code 16572.

**BoxTops, Labels for Education, & Tyson A+ Labels** Clip these from participating products and send them to school.

## Kids can earn prizes for bringing in the most labels!

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*(Please cut on line and return lower section)*

**CHE PTO Newsletter:**

If you would like to be included on our email list to be updated on events and happenings at our school please provide the information below and return to school.

Parent Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Student Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_