



M-S PTO *IN THE KNOW*



November 2012

M-S PTO NEEDS YOU!

The following positions are open and need to be filled by parents: Executive VP, Corresponding Secretary, Audit Committee Chair, Nominating Committee Chair, Talent Show - Sangamon Chair, Teacher Hospitality, Facebook Coordinator, Speakers/Programs and Webmaster. Please contact Tina Smith at tinasmith6@aol.com for details.

Please join us November 8th 7:00pm at Lincoln Trail Library to be involved in your child's future!

Why should parents get involved? Because involvement can make a dramatic difference for their children. Parental involvement in the classroom has had a proven, positive effect on children's success. Researchers have been studying the effects parent attitudes and actions have on their children's academic success for more than 30 years. The results have been consistent. When parents are involved in their children's education at home, they do better in school. And when parents are involved in school, children go farther in school and the schools they go to are better. Free child care and refreshments are provided for all.

Reading Celebrations!

- Kindergarten students turned in 110 Reading Incentive Record Sheets in September!
- Sangamon Reading incentive winner for October—a tie of Mrs. Benedict and Mrs. McGill's classes! Both room's will get a pizza party!
- Mrs. Cockerill's 1st grade class won a pizza party from Dr. Shaffer's office because every student turn in their reading shape. Don't forget to read and turn in your shapes!

Welcome to our **NEW FORMAT!** We are highlighting current events and needs to keep you **IN THE KNOW.** Please consider volunteering your time and talents— help is always needed and appreciated.

American Education Week—November 11-17

This is a great time to honor those individuals who make a difference in the lives of our children. Once again the M-S PTO will provide breakfast for our teachers and school staff on November 14th to say thank you for all they do. We are asking parents to donate breakfast items such as pastries, donuts, muffins, fruit, juice, etc. for this event. If you would like to help please contact one of the following people to let them know what you will send in and get further details:

Middletown contact Penny Moisson at Penny.Moisson@gmail.com
Sangamon contact Shannon Maschmeier at ShannonMaschmeier@gmail.com
Lincoln Trail contact Danielle Deck at Danielle_Deck@yahoo.com

New this year, we will be holding a game/book drive during American Education Week. Our teachers are looking for a variety of games and items for use during indoor recess times, classroom activities, etc. In our upcoming Bulldog Bash we are planning to have a book walk and are starting to collect donations now. As you clean out your closets to prepare for the upcoming holidays

DAWK WALK UPDATE!

On September 28th, the PTO hosted another successful DAWG WALK! Over \$68,400 was raised which allowed for \$19,464.00 allocations to be given back to the elementary schools for the 2012-2013 school year. These allocations included sound systems, teacher stipends, online resources along with many additional requests. Very exciting for the community, students, and our partners in education. Allocation dollars were divided by the number of students per school to provide the following:

Middletown: \$4,076.00
Sangamon: \$6,278.00
Lincoln Trail: \$9,110.00

Details were provided at the October PTO board meeting and allocations will be voted upon for final approval during the November meeting on 8th at 7 P.M. For more information, go to the PTO website at <http://mahometseymourpto.yolasite.com/> or email jones2001@mchsi.com.

A big THANK YOU to all the students who participated and all of the volunteers who made this event possible. It could not be done without your time and efforts!

please consider donating any games that have all the pieces or books that are in good condition please consider donating them. We will have a box set up at each school starting on Monday the 11th and will take items appropriate for ages pre-k through 5th grade.

Examples of items the schools could use include:

- * Decks of playing cards
- * Flashcards of any type
- * Memory games
- * Rubix cubes
- * Board games for all age levels
- * Dominoes
- * Handheld games such as Yahtzee, Boogie, etc.
- Brainquest
- * Dice games

If we receive any items we are unable to use we will donate them to Mahomet Helping Hands. Please drop off items anytime during the week of November 11 - 17. If you would like to help sort and organize the donations we receive please contact Shannon Maschmeier at ShannonMaschmeier@gmail.com.

Shelving for Sharing is the theme for this year for Lincoln Trail's reading program. The Reading Committee's goal is to get students excited about reading. What better way to get them excited about reading than for them to promote books that they have enjoyed reading!

Susie Fones, our art teacher, designed and created on paper, three beautiful book shelves, one for each grade level. Each bookshelf contains a shelf, one for each room. They are on display by the school's cafeteria's walls since this is a place that every student passes every day.

When a student is done reading a book that they would like to share with others, they fill out a book form. A variety of forms are available so whatever reading ability a student has they will be able to complete a form. Once the form is filled out the teacher will give the student a colored book spine. The student writes on the book spine the name of the book, author, and his/her name and room number. Then the book spine is put on their class shelf. Other students are able to read these book spines and discover what other students are recommending to read.

Staff also has shelves so they can fill them with Book Spines that recommend children's books that they enjoyed reading. Next time you are in Lincoln Trail school, look at our book shelves brimming with recommendations of wonderful children books to read!

Important Change to School Directory!

This year for your information to be included in the school directory you will need to opt in. Previously we have sent a form home asking you to opt out, this year you will receive a personalized form that you can correct your information on and send back in to be included. If you have any questions about the directory or would like to advertise please contact Danielle Deck @ deck.danielle@yahoo.com or 217-621-8311

Deadline Extended for Vinyl and iPhone Cover Orders!!

The M-S PTO is so excited to offer new bulldog vinyls. These vinyls are available personalized, with sports themes or just a plain bulldog footprint. We are also offering Mahomet Seymour license plate frames and iPhone 4 & 4s covers. These come as a plain paw print or personalized. We have extended the deadline till November 16th. If you have any questions please contact Danielle Deck at deck.danielle@yahoo.com.

THANKYOU! Merci! Gracias! A huge thank you to everyone who volunteered and purchased items through the **Book Fairs!** Middletown sold **\$834.97**, Sangamon sold **\$4,983.52**, and Lincoln Trail sold **\$6,758.02**. The schools will receive 30% of the book sales.

Thank you to



for their generous donations on the Fall Conference Night at all three elementary schools!

A big shout out goes out to all our wonderful Room Parent volunteers! Parents - please know that it's NEVER too late to sign up for those parties that might need a little help or volunteer in your classroom or at the school libraries.