

SEPTEMBER 2014

HGES PTO Newsletter



A Note from the President

The HGES PTO is off to a great start this year! At our first meeting in August, we approved the budget for the year. PTO funds this year will continue to support the AR Program, the Culture Fair, Teacher Fund, school field trips and much more. With our extra funds, we were also able to kick off the new school year by purchasing 10 more IPADs (completing the cart that we purchased last spring) and by contributing toward the development of the outdoor classroom at the south end of the building.

Our PTO meetings are typically held once a month on Tuesdays at 6:30pm in the Hickory Grove cafeteria. Parents are always welcome and encouraged to attend. We value your opinions, feedback, and support! Volunteering at PTO events is a great way to meet other HGES families!

Do you remember your kids trying to earn monkeys and penguins at this time during the last two years by selling various products? That was what we called our Fall Fundraiser. For the past two years, that fundraiser has raised a phenomenal \$15,000 per year. Those funds allowed us to purchase items for the school, such as the playground equipment and the IPADs. That Fundraiser also supported family activities such as Muffins with Moms, Donuts with Dad, the Culture Fair, and the Launch. We need those funds to help our school, but we understand that the “monkeys and penguins” can be a little overwhelming to families.

Therefore, last Spring, the board voted to pursue a donation drive this Fall, in lieu of asking the kids to sell products. This will ensure that 100% of your donated funds go directly to supporting our school. Remember that HGES PTO is a 501c3 organization, so all donations are tax deductible. Please also remember that without your support, the HGES PTO cannot exist nor can it support the school and our kids with its programs and purchases. Watch your child’s folders for more information and thank you in advance for your continued support of the efforts of the HGES PTO.

Throughout the year, if you have any questions, please e-mail us at president@hickorygroveparentsclub.com or check our website (link on the HGES home page) for more information about the budget, how to submit a funding proposal, the meeting dates, and much more.

Thanks again for your support of HGES and the PTO!

Jennifer VandeWiele and Shelby Johnson
Co-Presidents of HGES PTO

UPCOMING DATES:

September 16 6:30P: HGES PTO Meeting

September 19: HGES Spirit Day

October 10 6:45A: Donuts with Dad

October 14 6:30P: HGES PTO Meeting

October 17: HGES Spirit Day

October 27: HGES Trunk or Treat (time and date tentative)

October 28 6:30P: 4-5 Grade Music Program

October 31 1:00P: Costume Parade/4th Grade Famous People Speeches

October 31 1:45P: Classroom Parties

November 4 6:30P: HGES PTO Meeting

November 7 6:00P: Movie Night

November 14: HGES Spirit Day

DONATION DRIVE

Please consider making a donation directly to the HGES PTO. All donations are tax deductible and 100% of your donation goes directly to the school!

We need your donations in order to continue the great PTO programs that the school offers (Culture Fair, Donuts with Dad) and to help fund field trips and supplies for the teachers' classrooms. In the past, the PTO has been able to use fundraising money to purchase soccer goals for the playground, ipads for the classroom and many other items. We need your support to keep the PTO strong! [../Downloads/Direct Donation Flyer 2014-2.pdf](#)

Please contact Lara Metzger with any questions at larametzger5@gmail.com

Room Party Sign Up

If anyone is interested in volunteering in their child's classroom for the class parties (Halloween, Winter, or Valentine's), but did not get a chance to sign up at Back to School Night, please contact Nikki York at nyork78@yahoo.com

Accelerated Reader

Accelerated Reader (A.R.) is a software program that is used at HGES 1st-5th grade to help teachers monitor students' progress in reading. Please see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Accelerated_Reader, for more information and <http://www.arbookfind.com/UserType.aspx>, to find A.R. books.

HGES P.T.O. Accelerated Reading & Rewards 2014-2015:

- A.R. will be held during the following months: Sept., Oct., Nov., Jan., Feb., Mar., and Apr.
- Classes at each grade 1st-5th level with the highest percent of accuracy & a minimum of 75% class participation will be rewarded. Winning classrooms will receive a free Scholastic classroom book and a guest speaker will read to each winning class. Winning classes will be recognized in the PTO Newsletter, HGES Morning Announcements, and on the A.R. Board located by the library.
- Rewards will be given to the boy & girl from each 1st-5th grade level who has read the most words. Students may only win once during the school year. Each winner will receive a Scholastic Book Certificate and a prize bag. These students will be acknowledged in the PTO Newsletter, HGES Morning Announcements, and on the A.R. Board.
- An exciting change for this year is that each grade level K-5th grade has an *Accelerated Reading & Reading Incentives Box* containing: reading certificates, donated Buffalo Wild Wings certificates, A.R. pencils, erasers, candy, and other rewards. The K-5th grade teachers are extremely excited about being able to reward students immediately for meeting individual reading goals!

Please let me know if you would be willing to donate items to be used in the *Accelerated Reading & Reading Incentives Box*. You may contact me at young.jenn2000@gmail.com if you have any questions. Thank you!

Library

We survived our first week of library! There are still a few library volunteers to train. However, things should start to run smoother with leaders organizing a library schedule for each class. Fun Facts and Quizzes will be starting the week of September 8. The PTO has approved a budget for the library and new books will be purchased. If anyone has suggestions on book titles for the library please contact Toni Beckman at toni.beckman@comcast.net