

Miner PTO This Month

Miner Elementary School

October 2018

Welcome!

The PTO This Month newsletter is a compilation of the work being undertaken by the PTO's various committees on behalf of Miner's scholars, families, staff, and community. We hope you will find it a valuable and insightful resource.

If there are topics you'd like to see addressed, or have other comments or questions, please feel free to email the PTO at minerpto@gmail.com or speak to any member of the PTO Leadership Team. Also, if you're interested in helping out on any committee, please feel free to reach out to directly to the chairpersons!

Appreciation & Recognition Committee

Purpose: Plan, coordinate, promote, and implement and activities to show appreciation to teachers, staff, administrators, students, and parents.

Co-Chairs: Jessica Burniske (jessica.burniske@gmail.com), Justin Burniske (jburniske@gmail.com), and Emily Cahill (emily.novinskie@gmail.com)

Last Month: The Committee sponsored a "Welcome Back Breakfast" for over 70 staff members on September 7. The breakfast sandwiches, oatmeal, fruit and caffeine were a big hit! We also placed toiletry baskets, including soap, lotion, tissues, and hygiene products, in all staff restrooms.

Coming in October: We are planning to give teachers and staff small "welcome back" gifts. October is National Principals Month, so the Committee is planning to honor Principal Jackson with a basket of healthy treats and notes of appreciation. We'll also restock toiletry baskets in staff restrooms. Please let us know if your family is interested in "adopting" a basket to replenish throughout the year (the PTO has most of the

supplies, we just need help keeping the baskets filled!).

Communications Committee

Purpose: Manage internal communications channels, tools, and processes for informing PTO membership and the community.

Chair: Jen Barrie (jen.k.barrie@gmail.com)

Last Month: T-Shirt sales soared in the first few weeks of school. We couldn't keep the Spirit Store stocked! Luckily a new shipment of shirts has arrived, so all pre-orders can now be fulfilled.

Coming in October: We are still actively looking for a parent, friend, staff or community member with graphic design experience to help us move forward with the evolution of the Miner logo, brand, and guidelines. If you or someone you know has the skills to help in this capacity please contact us. We are pursuing additional Spirit Store offerings: hooded sweatshirts are a repeated request. Other ideas? We'd love to hear them!

Community Engagement Committee

Purpose: Establish and maintain relationships with external entities, organizations, businesses, and partners.

Chair (Acting): Katy Thomas (kazt1978@gmail.com)

Last Month: Joined a coalition of parents from Wards 1, 5 and 6 to meet with DCPS Interim Deputy Chancellor to discuss DCPS Technology Challenges and Opportunities. Topics included: determining whether a plan within DCPS exists to address urgent technology needs this school year; releasing a DCPS-drafted Technology Roadmap; and determining funding options being pursued by DCPS for the FY20 budget cycle. At the CHPSPO meeting, discussed the Deputy Mayor for

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Education's (DME) 10-year Master Facilities Plan as well as the Ward 6 parent-initiated lawsuit relative to the DCPS Chancellor search. Councilmember Allen hosted a Ward 6 Town Hall to discuss the DCPS Chancellor search on September 24.

Coming in October: Walk-to-School Day is on October 10, starting in Lincoln Park. Miner will join with other Capitol Hill elementary schools and special guests for this fun annual event. Families should watch for an invite to participate in Miner night at a DC United game in late October. We will also be seeking volunteers to help manage the Miner table at the October 26 Hilloween event at Eastern Market.

Facilities & Grounds Committee

Purpose: Maintain a list of all needed repairs and upgrades to school facilities and grounds, and work with the school administration to ensure the work is completed.

Co-Chairs: Billy Lynch (william.lynch@gmail.com) and David Treat (dtreat2mars@gmail.com)

Last Month: The Committee is working closely with Dr. King to monitor and resolve remaining open DGS repair tickets. After meeting and surveying the school, most backlog repairs have now been resolved, with some exceptions that will be the focus of Dr. King. In addition, Dr. King and the Committee developed a plan to establish a school-wide recycling program. The program will be rolled out in phases, the first of which started October 1. We also organized a cleanup of the ECE green space adjacent to the new playground just in time for opening day.

Coming in October: Miner's new recycling program officially kicks off - stay tuned for details about how the program will be rolled out this fall and winter, starting with recycling during K-2 lunch periods. As needed, we will advocate for DGS to implement a plan to finish painting the school during weekends

and breaks before Summer 2019. We also plan to work with the custodial staff to procure and install new heavy-duty shelving in the custodial storage room.

Family Engagement & Events Committee

Purpose: Plan, coordinate, promote, and implement major school-wide and other events and activities to facilitate and increase family engagement at the school.

Co-Chairs: Mariana Jones (marikjones@gmail.com) and Teresa Dorsey (theresa.dorsey@dc.gov)

Last Month: The Committee has been planning for the October 31 "Oktoberfest" event and Halloween party. These events will include special surprises and fun activities for the students and the Miner community!

Coming in October: Complete planning for and conduct Oktoberfest. One of the highest priority tasks will be securing volunteers for the event. Details on how to sign up will be sent out soon.

Family Support Committee

Purpose: Plan, coordinate, promote, and implement events, drives, and activities to meet critical needs of Miner families.

Co-Chairs: Bernadette Wittschen (bernadettewittschen@gmail.com) and Julie Muir (julie.hodgson.muir@gmail.com)

Last Month: Julie Muir joined the Committee as co-chair. Welcome Julie! The Committee purchased uniforms for Miner's social workers to distribute to students in need. This purchase also ensures that the school will have a good supply on hand for whenever the need may arise. As always, we welcome uniform donations if you have any that are

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new or gently worn. You can drop them off in the front office.

Coming in October: We are in the beginning stages of planning our Thanksgiving food drive. In addition to working with the social workers, some of the older students will be involved as part of their service projects!

Fundraising & Grants Committee

Purpose: Plan, coordinate, promote, and implement major and supplementary events, drives, programs, and activities to acquire financial or in-kind resources for the school.

Chair: Maggie Ben-Or
(margaret.giovannetti@gmail.com)

Last Month: The Committee was busy last month launching the **Explore! Excite! Expand!** fundraising campaign. Our goal is to raise \$15,000 this school year with 50% family participation. In fewer than four weeks, we've reached over 44% of our goal with 24 families participating! We also submitted two grant applications to the Capitol Hill Community Foundation to contribute to Miner's technology update and family support services.

Coming in October: At the October 2 PTO meeting, we will launch the PTO's **Move!Play!Grow!** Fundraising campaign, which allows area businesses to support Miner students, teachers, and staff. This campaign will go towards the same funding priorities as the **Explore!Excite!Expand!** campaign: classroom libraries & teaching resources; field trips; classroom & instructional technologies; garden programming & children's gardening supplies; festivals & assemblies to celebrate student achievements; and restorative justice & social emotional skill-building programs. The Committee will continue planning upcoming events, including the Election Day Baked Goods and Coffee Sale and the Holiday Greenery Sale. Please

let us know if you are interested in volunteering for any of these events.

PTO Purpose

The purpose of the Miner PTO is to enhance and support the educational experience at Miner, to develop a closer connection between school and home by encouraging family and teacher involvement, and to improve the environment at Miner through volunteer and financial support.

PTO Executive Board

- President: Julie Muir (parent)
- Vice-President: Katy Thomas (parent)
- Treasurer: Ryan Cahill (parent)
- Secretary: David Treat (parent)
- ECE Teacher Representative: Tarren Cummings (ECE educator)
- K-2 Teacher Representative: Christin Riddick (2nd Grade educator)
- 3-5 Teacher Representative: Katherine Unger (5th Grade educator)
- Principal: Bruce Jackson

Contact Information

Address: 601 15th NE, Washington, DC 20002

Website: www.minerelementary.org

Email: minerpto@gmail.com

Twitter: @MinerPTO