

Miner PTO This Month

Miner Elementary School

November 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 minerppto@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 gave teachers and staff a "welcome back" back scratcher. October was **National Principals Month**, so the PTO honored Principal Jackson with a basket of healthy treats and notes of appreciation. The committee also restocked toiletry baskets in all staff restrooms.

Coming in November: In early November, the Committee hosted a coffee break for teachers and staff on Parent Teacher Conference day. The teachers and staff enjoyed coffee, tea, pastries, fruit, and juice. Planning will begin this month for our traditional "holiday treats" for teachers and staff just before we head off to Winter Break. Stay tuned for details on how to donate cookies and other goodies.

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: The Committee welcomed a graphic designer to the team. We worked on logos and designs and added balloons, stickers and temporary tattoos to the items available to spread school spirit and aid in marketing. We have now filled all t-shirt pre-orders and fully re-stocked out t-shirt inventory. If you're interested in purchasing a t-shirt, please contact Jen.

Coming in November: The PTO now has an account for an online spirit store and the Committee is actively populating the store with branded items. The store will officially launch sometime around Thanksgiving. The Committee will set up a table with examples of the items available and other marketing materials. In addition, we're discussing with the Appreciation & Recognition Committee about providing teachers and staff with tote bags or mugs at the time of launch.

Community Engagement Committee

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

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

Last Month: We had a great turnout of Miner families and staff for **Walk to School Day**. D.C. Department of Transportation (DDOT) Director, Jeff Marootian, joined our delegation on the walk from Lincoln Park to the school. We stopped at the new stop sign on the corner of F & Tennessee Ave to thank DDOT for recently installing it to improve safety for families walking to school. We also

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discussed the two outstanding DDOT projects: traffic calming on 16th Street and visibility/speed concerns in the alley abutting the ECE playground. The Committee sponsored the PTO's table at **Halloween** at Eastern Market. The parent Technology Coalition to address technology inequity across the city met with Councilmembers Grosso, Allen and Mendelson as well as DCPS Central Office staff. The coalition has expanded to include parents from all Wards across the city.

Coming in November: The DCPS FY20 **Public Budget Field Hearing** will be November 27 at 5:30pm at Phelps High School. Anyone interested in highlighting budgeting needs for Miner is encouraged to participate with Katy. To testify, you need to register by November 26 or reach out to Katy. The Technology Coalition has scheduled November meetings scheduled with Interim Deputy Mayor for Education Paul Kihn as well as other Council Members and DCPS. The next CHPSPO meeting will be held November 19 at 6:30 pm.

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 worked with Dr. King to implement Phase 2 of Miner's new **Recycling Program**: recycling all items from K-2 lunch. So far the system is working out well, with excellent student and staff participation. Two long-needed improvements were realized this month: the curtains on both the cafeteria and gym sides of the stage were replaced, and two large sun shades over the new ECE playground were installed. Miner's garden partner Cultivate the City hosted a well-received "Fall in Love with the Garden" playdate and work day. Several improvements were made to the

garden, including replacing the chain link fence with a new white "picket" fence and gate. The garden is always open for students and families to enjoy!

Coming in November: The Committee and Dr. King will finalize plans for Phase 3 of the **Recycling Program**, which will expand lunchtime recycling to grades 3-5 sometime this winter.

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 (marikijones@gmail.com) and Teresa Dorsey (theresa.dorsey@dc.gov)

Last Month: The Committee planned and implemented another successful **Oktoberfest** party. Everyone had an amazing night of dancing, games, bouncing in the castle, painting pumpkins, enjoying delicious food and treats, and participating in a costume contest and "trunk-or-treating."

Coming in November: Planning is underway for **Santa's Workshop**, which would allow the Miner community the opportunity to purchase various Christmas gifts or make them in the workshop area. Early planning has also begun for **Movie Night** in January.

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)

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Last Month: With the help of the 5th grade class, the Committee kicked off Miner's third annual **Thanksgiving Food Drive** to benefit Miner families in need. We are collecting canned and dry goods of typical Thanksgiving foods as well as toiletry items. Donations can be dropped off in your classroom through November 15. If you'd like to donate a turkey please contact the PTO. Also, the PTO was awarded a mini-grant from the Capitol Hill Community Foundation for \$350 to use for family support services.

Coming in November: Miner's social workers will distribute the donations received for the **Thanksgiving Food Drive**. Planning has begun for December's **Holiday Toy Drive**. Stay tuned for details about how you can contribute.

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 launched the PTO's **Move!Play!Grow!** campaign, which allows area businesses to support Miner students, teachers, and staff. We have raised almost 40% of our \$15,000 goal. We also continued our **Explore!Expand!Excite!** Campaign for families and friends, raising almost 80% of our \$15,000 goal in just two months. If you want to contribute, there's still time. You can complete the donation pledge form online or pick one up in the front office. ANCA6A approved the PTO's request for an \$899 grant to support Miner's ongoing technology upgrade efforts.

Coming in November: The Committee held a small **Bake Sale** on Election Day that raised over \$240! A big thank you goes out to neighborhood businesses Sospeso on H St. and Chick-fil-A on Maryland Ave.

for food and coffee donations. The PTO's next big fundraising event is the **Third Annual Holiday Greenery Sale** on November 30 and December 1. Online pre-orders are now open on the Miner website until November 29, so be sure to reserve your greenery now! You can also donate to help provide trees to Miner families who may need assistance this holiday season. If you are interested in volunteering at the sale, please contact Maggie.

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

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