

# Miner PTO This Month

Miner Elementary School

February 2019

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## 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](mailto: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 activities to show appreciation to teachers, staff, administrators, students, and parents.

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

Last Month (and December): The Committee planned and coordinated baked goods, fruit, and a hot chocolate bar for teachers and staff in December just before Winter Break. We greatly appreciate the donated items that Miner families provided for this event! In January, the PTO left teachers and staff snacks in their mailboxes with a encouraging note.

Coming in February: The Committee will provide teachers and staff with a special Valentine's Day rose. Miner families are invited to volunteer to hand out roses on the morning of Thursday, February 14. Please email Emily if you'd like to help out.

## 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](mailto:jen.k.barrie@gmail.com))

Last Month (and December): The Committee established an online **Spirit Store** that went live just before the holidays. The store is always open, so get your school-branded gear by visiting Miner's website at [minerelementary.org](http://minerelementary.org). And the PTO still has plenty of "standard" t-shirts still in stock, both short- and long-sleeve. If you're interested in purchasing a t-shirt, please contact Jen.

Coming in February: As part of a larger PTO/Miner communications strategy, the Committee is planning to develop a guide/plan for posting events and announcements to neighborhood listservs such as MOTH, NextDoor, and Hill East. One of the PTO's main purposes is spreading the news about the great things going on at Miner!

## Community Engagement Committee

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

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

Last Month (and December): OSSE released its DC School Report Card in December, which includes a STAR rating of each public school in the District; Miner received three (3) STARs. On January 10, the DCPS technology coalition sent a letter to Mayor Bowser from education organizations and representatives from all eight Wards. The Capitol Hill Public School Parent Organization (CHPSPO) hosted its monthly meeting at Miner on January 15. Special guests included Ward 6 Councilmember Allen's Chief of Staff, Laura Marks and Anne Phillips

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of the DC Council Budget Committee to lead a discussion on DCPS FY20 budget process.

Coming in February: School-based draft budgets for FY20 will be released to principals and LSAT's in early February. Council hearings on performance oversight and budget will begin in late February and continue through late March. A final FY20 budget will be approved by the Council in April. Upcoming Community Engagement opportunities:

- Chancellor confirmation roundtables - Feb. 6 at 6 pm (Cardoza Education Campus)
- Performance Oversight on DCPS - Feb. 26 at 12 pm (Wilson Bldg, Room 500)
- Budget Oversight Hearing on DCPS - March 29 at 10 am (Wilson Bldg, Room 412)

Anyone interested in getting involved in these issues should contact Katy.

## 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](mailto:william.lynch@gmail.com)) and David Treat ([dtreat2mars@gmail.com](mailto:dtreat2mars@gmail.com))

Last Month (and December): As part of the **Master Site Plan** process, in December, representatives from DCPS and the Department of General Services (DGS) met with Miner parents, administration, and staff to discuss several different layouts for the north side of Miner's campus, including new playground(s), garden, field, and other features. The city plans to award a contract for design work in January.

Coming in February: The Committee looks forward to DCPS and DGS returning to Miner to engage our community about next steps in the **Master Site Plan**. With warmer weather on the horizon, the **Garden Team** will be gearing up for instructional

activities and family engagement in the garden this spring.

## 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](mailto:marikijones@gmail.com)) and Teresa Dorsey ([theresa.dorsey@dc.gov](mailto:theresa.dorsey@dc.gov))

Last Month (and December): On January 17 the Committee hosted our first ever **Movie Night**. Miner families had a fun-filled evening enjoying the animated adventure "Smallfoot." It was an opportunity to come together for a night full of fun, food and fellowship. Many thanks to **Fulcrum Realty** for donating the popcorn!

Coming in February: Planning has begun for the next big family engagement event: the **Annual Spring Dance!** Scheduled for Friday, April 12, this event is an opportunity for Miner families to participate in an elegant evening of fun. More information will be forthcoming so stay tuned. Additionally, we are in need of volunteers to make the dance a HUGE success. Please contact Mariana or Ms. Dorsey if you'd like to volunteer or make a donation.

## 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](mailto:bernadettewittschen@gmail.com)) and Julie Muir ([julie.hodgson.muir@gmail.com](mailto:julie.hodgson.muir@gmail.com))

Last Month (and December): In December we were able to donate **Christmas gifts** to 30 Miner students.

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A huge thank you goes out to our social workers for helping us come up with a list of gifts and distributing all the gifts to the kids. We also would like to thank our elves who wrapped the gifts!

Coming in February: While the Committee doesn't have anything in the works for February, we will be involved in the upcoming **Community Yard Sale** on March 9. And of course we have some plans for Mother's Day in May. Stay tuned!

## 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](mailto:margaret.giovannetti@gmail.com))

Last Month (and December): After the winter break, we started making plans for our spring fundraising activities. In the works for the coming months: grant applications, our **4th Annual Community Yard Sale**, the Mother's and Father's Day book sale, and potentially a spring jazz night and picnic!

Coming in February: The PTO is now accepting donations for Miner's **4th Annual Community Yard Sale**, to be held Saturday, March 9, 9 am - 1 pm! You can drop off your gently used clothing, furniture, household items, toys, and more in the main office Monday - Friday, 8 am - 6 pm now until March 8. Please note: due to space constraints, we cannot accept donations of furniture and other large items until the week of March 4! This event is a huge undertaking, and we'll need volunteers to help make this the most successful year yet. Volunteering will include set up the day before, shifts during the sale, and baking. Keep an eye out for the call for volunteers in the coming weeks. In the meantime, please send any questions you have to [minerpto@gmail.com](mailto:minerpto@gmail.com). The committee will also work on submitting a number of grant proposals,

including for the spring submissions to ANC6a and the Capitol Hill Community Foundation.

## 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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Email: [minerpto@gmail.com](mailto:minerpto@gmail.com)

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