

Miner PTO This Month

Miner Elementary School

April 2019

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 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 distributed "wellness packages," including things like hand sanitizer and emergen-c, to all teachers and staff.

Coming in April: The Committee is planning activities in recognition of **Assistant Principal's Week** (April 8-12) and **Administrative Professionals Day** (April 24) to express our gratitude for all that these key staff members do for Miner. The Committee also continues to work on details for a Miner newsletter that will feature teachers' stories gathered through interviews held by Miner students and parents. If you are interested in supporting the newsletter, please contact Justin.

Looking ahead, the Committee is getting ready for **Teacher Appreciation Week** in May! The Committee

is planning to host a **Fitness Bootcamp** for all teachers and staff the same week. Please contact Emily if you are interested in supporting the May activities.

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)

Coming in April: The Committee will obtain gear from the online Miner Spirit Store to have at the ready for in-person sales at the spring playdates so that newly-enrolled families can start showcasing their Miner spirit! The Committee continues to work on development of 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)

Last Month: Mayor Bowser announced at her State of the District address that she would invest in transforming the Old Miner building into a new early childhood center. Her budget includes \$14.7million in FY23 and FY24 to renovate/restore the building; details are not readily available, but Council Member Allen's office thinks the Mayor intends for the space to serve both birth-3yr old children and PK3/PK4 students. The DC City Council Committee of the Whole and Education Committee held its annual DCPS Budget Oversight hearing on March 29. More than 170 individuals signed up to testify. Many

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schools/students/parents/teachers attended to protest the significant budget cuts their schools are facing in FY20. The Council will approve the FY20 budget in April.

Coming in April: The Digital Equity in DC Education Coalition continues to make progress in its advocacy. DCPS included \$4.6million in its FY20 proposed budget specifically for technology. The DCPS plan aims to provide laptops on a 1:1 basis for students in grades 3/6/9 during SY19-20 and get to a 3:1 ratio for students in all other grades K-12. The plan also includes minimal funding for tech support/professional development. It is unlikely DCPS will be prepared to deliver devices for Day 1 of SY19-20, but the Coalition intends to continue to meet with DCPS Central Office staff to ensure the plan remains on track and becomes part of a larger conversation centered on a comprehensive Technology Roadmap.

Looking ahead, **National Bike to School Day** is scheduled for May 8, and Miner is registered as a participant. We look forward to having a great turnout of students/families to join the annual festivities at Lincoln Park!

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: As part of the **Master Site Plan** process, representatives from DCPS and the Department of General Services (DGS) met with Miner parents on March 4 to share a number of options for the new K-5 playground using equipment from playground vendor Kompan. The proposed equipment was viewed favorably, and some proposed structures were discarded in favor of others. Images and a

video of the proposed equipment can be seen here: <https://www.minerelementary.org/master-site-plan.html>. A construction contractor has been selected, and surveying of the Miner property has begun.

Miner has been selected as a FoodCorps site for SY19-20! The program entails having one full-time FoodCorps service member at Miner to lead and co-lead food- and nutrition-related instruction and garden activities.

Coming in April: The Committee looks forward to DCPS, DGS, and the construction contractor returning to Miner to present design ideas and receive final feedback before construction begins in earnest later this Spring. With warmer weather now upon us, the **Garden Team** will be gearing up for instructional activities and family engagement in the garden this spring, including an Earth-Day themed event in the Peace Garden coinciding with the PTO's Prospective Family playdate on April 27.

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's focus has been on detailed planning activities for the **Spring Dance** that will take place on Friday, April 12. The Committee has sent various communications marketing the event, as well as requesting donations and volunteers. See the dedicated webpage for all the details: <https://www.minerelementary.org/dance.html>

Coming in April: The Committee is putting the final touches on the planning of the **Annual Spring Dance** on Friday, April 12. This event is an

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opportunity for Miner families to participate in an elegant evening of fun. The royal court has been named and we look forward to the coronation at the dance!

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: The Committee has been supporting the Family Engagement and Events Committee with a “**Boutique**” of donated clothing and accessories for the **Spring Dance**. At the **Community Yard Sale** in March the PTO received several donations for the boutique but we are still in need of dresses and boys shirts (sizes 4T through 16/XL), ties, jewelry or other accessories are greatly appreciated!

Coming in April: The **Spring Dance Boutique** will be open the week before the dance (April 8-11).

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: On March 9 the Committee hosted Miner’s **4th Annual Community Yard Sale**. Despite the road closures from the Rock 'n' Roll Marathon, we had a great showing of community support throughout the day and made over \$2100! The Committee also submitted two grant applications - one to the Capitol Hill Community Foundation and one to the Walmart Foundation - to support our

FoodCorps service member who will join the Miner family for SY19-20.

Coming in April: The Committee will continue to work with ANC6A on a grant application to further support the FoodCorps service member. We are also following up with local businesses in a final push for the **Move!Play!Grow!** campaign. If you have connections with area businesses or would like to get involved with this work, 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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