

Welcome 2009-2010 School Year!

The Graysville Parent Organization will publish a newsletter bi-monthly to inform parents of what is taking place at Graysville Elementary. If you have an article to submit please email it to Amber Talpas at atalpas122@aol.com. Comments and questions are welcome too.

New Officers

Thanks to last year's officers for all their time and dedication. The students appreciate all you do! Your officers this year are President Denese Crouse, Vice-President Bobbie McHenry, Secretary Jennifer Whipkey, and Treasure Lisa Murdock. You may contact Denese Crouse by phone at (724)499-5171 or email at dcrouse31@yahoo.com.

Monthly Meetings

The attendances at the meetings this year have been wonderful! The GPO has offered door prizes and foods such as pizza and cookies.

We encourage parents to attend. It helps update and inform

everyone. It gives the officers the opportunity to address concerns and questions. Your input is important to us. Our meetings are held in the gym, the first Thursday of the month. This year we rotate from evening to morning in hopes to accommodate more parents. December's meeting will be on the 3rd, at 8:45. Hope to see you there.

New Faces

Let's welcome a few new faces to Graysville Elementary! Sara Allen, first grade, Erin Shiflett, learning support, Casey Bennett, art, Melanie Kijowski, speech, and Lisa Cheek, kindergarten. We wish you luck and hope you have many wonderful years here with our children!

Field Day

This year field day consisted of two teams for each of the 4th and 5th grades. Mr. Davis' 5th grade represented the Steelers. Mr. Jones' 5th grade represented the Packers. Mrs. Sweeney's 4th grade represented the Giants, and Mrs. Ealy's 4th grade represented the Penguins.

Mr. Jones' Packers won the overall championship.

Volleyball:

1st place Packers Team 1: Jesse Holland, Patrick Hughes, Rickey Atkinson, Daniel Salai, Brittany Bonnema, Alexis Bamberger, Madison Six, Andrew Simms, and Noah Lemley.

2nd place Packers Team 2: Dusty Jones, Kolton Rush, Jace Bernard, Austin Smith, Tyler McGlione, Sierra Pettit, Zach McHenry, Daisha Brown, Nicole Cogar, and Alexies Keller.

3rd place Pens 2: Katelyn Merglowski, Lexie Mooney, Sarah Fetherman, Matt Gaines, Nathaniel Allen, and Mithcell Murdock.

German Kickball:

1st place Steelers Team 2: Haley Pierson, Emily Goodwin, Tristan Allen, Cole Hamilton, Sage Vliet, Rodney Parson, Joey Thomas, Joey Chapman, Kayla King, and Sara Brown.

2nd place Steelers Team 1: Shelby Morris, Hannah Reed, Isaac Rizor, Mickey Whipkey, Brooke Jones, Mike Little, Jeremy Earnst, Nick Cogar, Alyssa Owens, and Elizabeth Wolfe.

3rd place Pens Team 1: Sarah Fetherman, Mckayla Jacobs, Lexie Mooney, Justin Wise, Lance Lindsay, Nathaniel Allen, Brayden Black, and Shane Vliet.

Ultimate Football:

1st place Packers Team 1: Brittany Bonnema, Jesse Holland, Noah Lemley, Zach McHenry, Daisha Brown, Kolton Rush, Andrew Simms, Daniel Salai, Rickey Atkinson, and Alexis Bamberger.

2nd place Steelers Team 1: Kayla King, Haley Pierson, Emily Goodwin, Cole Hamilton, Isaac Rizor, Hannah Reed, Nick Cogar, Joey Thomas, Jeremy Earnest, and Brooke Jones.

3rd place Giants Team 2: Rachel Poslethwaite, Linzee Stover, Zach Pettit, Matt Gillin, Connor Main, Nathan Blonick, and Jordan Smiley.

K-3 had to adapt this year due to weather conditions. The kindergarten and 1st grade went in the morning while the 2nd and 3rd grade went in the afternoon. Some of the games included tug-of-war, scooter races, ski teamwork, bowling, golf putting, bean bag toss and parachute. Everything had to

be cut short because of the adaption we had to make, but the students had a good and loud time anyway.

-Mr. Hughes

Fire Prevention

Bobbie McHenry and Amber Talpas organized this years Fire Prevention. On October 8, 2009, Rogersville Fire Department did a Fire Preventions Program for Kindergarten through 4th grade. Graysville Fire Department also attended and brought their Fire Truck and Pumper for the children to explore. Kindergarten through 2nd participated in a coloring contest and 3rd and 4th made posters regarding Fire Prevention. Dave Cipoletti from the Graysville Store judged the entries on October 28. A winner from each grade was chosen to win a \$15 gift certificate to Toys R' Us. Rachel Poslethwaite won from 4th grade, Mackenzie from Thomas, Ben Jackson from 2nd, McKinley Whipkey from 1st, and Dalton Haywood from Kindergarten.

-Bobbie McHenry

Drug Awareness

On October 8, 2009, Tracey Wilson and Don Arnett from Human Service came to Graysville Elementary for the 5th grade's Drug Awareness Program. The 5th grade will participate in a Drug Awareness Program in the spring. They will be judged by Tracey Wilson and one winner will receive a \$25 gift certificate to Toys R' Us.

-Bobbie McHenry

Fall Harvest

Fall Harvest took place a week earlier than past years. On October 23, 2009, the GPO and volunteers help our annual Fall Harvest in the Gym. All activities were held inside. We had more than 20 activities for the children to enjoy. From Pop Corn and Slushies to Face Painting and the Frog Hop, the event was filled with laughter. With just enough time, volunteers, treat stations, and decorations the event was a huge success.

A special thanks to all the volunteers, Tina Parson, and Fair View United Methodist Church for lending the games.

Food Drive

The GPO held our annual food drive the week of November 3rd. Our school collected 1,642 items! What a difference we made. The GPO donated ten cents per item for the first 1,500 items. The money was given to purchase turkeys for Thanksgiving. Mr. Jones' class gave the Corner Cupboard an additional \$50. They lead with a donation totaling more than 500 items. Each day one class won a snack during lunch. To win, they must have turned in 15 items that day. The secretaries drew the name of the winning class. The students enjoyed the treat. The GPO would not have had such a successful Drive without the students, parents, volunteers, and faculty. A special thanks to all of you!

Fall Fundraiser

We started our Fall Fundraiser on October 27, 2009. The sale ended on November 9, 2009. We sold around \$4,400 dollars. Our top seller was Joey Davis from Mrs. Patton's

Kindergarten class. Joey sold 21 items. Only 9 children meet the 12 item sales goal. We had 41 sellers this year, which is only 15 percent of our schools population. Unfortunately, due to the lack of participation during this sale, we will not be having the Mega Party. We will have a fun day for all students and reward the 9 children that sold the 12 item goal. Thanks to the students and parents that did participate. To those of you who were unable to sell, we hope to offer something in the future that will accommodate your participation.

Santa's Secret Shop

This year Santa's Secret will be held in the gym December 9th, through December 11th. The students that participate will shop for presents that range in price from \$.25-\$10.00. We will have a consignment sale too. If you are interested in setting up a booth please contact Denese Crouse at (724)499-5171. This year we will have Santa available for \$1.00 photos. You will receive a permission slip in the weeks before the event; the only way for your child to have a photo taken is for



GPO Newsletter

Graysville Parent Organization

Issue 1 page 5

November, 2009

the parent or guardian to sign this form. You will also receive a permission slip to shop at that time. The schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, December 9th

9:00- Allen

9:25- Cheek

10:20- Wassil

11:00- Behm

Lunch break

12:30- Ealy

12:55- Sweeney

1:20- West

1:45- Lesnett

Restock to the next day

Thursday, December 10th

9:00- Patton

9:25- Barnhart

10:20- Garofalo

11:00- Watson

Lunch break

12:30- Watson

12:55- Whitlatch

1:20- Jones

1:45- Davis

Restock for the next day

Friday, December 11th

8:30-10:30 make ups

If you wish to volunteer during these times, we would appreciate the help. Please contact Denese Crouse to volunteer.

BOGO Book Fair

The book fair will follow the same schedule as Santa's Secret Shop. The books will be from Scholastic's. Every book is Buy One Get One Free!

The Christmas Party

Your homeroom teacher will plan this event. They will also decide what time the party will take place. If you have questions, contact your child's teacher.

The Christmas Program

Mr. Bruno will hold his annual Christmas Program at the High School on December 15, 2009. The students should be there at 6:00pm. Students should dress nicely. Mr. Bruno has a wiki page, log on to listen to the songs that will be performed. The address is <http://mikebruno.wikispaces.com>, click on the link entitled "2009 Christmas Program".

Mark Your Calendars...

November

19th - Board Meeting- 7:30- High School
25th - 2 ½ hour early dismissal
26th-30th- No School

December

1st - Bank Day
3rd - GPO Meeting at 8:45am
9th-11th- Santa's Secret Shop/BOGO Book Fair
10th - Board Meeting-7:30-High School
15th - Bank Day
15th - Christmas Program-6:00
23rd - Christmas Parties/2 ½ hour early dismissal
24th-January 3rd- No School

January

7th - GPO Meeting at 6:00pm
12th - Bank Day
15th - Career Day- 4th and 5th grades
18th - No School
26th - Bank Day
28th - Board Meeting- 7:30- High School
28th - Report Cards

What We Collect

We have a great group of Committee Coordinators here at Graysville. We recycle and collect a number of different items. These program greatly benefit our school, some provide us with money, programs, and school supplies. We have a "new" look for our collections center. If you are in the school, stop and take a look.

Apples

The Apples For The Students Program allows you to support our school simply by shopping at Giant Eagle and using your Advantage Card. The program has started for the school year and will end in March 2010.



GPO Newsletter

Graysville Parent Organization

Issue 1 page 7

November, 2009

With reward points from the 2008-2009 school year, I selected weather stations for the 4th and 5th grade science classrooms. I also selected first aide stations. There is a station located on the upper and lower levels that the teachers have easy access to in the event of an emergency.

If you are already enrolled to support Graysville, there is nothing new you need to do. Just present your advantage card to the cashier when you check out at Giant Eagle.

If you are enrolling your advantage card for the first time this year, then you can enroll one of two ways.

By phone 1-800-474-4777 or online at gianteagle.com
You will need your advantage card and our school code when enrolling. Our school code is: **0398**

Be sure to share our school code with any friends and family that shop at Giant Eagle.

Each quarter I get a total of how many points we have earned. No other information is shared with me or the school. We can not tell what you buy or how you paid for your order.

This is a wonderful program that has provided computer Software, and may other educational items for our school. Thanks for your support!

-Melissa Six
Apples Coordinator

Book It

We have successfully completed our first month of Pizza Hut's Book It Program. Each class room establishes a reading goal for their students. Students meeting their required reading each month earn a free Personal Pan Pizza certificate. This program will continue through March. Keep Up the good work students and thank you teachers and parents for helping the students reach their goals.

-Lauren Chambers
Book It coordinator

Box Tops

I am Bobbie McHenry, the Box Tops coordinator for Graysville Elementary. Box Tops is an easy and fast way to collect funds for our school. Just clip the little Box Top on a General Mills Cereal or any other foods. Each Box Top is worth \$.10 and it adds up fast! I just turned in 4,850. That is a total of \$485.00. That was collected in less than one month!

Lets keep up the great work STUDENTS! Keep clipping those Box Tops for more fun contest. Congratulations to Colton Anderson for turning in 500 Box Tops. Colton won a \$25.00 Toys R' Us gift certificate.

-Bobbie McHenry
willowfarm@windstream.net
Box Tops Coordinator

Campbell's

Campbell's Labels For Education is now collecting:

1 point

Campbell's
Campbell's Chunky Soup
Campbell's Healthy Request
Franco-American
Pepperidge Farm
Spagettio's
Swanson
V8 Beverages
V8 Fusion
V8 Splash
Prego Italian Sauces
Campbell's Foodservice
Beverage Caps

5 points

Campbell's
Campbell's Soup at Hand
Campbell's Chunky Soup
Campbell's Select Harvest
Spagettio's
V8 Soup

-Scarlet Burns
Campbell's Co-Coordinator

September's drawing winner for Campbell's was Devon Jameson. He received a back-to-school back pack filled with supplies. October's drawing winner was Christan Cipolletti. He won a Campbell's Soup Thermos. November and December's winners will receive a \$20 gift certificate to Wal-Mart. There are extra collection papers on the Collections Bulletin Board for your convenience.

-Brandy Tuttle
Campbell's Co-Coordinator

Tyson

Mary Herrick is our Tyson coordinator. You can reach her at herrick@windstream.net. We collect the Tyson 1,2,3 labels off of participating packages. That is the entire tear off that opens the package. For examples log on to www.tysonprojectA+.com. It took our school three years to send in 100 labels. We understand this is an expensive product, however, we accept one label at a time. In the future, if you happen to purchase a bag, just that label will help us reach our goal sooner. Thanks for supporting our school!

Terra Recycling

Terra Recycling is a program that helps our school by sending us a cash refund of two cents per package. We collect name



brand juice pouches, Frito Lay's snack packages of any size, and Nabisco snack packages of any size. You do not have to clean them, just empty out the crumbs. We have collection bins outside the cafeteria to convenience the students that eat them during lunch. You may send them in with your child as well. Mary Herrick coordinates this program and is very pleased with the contributions.

S.E.E.D.

Shop 'n Save's Student Extra Educational Development program, better known as S.E.E.D., works in partnership with Carnegie Science Center, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, and Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium to bring quality and education, yet entertaining school assemblies for our children to enjoy.

Our school becomes eligible for a free program when we have collected Shop 'n Save Receipts totaling \$250 for each student. As of now we have collected \$90,721.48 with more to be added. Please keep sending in your receipts so we can continue to bring fun and educational assemblies to our school.

If you have any questions, please email Stephanie Lampe at sabl17@windstream.net.

-Stephanie Lampe
S.E.E.D. Coordinator

Funding Factory

Funding Factory is a program that converts used cell phones and ink cartages into cash for our school. We have 175 points in our account. This is \$70! We cashed the account out for \$585.44 in April of 2009. That money went toward the 2008-2009, 5th grade recognition. A special thanks to Consol Energy for their donations that come in almost weekly. Their donations have greatly helped this program.

-Amber Talpas
Funding Factory Coordinator

Beautiful Bulletin Board

Our children grow up so fast. It's hard to believe how their years at Graysville Elementary go by so quickly. Fortunately we have been able to catch some of their most memorable moments in pictures. From field days to fun days, classroom parties to holiday programs, nothing tells the story of Kindergarten through 5th grade quite like photographs.



At a recent GPO meeting, Mr. Painter generously offered the use of the bulletin board in the hall near Mrs. Robert's office. Greta Mooney and I have volunteered to decorate this board with photographs from the many different functions. We would love to have as many pictures as possible. If you have them in digital format, please email your picture to gmooney@windstream.net or sbrudnock@yahoo.com. If not you can label the back of your traditional photos and give them to one of the GPO officers.

ANYONE can help decorate this board and your ideas are welcomed. The more the merrier! In addition to the bulletin board, we are going to fill albums with all the picture from previous years that have been keep in storage boxes at the school. These albums will be available for families to view at open house and other programs.

We would like to have pictures from this year's Fall Harvest as soon as possible. Please email the pictures or give them to one of the officers at your earliest convenience. The students love to see pictures of themselves and their friends up on display, so let's try to gather as many as possible, especially those that show groups of kids. Please contact us if you have any

questions and thanks for your help.

-Sandy Brudnock

Comments and Thank You's

"Fall Harvest was a huge success! The children had a wonderful time, and the parents enjoy participating in the fun!"

-Crystal Jackson

"Thankful we have a school district that allows parents to be active in their student's activities. Parent involvement benefits the children in many ways."

-Crystal Jackson

"The kids had a lot of fun at field day and Fall Harvest."

-Julie Gray

"Over all the GPO is doing a SUPER job. For a first year president, Denese is doing a great job and so are the officers, thank you. Fall Harvest was great, it was decorated nicely and both parents and students seemed to really enjoy themselves. Considering the economy... I think the food drive was a success as well. I would also like to add how nicely the monthly meetings have been. The officers seem to be right on tract and seem to be getting all things accomplished (not to mention the AWESOME door prizes). Last but certainly not least, I want to say "Thank you" to Amber for doing this



newsletter! I feel as a parent, it is a great way to keep parents involved and “in the know”. Keep up the excellent work, and it will be a great year for the students, parents, and faculty!”

-anonymous

“Thanks to everyone for submitting their articles. Thank you, Bobbie, Denese, Mr. Painter, and Mrs. Whitlatch for your help and advice with this publication. I would love to hear from more of you for this section, email me at atalpas122@aol.com or call me at (724)663-7697.”

-Amber Talpas

Mrs. Watson’s second grade class sent wonderful thank you’s to the GPO for their Fall Harvest. They are in the GPO office. You are so welcome!

-GPO

Sweeten up the Holidays

1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened

1c. peanut butter

2T. milk

¾ c. powder sugar

1 (8-oz) whipped topping

Beat all these ingredients until creamy and smooth. Fold in one 8 ounce whipped topping. Pour into a graham cracker crust – top with crushed peanuts. Refrigerate for 4-6 hours

before serving. Can be kept in the freezer for quite a long time.

A Thankful Thought

A Child's Song by: Alice Green

I'm thankful for the sunshine bright,
For rain and for stars at night;
I'm thankful for each flower and tree,
And all the beauty that I see.

I'm grateful for our singing birds
And for my mother's gentle words;
I'm grateful for kind friends and true;
Help me to be a good friend too.

Happy Holidays

