



October 2008 Dr. Rita Meyerowitz, Principal • John E. Comer, Assistant Principal

## Principally Speaking On PTA Events

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to welcome you to the 2008-09 school year. There are many exciting events planned with the PTA this year. We hope you will join us for the upcoming Halloween Howl on Monday October 27th. The school wide Wellness Walk, to celebrate Red Ribbon Week, is scheduled for Wednesday October 29th, with a rain date of Thursday October 30th. Parents are welcome to greet us and cheer us on as we walk through the McVey neighborhood. The first PTA 'gently used' book

sale for this year will be held during the children's lunchtime on Thursday October 30th. I look forward to seeing you at these and future PTA sponsored activities.

Best Wishes,  
Dr. Rita Meyerowitz  
Principal



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## From The Desk of John E. Comer

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back to another exciting school year. I would especially like to welcome all of the new members of the McVey family. While walking into the different classrooms many wonderful activities have caught my eye. For example, Ms. Epstein's fifth grade art classes are engrossed in a project learning about the Renaissance artist Arcimboldo. The students studied some of his more famous works and discovered he used fruit in his paintings but in a rather unique manner. For example, in one work Archibald used a pear as someone's nose, where in another he used apples as cheeks. In the spirit of Arcimboldo, the students incorporated fruit into their own paintings. Instead of focusing on the face like Arcimboldo, the students put the fruit in people's hair to create wild hair.

Sincerely,  
John E. Comer  
Assistant Principal

### From the "By George" Editor's Desk...

Welcome to our first issue of the "PTA By George" for the 08-09 school year. For those of you who are new to McVey, this newsletter is used to convey to you various PTA activities that occur during the school year. We also love to request articles and illustrations from our students to be included in each issue..

If you have any suggestions or articles for future issues, just email Denise at [dsevero@optonline.net](mailto:dsevero@optonline.net) or Joanne at [jnewberg@optonline.net](mailto:jnewberg@optonline.net). You can also slip us a note in the "By George" basket in the main office.

**Deadline for the next issue is Dec 17!**

*Denise Severo & Joanne Newberger*

## PTA Presidents' Message

Welcome Back

The 2008-2009 school year started off with a flurry of activity. We would like to thank Sue Cuttone and Brenda DeGeorge for helping us prepare folders that our children received the first day of school. These folders, as well as planners for grades two through five, were provided courtesy of McVey PTA.

Thank you to Sue Cuttone, Joy Realmuto and Lisa Kavanagh for auditing our books.

A special thank you to Joanne Newberger who chairs our hospitality committee, without her, we would not have such a wonderful array of desserts and refreshments at our PTA meetings.

Once again Jeanette Hafke has taken the role of webmaster. She does a wonderful job maintaining and managing the McVey PTA website. Please visit our website, [MYTEACHER-PAGES.COM/WEBPAGES/MCVEYPTA](http://MYTEACHER-PAGES.COM/WEBPAGES/MCVEYPTA) for all the latest PTA news. We ask our chairpersons to please e-mail Jeanette ([jeanette.hafke@gmail.com](mailto:jeanette.hafke@gmail.com)) committee information so she may continue to keep us informed.

Membership is off to a great start. As of October 14th, we have over 300 members. Thank you to Laura Clarke for handling our membership committee this year. As a member of NYS PTA, our voices join the voices of thousands to promote the welfare of children and excellence in education. If you haven't done so already, we encourage you to join. Membership is \$8 (individual) or \$12 (per couple). Send a check made out to MCVEY PTA and include the name of the persons wishing to join, your child's name, teacher, and room number. Place in an envelope labeled McVey PTA Membership and return to the main office. Remember, only PTA members can participate in PTA sponsored events.

Our first fundraiser has been completed and we would like to thank Brenda DeGeorge and her trusted partner Patty Romeo for all their hard work with the wrapping paper fundraiser. Products will be available for pick up on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Spe-

cific times and location will be distributed shortly.

The entertainment book sale is in full swing, thank you to Kelly Turner and of course Chris Turner for all your time and hard work. During these economic times the Entertainment Book is a valuable investment for coupons and discounts from our local businesses.

Fundraising chairpersons provide a great service to the PTA and help us reach our goals of providing the funds needed to support our programs for the children. Proceeds from our fundraising events support wonderful programs for our school. Each grade enjoys an individualized program, in addition to our school-wide programs. Fundraising gives us the opportunity to invite you to join us as we celebrate with our annual Halloween Howl and Spooky Walk. The fantastic Parents as Reading Partners program and our Flag and Dino Days, provide enrichment and culture for our students. Our fifth grade graduates receive t-shirts, locks, diploma cases, yearbooks and a reception, all compliments of the PTA. We purchase indoor/outdoor equipment for the children to enjoy at recess. We are proud to sponsor the ever-popular end of the year BBQ at which we gave every child a backpack. Brought back by popular demand, each grade will enjoy a Movie Night in which we will showcase a newly released film. As you can see, fundraising committees are an important part of the process. We would be disheartened to see any of our programs eliminated because of the lack of funding. The children look forward to these events and your continued support and participation is appreciated.

Please join us at the next PTA meeting and bring your ideas and suggestions to help make this an exciting year. We look forward to seeing and welcoming our PTA members who are willing to get involved and make a difference for our children.

We hope you have a great school year.

Thank you,  
Roxanne Rose and Lori Wallstedt, Co-Presidents McVey PTA



## Science Lab News

### Summer at Harmony Pond

This summer, nine families volunteered to take care of Harmony Pond. During their assigned weeks, the families had the opportunity to do some simple science experiments and keep the pond area neat with weeding and trash collecting. Some families planted and some families donated tadpoles and birdseed. The families recorded their experiment results and data. It was wonderful reading all their delightful comments, such as: "we saw flowers that looked like characters' hair from Dr. Seuss!" Many thanks to the Swanson, Reilly, Newberger, Daly, Clements, Piccone, Koumas, Walsh (we loved reading all your notes!), and D'Abreau families. Watch "By George" in early spring for information on how your family can take part next year.

~ Diane Volpe & Patte Conway



# Bulletins

## Box Tops For Education



Each Box Top coupon is **worth 10¢** for our school. You can clip Box Tops coupons from hundreds of your favorite products and send them in.



Each month, find exciting new opportunities to **earn thousands of Bonus Box Tops** for our school.

Stop By McVey On Election Day and Visit The PTA Bake Sale and Raffle Ticket Sale



REMINDER  
PICK UP YOUR  
WRAPPING PAPER ORDERS  
NOVEMBER 6TH IN RM123



Welcome back to school! The *Labels for Education™* program is a great way to get FREE merchandise for our school— simply save proofs of purchase from participating products and send them to our school.

Help us Get **MORE**  
**FREE Stuff**  
for our school!



## Help us help our School

- \* Apply and get approval for a RED card
- \* Sign up for Take Charge of Education and designate McVey Elementary school as your school of choice.
- \* Up to 1% of your REDcard purchases will be donated to our school.