



The Lion's Den

The Newsletter of the New Hope-Solebury Elementary Schools Home & School Association

FEBRUARY 2010

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

We are half way through the school year. It really is hard to believe how fast time flies. Like many organizations, this is a good time of year to review our budgets. The HSA is charged with raising a lot of money for our schools. In fact, it is one of our main goals. It isn't the most exciting goal and most people, including me, shutter when they hear that it is time for another fundraiser. So many of you continue to ask me what we do with all of the money we raise that I asked our treasurer, Joanne Reszka to put together a summary.

So, what does the HSA fund? Most of our money goes straight back to the UES and LES to fund programs that enrich the school curriculum and community. Here's what we've funded so far this year or what we plan to fund:

\$4000 to the Artists in Residence programs (UES and LES); this year's AIR programs include music, dance, water colors, murals, and a mosaic bench project. Every grade level has a separate project.

\$2500 for each school for Teacher Grants to encourage teachers to create interesting and stimulating programs or interesting technologies that add to the curriculum - 2009-10 grants include ELMO projectors for the Kindergarten classrooms; Wii equipment for the Phys. Ed. program at the UES, plus speed stacks for recess at the UES. Remaining funds not granted were donated to NHS Education Fund.

\$2000 per school for Assembly programs e.g. LES Blue Sky puppet theater assembly and more...; "Planet Pirates" assembly coming up in April at the UES

\$1000 to the guidance counselors for discretionary funds for those in need

\$1000 towards Field Day

\$800 to each school's principal to be used for special projects and programs - e.g. Peaceful Playgrounds equipment at the LES; past programs at the UES include Reading Olympics, etc.

\$350 per school towards financial support for the Book Fair (\$1 coupons)

\$250 to each school for playground equipment

We also provide financial support for our own HSA or student events and activities. For example:

\$1000 for the HSA Science Fair Day

\$700 for printing backpack mailers, supplies like recess lanyards at the LES, bulletin boards etc.

\$500 for the 5th grade promotion party

\$400 for the two staff appreciation breakfasts and lunches during the year

\$400 for newcomer/hospitality expenses

Our total expenses that we hope to fund this year = \$20,500!

How do we fund these events? This year, per requests from last year's survey, we eliminated all product fundraisers and have, or will be, replacing them by fundraising programs and events. So far this year, we have raised funds through the following programs and events:

LES/UES Family donations \$5868

KIDStuff coupon books \$3,425

LES pizza bingo \$1,068

Spirit wear fall sale \$888

Boxtops coupons \$744 approx.

As you can see, so far we have raised \$11,993 so we still have a way to go if we want to keep funding the activities listed above. Please look out for and support the following upcoming fundraising programs and activities that will be held this spring:

Card Art sale; K-5 Family Events (Ultimate Sports, Dress through the Decades/Afternoon Tea), Parent Gala (with the Middle School), UES Pizza Bingo, Roller Skating at Frenchtown Roller Rink, Spirit wear spring sale, and The Naturals night at Trenton Thunder.

Our plans for the 2010-11 budget will be discussed in detail in our upcoming HSA meetings. All input is welcome. The budget is also posted on the HSA website for your complete review.

My thanks to Joanne for putting that together for us. On top of all that, next year the HSA would like to offer programs and events that are not fundraisers. This way everyone can enjoy them. As always in order to do any of this, our most valuable asset is our volunteers. To find out how to get involved, email me or anyone on our board or come to a general meeting. We'll put you to work!

Sincerely, Beth Keating

Bethkeating27@comcast.net

PIZZA BINGO

The Upper Elementary School Pizza Bingo night is rescheduled for Friday February 26th. If you have registered and are unable to make it that night, email Jen Spadevecchia at jlcs123@gmail.com. If you would like to come, there are still available spots. If you can volunteer to bake or help that night, please email Jen at jlcs123@gmail.com

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Blood is needed by the Red Cross. There is a blood drive scheduled for Monday March 8th at the Upper Elementary School LGI. To schedule an appointment, please contact Beth Simon at 215-862-8167 or esimon@nhsd.org.

K-5 UNITED WE PLAY, UNITED WE WIN: ULTIMATE SPORTS NIGHT

This fundraising event is open to all NHS students K-5 on Friday March 5th at the Upper Elementary School. It is designed to be an evening of participation with parent and child. Gym games, skateboard demonstration, food and photograph are among the many activities included. Pre-registration is required using the attached form. Questions, contact Beth at bethkeating27@comcast.net.

K-5 AFTERNOON TEA/DRESS THROUGH THE DECADES FASHION SHOW

Not so much into sports? Please join in the fun at this slightly calmer event! This fundraising event is open to all NHS students K-5 on Sunday March 21st at the Upper Elementary School. Activities include tea service, light refreshments and an etiquette presentation by a special guest. We are also planning a fashion show displaying clothing worn by children historically through the decades. We are so happy to announce the return of our beloved NHS 2nd grade teacher, Ms. MacIntyre as the narrator. Contact Chris Antell at ripbo8@aol.com if you can help.

LOWER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOOD DRIVE

The Lower Elementary School is participating in Operation Helping Hand Food Drive for the United Way of Bucks County. Food must be delivered to the LES by Wednesday March 10th. Any non-perishable item is accepted however they are especially looking for canned vegetables,

cereal, powdered milk, canned fruit, canned tomato products, canned meat and peanut butter & jelly.

PARENT GALA

Friday March 19, 2010 is the night of the 3rd Annual Parent Gala to be held at Holly Hedge Estate. The event sold out last year, so please get your tickets in. It is a fun night out! Questions, please contact Erika Peterson (erikapete1@aol.com) or Vickie Mazza (vimazza@comcast.net).

SCIENCE FAIR

The Science Fair will be held at the LES on April 23rd and at the UES on April 26th. Please contact Amishi Castelli at amishi.castelli@gmail.com with questions or comments.

ORANGECYCLE

Don't forget to bring in those used or broken electronics to the LES or the UES lobbies. All proceeds are donated to the HSA. Visit www.orangecycle.org for details.