

ARBOGA ELEMENTARY PTSO NEWSLETTER

Issue #1

April 2011



What's Happening Now

Welcome to the first issue of the Arboga Elementary Parent-Teacher-Staff Organization's E-Newsletter! Together we can take our amazing school and make it even better!

Sign up for this Newsletter!

To sign up for the e-Newsletter, just send us a quick email at:

arbogaPTSO@yahoo.com

with your email address and we will add you to the distribution list.

Check us Out on Facebook

In addition to this newsletter, we are also using Facebook to keep you up-to-date on PTSO events and fundraisers. To follow us on Facebook, go to:

www.facebook.com/ArbogaPTSO

and click on the "like" button.

Art Contest

Our first annual art contest is under way! We received over one hundred submissions that were on display at the Artwalk during Open House.

All artwork prints are for sale at:
arboga-elementary.artistwebsites.com

UPDATE: You can also print a local order form for prints made by our district's print shop at a lower cost and without shipping at ArbogaArt.com!

The contest ends at the stroke of midnight on April 30, 2011.

Help get the word out about your little artist's masterpiece by clicking the Facebook "Recommend" button just below their artwork. Click on the "pdf" icon to view a sale sheet that you can print out and give to prospective buyers.

Cookie Dough Fundraiser

All Cookie Dough Fundraiser orders are being processed and they should arrive around April 19th. We will be announcing the winners of the prize drawings at that time!

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Cougar Suds

Cougar suds are a fun and cost-effective alternative to name-brand detergents. Pick up a kit and see what all the buzz is about – you won't regret it!

Annual Egg Hunt

We need help stuffing eggs on April 14th at 5pm in the cafeteria. Stop by and join the team, and while you're there, stay for the PTSO meeting to see what we're all about!



The Egg Hunt will take place on Thursday, April 21st during school hours.

Coming Soon!

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week

We are planning a wonderful week for our teachers and staff, including lunches and snacks as well as recognition awards and gifts.

If you are able to make a donation or simply donate your time and efforts to make Teacher-Staff Appreciation Week even better, please contact committee chair Gayle Barrett at arbogaptso@yahoo.com right away!

Family Nights

We are working on organizing some Family Nights for the students and their families!

Possibilities include a movie night and a family fun game night.

If you have any ideas for Family Nights, please contact the PTSO board at arbogaptso@yahoo.com.

Teacher Feature

Portrait of a Principal – Mr. Preston, In His Own Words

Having been raised by two teachers, it was almost inevitable that at least one of their four children would choose education as a career path. I was the one to choose education and I began my career at Marysville High School, where I worked alongside my father, a math teacher, and Mrs. Lucas, who was then an Early Childhood Education teacher.

I was lucky enough to do my student teaching in a paid position; I long term substituted for an entire semester and taught English I, American Literature and Debate. In fact, that semester, Rich Eberle, PTSO Co-Treasurer, was a senior in my Debate class. The following year I was again lucky in that the teacher for whom I had substituted decided to work at another school and I received the position as a full time teacher.

I taught English classes, Speech and Debate for six years and was the English Department Chairperson for three years. Teaching Debate was my passion though, as I had been a debater while a student at Yuba City High School and received my Bachelor of Arts in Rhetoric and Communications from U.C. Davis. I can proudly say that each of the six years I coached debate, my students qualified for and competed in both the state and national tournaments; in fact, in 2001, one of my Policy Debate teams placed 10th at the state tournament.

My last year teaching, I had the luxury of

some extra prep periods because I was in charge of the WASC report and had a student teacher and suddenly, everything changed. We had an administrative change midyear and I was asked to step into the role of Teacher on Special Assignment as Assistant Principal. I stepped into it and the next year became a full time Assistant Principal. For six years I held that position and absolutely loved it, especially dealing with curriculum and testing and introducing programs into the school that helped students identify with school and develop a sense of belonging.

As I had always seen myself as a high school person, I never thought about being a principal because I saw how much stress was placed on the five principals I worked with during my twelve and a half years at MHS, but I knew that if I was going to continue to relish work and want to help others grow, I too would have to step out of my comfort zone and challenge myself. In a conversation with Dr. Todd, the superintendent, she suggested something I had never thought of—being an elementary school principal.

After much discussion with my family, friends and some coworkers, I decided to take the plunge and haven't looked back since. This is the end of my fourth year here at Arboga and I still can't believe how fortunate I have been to land in such an incredibly supportive school with such strong teachers, caring parents and support staff and willing students. I've traded being cursed at for being hugged, attending sporting events for curriculum nights, and struggling to help others see how important it is for kids to feel connected to school for trying to catch up with those who are light years ahead of me.

In all honesty, I have told several people that I feel I have the best job in the entire district and, in spite of expected and unexpected challenges here and there, I can't say that I would change a thing. This school and its community are special because of those who

are a part of it, because of how invested people are and how willing they are to make things work for kids.

~Eric Preston

The Month in Review

Valentine-o-Grams

Valentine's Day is not just a day to show love to a significant other, but a day to show friends, family, even teachers and staff that you appreciate and care for them. The Arboga PTSO helps our students say "I love you" by creating Valentine-O-Grams. This year's grams featured candy, plush toys, and book marks. We sold approximately 400 Valentine-O-Grams this year!

Thank you to everyone who participated and to everyone who helped make this Valentine's Day special for our students!

Solar Sparks win Lexus ECO Challenge!

Mrs. Jones' Sixth Grade Class entered a Lexus ECO Challenge statewide contest. There were three groups with nine students in each group: The Solar Sparks, Masters of Depletion and The H29 Scientists.

The contest was based on environmental issues. Each group had to research their topic, do a slide show, and contact other schools about issues, then they had to do a short video to send to the ECO Challenge.

One of the groups, The Solar Sparks, won the contest and a \$10,000.00 award! Each student received about \$700.00, the school received \$2,000, and the advisor received \$1,000.

We are now in a National Challenge and

could win up to \$30,000! Every student in Mrs. Jones participated and all did a wonderful job. Mrs. Jones is very proud of all her students for working so hard on how to improve our environment.

Book Fair

Irish writer Richard Steele once said, "Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body." We all know that children need playtime and exercise, but children also need the creativity and knowledge that comes from reading a good book. Our library and our wonderful librarian Brenda West, together with Scholastic, put on our annual book fair once again this year during Open House week.

This year's book fair was an amazing success. We had approximately \$4,300 in overall sales and we gave almost \$1,200 worth of FREE books to our students and community members that participated! Thanks to those sales our library was able to purchase almost \$1000 worth of books to help expand our students' minds.

Every year we participate in Scholastic's "One for Books" program. Through this program we collect change during our book fair, which our library gets to use to purchase books. Scholastic Book Fairs matches the "One for Books" dollars we raise with a donation of their own - up to a million books given to three non-profit organizations devoted to helping families in need.

Mrs. West would like to once again thank all the volunteers that helped her this year with the book fair. She stressed that this book fair would never happen without such great parent participation.

4th/5th Grade Science Challenge

What are the two main parts of an ecosystem? What breaks down organisms that are no longer living into simpler chemicals? How can shale, a sedimentary rock, be metamorphosed into slate? These were just a few of the many science questions that teams of students answered in the third annual Arboga Elementary 4th/5th Grade Science Challenge.

The competition was held in the cafeteria on Tuesday, March 29th. The goal of this unique event is to provide a fun way for students in both grades to review the 4th grade science standards. The upcoming 5th grade state science exam includes questions on both 5th and 4th grade science standards.



Teams of students represented their class in the competition and the winning team was awarded engaging science prizes that included a telescope, a variety of CSI kits and much more.

The teams of five students were chosen by their teacher for their science scores and their achievement on a test created specifically for this competition. Each classroom team of five was given an Arboga Science Challenge team t-shirt. Max Jeffrey, a junior at Marysville Charter Academy for

the Arts, has designed the t-shirt for the past two years.

There were also opportunities for the student audience members to earn prizes. Student audience members were randomly chosen to answer science questions and those that answered correctly received a science prize.

This year's competitors were Brian Kutcher, Catherine Kukulka, James Doherty, Baylee Bishop, and Daniel Rios from Mrs. Voboril's class; Joel Po'oi, Steven DeMesa, Sarah Adrian, Katie Kerr, and James Cooper from Ms. Robertson's class; Sarah Powell, Sidney Crippen-Lay, Lanea Medlar, Colton Schesser, and Zach Tinius from Mr. Jeffrey's class; and Elora Greenwale, Josh Chou, Michael Simon, Keyera Mackabee, and Edward Lai from Mr. Fry's class.

The competition was close, all of the competitors did an outstanding job, but Mr. Fry's team prevailed.

2nd Trimester Awards

On March 11, 2nd Trimester Awards were handed out to.....

<u>Math Scholar Awards</u>	<u>Language Arts/Reading Scholar Awards</u>
Natalee Gardner	Jared Smith
Matthew Stewart	Samuel Klonecz
Jacob Ensslin	Lori Adrian
Tyler Spencer	Kytana Jones
Cody Parker	Victoria Bush
Gus Morrissey	Jocelynn Machuca
Gurbakhash Sandhu	Maria Mateo
Serene Andersen	Kaimi Medlar
Lennox Mitchell	Jayden Kramer
Caden Weatherall	Lars Morse
Navjot Gill	Joel Po'oi
Jasleen Kaur	Breanne Henderson
Lauren Allen	Kason Ames
Jacob Bertini	Alyssa Romero
Emilia Castulo	
Jose Vargas	

Jenissa Conway
Dominic Mason
Angelina Yang
Amber Elder

Keyera Macabee
Reynolds
Lynzee Carter
Kayla Xiong
Megan Allen

Most Improved Awards

Eden Yang
Obadiah Williams
Natalie Adrian
David Topete
Tara Hughes
Guadalupe Quezada
Harsimran Grewal
Brianna McCollum
Lacey Stewart
James Cooper
Timothy Kelly
Benita Cordero
Elizabeth Chittenden
Randy Axley
Madisin Combs
Iyanna Johnson
Joseph Melo

Citizenship Awards

Brian Hansen
Naomi Reynolds
Austin Hansen
Brooklyn Porter
Evelyn Garcia
Hallie Burnett
Anieka Xiong
Jericko Schroeder
Venus Xiong
Emily Bozarth
Carlos Vargas
Madison Lehmann
Emmallye Swanson
Beth Crawford
Edward Lai
Nicholas Fallin
Roberto Lule
Sara Powell

All-Around Academic Performance Awards Science Scholar Awards

Zach Tinius
Lamea Medlar

Taylor Upton
Morgan Offord

Open House

Open House was a huge success! Despite the inclement weather, many families showed up to visit their children's classrooms.

The PTSO organized a last-minute food drive for the Salvation Army and collected a big box full of food and \$15 in cash to donate! Two gift baskets, two large stuffed bunnies, and a Cougar Suds kit were given away in a drawing for all who donated.

The PTSO table also included a spinning wheel game with small toys, Cougar Suds, and Arboga-gear such as t-shirts, bags, and cups.

Coupled with the Book Drive and Artwalk, the entire evening was fun for all!



Mr. Preston helps load up the Food-Drive donations

PTSO Board Elections for 2011-2012 School Year

The PTSO elections took place for the 2011-2012 school year, with the following parents being elected:

- Shelly Kukulka, President
- Rich Eberle, Co-Treasurer
- Vickie McMillen, Secretary
- Gayle Barrett, Historian
- Judy Gardner, Parliamentarian

The position of Vice-President is still open.

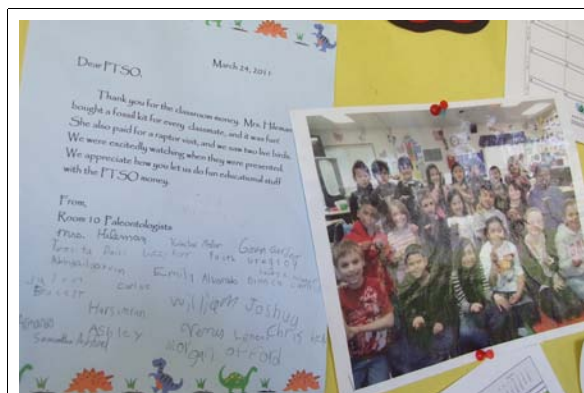
If you are interested in the position, please either contact the PTSO board at arbogapts@yahoo.com or simply come to the next meeting. The PTSO meets every 2nd school Thursday at 6pm in the cafeteria. We look forward to seeing you there!

PTSO Funds Allocated to Classrooms

During the February meeting, the PTSO voted to allocate an additional \$3000 to the

classrooms for supplies and field trip funding needs.

Mrs. Hileman's class collectively wrote a Thank-You letter to the PTSO – check it out on the PTSO bulletin board in front of the school!



Mrs. Hileman's Class Photo and Letter

Lollipop Fundraiser

The lollipop fundraiser was a even more of a success with all the different flavor varieties this year! We still have half a box of sugar free and about half a box of the regulars, so we have lollipops available for parents that want to purchase them.

Our top winners for each grade level are:

Preschool—Micaelia Lozano

K—Room 20—Caleb Ahr

1st grade—Room 5—Kytana Jones

2nd grade—Room 4—Austin Hansen

3rd grade—Room 14—Amber Elder

4th grade—Room 8—Mikell Joseph

5th grade—Room 19—Adonis Xiong

6th grade—Room 18—Austria Cruz

Our top class winner is Mrs. Warner

Each grade winner won a \$20 gift card to McDonalds, and Mrs. Warner's class won a popcorn and movie day!

Upcoming PTSO Meeting Agenda

Arboga Elementary School P.T.S.O. Meeting
April 14, 2011, 6pm, Cafeteria

Agenda

1. Welcome – Call to Order
2. Introduction of Officers and Members

Board/Committee Reports

3. Approval of February Meeting Minutes
4. Treasurer's Report - Lori Piper
5. PTSO Boosters – Vickie McMillen
6. Friday Snack - Anakai Medlar
7. STAR Testing – Juanita Jones
8. Egg Hunt – Vonita Elder
9. Teacher Appreciation Week – Gayle Barrett
10. Kindergarten Completion – Vonita Elder
11. 6th Grade Celebration – Vonita Elder
12. Back to School BBQ - Anakai Medlar/Gayle Barrett
13. Jog-A-Thon - Vickie McMillen
14. Fall Festival – Lori Piper
15. Xmas Bazaar – Lori Piper
16. Board Approvals – Juanita Jones

Fundraiser Reports

17. Valentine O'Grams – Jessica McCollum
18. Lollipop Fundraiser – Juanita Jones
19. Cougar Suds Fundraiser –Lori Piper/Shelly Kukulka
20. Art Fundraiser—Lori Piper
21. Cookie Dough Fundraiser —Juanita Jones
22. Emergency Kits – Lynn Lucas

Old Business

23. Winter Program – Lori Piper
24. Tax Status Update – Lori Piper
25. Volunteer Vests – Lori Piper
26. Committee Chairs (Snack Day, Childcare, Spiritwear) - Juanita Jones

New Business

27. Yard Duty – Mrs. Lucas
28. Family Nights
29. Mother's Day Spa – Vickie McMillen
30. 2011/2012 Budget

Upcoming Events

- 4/15 - Star Testing Ends
4/21 – Egg Hunt
4/22-29 – Spring Recess
4/31 – Art Contest Ends
5/2-6 – Teacher Appreciation Week
5/12 - PTSO Meeting @ 6pm
5/20 - Minimum Day

Get Involved!

Egg Hunt Stuffers Needed!

The PTSO needs as many volunteers as we can get to help stuff eggs for the annual Egg Hunt! We will be stuffing eggs in the cafeteria at 5pm on Thursday, April 14, so please come by and lend a hand!

Join Us!

The PTSO needs more volunteers! The easiest way to see what being a part of the PTSO is all about is to attend a meeting. We meet every 2nd school Thursday at 6pm in the cafeteria, and everyone is invited!



Family Night Toy Donations Needed

One option for holding a Family Night that we've been thinking about is a Family Fun Night, with games and snacks and small prizes to win. To that end, we would love to receive any nice-condition used toys or games that your kids have outgrown or simply want to donate. The more donations we receive, the more we will have to give away to our students, and the more fun Family Fun Night will be for everyone!

Talk to Us!

If you have any questions, ideas, concerns, or just want to offer your time to help the PTSO make Arboga Elementary the talk of the town, get in touch with us!

We can be reached through the school or via email at arbogapts@yahoo.com.

