



PTO YEAR IN REVIEW 2015/16

June 21, 2016

Dear Peirce Families,

It feels like just yesterday that we gathered on the field devouring icy treats and listening to the festive sounds from the Sno-Cone van at the Back-to-School Picnic. It is hard to believe 9+ months have passed and another school year is quickly coming to an end. June always brings a mix of excitement and nostalgia, as we welcome the break of summertime, and bid farewell to teachers and friends.

We have had many wonderful opportunities to join together as a unified school throughout the year. From annual events that have become Peirce staples like Movie Night, Color Day and the Family Dance, to new and exciting milestones like the inaugural Social Action service event with Cradles to Crayons and the Peirce Mural Project. We are very fortunate to have these moments to watch our children thrive and to celebrate the strong spirit, creativity and innovation of the Peirce community.

In addition to Mr. Chitty and all of the teachers and faculty of Peirce, we would like to also acknowledge and thank all of the incredible volunteers who participate on the PTO. From our room parents to our committee chairs, members and board...none of these initiatives, events and activities would be possible without your support, generosity, hard work and contributions.

We are also thrilled to celebrate the success of the 2015/16 Annual Appeal. With a little over 50% participation we were not only able to reach our goal, but **we exceeded our goal by \$16,536 having raised a total of \$71,536**. This is truly remarkable and offers another example of how very lucky we are to have such a committed group of families.

As a result of your tremendous generosity of time, support and contributions, we made great strides to operate the PTO at the same level of excellence as in past years – and enable us to do so for years to come. Before we head into summer, we would like to review the PTO highlights from this past year. The chart enclosed on the following page will showcase all that has been achieved thanks to the support of the Peirce community. You will see exactly how the PTO budget is used, where the money is allocated by area and how your contributions have made a significant impact on our child(ren)'s experience throughout the year.

We wish you all a safe, healthy and happy summer and look forward to seeing you all in September!

Best wishes,

Jess Black, Sarah Kish & Deb Allaire
Peirce PTO Tri-Presidents

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PTO BUDGET ALLOCATION 2015/16

Understanding Your Funds at Work – Year End Highlights

TECHNOLOGY

- ✓ **Purchased 20 new Apple Airs including protection tubs at a total cost of \$27,560.**
The new equipment arrived at Peirce just days ago and will be set up and ready for use upon the start of school in September. The equipment will replace non-functional laptops from the school's 3 "carts" (shared by all classrooms) as well as in room devices (which include 5 student devices per room as part of town standard).

EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT

- ✓ **Funded and created a school-wide Mural installed on the exterior of the building.**
This unique project was funded by a grant obtained by the school and the Peirce PTO as an extension of the Creative Arts & Sciences Program. The project enabled students from all grade levels to participate in the creation of the mural, expand their art curriculum and work closely and learn from a local artist/muralist.
- ✓ **Funded 17 Creative Arts & Sciences Programs for Peirce students at a total cost of approximately \$14,000.**
All Peirce students enjoyed 3 unique programs within each grade level in addition to wonderful school-wide programs.
- ✓ **Purchased 200 books/e-books for the Peirce Library at a total approximate cost of \$4,000.**
Books were funded through the Library Gift program and additional PTO contributions.
- ✓ **Developed and hosted a School-Wide Arts Fair for students in all grades to learn about hobbies and careers in the Arts.**
The PTO, parent volunteers, Georgia Smith and Christen Fitts worked together to offer an arts fair in March to educate students on various careers and hobbies within the Arts. Stations included photography, art therapy, theatre, architecture & design, culinary arts, musical arts and an arts installation. Students learned about each discipline and had the chance to participate in hands-on activities making this a fully interactive experience.
- ✓ **Hosted 7 Parent Coffees with Mr. Chitty.**
The monthly coffees offer parents the opportunity to engage in discussions around educational trends and current programs/practices at Peirce.
- ✓ **Partially Funded In-School Programs for CAPP and Understanding our Difference at a total cost of \$1,150.**

COMMUNITY BUILDING

- ✓ **Created and unveiled a new Peirce PTO Website (www.peircepto.com) including a calendar feature with real-time updates and overall increased user interface.**
- ✓ **Organized 8 Community Building Events for Peirce Families.**
2015/16 events included: the Back-to-School Picnic, Mystery Dinner, Family Movie Night, Fall and Spring Mom's Night Out, Dad's Night Out, Family Dance and the Biennial Spring Gala. These events are designed to help families connect with each other and foster new and existing relationships.
- ✓ **Collated, printed and distributed Peirce Directories for all 220 Peirce Families.**
- ✓ **Hosted 4 events for Incoming K Students and New Families.**
- ✓ **Hosted a PTO Volunteer Welcome Coffee in September as a thank you for service and to allow committees to meet each other.**

SCHOOL SUPPORT

- ✓ **Funded \$7,000 in Discretionary Funds for Mr. Chitty and Teachers.**
These funds support classroom needs and provide "homework assignment books" for all Grade 2-5 students.
- ✓ **Organized 6 Teacher Appreciation Events & provided gifts at a total cost of \$500.**
Expanded existing Teacher Appreciation program from 2 breakfasts and 1 luncheon to 5 breakfasts and 1 luncheon. Through the contribution of meals and supplies, parents across all grades participated and helped to make these events a success and show our faculty/staff how much we appreciate their hard work. In addition to the meals, every teacher received a Peirce mug and hot cocoa bar as a holiday gift.
- ✓ **Contributed \$2,000 to support scholarships in the Peirce Extended Day Program.**
- ✓ **Worked with City of Newton for removal of damaged picnic tables in back playground and purchased portable replacement seating which can be placed inside to avoid future vandalism and damage.**
- ✓ **Installed lockers in back hallways as one of the 3 approved Peirce summer projects in August 2015.**

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN REVIEWING THE FULL PTO BUDGET OR HAVE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS PLEASE SET UP A TIME TO MEET LIVE WITH THE PTO PRESIDENTS. PLEASE EMAIL:
PEIRCEPRESIDENTS@GMAIL.COM