

**JEROME HARRISON ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

2011/2012

PTO HANDBOOK & FORMS

****FAMILY****



***Please read and keep for reference purposes
throughout the school year***

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September 1, 2011

Dear Parents:

On behalf of the Jerome Harrison Elementary School PTO, we would like to welcome our new families and say welcome back to our old ones. We have an exciting calendar planned for this school year and hope that you can join us for our many exciting events throughout the year.

Our organization meets each month on a Monday evening in our school cafeteria. All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend and participate. Our first meeting is on **Monday, September 12th at 6:30 PM**. Please make every effort to attend these important monthly meetings.

The PTO Executive Board, including Principal Shawn Parkhurst and Teacher Representatives attend each PTO meeting. Important information, upcoming events and a report from the principal are always on the agenda. This gives us, as parents, an opportunity to work together to resolve issues, have questions answered about our school and see first hand how our PTO funds are being utilized. Each year, our PTO supports enrichment activities and programs within our school and the community. This past year, our efforts raised over \$16,000 for these programs through membership dues, fundraisers, book fairs, and other activities.

This year, the PTO will give each teacher a student allotment of at least \$16.00 per child. This money will be spent on field trips, class projects and other activities directly related to the children's academics. We also support several family activities including cultural arts programs as outlined in our PTO handbook.

As our school and community grows, the PTO looks forward to new ideas and how we can best serve our children. We hope that you can find the time to participate in our activities. With your help and support, we are looking forward to an exciting school year.

We encourage you fill out the attached membership form and return it with your dues as soon as possible.

Thank you for your support!
Dawn Mascari ~ President
Stephanie Martinik ~ Vice President
Angelique Burke ~ Treasurer
Dale Izzo ~ Secretary

Jerome Harrison Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization

The PTO activities and committees for the 2011/2012 school year are described in the following pages. We offer many opportunities for parents, guardians, grandparents, etc. to become involved. When you become involved, your children realize the importance of their education, and the rewards from volunteering your time and effort are priceless.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE: Sept-Oct. 2011

Our membership drive runs throughout September. Membership dues collected go directly to classroom teachers to use for activities related to the classroom. Dues also help fund some of the PTO programs.
Contacts: JHS PTO Vice President

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION: Collecting all Year

Keep those box tops coming! Last year the school raised over \$2,500 from box tops. A flyer will go home explaining which products qualify. Each classroom has a "Box Top" box, so children can bring them into school as they are clipped throughout the year.

CULTURAL ARTS: Year Round Events

Our Cultural Arts committee is responsible for planning educational programs and assemblies for our school throughout the year. The PTO funds 100% of these educational and FUN events.

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE: Year Round

The PTO provides the playground with accessories (kick balls, footballs, jump ropes, etc.) for the kids while on the playground at recess.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE: Year Round

The PTO proudly contributes funds each year to help "spruce up" Jerome Harrison School.

BULLETIN BOARD COMMITTEE: Year Round

Volunteers are needed for the upkeep of the school bulletin board throughout the year.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE: Year Round

This committee provides food and/or baked goods for events throughout the year, such as Staff Appreciation day and the Room Parent Tea.

FUNDRAISERS: Fall Sept.-Oct. 2011 Spring Feb-April 2012

The PTO has chosen a wonderful selection of fundraisers items that will be sent home at the beginning of the school year and before the winter recess break.

ROOM PARENTS:

Each classroom will be assigned three room parents. Parents are asked to sign up if they are interested. Their names are drawn out of a hat for the selection by the principal and chairperson. The duties of the room parents are determined by the teachers. A "Room Parent Tea" is scheduled in September 2011 to unite the teachers with their room parents for an initial meeting.

CLOTHING LINE: Year Round

We offer a line of products displaying the JHS logo. Information regarding the sales of the clothing line will be distributed prior to each order being placed. You may view some of the products on line at www.jerome.northbranfordschools.org click on PTO and then clothing.

BOOK FAIR: Fall 2011 & Spring 2012

We have two very successful book fairs each year. One held in the fall and the other in the spring. While these entail much work and many volunteer hours, the rewards are significant. The school benefits financially and the students get reasonably priced grade level books and activities.

HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIY NIGHT: October 28, 2011

Grab the family and come on down. The entire family will enjoy the many activities and games that are offered. Visit our haunted house or have your picture taken in your Halloween costume. Many volunteers are needed to make this event a success.

HOLIDAY SALE: December 1 & 2, 2012

Our holiday sale allows the students to shop at school and buy a few small gifts for their family and friends at very low prices. We encourage the children to make a gift list to help the shopping along. The event is held in December and requires many volunteers to help the children with their purchases. The children really seem to enjoy being able to purchase these gifts as surprises for the holidays.

NIGHT OF CARING: December 2011

(Snow date: TBA)

This annual December event is Jerome Harrison's contribution to needy families during the holiday season. With the coordination of the Town of North Branford and the PTO, our families gather together to decorate and assemble boxes of food and toys for less fortunate families in our community.

LIGHTS OF LOVE: The month of February 2012

Students can help the Ronald McDonald House charity by donating small change within a specific time span during the month of February. Every classroom will have a collection can.

TV TURN ~ OFF WEEK: Week of April 23-27, 2012

The PTO supports this National event to teach children to find alternate activities to watching TV. This committee puts together ideas for a week of activities that children can do at home. We end this week with a family BINGO night, set for Thursday, April 26th.

PLANT SALE: May 3-4, 2012

Timed just right for Mother's Day, our annual plant sale is a big hit! Students are offered a small flowering plant for just a few dollars. Volunteers are needed the day before the sale (to organize the plants) and also the days of the sale (to assist students with plant selection). Pre plant sales are also offered to families to place orders and to pick up on the day of the event.

STAFF APPRECIATION DAY: May 4, 2012

This day is set aside to honor the teachers and staff at our school. Parents take over the teacher's non-classroom duties for the day, such as lunch and recess duties. It shows them just how much we appreciate all they do for our children. Volunteers are needed to fill in at the school.

FUN DAY: June 2012 (Date TBD)

This is a day that is filled with recreational events and a special lunch for all JHS students. Lead by 2nd grade teacher Judy Bannon: Volunteers are needed to make this day a success!!

Jerome Harrison School PTO Membership Form

Become a member of the PTO! Our first meeting is September 12th. We would love to have all of our families as members as this is one of our biggest fundraisers! Please fill out the following information and return to school with the annual family dues of \$7.00 by September 30, 2011. (Please make checks payable to Jerome Harrison PTO).

Parent(s) name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone:

Home: _____

Work: _____

Cell: _____

E-mail _____

Child's name

Teacher

Grade

families who may find the fee a financial burden may consult with Principal, Shaw Parkhurst for a waiver

Feel free to contact Stephanie

Martinik(swmartinik@hotmail.com), PTO Vice President, with any questions.

_____ cut here _____

Meeting Dates

September 12th

October 3rd

November 7th

February 6th

March 5th

April 9th

May 7th