

# Estabrook PTA Newsletter

September 14, 2007  
Volume 1, Issue 1



## Estabrook Calendar

September 20	Back-To-School Night
September 23	Clean Up Day, 2 - 4 PM
September 25	PTA Meeting - What's New at Estabrook This Year? 7 PM
October 10	School Picture Day
October 24	International Potluck
November 7	PTA Meeting, 7 PM

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## Welcome Back!

Welcome back to school - we hope everyone had a relaxing summer!! As we settle into the first month of school, so much has happened and so much is *happening!* There's been lots of excitement as the first weeks got underway; Pizza Night and Clean Up Day; new teachers and new traffic patterns - so much to talk about! Fortunately, there have been lots of parents out there willing to help. If you were one of them - THANK YOU! If you wish you had been one of them, there will be many opportunities to help throughout the year. Please become involved - it is often only a matter of giving an hour here and a half hour there.

While we know this can be the craziest time of year, we say go ahead, relax! Grab your cup of coffee, your glass of water or your evening cup of tea, sit down and take a look at the newsletter. Join us as we look back at the summer, what's happened so far and what's around the corner.

We look forward to a great year!

**-The PTA Executive Board**  
Pam Hoffman, Co-President  
Margaret Counts-Klebe, Co-President  
Karen Kristin, Vice-President  
Kamala Soparkar, Vice-President  
Jen Minasian, Treasurer  
Gretchen Reisig, Secretary

## Welcome New Teachers and Staff

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to our new staff members:

Ms. Hayes-Bowie - Tutor  
Mr. Hoar (aka Mr. Bruce) - Custodian  
Ms. Horan - Kindergarten Teacher  
Ms. Howard - Custodian  
Ms. Loveday - Metco Tutor

Ms. Powell - Phys Ed Teacher  
Ms. Silberman - Fifth Grade Teacher  
Ms. Speros - Third Grade Teacher  
Ms. Taddeo - Fourth Grade Teacher

## Welcome New Families

There are more than 50 new families at Estabrook this year! As chairs of the Welcoming Committee, Miko Brais and Helen Galanopoulos held a wonderful breakfast for all families new to Estabrook. There were several new families of older children and of course the new families of new kindergartners. Thank you to the entire Committee and welcome to all!



## Jump Ropes and Kickballs

For the start of school this year the PTA provided each classroom with a new set of playground balls, jump ropes and other grade-appropriate fun items for the children to use outside during recess. Ask your child if they're enjoying these new items.

Your PTA funds also provided each classroom with tissues, hand sanitizer and other supplies. If you are interested in donating other items to your child's classroom, please contact the teacher for suggestions.

## August Clean Up Day

If you came up to the school during the summer then you saw weeds growing everywhere. Luckily, a small cadre of dedicated parents and children weeded out the front butterfly and flower gardens as well as the front and back patio gardens.

Thank you to all who helped make the entrance of the school look that much nicer for our first days of school.

## Clean Up Day - Sunday, September 23, 2 to 4PM

**Catch the first PTA meeting and find out "What's New at Estabrook this Year?" Tuesday, Sept. 25, 7:00 PM**

Grab your gardening gloves and grab your family - it's clean up day at Estabrook!

Please consider donating a half hour of your time to Clean Up Day. We'll be planting fall bulbs, painting more lines for playground games, landscaping the flower beds and doing as much as we can to make Estabrook look even better!

Please join us if you can! We'll provide

snacks, water, brooms, rakes and everything we need to make it a fun and productive day. It's a great way to spend time with your children, meet new friends and contribute to our school! Thanks in advance to all who can make it.

## Innisbrook Gift Wrap Fundraiser

This year, as in years past, Estabrook families will be selling gift wrap as a means of raising funds for the school. This week, you should have received a packet in your child's folder containing detailed information about the gift wrap sale. We are once again offering Innisbrook products because of their high quality and variety.

Estabrook receives 50% of the sale's proceeds, so this is quite a good fundraiser for the school. Please help by purchasing the items you need. You may want to share the catalog with

your friends, family, and co-workers. However, do not feel pressured to buy or sell anything. Some families make a donation directly to the PTA instead of buying gift wrap.

This year's gift wrap chairs are Chitra Tissera and Diana Swift. Should you have any questions, please contact them.

Chitra: 781/652-8823  
tissera@rcn.com

Diana: 781/862-5602 or  
Diana-Swift@comcast.net

## Family Fun Picnic

Over 300 people ate more than 640 slices of pizza on a beautiful evening earlier this month! Families enjoyed picnics all over the school grounds. From the front patio, to the back patio to the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade playground to the K-3 playground, families were everywhere!

Look for pictures from that night on the PTA bulletin board in the main hallway. Thanks to the PTA board for running this

event and to all who attended and made this such a wonderful evening.

If you have a suggestion for another fun community event like this, please contact Gretchen Reisig at [greisig@rcn.com](mailto:greisig@rcn.com) or 781/652-8169. The PTA Board would love to hear from you!



## 125 Items for the Lexington Food Pantry!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our collection for the Lexington Food Pantry! Estabrook families donated over 125 items, including:

- 18 boxes of pasta
- 15 cans of soup
- 14 cans of tuna fish
- 10 boxes of pudding / Jell-O
- 5 boxes of mac & cheese
- 1 HUGE box of choc. chip granola bars
- 1 HUGE bottle of ketchup

and much, much more! Thank you to everyone for their efforts. A special thanks to Vartan Minasian (Nicholas and Sebastian's dad)! He came up with this fantastic idea!

The Lexington Food Pantry gladly accepts donations of non-perishable, non-expired goods that can be brought to the Church of our Redeemer on Meriam Street. Donations can also be left in the boxes at Stop & Shop on Bedford Street in Lexington.

## A Heartfelt Thanks to Helpful Estabrook Parents

Lots of people helped out during the lazy, hazy days of July, August and September. Thanks to the many parents who gave of their time to help make our drop-off and pick-up lives easier. And thanks also to those who rode the kindergarten buses! Thanks to Betsy Sarles for creating an excellent map of the new traffic pattern.

Thanks to those who helped at the Welcoming Breakfast. Parents and

students gave tours of the building to new families and talked about student life here at Estabrook.

Thanks to all of the people who came in during the summer and helped put together the packets containing class lists, school forms and PTA forms. This extra work saves the school time and money.

Thanks to the parents who brought delicious desserts to complement the teachers' back to school luncheon.

## How Can You Help?

The Nominating Committee has been hard at work finding parents to chair, or help with, various activities and events. Parents are still needed to lead some of these activities - or they may not happen!

### Library Volunteer Opportunities -

Parent volunteers are needed in the library. Shifts can be every week or every other week and can be one to two hours long. Contact Kim Coburn at 781/863-6285 or [Thecoburns@aol.com](mailto:Thecoburns@aol.com).

## Room Parents

Thanks to Ellen Phillips for being our room parent chair. She is putting all of the information together and those who have volunteered to be a room parent should look forward to hearing from her soon!

## It's PTA Membership Month!

September is JOIN THE PTA month! If you haven't yet joined the PTA or haven't yet renewed your membership, now is the time to do so! If you have already done so - many thanks! Your membership helps bring cultural events to your children, provides much enjoyed playground equipment, subsidizes our school community events, provides grants that allow teachers to enhance and expand their teaching tools and much more.

If you choose to add an extra donation with your membership fee, we thank you in advance for relieving the pressure on our fundraising efforts.

Membership forms are available in the office and at Back to School Night on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

## Box Tops Contest

The Summer Box Tops contest ends September 28<sup>th</sup>! At the end of week two, grade 3 is in the lead and grade 5 is in second place. We are expecting a check for \$600 from Box Tops later this year - so keep 'em coming! Put your Box Tops in an envelope labeled with your child's grade and place it in the Box Tops container in the front hall of the school. Thank you for your participation!



## Join the Estabrook Electronic Age

Both the School Administration and the PTA would like to be able to send you information electronically so we can use less paper and save more trees. We can only do this if you sign up for the Estabrook Announcements List-Serve and/or the Estabrook Google Group (see below). Often school and PTA announcements are sent out to both lists because some people have only joined one list and not the other. We don't like to inundate people with announcements but until everyone is signed up for both lists we need send duplicate notices. We apologize for the inconvenience.

## Estabrook Google Group

If you signed up for the Estabrook Community Google Group, Dana Kuszmaul has added you to the group. This group is used to share information among Estabrook Community members and also to disseminate information from the PTA and the school. *There are several ways to manage the way you receive emails from this group.* If you have any questions about using this message board or if you want to be added, please email Dana at Dana.Kuszmaul@gmail.com.

## Estabrook Announcements List-Serve

If you are interested in receiving emails directly from the school about things such as early dismissals and other important school information, please subscribe to the Estabrook Announcements Listserve. Due to technical difficulties, even if you signed up on the yellow forms you received in the summer, your name may not have been added to this list. Therefore, we suggest that you subscribe by following these simple steps:

*To subscribe to the listserve, send an email to:*

*[majordomo@silver.ci.lexington.ma.us](mailto:majordomo@silver.ci.lexington.ma.us)*

*from the email address that you want to subscribe. In the body of the message, put only the following two lines:*

*`subscribe estabrook-announcements`*