

O' Rourke Middle School

October 2009

PTA Membership Drive

Dear O'Rourke Middle School Families and Friends:

As the largest volunteer child advocacy association in the nation, National Parent Teacher Association



Please get involved,
join PTA!

(PTA) provides parents and families with a powerful voice to speak on behalf of every child and the best tools to help their children be safe, healthy, and successful - in school and in life. Across the country the PTA has nearly 6 million parents and other concerned adults devoted to the educational success of children, as well as promoting the need for parent involvement in our schools. At the local level, O'Rourke Middle School PTA recruits and coordinates volunteers, provides enrichment opportunities, raises money for many worthy projects, keeps parents informed through

school newsletters, publishes student writing, sponsors parent education activities, helps orient incoming pupils and parents, and works closely with teachers and administrators, as well as the school district staff. Your continued support allows us to provide important programming such as: Reflections, New Student Luncheon, Scholastic Book Fair, Craft Fair, School Directory, After School Enrichment, Odyssey of the Mind, Honor Roll, Rec Night, PTA Newsletter, Mystery Dinner, Sunshine, Eighth Grade Class Night and much more!!



Reflections News

"Beauty is..."

This year's Reflections theme is "Beauty is..." Students in grades 6-8 can submit theme based entries in six art areas: dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography, and visual arts.

The O'Rourke Middle School PTA will recognize students who submit one or more entries. Three entries in each art area will be selected for the Regional Reflections competition. Winning entries can

then move on to the State and the National level.

An information packet can be picked up in the information center outside of the Middle School Main Office. You may also contact the Reflections Chairperson if you would like a packet sent home with students. Students are required to fill out a Student Entry Form, which will be included in the information packet. **Entries are due Friday, November 6th, by 4:00 p.m. in the Main Office.** For more information, please contact Reflec-

tions Chair Tim Sinnenberg at 399-8037 or at tsinnenberg@bhbl.org

National PTA believes all children deserve a quality arts education and encourages students to pursue artistic expression through participation in its annual arts Reflections Program. The program offers students the opportunity to create works of art for fun and recognition, and we hope your child chooses to participate in this worthwhile program.

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President's Post



Dear Parents,

As I write this, I can see outside the beauty of fall, it is a colorful display of the natural change each year brings. And part of that change is coming back to school. We have already had our first PTA meeting and two successful Back To School Nights. I want to thank Christine Sell and all of her volunteers for another fabulous year coordinating our membership drive.

Our Directory is almost complete, and may be in your child's backpack by the time of this printing. A special thank you to Laura Foster for her hard work in getting this directory out to all of us. Please take note of the PTA Board page. It lists everyone

on the board and provides you with the dates of our PTA meetings. You will notice that we still have some vacancies for committee chair people. One committee that is in need is the Staff Recognition Luncheon. This is an annual event that takes place this year on May 11th. Our administration, teachers and staff look forward to the event. We have many people who have offered to assist, but no one who has offered to chair. Typically the event is chaired by at least two PTA members. So, I ask each of you to consider taking on this very important committee. Call on a friend and see if they would like to work on this event with you. Without the support, this would be the first year in many years that the PTA did not offer our teachers, administration and staff a day of appreciation. Please let's work together

so that we do not let them down.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the many volunteers who have already offered to share their time and talents. If it were not for all of you, we would not have an O'Rourke Middle School PTA.

Warmly,

Beth McKeone



BH-BL Education Foundation

Dear Members of the PTA,

As you consider your family's charitable gift giving this year, please consider the BH-BL Education Foundation. The Foundation is an independent, not-for-profit corporation that works in harmony with the school district.

Many of us work or have spouses who work for employers that participate in an

annual United Way Fund drive. Your donation to the United Way could be designated for the BH-BL Education Foundation. ***All you need to do is write in BH-BL Education Foundation on your pledge card.*** There is no additional form required. You can also split your donation if you wish to support more than one organization.

The BH-BL Education Foundation is here when crea-

tive ideas need a financial jumpstart. EVERY dollar raised stays in the community to make new opportunities available. Since its inception the Foundation has awarded a total of \$76,385 for 89 individual grants. It is most impressive that this kind of innovation can continue to occur during these tight budgetary times. ****Continued on page 3**



Save Your Box Tops

We are starting the second year of Box Tops for Education here at O'Rourke Middle School. They are the little coupons you find on the top of General Mills cereals, Avery paper products, and many other items. Each one is worth 10 cents. I know that many of you probably collect them for a sibling's grade school, but maybe this year

you can share the wealth and send them in to the Middle School once in a while. You don't even need to take the time to trim them. Just tear off the box top and send it with your child to give to their HR teacher. We will be having contests for the HR with the most collected, so start saving!





To submit news to The O'Rourke Middle School Newsletter contact Sue Hansen at: heyhansens@aol.com

Costumes for Kids

My name is Sydney Thomson. I am an 11-year old Cadette Girl Scout. I collect Halloween costumes and then I personally outfit children at the Albany Boys and Girls Club with a costume. Last year I donated over 75 costumes!

If you would like to make a donation of gently used or new Halloween costumes (infant to adult sizes), crazy hats or wigs, masks, pretend jewelry, tiaras or wands - drop them off in the donation box in the O'Rourke Middle School's cafeteria.

For more information, please contact Sydney at Thomson.Sydney@gmail.com or 885-3415.



www.bhbl.org

PTA Membership Drive Continued

Please join today the oldest and largest VOLUNTEER advocacy organization for children and youth in the nation! The cost to join is only \$5.00 per person or \$10.00 per couple. Joining is easy. Simply send an envelope addressed to "PTA – Membership" to school with your child, along with the form below and cash or check made payable to O'Rourke Middle School PTA and you will receive a membership card via backpack mail in return. If you have any questions, please contact Christine Sell, Membership Chairperson at apostleca@aol.com. You can visit the PTA national website www.pta.org, or the New York State website, www.nyspta.org to learn more about the benefits of your PTA membership and the PTA's long standing commitment to children.

Name of Adult Members (Parents/Guardians)

1. _____
2. _____

Please return this form with payment

BH-BL Education Foundation Continued

A sample of approved grants include:

- Materials and supplies to recreate a real life pond environment for use by science students at O'Rourke Middle School.
- Hand held GPS units to be used by Teams of Technology students.
- Funding to train upperclassmen to help 9th grade students transition to the High School.
- Digital cameras used to inspire otherwise reluctant writers at Stevens.
- Leveled books to complete a new "First Grade Hallway Library" at Charlton Heights.
- A skeleton and "Sherlock Bones Kits" to introduce SS and Science students to forensics at the High School.



Look for the **Astro Green** covered PTA sponsored School Directory in your student's back pack this week. Every possible effort was made to include all students in this directory. If your information is not included or needs to be updated FOR NEXT YEAR please email Laura Foster at : DLFOSTER5@verizon.net. Thank you.

