

September 2011

Dear Jefferson families,

Welcome to the Jefferson Parent Teacher Organization! Perhaps you've heard about the PTO through various fundraising activities or the supplies and programs we financially support at Jefferson. Providing these extras is important to us, but our work goes beyond raising money.

Our key mission is to promote an environment at Jefferson where teachers and administrators can do their best work and our students can do their best learning. We're always eager to find more great people, like you, to help us meet this goal.

We don't expect a huge time commitment from volunteers. An hour can be a big help to the PTO and to Jefferson, and we have positions and tasks to fit all schedules and interests. Just let us know whether a program, event, or activity interests you and when you might be free to help. (You don't even have to come to the school or attend a meeting to be involved, although we'd really like to meet you personally!)

All the research says that students whose parents are involved in their education have better grades and fewer discipline problems. Involvement at Jefferson also makes it easier to establish friendships with teachers and other parents. We promise that the time you give the PTO and Jefferson will be worth your while – and fun!

Our first PTO meeting of the year is on **Tuesday, September 20 at 6:30 pm in the cafeteria**. Please come and see all that we have planned, meet our PTO officers, and meet other parents. We hope you will join us at our monthly PTO meetings. Attached you will find our meeting dates, and a volunteer survey. Please take a moment to fill this out, even if you filled one out in the spring. Maybe there are more places you'd like to help!

Feel free to call or e-mail if you have any questions. Together, we can make a difference at Jefferson.

Sincerely,

Christie Malone (357-0340) malone474@verizon.net
and Kristi Pegarella (355-2232) pegarella@princetowncable.com
PTO Co-Presidents

Meeting dates for 2011-2012 (All Meetings begin at 6:00 pm in the Library)

Tuesday, October 11, 2011, Tuesday, November 8, 2011, Tuesday, December 13, 2011, Tuesday, January 10, 2011,
(No Meeting in February), Tuesday, March 13, 2012, Tuesday, April 17, 2012, Tuesday, May 8, 2012.
(No meeting in June!)

Jefferson PTO Officers and Committees 2011-2012

Co-Presidents: Christie Malone (357-0340) and Kristi Pegarella (355-2232)

Vice President: Lisamarie Walsh (356-7007) and Alana Stelline (337-1587)

Secretary: Loretta Putorti (356-9129)

Treasurer: Karen Motyka (357-0049)

Refreshment Committee Co-Chairs:

Nicole Parisi (370-0889) and
Jennifer Tommasone (355-1715)

School Pictures and School Banking:

Deb McGarry (370-2851)

Box Tops for Education, Labels for Education,
and Tools for Schools:

Jenn Boyd (356-0658)
Chrissy Palmer (630-0005)

Preschool Story Hour:

Michele Grotevant (356-1122)

Craft Fair Chair:

Paula Battista-Genter (817-0404)

After-School Program:

Jill Rash (355-7155)

Memory Book Committee Chair:

Andrea George (356-3296)

Library Program and 1000 Book Club:

Michelle Larabee (355-3015)

Lunch with Santa Chair
for Friends of Music: TBA

St. Jude's Mathathon
Christie Malone (357-0340)

Turn Off TV Week Chair
Kate Kruk (526-5283)

Talent Show Coordinator:

Deb Funk (557-1555)

Six Flags Reading Program

Sue McTague (355-3587)

Giving Tree:

Kort Schager (357-9558)

Scholastic Book Fair:

Christie Malone (357-0340)
Nicole Roohan (355-5550)

Birthday Books:

Chrissy Palmer (630-0005)

PTO Bulletin Board:

Lisamarie Walsh (356-7007)

Homeroom Parent Chair:

Jenn Boyd (356-0658) - Coordinator
K-2 - Chrissy Palmer (630-0005)
3-4 - Loretta Putorti (356-9129)

School Store:

Nicole Roohan (355-5550)

T-shirt/Sweatshirt Sale:

Loretta Putorti (356-9129)

Ziti Dinner Coordinator: TBA

PTO Event Descriptions 2011-12

SEPTEMBER

Scholastic Book Fair – September 19-October 4

Set up/break down; help children preview, write wish lists, and purchase their favorite books.

Open House - September 21 and September 22

For anyone available on the night opposite their own Open House night – we need help with the Book Fair, Bake Sale and the 50/50 Raffle.

OCTOBER

School Pictures – October 7

Assist the children in getting their pictures taken in an orderly fashion.

Homecoming Booth - Schalmont High School – October 15

Set up/break down; help children out at “games” booth represented by Jefferson

October 21 – Chicken BBQ @ Jefferson 4-6pm

Help with dinner assembly and distribution.

NOVEMBER

Fundraiser Pick-up – Tuesday, November 15 – 4-7 pm

Help in sorting and distributing the fundraiser items. Need help for any amount of time you can offer.

DECEMBER

Craft Fair/Lunch with Santa – December 3

Set-up/break down night before and day of Craft Fair; help where needed day of Craft Fair/Lunch with Santa as instructed by chairperson.

Santa’s Workshop – December 12-16

Help with set-up, sale and breakdown of holiday gift store for students.

JANUARY

Turn off the TV Week – January 23-27

Assist with various activities for the children each evening.

Six Flags Reading Program – January 6-20

Help with the distribution of reading packets, collection of records and distribution of prizes.

FEBRUARY

St. Jude’s Mathathon – February 6-17

Help with the distribution of Mathathon packets, collection of pledges, and distribution of prizes.

Ziti Dinner – February 10 – 5-7 pm

Help with collection of donations, cooking, serving, clean-up, entertainment, or any other aspect of this fun evening. - Oh! and eating the Ziti, of course!

Albany Devils Hockey Night – February 18 – 7pm @ The Times Union Center

Join friends and family as the Devils battle the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins. Help with ticket sales and distribution.

MARCH

After School Program – March 6, 13, 20 & 27 – 3-4:30pm

Need adults to teach, co-teach, or assist in fun classes for four consecutive weeks – each Tuesday. Here’s a chance for you to share your talents or special interests with the children. Class subjects are unlimited; Science, Art, Crafts, Games, Magic, Language, Snack-Making, Fitness, etc. Or just help us run the program.

Kindergarten Registration – March 14

Assist incoming children and their parents as they register, meet the teachers and go on a bus ride.

APRIL

Jefferson Talent Show – April 20 - 6pm

Assist with advertising, rehearsals, stage crew, program design, and logistics.

Jefferson Science Fair – April 25 – 4-7pm

Help with display set-up, distribution of entrance information, and clean-up.

Chicken BBQ @Jefferson – April 27 – 4-6pm

Help with dinner assembly and distribution.

MAY

Kindergarten Screening – May 7-11

Assist incoming kindergarten children and their parents as the children meet with teachers, the nurse, and other special helpers to ensure a positive kindergarten year.

Jefferson World Record Night – May 18 – Time TBA

Help invent challenges, keep time, cheer on competitors and hand out awards.

Spring Book Fair – May 21-25

Set up/break down; help children preview and purchase their favorite books.

Jefferson Field Day – May 25

Assist the Physical Education teachers with outdoor games and races.

JUNE

Jefferson Kickball Tournament – June 14

Assist the Physical Education teachers with an afternoon of non-stop kickball for the 4th and 5th graders.

Jefferson End of Year Dance – June 15

Come boogie with the kids! Help with decorations, organization, refreshments...

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon – June 20

Assist with decorations, set-up and clean up of the buffet and desserts for all teachers and staff at Jefferson.

ALL YEAR

Popcorn Fridays – September 30, October 7, 21, and 28, November 4 & 18, December 2, 9 & 16, January 6, 13, 20 & 27, March 2, 9, 16 & 30, April 20 & 27, May 4, 11, 18, & 26. (You can even volunteer for just one!)

Pop and sell popcorn during student lunchtimes.

Refreshment Committee

Bake for various school events and activities.

1000 Book Club

Assist with the organization and maintenance of this reading incentive program.

School Banking

Assist the coordinator one morning, one hour, once a month. (Banking morning to be determined by the coordinator one day a week.)

School Store and Library Reading Program

Assist the coordinators in selling supplies and/or distributing incentives earned.

Classroom Photographers

Take pictures of class parties, concerts, and school events for the Memory Book.

Homeroom Parent Information

As our children begin the 2011-2012 school year at Jefferson, we would like to encourage you to be involved in your child's school activities.

One way of being involved is volunteering to become a Homeroom Parent for your child's class. We have a wonderful staff of teachers here at Jefferson, and the Homeroom Parents play a vital role in helping these teachers create an atmosphere of friendship and cooperation in the classroom.

Grades K and 1 will need TWO Homeroom Parents per class. Grades 2-4 have one homeroom parent per class. The responsibilities of the Homeroom Parent are as follows:

- ◆ Being available to help in the classroom with holiday parties and to work with the classroom teacher to coordinate those parties.
- ◆ Supporting various PTO activities (i.e. Open House, Book Fairs, Field Day, etc.)
- ◆ Helping the teacher with class projects, field trips, etc.
- ◆ Making phone calls and sending out reminders to other parents in the classroom for participation in various PTO activities.
- ◆ Making phone calls to parents within your child's class to inform them of any early dismissals due to inclement weather and/or unexpected emergencies.

Note: Per the teachers' request, younger siblings are not permitted to accompany Homeroom Parents to various activities.

If you are interested in becoming a Homeroom Parent, please fill out the form below and return the bottom portion of this notice to your child's teacher by Friday, September 16, 2011. Please place this in an envelope marked **Homeroom Parent Coordinator**. Our principals will select the Homeroom Parents randomly by way of a "lottery drawing" the day before the first PTO meeting. The names of those selected as a Homeroom Parent will be announced at our first PTO meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, September 20 at 6:30 pm. **Those who are selected as a Homeroom Parent are required to attend a meeting immediately following the PTO meeting. Failure to attend this meeting may result in the selection of an alternate Homeroom Parent. Critical information regarding school emergencies and dismissals is given out at this meeting. We cannot stress enough how crucial it is that you are present.**

The PTO is looking forward to a wonderful school year! With your support, it will be a more rewarding experience for our children!



Yes, I would like to be a Homeroom Parent for my child's class.

Child's name _____ Teacher/Grade _____

Parent's/Guardian's name _____ Phone _____

E-mail address: _____

The bottom portion of this page must be returned by Friday, September 16, 2011.
Please return in an envelope marked: Homeroom Parent Coordinator.

Jefferson PTO Volunteer Survey

Event	Date(s)	Please check here if interested <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Scholastic Book Fair	9/19-10/4		Name of child or children: Teacher(s)/Grade(s): Parent Name: Phone number and e-mail address:
Open House	9/21 and 9/22		
School Pictures	10/7		
Homecoming Booth	10/15		
Chicken BBQ	10/21		
Popcorn Fridays	Indicate your date preferences. See the dates on page 4.		
Fundraiser Pick-up	11/15 (2-7 pm)		
Craft Fair/Lunch with Santa	12/3		
Santa's Workshop	12/12-12/16		
Turn off the TV Week	1/23-1/27		
Six Flags Reading Program	1/6-1/20		
St. Jude's Mathathon	2/6-2/17		
Ziti Dinner	2/10		
Albany Devils Hockey Night	2/18		
Kindergarten Registration	3/8		
After School Program	3/6, 13, 20, 27		
Kindergarten Registration	3/14		
Jefferson Talent Show	4/20		
Jefferson Science Fair	4/25		
Chicken BBQ	4/27		
Kindergarten Screening	5/7-5/11		
Jefferson World Record Night	5/18		
Spring Book Fair	5/21-5/25		
Field Day	5/25		
Kickball Tournament	6/14		
Jefferson End of Year Dance	6/15		
Teacher Appreciation Luncheon	6/20		
Refreshment Committee	All Year		
1000 Book Club	All Year		
School Banking	All Year		
School Store	All Year		
Library Reading Program	All Year		
Classroom Photographers	All Year		

Please return this form by Wednesday, September 14, 2011. Thank you!