

FROM THE DESK OF YOUR ALMA ELEMETARY



Parent Teacher Organization



From the President

As the amount of daylight we're getting increases (yes, the days are getting longer), the PTO is looking ahead into the Spring and reflecting on the time that is already behind us.

Thanks to all your fundraising efforts, thus far, our elementary school children have enjoyed the art reach program, science alive, the Chippewa nature center, the Michigan Historical Center, the State Capital, gingerbread day, book fair, and... There's so many more exciting things yet to come! You've made these, and you continue to make these experiences possible – for that, we thank you!

Our last catalog fundraiser is just wrapping up and we have one more fundraiser on the horizon; the 2016 Spring Fun Run!

Jeff Turk – PTO President

Clubs Choice Fundraising

Each year we partner with Club's Choice Fundraising to bring you our largest catalog-fundraiser of the year. This year, product pickup will be on March 3rd – mark your calendar – at Luce Rd. ECLC from 4:30 until 6:30PM.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS that can help with product pickup; volunteers are requested between 3:15 and 7:15PM (March 3rd @ Luce). Free childcare will be provided, so bring the kiddos! If you can't stay the whole time, that's OK – you are still needed.

Contact: Teresa Parks, teresaparks98@yahoo.com or (989) 285-1084

Book Fair News!

It's so awesome to see how excited some the children get when the PTO Book Fair comes rolling around! Luce Rd and Hillcrest have their book fairs coming this March, and... (drumroll, please) **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS**; specifically for the times during the school day.

Luce Rd kicks off with Bedtime stories on Feb 29th and the event runs daily through the end of the week; Hillcrest begins Tuesday, March 15 and finishes at the end of the week.

Contact: Jessica Ackerman, 4jackermans@gmail.com or (989) 463-6316

Upcoming and Ongoing Fundraisers

Club's Choice Fundraising	Spring Fun Run	Labels / Box Tops	Shoebox Recycling
Jan. 25 – Feb. 8 Pickup Mar. 3 rd	Luce and Hillcrest: April 26 th Pine: April 27 th	Ongoing	Ongoing
All schools participate in our final and largest catalog-based fundraiser of the year	Information will be sent home during the week after Spring	Clipping and counting, clipping and counting. It's never-ending!! ☺	All year-round, we collect them!

Turn the newsletter over – there's another page!



DID YOU KNOW

That keeping up with PTO events and other noteworthy news is as easy as 'liking' and following us on our Facebook page?

Check us out at facebook.com/aepto

2016 PTO Spring Fun Run-n-Roll

Corporate sponsorship is rolling in, the reward/incentive program is beginning to take shape, volunteers are... volunteering. This year all three elementary schools will participate in the 2016 PTO Spring Fun Run-n-Roll (aka Fun Run) during the week of April 25th. The official kickoff for the fundraiser will begin the week after Spring Break. During that week, your child will bring home an informational flyer and pledge packet. Can't wait!!

You can learn more, follow along and be a part of the planning process @ facebook.com/aepto.

Box Tops and Shoebox Recycling!!!

These are both ongoing programs with no start/end (in sight!)

Keep your eyes and ears open for exciting box tops contests held at your child's school. Even though those little box tops are only worth \$0.10 each, we thank you for helping us raise over \$5,000 annually from those things.

Though our Shoebox recycling program is not a major fundraiser for the PTO, this is a service-oriented program that allows you to give back to those in need. No snowboots, flip-flops or crocs, please. Last year, recycled shoes were sent to families in Ghana, Africa and Chile!

For more information, please check us out at: aepto.weebly.com, facebook.com/aepto or contact the President, Jeff Turk at jturk1000@gmail.com or (989) 285-5825.

Your Fundraising Dollars at Work

The 2015-2016 academic year is the first in recent history where we ended our super-exciting (not really) annual budget meeting with a large surplus. Here's a sampling of how that's affecting our budget, this year.

- Grade-level team funds increased 30%
- Field Trip budget lines increased
 - Luce from \$2925 to \$3025
 - Hillcrest from \$4350 to \$5200
 - Pine Ave from \$4200 - \$7900
 - Includes new 5th grade field trip budget line
- Funds for visiting author increased by 20%
- \$3000 allocated, per elementary school, for new technology and books!!!

PTO Meetings Feb 22nd, Hillcrest; March 21st, Pine; April 18th, Luce; May 16th, Hillcrest
@ 6:30 PM

Free Childcare is ALWAYS provided!