

September 2011

Greetings new and returning EAS Families!

As most of you know, and many of you will soon discover, the EAS Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is a very involved group. This year we will be presenting PTO information at three designated teacher meetings. The meeting dates are as follows:

6th Grade "Settling In" Meeting

Thursday, September 8, 2011
5:30-7:00 pm
Students and Parents
(kids stay after school for pizza & games)

7th and 8th Grade Parent Meeting

Tuesday, September 27, 2011
5:30 – 7:00 pm
Parents Only

9th Grade Parent/Student Meeting

Tuesday, October 11, 2010
5:30 – 7:00 pm
Students and Parents

In addition to the fall parent meetings, each spring we conduct our one and only general meeting. The general meeting is when we report on finances, vote on officers and potentially make changes to the Standing Rules. We have several board meetings throughout the year, which all members are welcome to attend. Please watch for a complete list of PTO board meeting dates in your EAS News Bulletin.

Parent participation is an essential ingredient of EAS programs. The PTO coordinates committees of parents to support and assist in facilitating school-wide projects. **Every family is expected to contribute at least 25 hours of volunteer service or in-kind donations of needed resources.** Volunteer opportunities include becoming a board member, driving students on field study days, facilitating projects and enrichment activities and assisting with clerical tasks in the school office. Additional volunteer opportunities will be listed in the EAS News Bulletin throughout the year.

The \$25 PTO membership dues supports EAS activities such as Parent Organizer, Wednesday Electives, Emergency Prep, the directory, yearbook, health fair, staff appreciation, student social events and graduation. In addition, PTO membership dues have supported EAS curriculum, speakers, and expedition expenses.

The \$200 Per Student Contribution allows us to provide programs that extend beyond basic education. When EAS opened, families voted to support this per-child donation in lieu of fundraising to support programs and projects beyond the basic budget that benefit all EAS students. Contributions are used to finance Adventure Learning Expeditions, outdoor construction and tools, equipment and resources for scientific research, office supplies and materials, Community Stewardship project materials and technology. This \$200 contribution per student is tax deductible and eligible for many corporate matching programs (including Boeing and Microsoft).

Please join the PTO and make your student contribution by using the attached worksheet and sending in your payment in care of the PTO. As members of the EAS community all of us have agreed to commit volunteer time and funds to continue to make EAS a great experience for our children.

In addition, you may also choose to donate to our **PTO scholarship** fund to help our students with short term, need-based scholarships. At times, some EAS families have found it impossible to pay all school fees due to serious illness or changes in employment. Your tax-deductible donations of any size would be appreciated. Thank you for your support, it's going to be a great year! If you have any questions please feel free to email us.

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