

MAY & JUNE 2021

THE PTO EXPRESS

A PTO newsletter for the Tootin' Hills community



PTO President's Update

BY JEN KIRK, PTO PRESIDENT

We wanted to give a quick update on the happenings throughout the end of the year. It's hard to believe we made it through the year with only some minor hiccups. While it's been a challenging year to say the least, there were some wonderful memories made. A quick thanks to everyone who made this year not only bearable, but fun too! Here's hoping to continued improvement and a better year next year!



The date of the year's final PTO meeting will be May 26th at 6:30pm. A link for this virtual meeting will be emailed closer to the date.



A hard copy of the form at the end of this newsletter will be sent home (only 1 form per family). Please fill it out and return when you have a chance.



This issue:

PTO President's Update
PAGE 01

Teacher & Staff
Appreciation Week
PAGE 02

Tootin' Hills Staff Roster
PAGE 03

Bike/Walk to School
PAGE 04

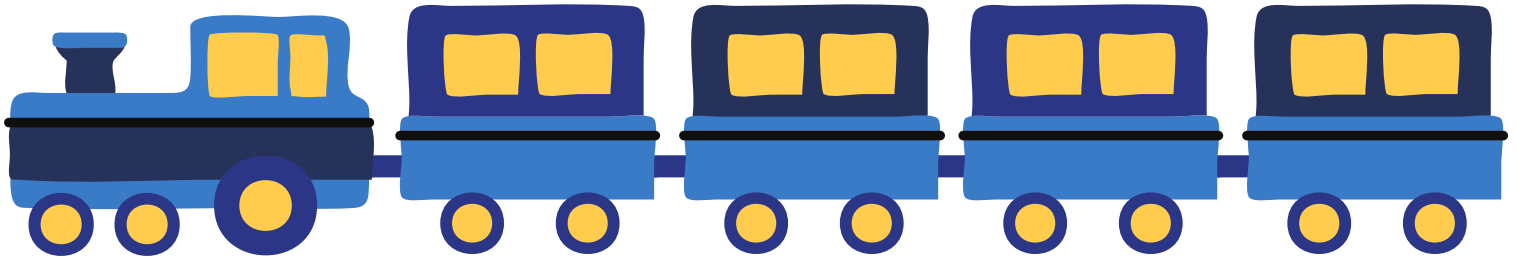
Duck Race 2021
PAGE 05 & PAGE 06

CEC & 6th Grade Year End
PAGE 07

Fundraisers & Spending
PAGE 08

May & June 2021 Calendars
PAGE 09

PTO Board & Committees
PAGE 10 & PAGE 11



Appreciation Days

Monday, May 3rd
Bus & Van Drivers

Tuesday, May 4th
Teachers

Wednesday, May 5th
Support Staff (paras,
EL tutor)

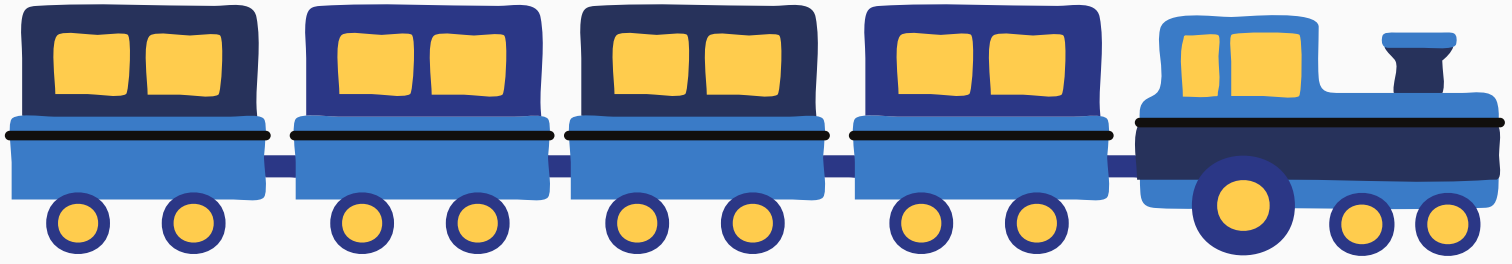
Thursday, May 6th
Nurses & Office Staff

Friday, May 7th
Cafeteria/Custodians

This year for THS Appreciation Days, our A+++ teachers & staff will be treated to a restocking of coffee/tea in the staff break room on Monday, catered lunch sandwiches on Wednesday, and ice cream sandwiches on Friday. This takes the place of our usual volunteer-driven Appreciation Brunch until we can once again enjoy more socially engaged days. Additionally, please consider signing up to donate an 8-pack of water, seltzer, or soda every Monday. The signup link is [HERE](#) & also on our [website](#).

One of the best ways to show appreciation is to **get your children involved by writing personal thank you** notes and drawing pictures. Use the provided Staff Directory with your child to make sure they do not forget the special people at school who touch their lives every day. For each day listed on the left, baskets will be placed inside of the entrance doors for **students to drop their cards** for the corresponding staff member. Cards and pictures from their students mean so much & let the THS staff know they are appreciated!





Tootin' Hills School Staff Directory

Grade	Teachers
K	Mrs. Katie Bristol
K	Mrs. Lisa Burg
K	Mrs. Jess Burgess
Gr. 1	Ms. Emily Gauthier
Gr.1	Mrs. Marcia Gibbs
Gr. 2	Mrs. Kathryn Anastasio
Gr. 2	Mrs. Catherine Hoerle
Gr. 2	Mrs. Sarah McHugh
Gr. 3	Mrs. Michele Holcomb
Gr. 3	Mrs. Lisa Jacobs
Gr.3	Ms. Ashley McLaren
Gr. 4	Ms. Alexa Morawski
Gr. 4	Ms. Amy Stupienski
Gr. 4	Ms. Lesley Turner
Gr. 5	Mrs. Jessica Flaherty
Gr. 5	Mrs. Tami Tousignant
Gr. 6	Mrs. Karen Barnes
Gr. 6	Mrs. Peg Bruno
Gr. 6	Mr. Frank Zuliani
ESS	Mrs. Jessica Burke
ESS	Mrs. Emily Marchinkoski
ESS	Mrs. Kerry Brady
SRIP	Mrs. Amy Cournoyer
ART	Mrs. Kelly Dell'Aera
	Mrs. Tisa Beaudoin
MUSIC	Mrs. Sarah Grasso
Instru. Music	Mr. Kevin Huhn
Instru. Music	
P.E.	Mrs. Abbe Reese
LAC	Mrs. Sharyl Panyard
Math Coach	Mrs. Lori Martensen
<u>World Language/</u>	
<u>Spanish</u>	Mrs. Charlene Savino
Speech/Path	Mrs. Christy Cestone
	Ms. Jeannine Nash
School Psych	Mrs. Licia Krier
Behavior Coach	Mrs. Kathleen Esposito
Media Center	Ms. Susan Locandro

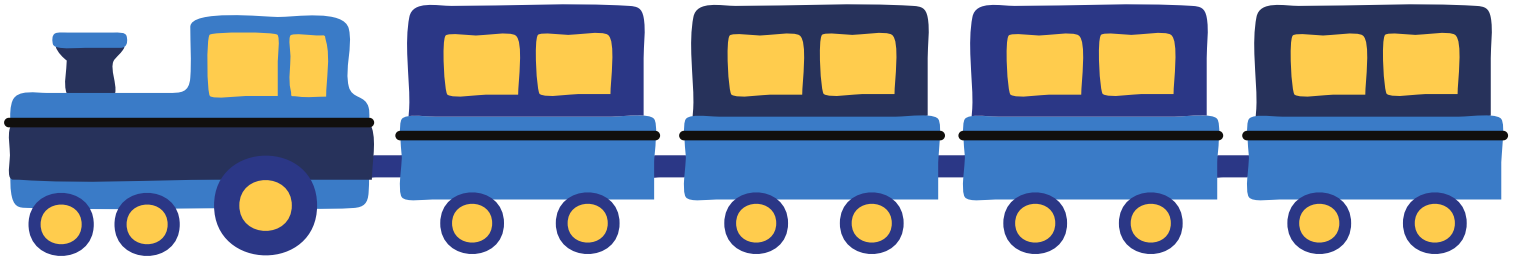
Mrs. Anjanette Belmonte
<u>School Secretaries</u>
Mrs. Lori Blomberg
Mrs. Karen Willis
<u>School Nurse/ Health Office</u>
Mrs. Ginny Durst
Mrs. Nicole Clark, Health Aide
<u>Family School Counselor</u>
Ms. Haley Rice
<u>Paraprofessionals</u>
Mrs. Jessica Alvarez/Ms. Katherine Hayes
Mrs. Nicki Jud / Ms. Briana Patria
Miss Grace Robinson
<u>Kindergarten Paraprofessionals</u>
Mrs. Rachel Greger (Burgess)
Mrs. Ellen Roberts (Burg)
Mrs. Debbie Wisser (Bristol)
<u>District-Wide Special Education</u>
Mrs. Janet Haley
Ms. Annie Turner, BCBA
Mrs. Sara Sherry
<u>Building Sub</u>
Ms. Anna Hart
<u>Special Ed Team</u>
Mrs. Pamela Mears/ OT
Mrs. Lynn Brown / OT
Ms. Sabrina Schoolnik / PT
<u>Custodians</u>
Mr. Mike Molleur - AM
Ms. Hilary True -PM Mr. Jameson Tittle-PT
<u>Cafeteria</u>
Ms. Brandi Souza, Manager
Mr. Salvatore Carbone
Mrs. Geneve Johnson
<u>School Resource Officer</u>
Officer Todd Kushman
<u>Office Conference Room</u>
<u>Faculty Room</u>
<u>PLC Room</u>



<u>Special Ed Paraprofessionals</u>
Ms, Sarah Broderick
Ms. Amy Carabillo
Mrs. Sally Garlick
Mrs. Anita Gino
Mrs. Julie Hamilton
Mrs. Anna Honc
Mrs. Tami LePage
Mrs. Geri Lavallee
Mrs. Marie Matteo
Ms. Daley Reynolds
Mrs. Joan Sistino Armstrong
Mrs. Rebecca Smith
Mrs. JoAnn Turner
Mrs. Mary Ellen Wright

<u>Elementary Curriculum Center</u>
Mrs. Betsy Gunsalus, Director
Mrs. Melanie Meehan
<u>Secretary to Betsy Gunsalus</u>
Ms. Ginny Pedersen
<u>DL Support</u>
Mrs. Karen Boysen





Thursday May 20th, 2021



Rain date:
May 21st

Walk/Bike to School is back!

Please read these rules to keep everyone safe.

- Wear masks while in groups, even though you are outdoor.
- NO MORE THAN 10 people per walk/bike group. Once there are 10 people on site, the group will need to move forward and maintain social distance from the other groups.
- At least one adult must be present in each group to serve as a chaperone, and each adult counts as one person toward the 10 person group limit.
- Two SPD police officers will be on site to assist with traffic.
- THS Staff will be at school to welcome students inside.
- Arrival at school should be timed between 8:00-8:30am.
- No lingering or socializing on school grounds for adults who accompanied their children after drop off.

WALKERS:

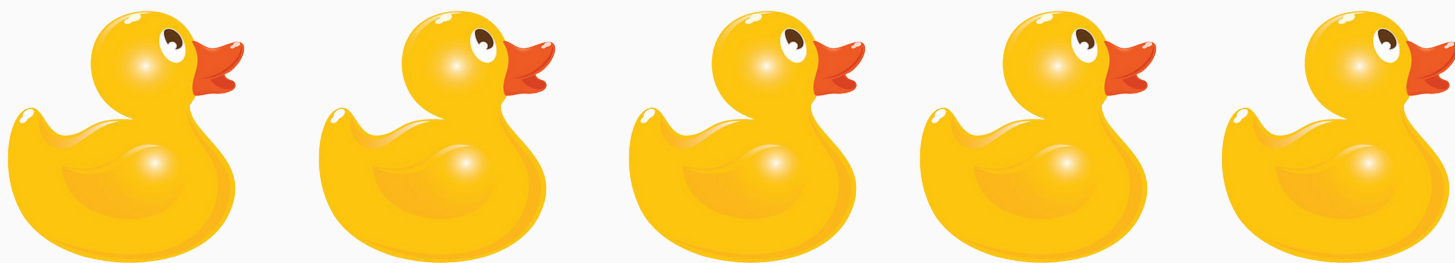
Corner of Madison & Wintergreen - 7:30am
Baseball field on Town Forest Road - 7:45am
Flamig Farms - 7:30am
Quorn Hunt - 7:45 am
Mountain Farms Park - 7:30am

BIKERS only:

Mountain Farms Park - 7:30am

We are looking for 5 volunteers to be stationed at each location. You will organize students into groups no more than 10 people (remembering to keep at least 1 parent chaperone in each group) & have groups move forward so there are no large crowds at your site.

Contact Jen Kirk if interested in volunteering: jen7834@aol.com



Get Ready for Duck Race 2021!

BY JOHANNA MERRIMAN & JENN O'TOOLE, DUCK RACE COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

Please spread the word about the Duck Race and share this [TICKET LINK](#) with families, friends and neighbors. This year there will be a grade-wide competition, so be sure to remind people to specify which grade(s) they'd like to support. Every family is encouraged to sell/purchase 20 racer duck tickets.

\$100 DRAKE HILL FLOCK - 22 Raffle tickets +FREE FAMILY DUCK
\$80 FEATHERY FLOCK - 20 Raffle tickets
\$50 DERBY DOZEN - 12 Raffle tickets
\$25 QUACK PACK - 6 Raffle tickets
\$5 SINGLE RAFFLE TICKET - 1 Raffle ticket

Current prizes for the duck race are:

- # 1 Great Wolf Lodge Overnight stay and passes to water park for 5 guests at Great Wolf Lodge, MA
 - # 2 Hop Meadow Country Club Golf foursome including cart
 - # 3 Simsbury Farms Season Family Pool Pass
 - # 4 Yard Goats VIP Package
 - # 5 Introductory Flight lesson donated by Learn2flyCT.com
- ...and more to come!

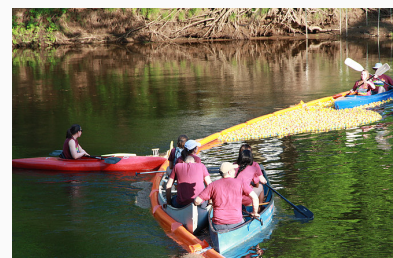


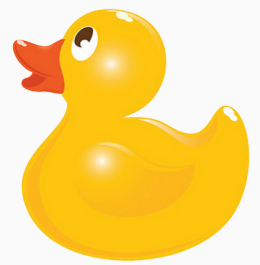
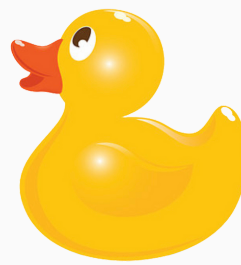
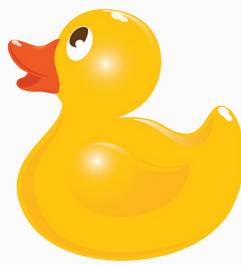
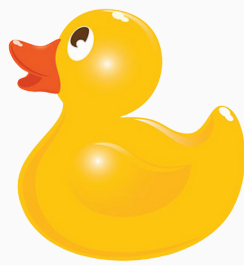
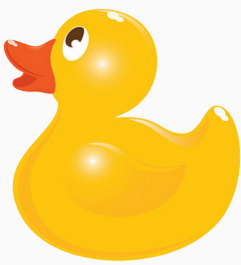
For a chance to win the golden Duck trophy:

\$20 Tootin' Family duck (will enter the school duck race and best-decorated duck competition)

\$15 Graduation duck for 6th graders only (will enter the school duck race and best-decorated duck competition)

For more info, please see visit www.SimsburyDuckRace.com or find us on [Facebook](#).





Simsbury Duck Race



Dear Tootin' Hills Families:

Quack! Quack! Get ready for this year's Duck Race! While we're not able to have an in-person event at the Flower Bridge as we usually do, the Duck Race is still on. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and it eliminates the need for lots of smaller fundraisers.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS YEAR'S EVENT

- We will be selling ducks online this year – no paper tickets to sell!
- The goal is for each family to sell 20 ducks.
- We will continue to offer Family Ducks, Graduation Ducks, and Business Ducks.
- The races will happen, but there will be no spectators. The races will be filmed and shown online.
- We will have Duck Week at school with lots of fun (and safe) activities for the kids.
- We are working on securing some awesome prizes.....if you have any connections to companies who might donate high-end prizes, email us at tootinducks@gmail.com.

In order to make this **FUN** for the kids and raise the money needed to **SUPPORT OUR KIDS AND TEACHERS**, we need your help! In a year when very few opportunities to volunteer at school are available, this is a QUACK-TASTIC way to get involved! Volunteer opportunities include:

- People to obtain prizes (you can work alone or with a group)
- People to coordinate Duck Week activities at school (will involve a few conference calls)
- People to help out with the actual races (you won't get wet unless you want to!)
- Someone to post updates to our website and Facebook page
- Someone to write a couple press releases (to encourage people to buy ducks online)
- And lots and lots of other little stuff!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit www.SimsburyDuckRace.com | Email tootinducks@gmail.com
Call or text Johanna Merriman (860.989.6488) or Jenn O'Toole (860.331.1917)

☐ **YES! I want to help make this a fun event for our kids!**

Name: _____

Student(s) Names and Grades: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Please return the bottom of this form to school by April 9.

You will be emailed with a list of volunteer opportunities from which to choose.



6th Grade Committee

Hello 6th grade parents!

The end of the year is rapidly approaching and it's almost time for our 6th graders to say "Farewell" to Tootin Hills. Although our kids cannot celebrate the end of their elementary journey the way they historically have, we have been collaborating with the school and 6th grade teachers to reinvent some of the traditions and events to align with the school district guidelines that are currently in place. As you know, the schools do not allow visitors and therefore parent volunteers will not be utilized this year. Here are some of the plans that are in the works for the last week of school specifically for our 6th grade students:

- Outdoor Luncheon (for students only) where the students will remain in their cohorts, but will be able to order food from a local establishment in advance
- 6th Grade Indoor Game Day
- 6th Grade Outdoor Game Day
- Yearbook distribution and signing
- Moving Up Ceremony to be held Tuesday, June 8th, time is tentatively scheduled for 12:45 - 1:45. This will be limited to two adults only. You will be receiving specific event details from the school in the upcoming weeks.

We are hopeful that our kids can squeeze out some more wonderful memories in their last days at Tootin, despite the limitations in place. It has been an amazing and memorable journey! We will keep you posted on any updates along the way, and be on the lookout for specific information regarding these events in the next few weeks.

Thanks so much!

Mandy Reffie - reffiea@gmail.com

Robin McClung - robinmc0121@gmail.com

Cultural Enrichment

Written by Jennifer Kim

The next CEC performance will be a virtual performance by Traveling Lantern titled "My Mother the Astronaut". The virtual performance will be available to all Simsbury elementary school classes in grades K-6 including distance learners from **May 24th to May 28th, 2021**.

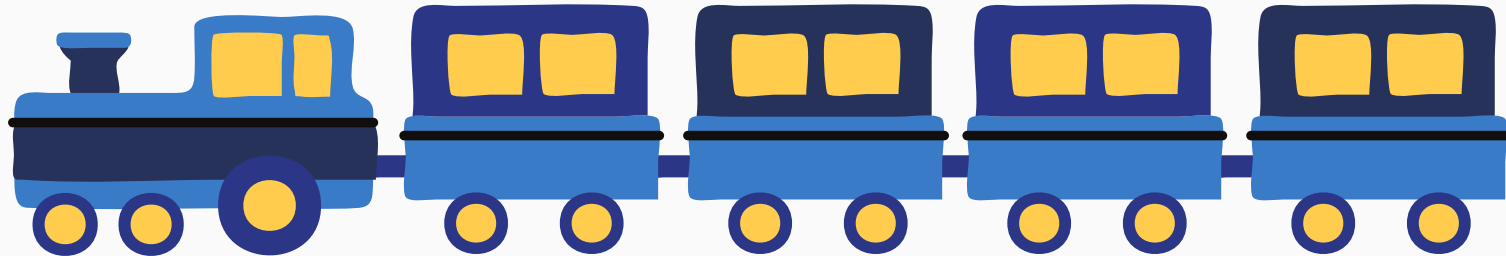
For a description of the performance please see below:



Aquarius' mom is an astronaut and today is "Take your child to work day". Aquarius can't wait to go to NASA and find out what it's like to be in space! They visit Mission Control where she meets scientists and engineers who show her what they do and she learns all about space travel. Her imagination blasts off and she dreams of incredible journeys through the cosmos!

Classrooms can watch the performance at any point during the school day during that week. Teachers can choose any time during the school day to have the class watch the performance. Information on how to access the performance will be provided by school administrative staff to all teachers.

If interested in joining the CEC, please reach out to Jennifer Kim & Christine Dieme at simsburyculturalenrichment@gmail.com



Tootin' Hills Pride

Way to support spiritwear!

Everyone's favorite train logo, our Express to Success, will be steaming up on 146 items!



Hopefully you & your kids will soon represent THS in some upgraded new merch. Thank you so much to all the parents who participated in the Spiritwear Fundraiser drive. We were able to net approximately \$1,000 in funds that, as always, go right back into supporting our great school and the students.



Those who ordered please wait for an email with instructions on pick-up.



Enrichment Funds

Money directly back into school!

Each year, the PTO gives back directly to classrooms through Enrichment Funds that can each total up to \$500 for any grade level or department that requests it.

Examples from this year:

- Some classrooms were able to add the "Second Step" curriculum, which provides a holistic approach to building supportive communities for children through social-emotional learning (SEL).
- Noise canceling headphones
- Virtual Math Fractions with Dr. Yeap Ban Har
- New ukuleles for 5th & 6th graders to use in music
- New books and new book sets as requested

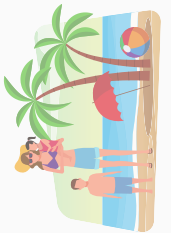
May & June 2021 Calendars



MAY 2021 Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3 Bus/Van Drivers	4 Teachers	5 Support Staff	6 Nurses/Office	7 Cafe/Custodial	8
9 Happy Mother's Day	10	11	12	13 Happy End	14	15
16	17 HAPPY SHAVUOT	18	19 - Half Day Teacher/Staff Professional Development	20 Walk/Bike to School Morning	21 Walk/Bike to School Rain Date	22
23	24 My Mother the Astronaut Performance All Week	25	26 PTO General Meeting 6:30pm Virtual	27 Simsbury Duck Race! 4pm Virtual	28	29
30	31 - No School MEMORIAL DAY					

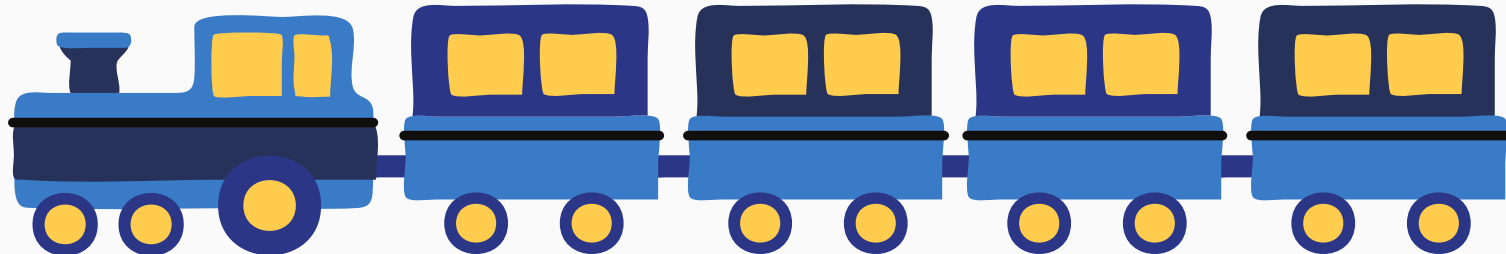
PLEASE REMEMBER DATES COULD CHANGE
ALWAYS CHECK EMAIL FOR THE LATEST INFO!



JUNE 2021 Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 6th Grade Moving Up Ceremony	9	10 - Half Day Last Day of School!	11 - No School Summer Vacation	12
13	14 - No School	15 - No School	16 - No School	17 - No School	18 - No School	19
20 HAPPY FATHER'S DAY	21 - No School	22 - No School	23 - No School	24 - No School	25 - No School	26
27	28 - No School	29 - No School	30 - No School			

PLEASE REMEMBER DATES COULD CHANGE
ALWAYS CHECK EMAIL FOR THE LATEST INFO!



PTO Board & Committees

Our PTO runs on the fuel of enthusiasm & time that our dedicated volunteer parents give.

If you want to get involved, help is ALWAYS appreciated and welcome! Please reach out to any of the members on this page.



PTO Board Members

President

Jen Kirk, jen7834@aol.com

First Vice President

Paige Kremser Stenrud, pstenrud@gmail.com

Second Vice President

open

Treasurer

Monica Madrid, conde.monica@hotmail.com

Secretary

Chris O'Connor, cocovt@comcast.net

Parent Representative

Sally Catlett, catlettfamily@gmail.com

Committee Chairs

5th Grade Camp Jewel Committee - on hold due to covid

New Family Welcome - Mandy Reffie, reffiea@gmail.com

6th Grade Year End Activities - Robin McClung robinmc0121@gmail.com & Mandy Reffie, reffiea@gmail.com

Newsletter - Feyza Menagi, f.menagi@gmail.com

Open Choice Liaison - open

After School Clubs Chair - on hold due to covid

Photography Fundraiser - Chris O'Connor, cocovt@comcast.net

Art Committee - open

Project Outreach - Emily Hart & Lisa Hillyard

Beautification of School Grounds - Bethany Davis

Room Parent Coordinators - Elizabeth Gonzalez de Izarra & Monica Madrid, conde.monica@hotmail.com

Book Fair by Scholastic - Jen Kirk, jen7834@aol.com

Career Speaker Series - open

Science Fair/Invention Convention - open

Cultural Enrichment - Jennifer Kim & Christine Dieme, simsburyculturalenrichment@gmail.com

Ski Club - Rick Idema, ski_tootin@yahoo.com

Duck Race Committee - Johanna Merriman, jwmerriman@gmail.com & Jennifer O'Toole, jotoole@hgesq.com

SpiritWear - Sally Catlett, catlettfamily@gmail.com

Summer Reading Book Swap - open

Family Game Night - open

Take Action Club - open

Fun Run - open

Teacher & Staff Appreciation - open

Junior Achievement - open

Tootin' Dance Night - open

Library/Media Center - Megan Taggard, megan.taggard@gmail.com

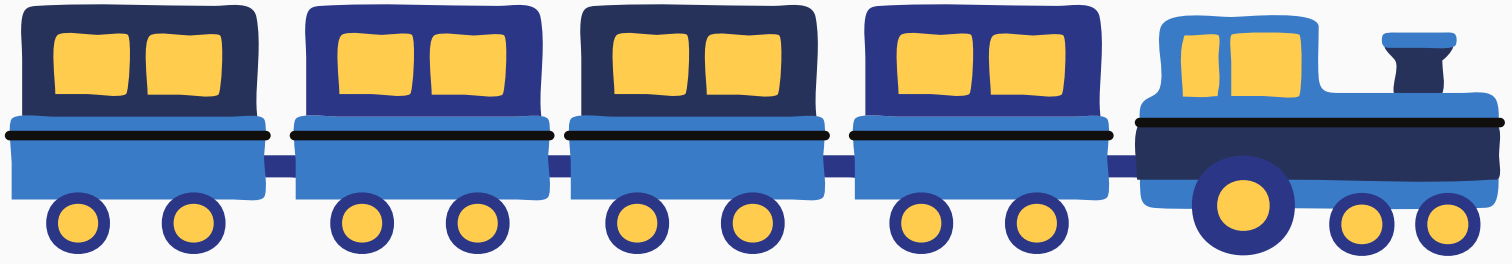
Walk/Bike To School - Jen Kirk, jen7834@aol.com

Lyman Pie & Cookie Dough Fundraiser - Megan Taggard, megan.taggard@gmail.com

Website Coordinator - Feyza Menagi, f.menagi@gmail.com

IF SOMETHING CATCHES YOUR EYE ALREADY ON THIS LIST, PLEASE REACH OUT TO THE CHAIR OR THE PTO BOARD.

THERE ARE MANY OPENINGS OR PERHAPS YOU WOULD LIKE TO START A NEW COMMITTEE WITH YOUR GREAT IDEAS & TALENTS! #VOLUNTEER



The PTO needs your help next fall!

Would you be interested in joining the PTO Board for '21-'22?

- ☐ yes!
- ☐ I can if you need me to
- ☐ not at this time

Would you be interested in being a Room Parent Coordinator for '21-'22?

- ☐ yes!
- ☐ I can if you need me to
- ☐ not at this time

If you want to be a room parent for the 2021-2022 school year, please email tootinroomparentcoord@gmail.com

Which of the following Committees* would you like to help with?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Game Night, Social Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Enrichment Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Fun Run |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walk/Bike to School | <input type="checkbox"/> After Schools Clubs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appreciation Days | <input type="checkbox"/> Open Choice Liaison |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Project Outreach, Take Action Club | <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Reading Book Swap |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scholastic Book Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Tootin' Dance Night |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Junior Achievement, Career Series | <input type="checkbox"/> 5th Grade Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Science Fair, Invention Convention | <input type="checkbox"/> 6th Grade Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Your Name: _____

Student(s) Names & Grades: _____

E-mail: _____



*Committee descriptions located on Website: TootinHillsPTO.com/committees
Questions? Email: tootinhillspto@gmail.com