

Bowditch Buzz

The Official Newsletter of the Nathaniel Bowditch PTO

December 2009

Julie Anderson, Editor

Welcome Back!

January is here and we hope everyone had a wonderful winter vacation. Mark your calendars: upcoming events for this winter and spring include:

- January 22nd: Movie Night; 6pm
- February 5th: International Festival; 6pm
- April 12-16: SPIRIT WEEK
- May 12th: NBS Annual Walk-A-Thon

Thank You

The fall of 2009 was a good one and we owe many thanks for the time and effort that a number of NBS parents put in to make it so successful:

- Thanks to **Caroline Nye** for organizing our wrapping paper and pie fundraisers. All totaled, we were able to raise about \$5000.00 which will go directly toward paying for field trips and enrichment programs for the students.
- Thank you also to **Carrie Post and Jenn Berube** for their leadership of our Thanksgiving Feast. It was very well attended and festive. We also owe thanks to the many people who brought dishes to share, helped with set up, served food and cleaned up that night. A special thanks to photographer **Chip Bott** who donated a portion of his family portrait fees to the PTO.
- Thank you as well to all of the people who attended our December Barnes & Noble Book Fair. A number of parents and staff pitched in to read aloud, staff the gift wrap table and of course, shop. We were able to raise about \$500.00.
- Finally, thank you to **Shannon Bott** for taking the lead with our recent After-School Holiday Crafts week and to the many parents who stayed after school to help with that effort. The money raised during the crafts week was used to support our Holiday basket drive.

Resolve to Get Involved

Looking for a New Year's Resolution?

How about becoming more active with the PTO? Though we do have a group of involved parents who work throughout the year to organize fundraisers and community events and to provide teachers with support on Thursday mornings, our numbers have grown smaller. In an effort to continue to provide the same level of assistance to the school, we are asking for parents and family members who are not currently involved in the PTO to kick off the new year by pitching in with one of our activities:

- ❖ Every **Thursday morning**, parents gather in the First Floor Parent's Room to assist the teachers by cutting, stapling, filing, assembling, etc. There are always quite a few small jobs to do and the more people that pitch in, the more quickly we can get it all done. You do not need to come every week or for very long to be part of this effort: coming once a month for an hour is enough to make an impact so please considering attending.
- ❖ **PTO meetings** occur once per month and we encourage you to attend – it's a great way to stay in touch with what is going on at the school and to stay active in your child's educational – plus, we would love to see more parents involved in this important organization. More people translates to more ideas and more energy. We have changed to all evening meetings and will be providing childcare to encourage participation.
Our next PTO meeting will be held Monday, January 11th at 6:30pm - please join us! Let us know ahead of time by calling the school if you will be bringing children.
- ❖ **First Fridays** are scheduled one time per month and are sponsored by each grade one time. If you are a parent in grades K-5, your grade will be sponsoring a First Friday in the coming months. We need parents to organize this effort which involves working with existing homeroom parents to send out reminders and make phone calls to grade-level parents. Become a First Friday assistant.
Our next First Friday will be on January 8th and will be sponsored by the 5th grade.