



In the “Know” with the PSO

ALL parents and staff at PCCS are members of the PSO!

Spring 2015

President's Comment

By Christine Palmer

Though the weather indicates otherwise, summer is almost here! It's a time for all of us to relax and regroup before we start up another school year.

From the Textile Drive to the Frolf Fling, there has been something going on all year. There are two events in particular that stand out in my mind. The Talent Show was an all-around good time showcasing the talents of PCCS students. The teachers really wowed us with their dancing skills at the surprise-end and it was simply a fun evening. Turning to more serious subjects, the spring Town Hall allowed over one hundred parents, staff and community members to come and voice their concerns and questions to the board, executive director and legal team regarding the lawsuit threatening PCCS. If you missed it, please visit the PSO Facebook page for detailed notes. Neither of these events was a fundraiser, but both brought the community together.

A big thank you goes out to all the team leaders, classroom coordinators and volunteers. Without you, none of the work we do would be possible. A special



thank you goes out to the other officers this year, Melonie Johnson, Jena Mertz and Malia Naipo, for all of their work.

There is a wonderful slate of new officers for the 2015-16 school year. Please welcome Donna Engelhardt, President; Lia Czerniak, Vice President; Christina Noonan, Secretary; and returning for another term, Jena Mertz, Treasurer.

On a more serious note, I'd like to take a moment to dispel a rumor going around about school supply packs. This week I was told the PSO isn't selling school supply packs because the school was closing. In fact, the PSO opted not to sell school supply packs this year because the participation rate and money raised was so low it wasn't worth the work involved. We must stay united while we go through these challenging times. Let's keep it positive this summer. Spreading unverified information helps no one. I'm confident that PCCS will succeed in fighting off all of these court battles and proposed bills and will come out stronger on the other side.

Have a wonderful vacation. Stay safe and enjoy a book or two!

Don't forget to save your textiles over the summer!!! Our fall fundraiser will be here before we know it and we will be in need of:

- Outgrown Clothes
- Outgrown Shoes & cleats
- Towels & Linens

Items with stains and holes are ok! What cannot be sold will be recycled and we earn cash for every pound we recycle!

Earth Week Highlights

By Cori Moriarty

While many schools celebrate Earth Day on just April 22, PCCS took the opportunity to extend the celebration for an entire week. The festivities kicked off on Monday with an Earth Day Assembly led by Naomi Hershiser followed by a volunteer appreciation breakfast hosted by the PSO. Throughout the week students, staff and parent volunteers went on nature hikes, attended field trips, participated in service projects, cooked a healthy lunch and started planting for spring. Take a look at just a few of the many photos that have been shared from this exciting week!



Treasurer's Note

By Jena Mertz

Hello from your PSO Treasurer! We have been fundraising all year—here's an update on the most recent efforts:

The Me and My Guy Sock Hop was the largest event the second half of the year. The event was a success—in both fun and finances. I know my girls had a great time (the chocolate fountain was a huge hit). Many thanks to the volunteers who ran this great event!

SCRIP continues—don't forget summer birthdays and shopping excursions; stock up now! The "SCRIP Goddess" has a number of cards in inventory. Stop by and see what she has on Fridays during morning and afternoon carpool.

Box Tops are also an ongoing source of funds. Be sure to send in your tops before school lets out. And save them up over summer. We generally receive at least \$1,000.00 a year from this program. Easiest money for PCCS ever!

We are excited to have a mother-son event for the first time this year—FROLF! Special thanks to Christine Crow for setting this up!



Students and parents enjoyed refreshments and a basket raffle at the Father/Daughter Sock Hop.



PSO helped fund these benches built by 5/6th grade students, parent volunteers and staff during Earth Week.

We worked hard on our fundraisers throughout the year, and have been able to provide teacher reimbursements for classroom purchases and such grade-band grants as the Native American Immersion Week and new benches. We thank the volunteers who make all this possible.

Looking to the future...we hope to increase the teacher reimbursement amounts and we are investigating installing a permanent message board sign to replace the white erase board in the carpool area.

Introducing the 2015/16 PSO Officers



Donna Engelhardt
President

After many years of volunteering at PCCS and holding various leadership positions in the PSO, Donna has stepped up to be our next PSO President for the 2015/16 school year. Donna will have

students in the 4th, 6th and 8th grades this fall. She says she believes in working together as a TEAM – Together Everyone Achieves More and wants to do her part to support her children’s school.

“My goal as president is to continue to offer a positive support system for the parents and teachers, and to help the school move forward in its mission. I am looking forward to meeting parents and staff that I do not yet know and hope people will introduce themselves to me and share their thoughts for making PCCS a wonderful place for our kids,” she says.

“We are a small school with a big heart and a family atmosphere,” she adds. “My kids love coming every single day! We LOVE the teachers and appreciate how active the kids are all day and that they are outdoors a lot. I am always grateful for the opportunity to be as involved as I choose to be and always feel welcome here.”



Christina Noonan
Secretary

Christina has one daughter, Riley, at PCCS who will be entering first grade next fall, as well as two older children. She volunteered to be an officer because “I enjoy being an

involved parent and knowing what is going on at school,” she says. “I really like the small community feel of the school.”

Lia Czerniak
Vice President

“I decided to become a PSO officer because I believe that the PSO is an important part of our school and I want to see it thrive. I thought (Vice President) would be a good fit for me,” Lia says. “As Vice President I hope to keep up the great job that Melonie has done but also hope to help add some fresh ideas and infuse some new energy into the position.”

Lia has one daughter at PCCS who will be entering first grade next fall and says she has been impressed by the feeling of community and dedication of the staff and families she has observed over the last year.

“The mission and the size of PCCS originally attracted us to the school but over the course of this year we've discovered it's so much more than that!” she says.



Jena Mertz
Treasurer

Thanks to Jena Mertz for volunteering to be Treasurer for the second year in a row! Jena has two daughters at PCCS who will be entering first and second grades next fall. Jena says she

loves the community at PCCS and how each person has the opportunity to make an impact here. “Our family is very environmentally aware, so the focus on environmental stewardship is a definite plus,” she adds.

As Treasurer, Jena says her goal this year is to “Increase the teacher reimbursement amounts, and increase the usage of the reimbursements—many of our teachers don't take advantage of these funds!”

Along with being PSO Treasurer, Jena is also a Girl Scout Troop Leader, Vice Chair of Growing With Grace's Preschool Board, and a youth ministry leader.