

# In the “Know” with the PSO

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

Winter 2015

## President's Comment

### Planning for the Future

By Christine Palmer

February is almost here; in 7 weeks, we'll be heading into spring break and then the end of the school year. The PSO is still busy in the spring. We're working on Trivia Night, the annual Father/Daughter Dance, the Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast and, new this year, a Variety Show, to be held on April 17.

We have a team of dedicated team leaders who plan these events and ensure they run smoothly. We also have the behind-the-scenes team leaders who coordinate the classroom coordinators, help our new families, keep morning carpool running smoothly, and put together newsletters.

As PSO President, I am very grateful for all of these people. They have made my job over the past two years much easier and more enjoyable. I am now reaching out to invite the next group of PSO

Officers and Team Leaders to step up and take charge.

We're starting the recruiting process early this year. We have a few people interested, but we need four officers next year. It's time for new ideas and renewed energy. It's not time to say "I'm too busy" or "I don't know enough people" or any other number of excuses.

Do you have a vision of what the PSO should be doing for the school? Then step up and let your voice be heard. Come to the next General PSO meeting scheduled for Mon., Feb. 2, at 8:15 a.m., right after carpool. Meet the dedicated group of volunteers who are passionate about this school. Please consider joining this group as a team leader or an officer. Simply fill out the form at the back of this newsletter, and you will be on your way!

### Mark Your Calendar!

**February 2, 8:15am**  
*PSO General Meeting*

**February 6, 7:00pm**  
*Trivia Night*

**February 9, 2:00pm**  
*Coffee with the Administration*

**February 12**  
*Kindergarten Valentine Parties*

**February 13**  
*Grades 1-4 Valentine Parties*

**March 6, 6:30pm**  
*Father/Daughter Dance*

### Thank you to our 2014-15 Team Leaders!

Kara Edgeworth  
Kathy Kohn  
Kelly Badgley  
Laura Psimaras  
Amy Cunningham & Nadia Diab  
Connie Barhorst  
Lori Maier  
Cori Moriarty  
Julie Kotzamanis  
Michele McCormick  
Bridget Chaney  
Donna Engelhardt  
Becky Hunter  
Neil & Sara Estrick  
Amy Jamison

Box Tops  
Carpool Volunteers  
Classroom Coordinators  
Directory, Holiday Bazaar  
Father/Daughter Dance  
Lounge Angels  
New Families  
Newsletter  
Scholastic Book Sale  
School Supplies/Welcome Back Picnic  
SCRIP  
Teacher Luncheons  
Textile Drive  
Trivia Night  
Welcome Back Picnic

## Students' Artwork Makes a Statement at Carpool

By Naomi Hershiser

You may have noticed the colorful new anti-idling signs along our carpool route. The signs were created by Ms. Gehrig's and Ms. Stewart's classes, who did lots of research into the effects of idling. They wanted to remind carpool drivers to turn engines off while waiting in line. This small action can have huge impacts on the environment, the health of our students, and your pocketbook! If you're going to be stopping for more than 10 seconds, you use more fuel keeping the car running than by stopping it and restarting it.



**Save your money.** Idling can incur significant costs. Idling uses about one half of a gallon of gasoline per hour. So, if you arrive 10 minutes early to carpool each day, in just 12 school days you'd use a gallon of gasoline to leave the car running while you wait. That's over 15 gallons of gas in a school year—a significant expense! In addition, idling can damage engine components, including cylinders, spark plugs and exhaust systems, increasing your vehicle's maintenance costs. (And, at the beginning of your drive, you should know that today's cars don't need to warm up before driving, and actually warm up more efficiently while moving.)

**Save our kids.** Idling emits nitrogen oxides, particulates, carbon monoxide, and VOCs. These pollutants have been linked to asthma,

heart disease, chronic bronchitis, and cancer. Children are especially vulnerable to the negative health impacts of idling! Preliminary research also links exposure to these chemicals with lower IQs in students.

**Save the planet.** In addition to the aforementioned pollutants, idling also emits carbon dioxide, which contributes to climate change. Running your engine for 10 minutes releases about a pound of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Plus, it creates noise pollution and it's stinky!

Next time you find yourself at carpool before the line is moving, turn your engine off. This small act can have great consequences, especially if we all act together as a community.

Another thank you goes out to Ms. Gehrig, Ms. Stewart and their classes for creating our one-of-a-kind anti-idling signs. We'd also like to give a special thanks to Bill Batz and Nick Moriello for installing the anti-idling signs!

### PSO 2014-2015 Officers

Christine Palmer  
PSO President  
[psopresident@pccharterschool.org](mailto:psopresident@pccharterschool.org)

Melonie Johnson  
Vice President  
[psovicepresident@pccharterschool.org](mailto:psovicepresident@pccharterschool.org)

Jena Mertz  
Treasurer  
[psotreasurer@pccharterschool.org](mailto:psotreasurer@pccharterschool.org)

Malia Naipo  
Secretary  
[psosecretary@pccharterschool.org](mailto:psosecretary@pccharterschool.org)

## Beat the Winter Blues with PCCS

By Cori Moriarty

Attention PCCS parents and teachers! Mark your calendars for Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup> for an adults night out at the Byron Colby Barn. From 7-10pm, teams of eight will compete against one another at this year's Trivia Night themed "50 Shades of..."

Teams are encouraged, but not required, to choose a theme and decorate their table and/or dress up in accordance with that theme. Small prizes will be awarded for the team scoring highest in the trivia competition as well as most creatively designed table.

Participants may bring food and drinks (adult beverages are ok) to share with their teammates.

# TRIVIA Night

No babysitter? No problem. Childcare will be offered for children aged 3 years and up in Muir Hall.

To sign up, simply download the registration form from the PCCS website. If you need help filling up your team of eight, or would like to be placed with a team, just contact Neil Estrick at [neil@neilestrickgallery.com](mailto:neil@neilestrickgallery.com) and we'll find a spot for you!

All funds from Trivia Night go directly to PSO programs including teacher reimbursements, grade band grants and student hardship funds.

---

## SCRIP Update

By Bridget Chaney

Did you know there is a free way to support the school while shopping for everyday items we all need like groceries and gasoline? When purchasing SCRIP Gift Cards, a percentage of the cost of that gift card goes directly back to the school at no cost to you. For example, just by shopping at your local supermarket using a SCRIP gift card to pay, you can give back 5% of your bill to PCCS.

Gift cards are available through the SCRIP program throughout the school year for purchase. If the thought of getting out of your car on a chilly Friday to purchase cards from the SCRIP mobile doesn't appeal to you, you can also send your order via email to [pccscrip@gmail.com](mailto:pccscrip@gmail.com), then you can both send your payment and receive your cards via backpack express.

Winter isn't nearly over yet. Has your child outgrown his or her snowpants or lost a mitten? Don't forget that by using an L.L. Bean or Lands' End gift card from SCRIP to replace those much-needed items, you could be earning a 14 – 18% profit for PCCS.

This is a great way to earn money for PCCS! Information about available cards and ordering can be found on the school website under PSO fundraising or by sending an email to [pccscrip@gmail.com](mailto:pccscrip@gmail.com).

Father/Daughter Dance presents:

*My Guy & I Sock Hop*

Friday, March 6, 2015

6:30-9:30pm

PCCS Gymnasium

Tickets \$30/couple

\*See Virtual Backpack to download official registration form.



## All Wrapped Up

By Laura Psimaras

The holiday season is a fading memory, but the lesson the children learned about donating and reusing items will remain. The Holiday Bazaar, our annual fund-raising event, provided joy to shoppers, families and friends as gifts were bought and shared. Books, games, puzzles, toys, jewelry, home/seasonal décor items have renewed appreciation. What a great way to merge the holiday and school spirit with one another! And the proceeds of about \$2200 will be applied toward teacher reimbursements.

I would like to share a response from a first time volunteer...

"I was amazed at all the work that went into this event. It was very well organized too! I was so glad I was able to see my granddaughter for a minute before I started wrapping. I know I signed up for "floor helper" but quickly saw a mom all by herself at a table wrapping with a line of kids waiting. So I got real busy and didn't



stop for an hour and a half. I am so glad I was able to help out a little bit. The children were adorable, especially the ones that said 'Thank you' after wrapping their gifts. I hope to do some more volunteering in the future!"

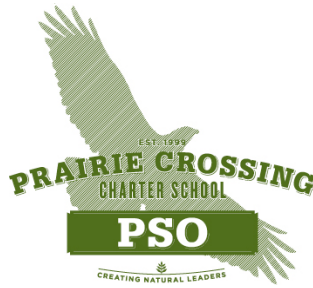
A warm thank you to the MANY volunteers who helped before, during and after the event. And much appreciation to the staff, administration and the community for their support too!

Lastly, a few notes for next year. Please continue to put aside gift-like items especially for men. We will collect various sizes of gift bags (please no wrapping paper as we have an abundance left over), lots of tissue paper, gift boxes small and large and bubble wrap next December.



Photos by Dil Dybas





## The PSO Wants You!

Would you like to be more involved in your child's school experience? Would you like to meet different people within the school community?

Well, we have the perfect opportunity for you to do just that! The PSO is looking for volunteers who are interested in serving as Officers for the 2015/2016 School year.

Step 1 - Check out the PSO information on the PCCS webpage to see what the PSO is all about.

Step 2 – Fill out the bottom of this letter.

Step 3 – Start making a difference right away.

You may be asking yourself, “Could it really be that easy?” Indeed, it can! The first step is standing up and volunteering! Please fill out the bottom portion of this letter and forward it to the school office – Attn: PSO, or email the current PSO Officers at [psopresident@pccharterschool.org](mailto:psopresident@pccharterschool.org). You can also use this e-mail address for questions or if you need more specific information about what is involved.

**All inquiries/responses are due in the school office by 3:30 on Fri., March 20, 2015.** In the event that more than one person is interested in a position, there will be an election. Prior to any election being held, all interested individuals will be contacted to determine their interest in running for office. Elections would take place toward the end of May.

We look forward to hearing from you!!!!

---

**Yes, I would be willing to serve as a PSO Officer next year!**

**I'm interested, but would like to learn more before I commit.**

NAME:

PHONE:

E-MAIL: