

In the “Know” with the PSO

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

Fall 2015

President's Comment

By Donna Engelhardt

As we kicked off the school year, Mr Deigan encouraged us all to begin with the end in mind. According to author Stephen Covey, "Begin with the end in mind means to begin each day, task, or project with a clear vision of your desired direction and destination, and then continue by flexing your proactive muscles to make things happen."

Each PCCS family has their own unique story and expectations, and together we are a strong, uplifting community. I am inspired as I get to know more of you this year and hear all the wonderful stories you have shared. Stories of amazing teachers, of grateful hearts for this school of choice, and of families making a difference in each others lives as we are on this journey together.

At the end of the year, I hope that you can look back and feel you were as involved as you wanted to be in your child's classroom and school. Partnering with parents is a core value and integral to our school's success. The PSO is here to support that connection between parents, staff and teachers. Our focus will continue to be to sponsor events and organize activities aimed at providing staff and families with opportunities to work together and enrich our students' school experience.

I want to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU to all of the PSO Team Leaders and everyone who volunteers time on each of those teams. Also, if you want to be more involved in any aspect, please do reach out to me, or any of the PSO Officers. We are happy to help get you connected where you would like to be. We are at your service!



Mark Your Calendar!

November 9, 8am
Chat with the Admin

November 23-24
Scholastic Book Fair

December 3
Holiday Bazaar



PCCS gives back! On October 22 parents and students attended Feed My Starving Children in Libertyville to help pack 58 boxes, the equivalent of 12,312 meals for children suffering from hunger.

Partnering with USAgain and Local Community Makes Textile Drive a Success

By Amy Jamison

The 2015 Textile Drive was a great success, thanks to the overwhelming generosity of the PCCS community, both in donations and volunteer hours. There are so many reasons this has become a highly anticipated event for the school. Not only is the Textile Drive a fundraiser, but it also supports our mission of sustainability and increases our connections with the surrounding community.

When the call for donations went out, PCCS families, neighbors and friends answered in a big way. We received more clothes and textiles than ever before. That translated to our biggest sale ever. Between the clothing sale and [USAgain](#), a textile recycling company that bought the left overs from the sales, we raised over \$4,700!

On top of a fantastic sale, we were then able to redirect 4,900lbs of textiles from land fills to Usagain. Usagain will redistribute wearable clothes to outlets both in and out of the country. Unusable items will make their way to companies that will repurpose them into industrial cleaning rags, carpet filler, insulation and many other things.

One of the less obvious benefits of the Textile Drive is how it connects PCCS with the surrounding community. People from many



different neighborhoods not only have an opportunity to find nice, affordable clothing, but also have a chance to walk our campus and talk to family and staff volunteers. Also, after the sale, we were able to set aside five boxes of jeans for Mr. Corra who is collecting them for Sole Hope where they will be turned into shoes. Several coats were picked up for in-need children and two boxes of towels will be going to an animal rescue center.

It's amazing that so much good can come from one event and it all comes back to your support, generosity and participation. So thank YOU for a great sale, and we will see you next year.



Stop by the Scholastic Book Fair During Conferences or Order Online

By Julie Kotzamanis

The fall is flying by and that means the annual fall Scholastic Book Fair is almost here! As always, the book fair will take place during parent and teacher conferences Monday, November 23rd and Tuesday November 24th. This is a great event that really promotes reading for students who already love to read and those that might need a little motivation.

While at the fair, be sure to check out the books in the teacher's "Wish List Bags." Teachers have pre-selected these books in hopes of adding them to their classrooms. If you would like to purchase a book, please remove it from the bag and purchase it along with your other books when you check out. Your child can then present it to the teacher when they return to class.

The book fair truly generates a lot of excitement around reading and it earns PCCS "Scholastic Dollars" which are used to purchase useful resources for the school. Remember to check out fairs in both buildings as they do contain different books!

We hope you will have a chance to stop and browse the fair before or after your conferences. If not, we also have an Online Book Fair. This is most convenient if you don't have a chance to browse the onsite sale or are looking to order books for holiday gift giving! Watch for those dates to be posted. All orders will be shipped free to PCCS and sent home via backpack or leave a message when you order and you can be called for a "covert pick-up."

Online Book Fair Link:

<http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/PCCSfair>



Treasurer's Note

By Jena Mertz

Welcome to Fall! The weather has certainly turned colder. I hope you all found some snuggly coats and sweaters at the Textile Drive!

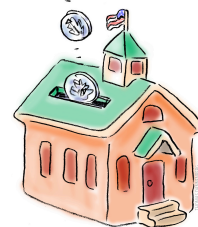
The Textile Drive was our first large fundraiser for the year. Amy Jamison did an AMAZING job organizing and running it for us. The donations were generous and the sale was very well attended. As a result we blew away our goal by over \$1,000, bringing in over \$4,000 for PCCS!

The clothing and scraps that were not sold at the sale, or donated to a few local sites, were sold to USAgain to be shredded into insulation for homes and buildings. That gained us an additional \$724. Thank you again Amy! Your work is much appreciated.

The Holiday Bazaar is coming up, so get your collection of donations ready. Any giftable item is accepted as are wrapping materials (gift bags especially).

You can also stock up on holiday gift cards with SCRIP. Just look for the SCRIP van on Fridays during morning and afternoon carpool.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the PSO Officers.



Box Tops Update

By Kara Edgeworth

Box Tops collection continues throughout the school year. Money earned from Box Tops collections are put directly back into the classrooms. Box Tops are found on a variety of products from cereal to toilet paper. Please send Box Tops in to your classroom teacher or to the box in the office.

PSO Preps for Annual Holiday Bazaar

By Helen Trage

For those new to PCCS, the annual Holiday Bazaar is a fundraising event the children, staff and families look forward to each year!

On December 3rd the school gym, with the help of many wonderful volunteers, will be transformed into a gigantic store. The teachers will bring each class to the gym and they will have the opportunity to shop for holiday gifts for their families. Each gift will be sold for only one dollar. Children can buy gifts for their mom, dad, grandparents, siblings and other important people in their lives. Chosen gifts will then be wrapped, again with the help of wonderful volunteers, and brought home that day. Each year the children have a blast picking out their gifts and giving them to their loved ones. They also learn that reusing items can bring joy to others.

Here is how families can help make this event a success. The PSO is asking that families donate "like new" items from around the house. These items could include books, CD's, movies, toys, games, puzzles, stuffed animals, tools, sports memorabilia, crafts, jewelry, decorative items and holiday/seasonal items.

Collection of these items will begin on Monday November 16th and continue daily until the day

before the Bazaar. Gift bags, scotch tape and tissue paper are also GREATLY needed for the gift-wrapping stations. If you are interested in learning more or would like to volunteer please email Helen at holidaybazaar@pccharterschool.org.

Thank you for your help and support of this special and fun event!



We are especially in need of new or gently used gift bags this year as it speeds the wrapping process and ensures shorter lines for the students.

PSO 2015-2016 Officers

Donna Engelhardt
PSO President

psopresident@pccharterschool.org

Lia Czerniak
Vice President

psovicepresident@pccharterschool.org

Jena Mertz
Treasurer

psotreasurer@pccharterschool.org

Christina Noonan
Secretary

psosecretary@pccharterschool.org