



# September 2009 Newsletter

## What does PTO do & how can you help? By Susan Davis

**Congratulations to the Musk family — winners of the Meet the Teacher Night basket!**

### Upcoming events:

- \* 09.25 Fall Fundraiser kick off
- \* 09.25 Popcorn Friday!
- \* 10.05 Spirit Week
- \* 10.13 PTO meeting
- \* 10.20 Pumpkin Patch

*Thank you to Girl Scout troop # 20541 for donating \$357.65 from their garage sale to help pay to replace the broken slide on the playground.*

### Fall Fundraiser

This year our fall fundraiser is the Goodies Factory. It will be kicked off Friday, Sept. 25th. Money needs to be collected at the time of the sale. Money and order forms are due Monday, Oct. 12th. Delivery will be Thursday, Nov. 5th. Please contact a PTO board member with any questions.

*Stay tuned for more info coming on a Homecoming Parade Float for Ross Park! Want to help? Email: [vp@rossparkpto.org](mailto:vp@rossparkpto.org)*

Whether your children are new to Ross Park or they've attended here for a while, we think it's a great time to share who we are, some of the things the PTO does each year and how you can help.

We are a group of parent volunteers and teachers striving to positively influence the lives of the children, families and teachers that we come in contact with daily. Last year our fundraising efforts allowed us to have: movie nights, carnival, support Girls on the Run, provide bus fund-

ing for field trips, teacher appreciation week, monthly popcorn Friday and fix our playground equipment just to name a few things.

We welcome all volunteers and the time they can share. I know the thought of 'one more thing to do' on an already busy schedule can be tiring. I felt that way when my sons approached me to be their room parent last year. I agreed to do it and was pleasantly surprised. It was NOT a lot of work. I attended the monthly meetings, got to know their

teachers and Mr. Cwayna better and was a resource for parents to contact if they had questions. It was a small amount of time but the rewards were huge. It was far less intimidating and more FUN than I thought!

Whether you can volunteer a couple hours at an event or commit to being your child's room parent your time spent impacting the lives of children will be rewarding.

Do not hesitate to contact any board members with questions.

## Meet the PTO Board

**President:** Kari Freye

*president@rossparkpto.org*

My family consists of my husband, Nick, and my sons Blake (2nd grade—Mrs. Morse) and Sam (preschool—Mrs. Olsen). I work in the medical field and in my spare time I enjoy scrapbooking and being an Up-percase Living consultant. It's hard to top last year's experience, but I hope that this year's events will be more spectacular than last year's. I hope to get more parents involved to show them how great Ross Park Elementary truly is!! I love being a part of this great school community and look forward to serving another year on the PTO board.

**Vice Pres.:** Stan Miller

*vp@rossparkpto.org*

My family consists of my wife, Barb, and my daughter Stephanie (preschool/ECSE). I work in the IT field. In my spare time I enjoy home projects, reading, hiking, computers and photography. This year I hope we can do more to bring families together for fun (and maybe even educational) activities and get more parents more fully involved with the school. I'd also like us to think about a big, long-term goal we can work and save toward, something that would make a lasting impact on the school and its family, and ways to encourage kids to get involved in the larger community.

**Treasurer:** Jenny McNeill

*treasurer@rossparkpto.org*

My family consists of my husband, Caven Berry, and my sons Kyle (2nd grade) and Colin (Kindergarten). I am an attorney. In my free time I enjoy biking, spending time with my family and traveling. This year, I hope PTO is able to connect to more parents.

**Secretary:** Susan Davis

*secretary@rossparkpto.org*

My family consists of my husband, Dean, and my twin sons, Nicholas (4th grade—Mrs. Overway) and Zachary (4th grade—Mrs. Young). I am a controller for an automotive

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## Meet the PTO Board

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company. In my spare time I enjoy cooking, gardening and tinkering on the computer. My hopes for the PTO this year are to increase participation and continue to build lasting relationship between our parents and the great teachers/staff we are fortunate to have at Ross Park. Together, we have such an incredible opportunity to impact the bright smiling faces that grace the halls of Ross Park.

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### Upper El Liaison Parent:

Susan Heethouse

[upperelliaison@rossparkpto.org](mailto:upperelliaison@rossparkpto.org)

My family consists of my husband, Jack, and my sons, Kyle (7th grade-middle school), Tyler (4th grade-Mrs. Overway) and Kyle (3rd grade-Mrs. Lane). In my spare time I enjoy tennis, crafts, traveling, beach/pool, gardening and spending time with family and friends. I hope that the PTO can help bridge the gap between home and school. I would love to see more parents at our meetings so they too can have input with the events that we plan for our families.

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### Lower El Liaison Parent:

Amanda Kinnucan

[lowerelliaison@rossparkpto.org](mailto:lowerelliaison@rossparkpto.org)

My family consists of my husband, Joe and my children, Noah (3rd grade), Emma (1st grade) and Ila (3yr old pre-school). In my spare time I love volunteering in my children's classrooms, reading, and spending time with my friends and family. I think being involved in the PTO is a great way to make a difference in your children's school while getting to know the staff and other families of Ross Park Elementary. I am happy to be a part of Ross Park's PTO and am looking forward to a great school year

### Lower El Liaison Parent:

Sue Kling is also Lower El Liaison Parent. She will be introduced in the October Newsletter.

## Meet our Teachers

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We're excited to announce a new section to our monthly newsletter—Meet Our Teachers. Each month you will be introduced to teachers/staff from our great school!

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### Name: Mrs. Christy Belanger

**Grade:** 5<sup>th</sup> grade

**Family:** I have been married to my husband Scott for 14 yrs. He is self-employed and owns Shoreline Garage Door Service LLC. We have two sons, Connor and Bryson. Connor is 9 yrs. old and in Mrs. Young's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class. Bryson is 5 yrs. old and in Mrs. Dreese's DK class. We currently live in North Muskegon, but are hoping to move into the Norton Shores area.

**Teaching experience:** I have been teaching for 15 years. I have only taught 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Ross Park and I LOVE it!! I have also served as a Social Studies Core Chair for Ross Park for the last several years.

**Hobbies/Spare Time activities:** I enjoy spending quality time with my family. I love to cook and bake. I have been part of a Girls' Gourmet Club since 1995. We get together and try new recipes. YUM!!! I like to go camping, boating and golfing. I also love to curl up and read a good book. If I had any spare time, I would like to get more into scrap booking.

**Favorite Food:** I have many favorites: Turkey Kabobs with peanut dipping sauce, pumpkin pie with real whip cream, prime rib, pasta with chives, peas, prosciutto and bacon in a cream sauce.

**Favorite thing about Ross Park:** My favorite thing about Ross Park is the GREAT staff that I work with. Their devotion to student success is amazing. I have also developed many lasting friendships and have become really close with their families. This has allowed us to do many things together outside of the school setting.

**Name: Mrs. Kristi Eigenauer**

**Grade:** 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

**Family:** I have been married to David Eigenauer for 16 years. We have two sons, Chance (13) who attends Mona Shores Middle School and Camden (9) who is in Mrs. Young's 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Ross Park Elementary.

**Teaching experience:** I began teaching with Mona Shores Public Schools in 1990 at Hile School. I began my teaching career in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. After 9 years I was promoted to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. I taught 5<sup>th</sup> grade for 6 years and currently I am starting my fifth year back teaching 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. I have been coming to Mona Shores Public Schools for 40 years. I started at the age of 5, graduated from the high school, completed my student teaching here and will some day complete my career from this wonderful school district. I am definitely "true blue!" I have been a Sailor for most of my life!

**Hobbies/Spare Time activities:** I really don't have any hobbies, but I do collect "Snowbabies." I would like to spend more time scrap booking with my friends. In my spare time I love spending time with my family. We enjoy camping, swimming and going to Detroit Tiger baseball games. My friends are also a big part of my life. I treasure being able to spend time with my friends. Last, but not least I love being in my classroom preparing lessons for my students!

**Favorite Food:** I have many favorite foods. I enjoy many different cuisines including Mexican, Italian, anything grilled and my Mom's home cooking. My favorite meal is roast beef, carrots and potatoes with dark gravy.

**Favorite thing about Ross Park:** I have too many favorite things to list! So, I will give you the shortened version. I especially enjoy working with all the staff at Ross Park. The students and their families at Ross Park are absolutely the BEST. I also love our beautiful facility. I couldn't ask for a better place to teach!