



January 2013 Newsletter

By Stan Miller – secretary@rossparkpto.org

New Signs Point the Way to Safer Parking Lot

If you drive your children to school or pick them up, you've seen new signs in the parking lot since the holiday break.

The signs reinforce long-standing practice in the parking lot and are designed to help everyone stay safe.

New entrance and exit signs remind drivers that the east and west driveways are exit only; enter the parking lot only from the middle driveway at the east end of the building.

One-way signs ring the parking lot to keep traffic flowing only east to west in both alleys. If you park anywhere in the main lot, even at the east end near the turnaround, you must exit through the west driveway.

New "Pull Forward" signs along the entrance remind you to pull well into the turnaround before stopping to drop children off. Stopping as soon as you get into the turnaround can back traffic up in the entrance and cause other drivers to swerve, creating unnecessary hazards for students. The only safe place to drop students off is in the turnaround east of the parking lot, pulling as far forward as possible before stopping. Drop-offs in the alleys in the parking lot, even right next to the main

entrance, are not safe. If you cannot find a parking space in the front row and do not want to use the turnaround or teachers lot, please park and get out with your child and walk him or her to the sidewalk.

It's OK to park on the grass inside the turnaround or near the tennis courts if the lot is full. The lot in the city park across the street is available, too, but *please* get out and walk your children across Randall Road to safety. You can also use the Sailor Soccer parking lot, entering from Martin Road.

See the map attached to this newsletter if you're unsure about traffic flow in and around the parking lots.

Let's follow our children's example of being Super Sailor students by becoming Super Sailor parents! You can start today!

- **SAFE:** I will take my time, hang up my cell phone, drive slowly and heed signs.
- **KIND:** I will smile and be polite.
- **RESPONSIBLE:** I will park and walk my child to a safe location.
- **RESPECTFUL:** I will take turns and allow other drivers to enter and exit.



Super Sailors Will Win Big in Super Bowl Box Tops Contest

Are you ready for some Box Tops football?

The Super Sailor Super Bowl Box Tops contest runs now through Monday, Feb. 25. Start sending in those Box Tops!

You can send your Box Tops in sandwich bags or envelopes, or use the special football collection sheet at www.rossparkpto.org/boxtops. Be sure to write your child's name and teacher's name on every submission to get credit toward the prizes.

Each classroom will be a team. Students will choose their own team name, using the teacher's last name and another word, like "Smith's Sailors". (You can't use "Sailors" in your team name.)

Each team will be represented by a player on a football field in the display case outside the cafeteria. For every 10 valid Box Tops or Bonus Box Tops the team turns in, the player will move five yards down the field. When the player scores a touchdown, the score will be added to the scoreboard and on our website, and the player will start over again. The team with the most touchdowns by Feb. 25 will get the traveling trophy for March, a cupcake party, and listing on the marquee in front of the school.

The student bringing in the most Box Tops will be declared the MVBT (Most Valuable Box Topper) and will get a miniature football autographed by Mr. Smith and our teachers. The MVBT's teacher will get a certificate signed by Mr. Smith and the winning student.

Also, teams will be divided into leagues, with grades K-2 and ECSE in one league and grades 3-5 in the other. Every class in the league with the most touchdowns will get one extra recess!

And finally, if we collect at least 20,000 Box Tops in this contest, Mr. Smith and the teachers will do something special during a March assembly to celebrate.

The football field and scoreboard will be updated throughout the week, so don't wait for the end of the contest. Send your Box Tops in now!

Meijer is offering coupons worth 20 Bonus Box Tops (that's 10 yards on the football field) now through Jan. 19, and will offer them again starting Feb. 3. They'll also offer 60-point coupons (that's 30 yards!) from Jan. 20-Feb. 2. For details on how to earn these coupons, check out our Box Tops page at www.rossparkpto.org/boxtops.



Bulletin Board



Upcoming Events

- **Jan. 14:** School board meets, 7 p.m., Ross Park
- **Jan. 17:** Popcorn sale & Dough Raiser night
- **Jan. 17:** Green Team meets, 6:30 p.m., art room
- **Jan. 21:** No school, Martin Luther King Day
- **Jan. 22:** Walkathon Committee meets, 4 p.m., school library
- **Jan. 31:** Family Fun Night at Jumpin' Jupiter, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- **Feb. 4:** School board meets, 7 p.m., Ross Park
- **Feb. 11:** School board meets, 7 p.m., Ross Park
- **Feb. 12:** PTO meeting, 7 p.m., school library. Free child care!
- **Feb. 15-18:** No school, midwinter break.
- **Feb. 20:** Family Fun Night: Movie and \$1 pizza, 5:30 p.m.
- **Feb. 21:** Kindergarten Roundup, 6 p.m., school library. Free child care!
- **Feb. 21:** Popcorn sale & Dough Raiser night
- **Feb. 21:** Green Team meets, 6:30 p.m., art room
- **Feb. 25:** Box Tops contest ends

Domino's Dough Raisers

Get an easy dinner and help support our school at the same time! Just call Domino's on the third Thursday of the month – like Jan. 17 and Feb. 21 – and give them the Dough Raiser code **ROSS1**. The PTO gets 15 percent of the purchase price, and we raised \$36 in December. Don't forget to give your code when you call to order!

The PTO on Facebook

Our Facebook page is a great way to keep up with events at the school. Get reminders about family fun nights, popcorn sales, Box Tops contests and coupons, volunteer opportunities and more just by liking our page!



www.facebook.com/rossparkpto

Plenty of Family Fun Planned for 2013

Get ready for lots of family fun in the new year, thanks to your PTO and our community partners!



First up is another fun skate night at Jumpin' Jupiter on Thursday, Jan. 31, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.. Admission is just \$6 per skater; parents who are not skating get in free. Traditional skate rental is free; blade skates rent for \$4. Bounce houses are available for \$2 for children under 4-feet-6, and hot dogs are just \$1.

Next up is a family movie night on Wednesday, Feb. 20. Join us for \$1-a-slice pizza and free drink in the cafeteria at 5:30 p.m., and a free movie in the auditorium starting at 6. Watch our Facebook page at facebook.com/rossparkpto to help us choose the movie.



We'll have a night out with the Muskegon Lumberjacks on March 15, and our second Norton Pines outing of the school year on Friday, April 12. Watch future newsletters for more details on those events.



We're looking into plans for a family fun night during March is Reading Month, too.

And it all builds up to our second annual Ross Park Walkathon on Friday, May 10. The first walkathon committee meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 22, at 4 p.m. in the school library. Please come if you can! We need lots of help to make our only major fundraiser of the year a success so we can keep doing great things for our school!

Green Team Ponders Community Garden

The Mona Shores Green Team is considering planting a community garden at Ross Park. The idea came out of the Green Team's meeting in November, and will be discussed in more detail at their meeting this Thursday, Jan. 17, at 6:30 p.m. in the art room. Everyone is welcome!

Follow the Green Team at www.facebook.com/MonaShoresGreenTeam. Learn more about community gardens at www.myhealthyschool.com/gardens/starting.php.

Art Frame Plaques, Website Ads Available

Looking for an inexpensive way to help your child's school and get a little name recognition for yourself, a loved one or your business at the same time? The PTO still has art frame sponsorships and website advertising available.

The art frames were the brainchild of art teacher Melissa Snoeyer, who selects student works every six weeks or so to display in the frames in the front hallways. For just \$40, you'll reimburse the PTO for the cost of a frame, including matting, Plexiglas and mounting hardware, and you'll get a permanent plaque on the wall under one of the frames. For details, see www.rossparkpto.org/help.

You can also advertise on our website to help defray the cost of the site and promote your business. Ads are accepted only from the Ross Park community, and we hope you'll consider our advertisers when making a purchase to help support our school community. Ads will appear at www.rossparkpto.org/community.

A link to submit ads appears there, too. We're working on accepting payment online; for now, please send a check for \$5 to the PTO for each ad.



Questions or Comments?

Contact Secretary Stan Miller at 780-9219 or secretary@rossparkpto.org, or go to www.rossparkpto.org for other contact information.