

## PTA President's Message November/December 2011

By Elaine Howley

It gives me great pleasure to share with you the unanimous decision during our November PTA meeting to spend \$1200 to purchase reference materials for the school library as well as music and art supplies requested by Mrs. Klimas and Ms. Nice, respectively. The generosity of our organization will provide items to help meet the needs of Strawbridge students at every grade level. Thank-you to those who came out and took part in this important vote!

The PTA will forego a monthly meeting in December, but we'll still be very busy with the following activities at Strawbridge School. All students will decorate birds as part of our wonderful Winter Decorating committee display headed by Cindy Henkel. The kids will also have the opportunity to shop for loved ones between 12/12 - 12/14/11 in our traditional Holiday Shop. This is a great volunteer opportunity because you get to help the children practice money skills, work with a budget, and choose just the right gifts for their family members. Their excitement is truly off the charts!

Lunchtime Enrichment is also quickly approaching. For anyone who is unfamiliar with this cool program, it is parent run "classes" offered to 2nd-5th graders during lunch/recess (11:30a-12:30p) once per week for four weeks beginning at the end of January. Some recent and popular "classes" include: Paper Airplanes, Magic, Lego Play, Karoke, Knitting, Yoga, Theater Games, and Bingo. Participation is always high because kids enjoy taking a break from the cold weather outside to do something different with friends inside. As for the parent volunteers, we are given a unique way to interact with the students by brightening their winter days with something fun! Please contact Laura Ladik at [lauraladik@comcast.net](mailto:lauraladik@comcast.net) if you want more information or to volunteer.

A delicious way to support our organization throughout the year are our food sales. While trying not to bombard you with constant fund raising we offer a variety of yummy options, directing some toward the students and others to the parents. So far we've run a sweet sale, a pretzel sale, and a Mom's Bake at Home stromboli pre-order. In February we'll try something new: a "Strawbridge Week" at the new local shop, Sea-Lect Seafood. We've been offered a percentage back on all purchases made by Strawbridge families during a specified week. We want to offer a Sea-Lect Seafood soup tasting event during our January PTA meeting to give you a sampling of some of their great products. Stay tuned for more details on both coming very soon!

And finally, I would like to personally thank the many volunteers who have contributed to our success during November & December: Allison Howley & all November meeting attendees for assembly of the snowflake ornaments; Lynn Saia and Laura Ladik for processing and delivery of Scrip gift cards; Lisa Bond for Skate Night, Kathleen Grimm for the stromboli sale; Geri Hollingsworth for the pretzel sale, Cindy Henkel & committee for the wonderful winter decorations; Tina Ward & all volunteers in our annual Holiday Shop; Lisa Bond and Denise Weachter for organizing the fall and upcoming winter Outreach food drives; Audrey Roberts, Abby Henkel, & Emma Tallman for November PTA babysitting; and Michelle Lennox & Kristen Jandoli for doing many hours of leg work for the upcoming Living History 2012.

**ELLIS ISLAND here we come!**

As your personal life kicks into high gear during these busy months don't forget to stop and smell the cookies! I'm wishing you all a happy and safe holiday season!

- Elaine

