



PCS-PTO APRIL NEWS

2009

DEAR PCS FAMILIES,

Happy Spring! I hope you are enjoying the subtle signs of spring with hope of warmer weather and bright yellow daffodils on their way!

With spring came Sharon Katz and the Peace Train making a stop at PCS on March 19th. It was an amazing show that can only be described through your child's point of view! Sharon and her South African band shared their message of peace and self-worth through a rock concert that had every child and most of the staff at PCS on their feet! Thank you for all of your contributions and support with our commitment to providing valuable enrichment programs to our PCS students.

We are very excited that our website is complete and going live on April 3rd. It is an amazing resource for all things PTO! Please visit the site at www.pcs-ptu.org... I know you will find the site is a great resource! I would like to extend an enormous THANK YOU to fellow PCS parent Lisa Burgess for her generous donation and time commitment to this project.

Lastly, as we strive to deliver on the PTO mission of creating enrichment opportunities for our children we are anticipating open Director positions on our Executive Board. The Director position is a leadership role and is critical to a strong, dynamic Executive Board. If you are interested in learning more please email me at mazjaz00@aol.com.

Thank you again for all of you support!

Melissa Zahansky

PTO MEETING SCHEDULE

PTO meetings are scheduled for Tuesdays, 7:00 PM in the PCS library.

April 7 - PTO Meeting

May 12 - PTO Meeting - Elections of New Officers

EARTH DAY CELL PHONE COLLECTION

Donate your old unused cell phones and printer cartridges! Boxes will be available in the office the week of April 20-24.

YOUR SCHOOL, YOUR STYLE, YOUR SITE!

The PCS PTO is really excited to announce that the new Parent-Teacher Website, www.pcs-ptu.org, is going live on Friday April 3rd!

We're hoping that this will be your go-to source for the most up-to-date info about the PCS community, goings-on at the PTO... and much more!

Check us out on Friday, register, and then return often for updates!

You'll find:

- Notices and announcements on things YOU need to know NOW!
- A complete event, activity and meeting calendar... encompassing EVERYTHING that's going on at PCS
- Current volunteer opportunities in the PTO and throughout the school
- An up-close look at the many facets of the PCS PTO and ways you can get involved in your child's school... in whatever way suits your style!
- A sign-up for the PTO email list, insuring that you stay on top of what's going on at school
- Teacher Wish lists! Find out what your child's classroom needs!
- Ways to help the PTO raise funds for Enrichment programs
- Important flyers and forms
- Important and useful links

Remember: This is YOUR site! So join us! We're looking forward to seeing you at www.pcs-ptu.org! Drop us a line and let us know what you think!

DATES TO REMEMBER:

GERTRUDE HAWK CHOCOLATE PICK UP	APRIL 6
PTO MEETING	APRIL 7
TV TURNOFF WEEK	APRIL 20-24
EARTH DAY COLLECTION	APRIL 20-24
MOTHER'S DAY PLANT SALE	MAY 7 & 8

MOTHER'S DAY PLANT SALE

The annual PTO Plant Sale will be held just in time for Mother's Day on Thursday May 7th and Friday May 8th.

A variety of plants in all colors and sizes are offered for children to buy. Plants are priced from \$0.25 to \$15.

Volunteers needed from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Thursday and 8 a.m. to noon on Friday. If you would like volunteer or have other questions please call Karen at 974-0268.



FAMILY READING NIGHT

On March 4th, Pre-K thru 3rd grade students and their families enjoyed a night filled with fun stories and lots of laughter. There were great books, crafts and snacks shared by all.

Readers included local heroes and super heroes as well as the Cat in the Hat himself.

A big thank you goes out to each volunteer who made the night possible including the amazing students from the 8th grade, all our readers and several parents who helped bake and clean up for the event. Special thanks to Veronica Vaida for all her effort in organizing this event!

GERTRUDE HAWK CHOCOLATE SALE

THANK YOU! We had an absolutely amazing turnout for our Spring Chocolate Sale! All orders will be delivered on Monday April 6th and need to be picked up from the cafeteria between 3:15 and 6:00. Please remember NO candy can be sent home on the bus! If you have any questions please call Brenda Bullied 963-7271.

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Save your coins for the
Loose Change Challenge!

Your PTO sponsors this fundraising event each May to benefit all of our children!

We're getting ready for May, and you can too!
Save those coins!

THE PEACE TRAIN PULLS INTO PCS!

It isn't often that the students of Pomfret Community School are treated to a high energy Afro-Pop-Jazz Fusion concert by Grammy-nominated artists. Nor is it often that they have the opportunity to interact with Nelson Mandela's cultural ambassadors. Yet on Thursday, March 19th, in an epic event sponsored by the Pomfret Community School PTO, students at the school did both.

South Africa's Sharon Katz and the Peace Train, a high-energy quintet that combines traditional African rhythms and harmonies with contemporary lyrics and hybrid pop music, made a huge splash and a lasting impression on the students at PCS. Katz and her crew literally rocked the school with two full-fledged rock concerts, culture and dance workshops, and an enduring message of peace which she imparted through personal stories, and Zulu dance intertwined with her intoxicating South African-inspired music.

Working with the 6th and 4th grades at Pomfret Community School, Katz and her band, shared South Africa's stories of inequality during Apartheid, taught songs from the Xhosa and Zulu languages and even got students moving to the intricate steps of the Gumboot dance, which originated with the mine workers in the gold mines of South Africa. These students then performed in both of the band's afternoon concerts at the school.

In addition to the very talented Sharon Katz, The Peace Train's dual concerts at PCS highlighted a bassist, a drummer and two highly engaging vocalists who also performed spell-binding Zulu dances in authentic costume. Contrary to the tradition of school assemblies, the band had the entire school, students and teachers alike, out of their seats, dancing, singing and reveling in The Peace Train's universal message. Songs like "You're Terrific" and a Zulu-entitled number with lyrics meaning "I Am So Proud of You" empowered students not only to respect themselves and others, but to realize that they, too, could make difference in the world.

Judging from the record number of autograph requests after the performances, it was clear that The Peace Train's message and music resonated with students and staff, alike.

We're on the Web!
See us at: www.pcs-pto.org