

# The Splash

February  
2009



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## PTO - The Basics

PTO stands for Parent Teacher Organization. While fundraising is certainly one important function of the PTO, it is by no means the only thing that PTO does. This group was formed as a forum for Parents and Teachers to share information and address common concerns. PTO is also an organization that tries to help the school administration in promoting a sense of community and school pride.

**Who is on PTO?** Every parent or guardian of every student at Donaldson Elementary School and every teacher at Donaldson is a member of PTO. All have the right to attend meetings, share opinions, voice concerns, and vote on any issue brought before the General Meeting. The Executive Board of the Donaldson PTO consists of seven parent volunteers who serve as officers. Any PTO member is eligible to be elected to the Executive Board. Elections take place at the May meeting and the officers serve from June thru May. There are also many parent volunteers who serve as chairpersons in charge of various events and fundraisers. Finally, the School Principal and 2 Teacher Representatives offer guidance and advice at Executive Board meetings and General Meetings.

General Meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month (with a few exceptions for holidays). Meetings begin promptly at 7:00pm and take place in the Teacher's Lounge which is located at the back of the MPR building. Free childcare is available in the PAL room during the meetings. Most General Meetings are over by 8:15pm.



**What happens at PTO?** At the meetings, you will hear how past events went and you will be able to offer suggestions for next year. You will also hear about what events are scheduled in the future and have to opportunity to provide your input or to volunteer to help out. Sometimes, there is a need to vote on budget issues or whether or not to purchase items for the school. Other times, there is a school-wide or grade specific concern that is brought to the PTO for discussion. For example, a concerned parent kept bringing up after school clubs at the PTO meetings, and that was the impetus that got so many clubs started this year! Finally, Mr. Weigold does a Principal Report where he shares information that is either specific to our school or to the Amphitheater district. At all meetings, there is a Call to Audience where anyone attending can raise new issues for consideration.

As I mentioned last month, PTO cannot be successful without input and support from a large group of parents/guardians. This means that your attendance at meetings and your willingness to volunteer is crucial. For more information about PTO meetings, events or fundraisers, check out the new, updated PTO website at [www.amphi.com/schools/donaldson/DONPto/HomePage.html](http://www.amphi.com/schools/donaldson/DONPto/HomePage.html).

*Lisa Matalawic, PTO President*

## Principal's News

February 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,



*Happy RODEO! Don't forget that Amphitheater Schools are CLOSED February 26 and February 27 for the Rodeo.*

This year, Donaldson has identified STUDENT WRITING as our goal. The staff and students will be focusing on the "6 Traits of Writing". The traits are Conventions, Voice, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, Organization, and Ideas. Each month I would like to revisit the Six Traits of Writing. I previously covered conventions and organization.

This month I will elaborate on VOICE.

How does the writer infuse Voice so that the reader will "hear" the Voice? Voice is the writer revealed. It's what gives your writing personality, flavor, style - a sound all of its own. You must say what you truly think and feel, not what someone might want to hear. Think about your reader. Write directly to that person just as if he or she were standing there talking to you. Be yourself. Did you 'hook' the reader? Did the reader want to keep on reading? Did it make the reader laugh or cry? You can teach voice by reading aloud, writing letters, responding to art, comparing voices, describing voices or identifying the "best" voice for a particular audience.

Ask your child if they can explain what writing with voice might mean to them. Maybe they could write a short piece for you that demonstrates voice. You might have some great examples of voice in the writing at your house. Think of poetry, letters to the editor, a politician's speech, or a memo from your boss. Sometimes it is helpful to think of the Non-Example, like reading a recipe or rules for a game. Have fun with it and share your VOICE!

Sincerely,

Bruce Weigold



"Voice is the writer revealed. It's what gives your writing personality, flavor, style - a sound all of its own."

*The Splash* is now available online on the Donaldson Homepage.

Do you receive our weekly email?

If you would like to be added to the list, contact Elizabeth at 877-2583 or email your request to [donaldsonpto@gmail.com](mailto:donaldsonpto@gmail.com)

### GOT PIX?

Please send in any Donaldson pictures from events or classes to the office, ATTN: Yearbook Club.

### Cafeteria Note

Is your student missing something?  
Check out the Lost & Found!

Donaldson  
Elementary School  
Parent/Teacher  
Organization  
2040 W. Omar  
Drive

## Health Office News



Hello,

February is "Dental Health Month". In a recent article from "KidsGrowth", they had the following recommendations for children:

Clean your baby's first teeth with a clean piece of gauze, a terry cloth washcloth or soft-bristled baby toothbrush at least once a day. You may want to use one of the commercial "baby toothpastes" available for infants who are at least 5 months old.

Clean your child's teeth before bedtime and when using toothpaste use only a small amount (about the size of a small pea). Young children can become seriously ill if they swallow large amounts of dental products that contain fluoride. Keep these products out of your child's reach.

Your child can learn how to brush his/her own teeth at about 3 years of age and should be brushing his/her own teeth morning and night by age 4, although parents should supervise and check for proper cleaning. Studies show that children between 5 and 9 years of age who brush with fluoride toothpaste have 24% less tooth decay and tooth-surface damage.

Flossing is an important part of good dental health. Start flossing your child's teeth when he or she has teeth that touch each other. Talk with your dentist about the timing and technique to floss your child's teeth and to teach your child to floss.

It is recommended to have a check-up and cleaning every six months. Have x-rays taken once a year. Also get a new toothbrush every six months (soft bristle) unless you have had a contagious illness like strep, then replace when well. Last but not least, sealants are recommended for preventative care of teeth that haven't had any fillings. If we learn how to take care of our teeth we will keep them for a long time!

We are seeing students with coughs and here are a few thoughts to help calm that cough. The first is to stop all cigarette

smoking in the house. Cigarette smoke is an irritant that not only paralyzes the cilia but causes the respiratory cells to produce more mucus. A second way to make the mucus thinner and soothe irritated respiratory cells is to use water in one form or another. So when our Mom told us to drink plenty of water when we were sick, she was right! A third way is to add water directly to a child's inflamed respiratory tract by putting more moisture in the air. This can be accomplished by using a cool mist humidifier. A benefit of more moisture in the air is that viruses survive better when the humidity is low. That might help explain why influenza viruses show up more during the winter months when our air has less humidity. Cough drops are considered medication and unless you have a doctor's note students should not bring them to school. If you feel it is necessary for your student to have something, a water bottle for sipping water would be great or life savers.

Let's remember to keep washing our hands often. So far our absences have not been too high and it would be great to keep it that way! As always if your student is running a temperature over 100, is vomiting, has diarrhea or generally doesn't feel well, keep him/her at home. It not only helps them to get better faster but doesn't spread the germs here at school.

Have a Fantastic February!

Linda Wendorf, Health Aide

520-696-6164



## Student Council News

Student Council is sponsoring a Red, White and Pink day on Friday the 13 of Feb in honor of Valentines Day!

Student Council will also be selling Smencils again but this time they will not only smell good, but they will write in different colors! Colored Smencils!!!! They cost \$1.00.

Student Council will be assisting with Field Day on March 25! We are all very excited!

Remember to keep bringing in your pop tops from canned drinks! We are working hard to raise money for The Ronald McDonald House!!!

### SCIENCE FAIR

Tue, 2/10 Board Setup  
In MPR

Wed, 2/11 Judging

Thur, 2/12 Award  
Ceremony, 1 pm

PTO is providing pencils to students for testing. Please ask you child's teacher if you are able to donate needed items



## Music News

What's happening in the music classroom:



4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade music program about the Westward Migration across America, Tuesday Feb. 24 at 1:15 pm.

CDO chorus festival March 26, 6:30 pm. Interested 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will meet in the music room during 10:00 recess times on Wed. and Thurs. for rehearsals.

Kindergarteners will sing on the stage right before Open House night, April 15.

Also in the music classroom after the March break, the ever-popular "Donaldson Idol" performances! And 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will begin playing recorders.

## PTO Volunteer Positions

(Chair positions available for 2009-2010)

Beach Day  
Box Tops  
Cookie Dough  
Donaldson Day (school carnival)  
Donuts with Dad  
Fall Book Fair  
Fall Fundraiser  
Family Night (during Spring Book Fair)  
Father/Daughter Dance  
Grandperson's Day  
Grocery Stores/Target/Office Depot  
Holiday Extravaganza Spaghetti Dinner  
Mother/Son Event  
Movie Nights  
Muffins with Mom  
Pancake Breakfast  
Parent Orientation/Information Night  
Pictures with Santa  
Popcorn Sales  
PTO Website Manager  
Restaurant Nights  
Rocket Building/Launching  
Rocket Day (Activities)  
Science Fair  
Science Night  
Splash Editor  
Spring Book Fair  
Staff Appreciation Luncheon  
Student Directory Editor  
TShirt Sales  
Weekly Email Editor  
Yearbook Sales

### Please help ...

We need a person to organize Ask a friend.  
GRAND PERSONS DAY during Book Fair Mar. 11.

We need Book Fair volunteers. (3/9-3/13)

Contact Bobbie Farrell at 575-1632.

### Congratulations



Mrs. DiScenza's class won for the most box tops collected for last month.



**MOVIE NIGHT**



Movie night was a great success! Thank you to all the families that attended and we look forward to see you all again next time.

I would also like to thank the PTO volunteers for taking time to assist with the snack bar. Lisa, Liz, Bobbie, Helen and Ray were great to work with. Also, a special thanks to Bruce Weigold for helping with the drawings.

Hapie Denfeld  
Chairperson/PTO co-VP Programs and Events

**Donaldson Spring Restaurant Nights**

- Feb. 5 – Peter Piper Pizza 7621 N. Oracle  
5:00 - 7:00pm  
**Flyer required**
- March 3 - McTeacher's Night  
5:00 – 7:00pm  
Magee & Oracle
- Apr. 2 -Rubios (Ina & Thornydale)  
5:00-7:00pm  
**Flyer required**

**Donaldson PTO Executive Board**

- President Lisa Matulewic  
297-1464
- VP Fundraising/  
Communications Elizabeth Burnett  
877-2583
- Co-VP Programs/  
Events Hapie Denfield  
548-4986
- Co-VP Programs/  
Events Carla Koenig  
544-8936
- VP Volunteers Bobbie Farrell  
575-1632
- Secretary Mary Ferber  
544-7704
- Treasurer Helen Leighty  
293-7576
- Principal Bruce Weigold  
696-6160

**Treasurer's Report**



Activity for 11/26/08 -1/20/09

**INCOME**

|                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| "Believe" Fundraiser    | 7            |
| Box Tops Rebate         | 1,496        |
| Cookie Dough Fundraiser | 9            |
| Electronic Scrip Rebate | 5            |
| Holiday Extravaganza    | 1,977        |
| Movie Night             | 96           |
| Popcorn Sales           | 45           |
| Restaurant Fundraisers  | 129          |
| School T-Shirts         | 38           |
| Weekly News Magazines   | <u>5</u>     |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>     | <b>3,807</b> |

**EXPENSES**

|                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Bank Charges          | 13           |
| "Believe" Fundraiser  | 313          |
| Childcare PTO         |              |
| Meetings              | 25           |
| Christmas Assistance  | 200          |
| Cookie Dough          |              |
| Fundraiser            | 4,039        |
| Donaldson Day         | 175          |
| Me & My Gal           | 96           |
| Library Allowance     | 500          |
| Movie Night           | 98           |
| Newsletter Printing   | 95           |
| Teacher Allotment     | <u>2,213</u> |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b> | <b>7,767</b> |



Read the Splash, sign this. Have your child return it to the office for a book or Dolphin Dollar.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student/Students

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent signature

## Donaldson Calendar

### February

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues   | Site Council – 5-6pm – Teacher’s Lounge   |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Thurs  | Yearbook - 2:15-3:30<br>Peter Piper Pizza Donaldson Night                           |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Fri    | Girl Scouts 2010 – Teacher’s Lounge   |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> Tues  | Sci. Fair Project Set-up  |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> Wed   | Sci. Fair Judging   |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> Thurs | Sci. Fair Awards Ceremony 1:15 MPR  |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> Tues  | Mrs. Moss Field Trip  |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> Tues  | Science Club 2:15-3:30  |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> Thurs | Mrs. Leonardo Field Trip  |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> Thurs | Yearbook - 2:15-3:30  |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> Fri   | Girl Scouts 2010 – Teacher’s Lounge   |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> Tues  | 4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> Western Show<br>For School 8 am; Parents 1:15-2:15 |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> Tues  | Cub Scouts 212 – MPR  |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> Tues  | CDO Feeder Band Concert 7:00  |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> Thurs | Rodeo Break No School   |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> Fri   | Rodeo Break No School   |

### March

3<sup>rd</sup>, Tues McTeacher’s Night (Magee & Oracle)

Mondays – Adv Band 2:15 – 3:30 MPR  
Tuesdays – Beg. Band 2:15 -3:30 MPR  
Wed & Thurs – Orch. 11:30 -12:30 MPR

CDO Little League  
Still Registering  
Check website for more info.  
<http://www.eteamz.com/cdoll/>



Oro Valley Softball  
Still registering



<http://www.orovalley.bajasoftball.org>

Challenger Little League  
for children and young adults  
with various physical and/or  
mental challenges...



[www.tucsonchallenger.org/default.aspx](http://www.tucsonchallenger.org/default.aspx)

Girl Scout Cookies For Sale

Contact Lisa Matulewic @ 297-1464

Hernan Family Rummage Sale

Matthew Hernan Medical Relief Fund  
Saturday, March 7 in the Donaldson  
Parking Lot.

Contact Tammye Gregoire to  
volunteer or donate items.  
Thanks.

## Thank our Sponsors

# THE UPS STORE

## 520-742-6211

### ORANGE GROVE & ORACLE

Visit our website for printable coupons and specials.

[theupsstorelocal.com/0442](http://theupsstorelocal.com/0442)

Mention this ad to receive 10% off packing and shipping.

### SPLASH SPONSORSHIP

Donaldson PTO is looking for companies or individuals that want to place an ad in the Splash.

Contact: Elizabeth Burnett  
[donaldsonpto@gmail.com](mailto:donaldsonpto@gmail.com)

877-2583