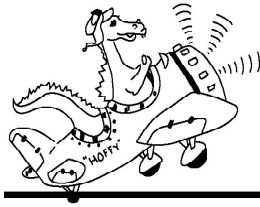


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[www.freedompta.org](http://www.freedompta.org)



# PTA Freedom Elementary *Communique*

## Message from the Board

Some of you may have heard about our budget shortfall. Our Fall Fundraiser did not net as great a profit as we had projected when developing our budget. We came in approximately \$6,000 short. This has forced the PTA board to take a look at our upcoming activities, programs and support to FES families to determine where and what we can cut at this time. It was not an easy thing to do. We are hopeful that a Spring Fundraiser will make up the difference, put us back in the black, and allow us to reinstate the activities, etc. that were temporarily cut.

Speculation abounds when it comes to budgets, raising money, spending money and what could have been done differently. Our fundraising committee worked hard to find and facilitate an effective fundraiser for FES PTA. We appreciate all the effort they put in and know that they worked hard to make it successful.

Families and staff spent what they could in these difficult economic times. Everyone is feeling the pinch and financial uncertainty is frightening for all – families, school administration, and the PTA.

We need now, more than ever, to come together and work as a team if we want to be successful. It sounds cliché and some may think there is nothing they can do to help remedy the situation. Not so! Whether or not you are a member of the PTA, the most important and helpful thing all FES families can do is stay positive. With good vibes going around, we will weather this and, dare say, come out stronger. If you have any ideas or ways to help, contact the four Executive Committee officers and let them know your ideas.

In this season of peace and love, let us all keep in mind that there are those among us who are struggling on a daily basis for basic needs. When we take a moment to put our budget shortfall in perspective, we can see that it really isn't unmanageable and in many ways we are still fortunate.

Stay healthy, warm and happy this holiday season.

~ Your Freedom PTA

## Teacher Luncheon During Conferences

### The PTA treated the teachers to a well-deserved lunch

November 23<sup>rd</sup> was the day of the parent-teacher conferences. To accommodate the working parents, teachers were available throughout the day until late in the evening. To make their day a little bit easier the PTA and all our wonderful volunteer chefs treated the staff to a lunch at noontime. Parent chefs provided an

abundance of food ranging from quiches and casseroles over salad to fancy desserts.

Teachers, we hope you enjoyed the food and didn't gain too much weight.

Thank you very much to everyone who contributed, who helped with the set-up and take-down, and especially to Stacey Baker who organized the lunch.

# Fundraising Committee Update

## Freedom Elementary PTA

5626 Sykesville Road  
Sykesville, MD 21784  
Phone: 410-751-3525

### Upcoming PTA Events

**Next PTA Meeting**  
**January 6, 2010**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**School reopens**  
**January 4, 2010**

*Freedom PTA  
wishes all FES  
families and staff a  
relaxing and safe  
holiday break*

We're on the Web!  
See us at:  
[www.freedompta.org](http://www.freedompta.org)

The Freedom PTA Fall Fundraiser resulted in \$17,541.50 in total sales and \$915.00 donations. After subtracting the costs and MD sales tax the PTA netted \$8,480.25. Roughly half of the student body participated in the sale with an average profit of \$30/student.

The top-selling class proved to be Mr. O'Neal's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class. The students received a pizza party hosted by the Joe Corbi's Fundraising salesperson Cynthia Sambuco.

Three students tied for the title of the top-selling student. Timmy Cortese (Mrs. Fey's class), William Whatley (Mrs. Cuff's class) and Quinn McLaughlin (Mrs. Roberts' class) sold 40 items each and received a \$35 gift certificate to *A Likely Story Book Store* on Main Street, Sykesville and a book donated by that store to go with it.

### **Accelerated Reader Store Update**

During the month of November, 132 students spent 669.5 points - that is an increase of more than 50 students and 400 points from last month - Good Job Freedom!! Keep reading!

### ***PTA Objectives***

- ~To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community, and place of worship,
- ~To raise the standards of home life,
- ~To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth,
- ~To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teacher may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth,
- ~To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and spiritual education.

Five more students won the lottery to accompany the top-selling boys on a limo-ride for an out-of-school lunch experience at Pizza Hut. The students are Madison Haggerty (Mrs. Hildenbrand's class), Austin Hensen (Mrs. Cuff's class), Grace Kulp (Mrs. Goldberg's class), Lauren Turner and Christian Hedrich (both Mr. O'Neal's class). The students took their fun ride on December 1<sup>st</sup> and were all very excited about it. Look out for some fun pictures of them at the PTA board across from the school office soon.

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to everybody who contributed. We promise to spend the money with care and with the best interest of all Freedom children in mind.

Thank you very much!

### ***Instructional Leadership Team***

It is the mission of FES to provide an environment where all students become lifelong learners and productive citizens. We believe we must all share in the responsibility for students learning and behavior.

Your Parent Representatives are:

Luann Reichenbaugh  
lreichenbaugh@comcast.net  
Sue Hall  
susanannhall@yahoo.com

### ***PTA Mission***

The mission of the PTA is threefold:

1. To support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community, and before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children;
2. To assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children;
3. To encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of this nation.

PTA Executive Committee Officers:

Ray Creighton, President; Jen Jahraus, Vice President; Natalie Shaddock, Treasurer; Kelley Shannon, Secretary

Find email on the FES PTA website ~ [www.freedompta.org](http://www.freedompta.org)