



SEPTEMBER 2009
ISSUE 1: 2008-2009

What can you do to help at Little Elementary?

Sept 23 Cookie Delivery – We are excited to announce that our cookie dough supplier for our big fall fundraiser is Butter Braids, a product that ALMOST sells itself. Cookie and bread delivery is on Wednesday, 9/23. We need people to help us unload, sort and hand out the orders from 1:30 to 5:00. If you are able to help us for even an hour, please contact Kim Judson-kimjudson@msn.com or Susan Sterns-sallymcnally4@hotmail.com

Pre - September 12 Arvada Harvest Parade

Does anyone have a flatbed trailer that you could lend the PTSA for the Arvada Harvest Parade? We would like to decorate it and let our littlest Littles ride when they are tired of walking. We promise to return it clean and undamaged. Contact us at littleptsa@comcast.net

We also need bags of candy that could be thrown to the crowd at the parade. Everyone loves a candy thrower! Could you spare a bag of candy? Send in your candy to the office and we will be most grateful!

Ongoing - Crossing Guards

Do you have 15 minutes in the morning or in the afternoon to ensure that the Little students stay safe? Have you always wanted to wear an orange vest or hold a stop sign? Well, does the school have a job for you! Seriously though, Little is in desperate need of help right in this area. Please call the school office and say you can help.



Mission Possible!

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! It's hard to believe that we are already starting the 2009-2010 school year. I hope you all had a playful and invigorating summer break. I am so excited for the upcoming year, and I look forward to working with each and every family as we continue to create an exemplary learning environment for our students.

Our role as educators in the 21st century is highly complex and demanding. We have high stakes testing and accountability like never before. The diversity and at-risk factors in our students are evolving faster than at any other time in educational history. At times our mission may seem impossible. Our mission to provide a quality education that prepares all children for a successful future cannot be accomplished alone. The theme for our work this year is **MISSION POSSIBLE**. As special agents facing many struggles and challenges we need to work as a team to accomplish our MISSION. **Our MISSION is POSSIBLE!**

Our teachers officially started back to work on August 13th, however, our entire staff has been working throughout the summer preparing classrooms, and continuing their professional learning to provide our students with the very best instruction. I want to publicly acknowledge our teachers for going above and beyond putting in extra time and work to ensure a smooth start for our students. This speaks to the continuous renewal and innovation of our profession as educators and specifically as proud Jefferson County teachers at Little Elementary.

I want to invite you to be an active member in your child's education. Together, supportive parents, hard-working students and high quality teachers can accomplish many great things. Our **MISSION is POSSIBLE!**

Sincerely,

Esther G. Valdez
Principal

Letter from the PTSA President

Hello friends of Little:

We hope that you had a great summer full of family fun. This will be a great year for both you and your children at Little Elementary!

PTSA is really a fun filled, rewarding organization. Come to a meeting! The meetings are the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30. Childcare is always provided and laughter is always available. Honestly, I have really learned a lot about how the school, the classrooms and the teachers work. There is so much that goes on at Little that I would never have known about without being a member of the PTSA.

Parent information night precedes the PTSA meeting at 5:30. Last year, each of the grades put on a demonstration about their curriculum. We had discussions with the 6th graders about their outdoor lab experiences, reading demonstrations with the 1st graders and even art displays with some art students. It was truly amazing and heartwarming to see the pride in the presenter's faces. We also had CSAP explanations and discussions on how the state tracks our children's progress and visits from the Moore Middle School principal.

Every year the Little PTSA sets a few goals. One, of course, is trying to make enough money to cover the Little programs that we sponsor and supply the teachers with their technology, classroom and library necessities. The second is usually a loftier goal. Last year our goal was to improve communication between the PTSA and the parents and improve communication for the school as a whole. Our first step in achieving that goal was in developing a school website (www.LittlePTSA.com) that made sense and that parents and teachers would use. It was a learning process, but it was a great first step and we will improve even more this year. The second steps were to provide better Friday folder communications and streamlining our newsletter.

Thank you everyone. I think we all did a great job in achieving both goals! In a tough economy, you all came through with the fundraising and we were able to provide the school with the support it needed. Also, thank you to all of the PTSA members who worked around their already busy schedules to achieve all of the other school and PTSA goals.

This year our lofty goal choice is creating a stronger community feeling in our school. We want parents and families to feel confident that every time they enter Little that they will see the face of a friend and will feel heard and supported. We have decided to go "full throttle" this year in providing families an opportunity to come to the school for a fun filled event that makes them feel a part of the school and the Little family. Check out a partial list of upcoming events later in this newsletter.

We could even do more, if you were involved! Is there something you are passionate about? Is it music, art, theater, books, or math? Do you love photography? Maybe you would love to help the student council or yearbook club. Maybe the science fair is more your style? If you are someone who loves Halloween, check out the Trunk-or-Treat affair. It will be a Boo-tiful event. Our kids would love to have your involvement and experience and we would love to have you as a part of PTSA. Come join us and have a great time!

Cyndy McKee
Co-President, Little PTSA



COLLECT BOX TOPS

Two great ways to make \$money\$ for your school...THAT DON'T COST YOU A DIME! Clip the "Box Tops for Education" from participating General Mills products, put them in a baggy, with the name of your child's teacher, and return them to the school. General Mills will donate .10 for each current box top. You can also log onto www.boxtopsforeducation.com and select "Bonus Offers" for more chances to earn money for Little



We also participate in Campbell's Labels for Education. Go to <http://www.labelsforeducation.com> to view the program. Your child will soon bring home details and fun formats to help collect the UPC symbols that will help Little earn extra money for our children.

The class that has the most Box Tops and Campbell's Labels will receive an ice cream party! Please return the Box Tops and Labels by FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16TH, 2009



Save These Dates!

The Little PTSA is planning many events for the first few months of the school year. Here are some of the ones we have planned. Save the dates!

Thursday, September 3rd – Classroom Information Night. - See later in this newsletter for details.

Saturday, September 12th – Arvada Harvest Parade. Little will be participating in the Harvest parade this year. The theme is “The Music Man.” See details later in this newsletter.

Wednesday, September 16th –First Parent Information Night (5:30) and first PTSA meeting (6:30). Come meet some other parents, laugh and hear what’s going on. Located in the Little library.

Thursday, September 24th – Little Eats Out Night (first of many). This will be a monthly event. Local restaurants will host a Little night and a percentage of the proceeds will go to our school from the meals purchased. September’s event will be sponsored by **Unos**. The food is fantastic! Try the appetizers or the ice cream desserts – very yummy! A coupon will arrive home in the next Friday folder for this event.

October 14th (Wednesday) and October 15th (Thursday) – Teacher conferences. Mark these dates on your calendars so that you can make sure you can visit with your child’s teachers. The Little PTSA will host the dinners for our teachers so that they can stay late and meet with all of their children’s’ parents. If you are well known for your excellent brownies or cheese queso and would like to help, please email us at littleptsa@comcast.net.

Friday, October 30 – Trunk or Treat! This is our first annual community Halloween event. Do you absolutely love Halloween? Do you love spooky decorating? Come join us! We will have the parking lot full of cars and trucks that have their trunks and flatbeds decorated for the Halloween season. Kids will be able to Trick-or-Treat from car to car in a safe environment with their Little friends. This event is a local favorite at other elementary schools and it has grown and grown each year for them. We hope that Trunk-or-Treat becomes a favorite for us too! The sign up for trunk participation will go home in early October.

Last week of October or Early November – Optional Flu Shot Clinic. Check your Friday folder for more detailed information. As more information is known, additional flyers will be sent home. The regular flu vaccination will be offered for \$25 per vaccine. The H1N1 vaccine is scheduled to be released the 3rd week of October with elementary school children listed as a priority for receipt of the vaccine.

Friday, November 6th – Pre-Holiday Celebration/Silent Auction. We are very excited about this event and you will definitely want to place this on your calendar! You can start out the evening with a delicious spaghetti dinner. After that, famous photographer John DiTirro will be taking professional family Holiday pictures which you can purchase on a disk for \$5, just in time for those Holiday cards and family newsletters! Then the fun will begin....the start of our silent auction! Donations are already pouring in for this event. During conferences, check out the glass cabinet in the lobby for a sample of some the great things being auctioned. We already have a “Twilight” basket, a few great pet themed baskets, a beautiful bird house and a massage package. There will be some great local business deals as well! Each of the classrooms will be creating their own baskets to auction off and they are starting to come up with the themes for their baskets right now. We will keep you posted about what will be offered. Pull out that bright blue vase from aunt Bea that clashed with your décor or find those gorgeous earrings your grandmother gave you that just aren’t your style and donate them to the cause! This is a great time to do some early Holiday shopping and buy for those hard to please family members!

Wednesday, November 11th - Science Fair. Details to be sent home soon!



Community Outreach to Support Kids Back to School

A very special thank you of appreciation goes out to Christ the King Episcopal Church in Arvada for a generous donation to help support the students at Little Elementary and the back-to-school-supply needs. In these times of economic struggle it's great to see a community come together to do Whatever It Takes for our kids. Thank you Sue Paugh, Educational Assistant, for nominating Little for this donation.

Note: The September Menu was unavailable before newsletter press time. The September Menu will be sent home next week.



Electronic Newsletters

Thank you to all to chose to receive the newsletters electronically. We are working on uploading your information and will be sending out a test email next week to make sure our information is accurate. To those who chose this option, all future newsletters will be received by email. Newsletters (past and current) can be viewed at www.LittlePTSA.com.



Classroom Information Night Thursday, September 3rd

Please join us for this important event. Your child's teacher will be presenting **essential** information for a successful school year. Details about homework, classroom expectations, daily schedules, parent/teacher conferences and discipline will be shared.

Pizza Dinner provided by PTSA to parents attending their child's classroom:
5:15 pm
Introductions and General Session in Gym for ALL: 6:00 pm
Classroom Session: 6:15 – 7:00
6th Grade Outdoor Lab Parent Mtg: 7:00-8:00

Supervised daycare will NOT be provided. All of our teachers will be participating in Parent Information.

THE ANNUAL ARVADA HARVEST PARADE IS ALMOST HERE, AND LITTLE WILL BE THERE!



Little will be marching alongside the other Arvada elementary schools this year! Come one, come all and show your school pride! Because the theme this year is "The Music Man", we will be marching as a kazoo band (kazoos will be provided upon arrival at the parade.) The sign up for the parade will come home soon as soon as we know our line up number.)

- When:** Saturday, September 12th. Parade line up starts at 8:30 a.m.,
Parade starts at 9:00 a.m.
- Who:** All Little students and family!
- What:** A great time showing off your school pride!
- Details:** Parents (or responsible adult) needs to attend with the marcher and stay for the entire parade.
Wear the school colors of black and red. Wear your pride celebration tee shirt if you have one or other school tee shirt.
Wear sunscreen and good walking shoes!
Be prepared to have lots of FUN!



Little Elementary September 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Official first day of Butter Braid Fundraiser	3 Classroom /Outdoor Lab Information Night 5:15-8:00	4	5
6	7 Labor day – No School	8	9	10	11	12 Harvest Festival Parade
13	14	15	16 Order Forms Due Back to School First PIN (5:30) and PTA (6:30) Meeting	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Cookies/Butter Braid Pickup 3:00pm to 5:00pm	24 Little Eats Out at UNOs	25 Pride Celebration K-3 8:45am 4-6 2:00pm Kindergarten Field Trip	26
27	28	29	30			