

Wallace Elementary

PTO Newsletter

Parents and Teachers working together to create Opportunities for our students

2014-15 School Year

September Edition

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 22 – 26
Homecoming Week

October 2
Wallace PTO Work Night
Library Media Center
6-8:30 (any amount of time you
can give is appreciated!)
Please bring scissors and a
stapler!

October 6
Friends of ELP Presents:
Differentiation in the K-12
Classroom and the Teacher
Leadership Grant with Dr.
Bruce Amendt and Mr. Matt
Robie, M.S., President of the Iowa
Talented and Gifted Association
7-8:30
JMS Library

October 13
5th Grade Band Concert
6:30

October 14
PTO Meeting
6:45
Library Media Center

October 23
3 hour Early Dismissal

October 24
No School

A Letter from the President

By Jackie Johnson, Wallace 2014-15 PTO President

Welcome to Wallace! Whether your family is returning after summer break, starting with a brand new kindergarten student this year, or was affected by the boundary revisions and transitioned this year, we would like to sincerely welcome you into the Wallace family. We hope that your school year is off to a great start so far!

The **P**arent **T**eacher **O**rganization is focused on working hard to see that all Wallace kiddos have a fun, memorable, education-focused year of discovering new things. The programs that are sponsored by Wallace PTO are centered around helping us achieve that goal. If you aren't able to make a big commitment – don't worry; there are volunteer opportunities for every schedule. Please consider getting involved this year; we rely entirely on volunteers and we need you. Each family at Wallace has something to offer and we would love to help you find your niche! Maybe making a one-time volunteer commitment at Field Day fits your schedule... or maybe you're a party planner at heart and would love to help organize the 5th Grade Celebration! Any amount of time you are able to commit is invaluable to our kids!

To our regular volunteers: THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! Wallace PTO is able to operate all of our fantastic programs because of our dedicated volunteers.

The PTO meets the second Tuesday of every month at 6:45pm in the LMC (library media center). Please join us at an upcoming meeting! You don't have to be an active member to attend meetings; you also don't have to commit to attending every month. We would love to see you when it works for you!

You can also find Wallace PTO on Facebook – www.facebook.com/wallacepto. We try to keep the FB page updated regularly with happenings at school and upcoming volunteer opportunities.

If you would like to be added to the PTO distribution list please email us at: wallaceptopres@yahoo.com. This list is used only to send out information related to PTO and will not be given out for any other purpose.

September Meeting Highlights

Professional Learning Conversations

Melissa Johnson talked to meeting attendees about the three-year Professional Learning Conversations (PLC) grant we received and what it means to our school, our teachers, and our kids.

As the school's instructional coach, Melissa observes classrooms and helps teachers determine what works and what needs improvement in their classrooms. Any teacher can use Melissa as a resource, but she often will work with teachers who are new to the profession or new to the Johnston school district. She also spends time looking at the Iowa Common Core with teachers.

In addition to the instructional coach, we also have three lead teachers and five model teacher classrooms. These teachers applied for these positions and interviewed with a group of their peers.

Lead teachers spend 75% of their time teaching in their classrooms and 25% working with other teachers and their students. In order for these three teachers to dedicate 25% of their time to other classrooms, Wallace has a $\frac{3}{4}$ -time math teacher who teaches math in their classrooms. Lead teachers receive five extra days a year for personal development.

Model teachers teach in their classrooms 100% of the time and are used as a resource for other teachers who would like to sit in on their lessons and observe. Model teachers receive five extra days a year for personal development.

Committee Reports

- Entertainment Books have raised \$9,000+ funds this fall.
- The next PTO work night will be October 2 from 6:30-8 in the library.
- Homeroom parent coordinators met on September 9.
- The Hospitality Committee has asked for volunteers to bring tailgate snacks for teachers during Homecoming.
- Theme Day shirts have been ordered and the committee may need help sorting them and delivering them.
- The group heard ideas for Wallace Wear, including shorts, fleece jackets, hats, and t-shirts. The committee is looking into Wallace-specific items and Johnston Dragons items.

Spotlight on Theme Day

This month we are highlighting the Theme Day committee. This committee is responsible for working with the staff at Wallace to coordinate the school's theme day program. The themes rotate yearly with this being the year for a science day! The committee organizes volunteers and presenters for the day.

The date for Theme Day is not set for this year. The committee will work with Mrs. Pearson to find a date that works for Wallace.



Help Wanted!

We need a few good men and women to help fill vacant roles on PTO Committees!

There is an opening for a Vice President this year that would transition into the role of President next year.

We have openings on these committees for chairs and members: Book Fair, 5th Grade Celebration and Memory Books, Theme Day, Friends of Wallace, Field Day, Original Works, and Purple Party.

If you have an interest in getting involved or would like further information about any of these committees please contact Jackie Johnson at jackiejohnson81@aol.com or (515) 710-3239.