

Monmouth Regional HS



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MRHS PTSA

November 2016 Newsletter

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Letter from the President

Hi folks, and thanks for even opening up this newsletter, let alone reading it. We're all busy, so I'll try to keep each item in this newsletter brief, except perhaps, for this slightly wordy letter up front ☺

I had absolutely no intention of creating a newsletter. What I really want is to send smaller and much more frequent updates about what we're doing. But time got away from me, and next thing I knew, it's been a couple of months since my last update, and now I've got a whole newsletter worth of stuff to tell you about, so here we go:

General state of the PTSA

I am super excited about the PTSA this year. We're off to a very strong start with a great executive board and group of tremendous leaders and volunteers. Attendance at meetings is up, and our early fund raisers have gone very well. The rest of the info in this newsletter details the results of the hard work and dedication of our wonderful PTSA volunteers. None of this would happen without their time, effort and talent.

If you are not already a member of the PTSA, we hope you'll consider joining. Joining the PTSA is inexpensive and comes with no commitment at all, other than to perhaps get emails. A membership form can be downloaded from our new web site at <http://www.mrhsptsa.org>. Go to the INFO tab and click on the Membership Form.

Thanks to all of you for your support

Sincerely,

Mitch Kulberg

2016/2017 MRHS PTSA President

Membership

As of this newsletter, November 28, 2016, we have about:

- 133 Parents
- 53 Students
- 29 Faculty

Overall membership is lower than I had expected for both parents and faculty, but we're not done recruiting. If you have not already done so, **please consider joining the PTSA** and helping us make MRHS an even better place for our kids.

Web Site, Social Media, Bulletin Board

New Internet domain name – [mrhsptsa.org](http://www.mrhsptsa.org)

We wanted to make finding us easy, so we got our own Internet domain with the easy to remember name, [mrhsptsa.org](http://www.mrhsptsa.org), where we now host our new web site and email accounts.

New web site with all the information – <http://www.mrhsptsa.org>

With our new domain name comes a brand new web site which is being kept up to date all of the latest PTSA information, including our calendar, all forms, all active fund raising, contact information, and just

about anything else PTSA related. If you go looking for something on this web site and cannot find it, please let me know and I'll get that information posted.

PTSA is now on Social Media

We're very lucky this year to have PTSA member and social media specialist Joanna Huisman on our team. She has given us a presence on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and has been posting PTSA related information throughout the year. Please make sure you follow us on these services.

Facebook: MRHSPTSA1 <https://www.facebook.com/MRHSPTSA1/>

Twitter: @MrhsPtsa <https://twitter.com/MrhsPtsa>

Instagram: @mrhsptsa <https://www.instagram.com/mrhsptsa/>

PTSA Bulletin Board

The new PTSA Bulletin Board is now up in the alcove of the new school entrance. This is another place you can go to get information about the PTSA. We're working on getting some slots installed so people can pick up forms for the various events. Special thanks to Shereise Brinson for putting the board together and the beautiful fall decorations.

Project Graduation

For those who don't know, Project Graduation is just about as big as everything else we do combined. It includes not just the Project Graduation event itself, but several of the key fund raisers that fund it. This includes the Annual Bingo night and Gift Auction, as well as the raffle that gets sent home to all the students. It operates as a sort of "wholly owned subsidiary" of the PTSA, and had its own meetings.

Eldra Radzik is our Project Graduation coordinator and has been doing a great job of forming a team and getting all the pieces in motion. We're always looking more people to help out with the various events. If you want to help, send email to eradzik@verizon.net.

Project Graduation Needs Your Help to Get Donations

We definitely need people to seek out donations from merchants (local or otherwise) as well as individuals. We've got a list of places who have contributed in the past, or you can ask literally anyone you want. Wendy Abrams was kind enough to coordinate the donations effort, so please contact her (wabrams2@yahoo.com) if you want to help or if you get any donations. See the PTSA web site for more information and the donation request form.

Fund Raising

Active and Future Fund Raisers

Modell's Coupon

We've got a new and easy fund raiser going on right now for the holidays! The PTSA is distributing Modell's coupons that give people 15% off all of their purchases between now and Dec 24, and then Modell's donates 5% of that purchase to the PTSA. It's easy, and it's FREE! You don't have to buy the coupon. Go to our web site to print one and give them out to everyone you know. There is no limit to the amount of these we can use. Thanks to Sheila Duane for coming up with this great idea.

Clothing Bins

Our clothing bins are at the school year round and generate income for the PTSA as well as providing needed clothes for local people. See the web site for complete details.

Other Ideas

If any of you have great ideas about how to raise money for our various programs, feel free to send them in.

Recap of completed fund raisers

We've had several fund raising activities already this year. Here are the results of those:

PTSA On-Line School Spirit Wear Store

This has been, and continues to be a tremendous success this year. Christine Manos put together a great selection of Monmouth clothing, and the response has been really impressive. In our first sale, the PTSA made \$782.00, and we just completed our second sale. We'll publish those numbers when we have them.

Coupon Book Fund Raiser

This is the second year we sold coupon books like this. It has the potential to be a good fund raiser, but we just don't seem to be able to sell too many of these. This year we sold 41 books and made a total of \$512.50. That's not terrible, but it remains to be seen if it was worth it. Special thanks to Barbara Suess for leading this effort and handling all of the logistics.

Boscov Coupon Fund Raiser

This is also the second year we sold coupons for the Boscov's Friends helping Friends sale. It's a really nice thing that Boscov's does here, but this year, we just couldn't move the coupons. We sold only 14 coupons for a total of \$70.00 raised. I doubt we'll be doing this one next year. Thanks to our volunteers Christine Clemetson and Cindy DiBella for trying their best to make this happen without a lot of prep time.

Dine Out Events

We just completed two dine out events. One at the Pour House on Shrewsbury Ave, and the other at Chipotle in the Monmouth Mall. Both of these businesses have been tremendous supporters of the PTSA in the past and we hope you'll remember that throughout the year. We don't have the numbers from those yet, but they will be posted when they come in.

PTSA Funded Grants

Every year, the PTSA makes money available to teachers and clubs to help fund any special activities that they would not normally be able to do or would have to charge students for. These grants are offered three times each year, and we just completed the first round. Several teachers approached us with ideas, but no clubs applied for fund this time around. We'll try to make this option better known to them in the future.

Here is a summary of the first round of grants. Special thanks to Kim Soder for managing the entire grant request and approval process.

Cathy Famelios' Anatomy Class - \$210.00 awarded for transportation to travel to Liberty Science Center to attend Bodies Exhibit.

Wendy Wolvertons' AP Biology Class - \$210.00 awarded for transportation to travel to Liberty Science Center to attend the Bodies Exhibit.

Christina Nappis' Mindfulness in the 21st Century Class- \$500.00 awarded to pay for yoga equipment, guest speakers, and bus fees for three class trips which includes one to Epiphany House for a service project.

Other PTSA Contributions

Our group is made up of lots of wonderful folks that are just looking for ways to contribute to the school and their community. Recently, the MRHS Board of Ed Honor Roll Dinner committee needed people to staff the sign in desk for the annual dinner. They asked the PTSA and in no time at all, we had people offering to help. Thanks to Tara DeSantis, Danielle Gallop, Melissa Hicks, and Kathy Holobowski for stepping up. The PTSA also provided the dessert and some gift cards for dinner. Thanks to Mary Beth Riordan for getting those desserts and an anonymous donor for the gift cards.