



# Owego Elementary School PTO



# October News



Three years ago at a faculty meeting, I told teachers that I expected we would see the most change in education that many of us have seen in the last twenty or thirty years. This was based on all of the talk at the state and federal level calling for educational reform. Well, three years later, we have definitely seen a great deal of change. Much of the change has occurred so rapidly this past year that educators as well as the State Education Department, who initiated much of the change, can hardly keep up. As educators, we are trying to meet all of the mandates, mostly unfunded, that are coming at us while trying to keep in mind that we always do what is best for children.

Never before have we been expected to help students achieve academic levels that are so high. Parents are finding it more necessary than ever to help their children with their learning at home. Teachers are working harder and more collaboratively than ever to be sure that our students achieve success at increasingly high levels while still maintaining the notion that children need to and deserve to enjoy school. An important collaboration effort exists between our teachers and our PTO. Many of the things that help to make school special for children, are things that we could not afford without the efforts of our PTO. From sponsoring the book fair, organizing school pictures, promoting special events for kids and parents, to funding special activities for classrooms, our PTO is there to help make sure that special things are happening all the time at OES.

This year I was so excited to see many new parent members participating in PTO meetings. Thank you to everyone who has been able to attend and to those of you who have taken it upon yourselves to help out with a variety of activities already. There are so many ways parents can help - from very small things like cutting out boxtops to larger things like organizing a winter dance. Parents can also support the fundraising efforts of our PTO. Two big fundraisers this year will be the selling of our commemorative wooden OES school mementos as well as a Gertrude Hawk fundraiser. You can support PTO by making purchases yourself, and by selling these items to others. Since we do not want our children out selling things, you can help by taking orders where you work or live. If everyone helps just a little bit, PTO can keep making a big difference for our students. After all, it's not the tests and accountability that our kids will remember when they leave our school, it's all the things that made our school so special.

Laurie McKeveny

PTO Officer Contacts:			
Co-President:	Chris Baumbach	687-3848	Chris@oespto.org
Co-President:	Tami Steele	687-3998	Tami@oespto.org
Treasurer:	Sharon McFarland	765-4700	Sharon@oespto.org
Secretary:	Danita Brooks	223-4296	Danita@oespto.org

## PTO Meeting Schedule

In order to keep meetings short, planning of events and lengthy discussions will be saved for committees. OES PTO welcomes new ideas - email ideas to any board member or put in the PTO mailbox. Contact either Chris or Tami to be added to a meeting agenda. Meeting minutes will be posted on the website and emailed to the distribution list. Children are welcome to attend.

### 2012-2013 Meeting Dates

November 6	7:00pm
December 4	7:00pm
January 8	7:00pm
February 5	7:00pm
March 5	7:00pm
April 9	7:00pm
May 7	7:00pm
June 4	7:00pm

Visit our website for upcoming events, news, fundraising information, meeting minutes and more at [oespto.org](http://oespto.org)



OES PTO is now on Facebook!

[facebook.com/OwegoElemPTO](https://facebook.com/OwegoElemPTO)





OES PTO is selling replicas of the Owego Elementary School building that was lost in the flood of 2011. Created by The Cat's Meow, the front features a detailed drawing of the building, while the back provides a short history of the school. We are selling them for \$20 each, and they will be available at various locations around Owego and at school functions. Contact Tami or Danita for more information.



### Gertrude Hawk

Our Gertrude Hawk fundraiser will start on October 15th. Contact Lisa (Lisa@oespto.org) with any questions.

A special thank you to Laura in Sales from Owego Treadway Inn, as they have generously donated space for our Gertrude Hawk final pick up. We are very grateful!!



Thank you to teachers for bringing students to the book fair and all the parents who helped, especially our gym teachers Mr. Woolever and Ms. Billard for allowing us to use the gym. Also, a special thank you to Tracy Brown for chairing the event.



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Register your Price Chopper AdvantEdge Card and Tops BonusCard for Owego Elementary School at [www.elabelsforeducation.com](http://www.elabelsforeducation.com). When you purchase eligible Labels for Education brands products at Price Chopper or Tops, our school can earn FREE educational merchandise.

### Box Tops

The Box Tops fall submission date will be **Wednesday, October 17th.**

Please deposit your Box Tops in the treasure chest in the school lobby or send them in with your child by that date. Each Box Top we collect earns 10¢ that will be used to help the school.



### Price Chopper Tools for Schools



Sign up your AdvantEdge card to Owego Elementary School (#39399). OES will automatically earn tools for the school every time you shop. Sign up at [www.pricechopper.com](http://www.pricechopper.com) or in the store.

## Community Events

-  **Trunks for Treats is returning to Owego!** Join in the fun on Halloween night from 6:00-8:00pm. Contact Chris Bangel ([bangelc@oacsd.org](mailto:bangelc@oacsd.org)) for details.
-  The Canadian Pacific Holiday Train will be in Binghamton on Wednesday, November 28 at 8:30pm. The train offers music and lights while collecting food and funds to help the local community.

## OES PTO Membership - All Are Welcome !!

Please Fill out if you are joining us for the first time, or have new contact information. Memberships are carried over from last year. **Return to PTO Mailbox at OES or email [danita@oespto.org](mailto:danita@oespto.org)**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ ( )parent ( )grandparent ( )other

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

I am available to help: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_ Donate Items \_\_\_\_\_