



Oak Street School PTO

Parent Teacher Organization
70 West Oak Street
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

August 10, 2010

Dear Oak Street School Families,

On behalf of the PTO Board, we hope you are enjoying your summer and are excited about returning to school! Last year, many parents asked the PTO Board whether they could “just write a check” rather than participate in multiple fundraisers. Schools in our district and neighboring communities have utilized this approach with success. After careful consideration of this idea, we have decided to institute a PTO membership and pledge drive to raise at least \$25,000 to support the PTO’s operating budget and the following programs:

- Cultural Arts Assemblies (5)
- Curriculum Enhancement Programs (12)
- 501c registration and operating expenses
- Mini-Grants
- Roald Dahl, Colonial, and Immigration Days
- Science and Art Expo
- Staff Appreciation Luncheon
- Student Care Fund
- Student Directory and PTO Calendar
- Teacher Conference Lunches
- Wizards of Words.

Accordingly, we are asking our OSS families to consider making a tax-deductible donation to the PTO to support the programs listed above. While any amount is appreciated, we are requesting \$50 minimum per student. Please note that \$20 of each family’s total pledge includes PTO membership dues, 1 student directory, and 1 PTO calendar and \$10 of that amount is tax deductible. The primary advantages of the pledges are:

1. 100% of your donation goes to the PTO rather than sharing a percentage of the profits with a fundraising company.
2. Many parent volunteer hours will be saved as the gift wrap and KidStuff book fundraisers will be eliminated.

There is still the option to pay the \$20 annual PTO membership but without the pledges we will not be able to meet our goal. If less than \$25,000 is collected, additional fundraisers will be needed in order to pay for the listed programs. Because of the overwhelmingly positive feedback received, we will retain the Fall and Spring Book Fairs and Comedy Night, which will help fund expenses for other PTO-sponsored programs not previously listed.

Please complete and return the attached Membership and Pledge form *no later than Friday, September 17, 2010*. Please make all checks payable to Oak Street School PTO and mail to our PTO Membership Coordinator, Kathy Mastriano (233 Madisonville Road, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920). Once school begins, you may “backpack” or send the aforementioned in to school with your child in an envelope addressed to the PTO Membership Coordinator.

Thank you for your support of the OSS PTO. Please don’t hesitate to contact us or any other PTO Board member with any questions about this drive or for descriptions of the programs listed above. We look forward to a year with fabulous programs for our children.

Sincerely,

Christine Ziegler, President (cugz@optonline.net)

Heather Lusardi, Vice President – Fundraising (heatherL1@optonline.net)

Kathy Krell, Treasurer (kkrell@mindspring.com)