



Maurice Hawk Elementary School PTA Welcome Packet

The PTA mission is “to make every child’s potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.”

Welcome, parents, to the 2018/2019 school year!

The Maurice Hawk Parent Teacher Association (PTA) strives to fulfill our mission with programs and initiatives that enrich your child’s educational experience, promote a warm and welcoming social environment and provide opportunities for civic and emotional development. Annually, our PTA is 500 members-strong and enjoys the full participation and support of all Maurice Hawk teachers and administrators. Together, as parents, as teachers and as members of the West Windsor-Plainsboro community, we work together to foster and encourage an inclusive educational environment that supports all our children.

The programming organized and funded by the **Maurice Hawk PTA** each year includes but not limited to:

Enrichment Programs	Social Events	Community Service
Student Assemblies	Movie Night and Bingo Night	Blanket the World
Science Fair	International Fair	Plainsboro Food Pantry drive
Teacher Mini-grants	Dad’s coffee	Campfire Safe and Sure Program
Scholastic Book Fair	End of year Family Carnival	Children’s Garden

Your financial support to our general fund enables us to provide engaging and informative assemblies that tie into the school year’s curriculum. Last year, the PTA sponsored a number of assemblies that supported the educational goals outlined by the Maurice Hawk teachers and administrators. This included assemblies that encouraged curiosity and discovery through science (Science Circus by Liberty Science Center), importance of the arts and creativity in education (Musical Drama by Dennis Korby – Story of Beethoven) and underscored the importance of Physical Education (Hip Hop Fundamentals). Fundraising efforts throughout the year also include our participation in Amazon Smile program, Box Top for Education, McCaffery’s receipt rebate program and Maurice Hawk Name bubbles.

The PTA’s general fund also supports a robust mini-grant program that the PTA is proud to make available to all teachers at Maurice Hawk. This program encourages teachers to submit proposals for the funding of educationally creative projects and programs that will enhance the existing classroom curriculum. The PTA’s ability to award as many grants as possible is solely dependent on fundraising activities and financial contributions from the Maurice Hawk parent community.

Teacher-submitted proposals that have received grant support have done some amazing things for our kids. To mention a few, they have helped fund additional drum sets, manipulatives for math for our 1st graders, non-fiction books for our 2nd graders book clubs, non-fiction library for reading recovery program, Bee-bots for Media Center, STEM strategy games and materials for our Kindergartners, Materials for Math workshop, OSMO and more. We are very fortunate that your support of the PTA and its activities allows us to be an added resource for our teachers and further enrich the educational experiences of our children.

The PTA's ability to support our teachers and children depends not only on financial contributions but also on the willingness of parents to get involved in the many activities we conduct throughout the year. There are a number of volunteer opportunities available that allow both working and stay-at-home parents to actively engage with their child's educational experience at Maurice Hawk. From events such as field day, staff appreciation celebrations, book fair, international fair, science fair and end of the year Carnival committees, or helping to run one of our many social events, **there is no contribution of time that is too small**. Please look for *Signup Genius* announcements throughout the year for a chance to get involved!

Please consider joining the Maurice Hawk PTA and supporting the work we do for our teachers, our children and the parent community. We encourage all parents to attend PTA meetings throughout the year where we receive regular updates from our principal that help keep us all connected to our administration and the school district. We also invite guest speakers to join our meetings and address topics of particular interest or concern as they surface within our school and community.

Come join us at our first general meeting on **October 25th at 7:30 p.m. in the Maurice Hawk cafeteria** to learn more. We will present the 2018/2019 budget for a vote, and hear from our District Manager of Food Services, to learn about our lunch program and school nutrition.

We hope to see you soon at an upcoming PTA event! For additional information on the **Maurice Hawk PTA's** event calendar, fundraising initiatives, and opportunities to get involved, visit www.hawkpta.org. Join our Facebook Page @mhawkpta to check out all the fun and memorable moments.

Sincerely,

Your PTA Executive Committee

Sonia Gawas, President
Sejal Pandya, Vice President
Padma Katapalli, Secretary
Minhwa Cho, Treasurer

Vasanti Anand, VP Communications
Graelynn McKeown, VP Events
Neelam Kapoor Khanna, Membership
Stephanie Thomas, By-Laws