

The Runkle School PTO

August 2011

Dear Runkle Community,

Hello from your PTO co-chairs! And a warm welcome to all new Runkle families. We hope everyone has enjoyed summer and is ready for the start of school at our Route 9 location.

The Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) at Runkle exists to support our children and teachers and to help build a strong school community. **If your child attends Runkle, you are a member of the PTO.** The PTO has no dues and limits its fundraising to a single direct appeal for contributions to the PTO Annual Fund starting in mid-October. The funds we raise pay for teacher stipends (for class supplies), field trips, and program-enrichment activities. The PTO also sponsors many popular community events, including an Astronomy evening at the Clay Center, Halloween Fair, the Book Swap, a family ice-skating event, Bingo Night, Math and Science Night, and International Night.

Our school renovation on Druce Street is on schedule for completion in the summer of 2012, and we look forward to the return to a much-improved facility. But we are also excited about this coming year. Our Route 9 location and routines, including bus riding, are now familiar. Maintaining a close community remains a priority, even if it continues to require more of us in our busy lives. Turnout for PTO events last year was remarkable! There are many other great ways to meet and stay connected to other members of the Runkle community: Make time to come to our monthly informational coffees (details to come), consider getting involved in PTO activities, and attend a PTO meeting (minutes are regularly posted on www.runkle.org). We will continue to adapt to make the most of our year. Any suggestions to help enhance our community are welcome.

For now, we encourage you to:

- Review the enclosed PTO 2011-2012 calendar and look for Yellow Pages in late fall
- Subscribe to/read the *Runkle News*
- Stop by a PTO Welcome Back Coffee at school
- Attend a PTO Open House
- Mark your calendars for the Back-to-School Family Picnic, on September 20th
- Look for details about your Potluck Suppers

Review the enclosed PTO calendar. See the *Runkle News* and www.runkle.org for any changes.

Look out for the Yellow Pages. The PTO publishes the Yellow Pages (Family Directory) in the fall. Please note this directory is strictly for Runkle community purposes only. It should not be used for any solicitations. Please return all forms from the office at the beginning of the school year with your correct contact information. That helps us publish the directory in a timely way.

Read the *Runkle News*. (Subscribe if you haven't already!) The PTO puts out the *Runkle News*, with messages from the principal, the faculty, and the PTO as well as This Week's Events and various community notices, via e-mail every Sunday evening, starting September 4th. Go to

www.runkle.org to subscribe if you haven't already. This email list is used only by and for the Runkle community. There are also pdf versions on runkle.org, printed copies in the main office, and postings on the PTO bulletin board in the cafeteria every week.

Stop by a PTO Welcome Back Coffee. Our traditional Welcome Back Parent Coffee, on September 6th, and Welcome Coffee for Kindergarten Parents, on September 12th, will take place at 8:05 a.m. at the picnic tables on the school's West End blacktop.

Attend a PTO Open House. An open house is your chance to find out more about Runkle's PTO-run activities. The PTO will host morning and evening Open Houses at school on September 15th. The evening Open House, with free babysitting for school-age children, will be at 5:30 p.m. The shorter, more informal morning Open House will be held at 8:05 a.m. Several event/activity coordinator positions are open this year. Other volunteer opportunities require only 1 hour of your time! Please attend an Open House, or drop us a note with your interest.

Mark your calendars for the Back-to-School Family Picnic. Our annual picnic will take place on September 20th, 5:30-7:30 p.m., on the field across from the school on Route 9. Pack a picnic dinner or pizza and a blanket and join us! (Rain date is September 21st.)

Come to a Potluck Supper. Or consider hosting one! At these popular fall social events, a family in each grade hosts a potluck supper for parents to get to know each other. Look in the *Runkle News* for final dates so you can line up a babysitter and enjoy this evening out. Please contact Room Parent Coordinator Gabriella Salvatore at gabriella.salvatore5@gmail.com about hosting. (The only requirements are space for all parents and nearby parking.)

We have two final notes:

- The New Family Welcome Wagon Social, for new 1st through 8th grade families and their host buddies, was held this week. If you missed the get together but have questions, please contact Elvira Perez and her Welcome Wagon team at elviraperez@hotmail.com.
- Parents of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders should save September 26th for Back-to-School Night, which includes an important curriculum overview.

There are many ways to get involved in PTO activities and to help make the environment at Runkle as rich as possible for our children. If you've got an idea for something you want to organize, please share it! We'd love to help you get it started. If you just want to lend a helping hand, there are many opportunities.

We look forward to meeting you. In the meantime, if there is anything we can do to help you, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Sandy Costello
617-734-3295
samcos2001@yahoo.com

Emily Dolbear
617-738-6842
emily.dolbear@gmail.com