

## Dates to remember:

### October

19-21 Eight Grade  
Washington DC Trip

28 End of First Grading  
Period

### November

8 No School (Election  
Day)

10 PTA Meeting 9:00  
am LRWD Cafeteria

14 Veteran's Day Pro-  
gram

17 Parent-Teacher Con-  
ferences 3:45-7:15

18 Activity Night 2:50-  
4:50

21 Parent-Teacher Con-  
ferences 3:45-7:15

23-25 No School  
(Thanksgiving Break)

### December

13 Winter Choral Con-  
cert 7:30 pm PAC

14 Winter Band Concert  
7:30 pm

15 Cookie Walk

21-1/2 No School  
(Winter Break)

### January

2 School Resumes

12 PTA Meeting 9:00 am  
LRWD Cafeteria

16 No School (MLK Jr.  
Day)

19 End of Second Grad-  
ing Period

20 No School (In Service  
Day)

# Learwood PTA

FALL 2011

## From the President...

I hope everyone is off to a great start this year. If you are new to Learwood, welcome, if you are returning, welcome back! The Learwood staff provides a wonderful learning environment for our children and PTA's mission is to support them all.

Our committees have already started working Hard this year. Thanks to Vicki Fritzman for the refreshments at the 7th & 8th grade open houses. The cookie trays looked great! Thanks to Kristen Masa for collecting and reporting the membership for our unit. Your hard work is greatly appreciated! In case you missed them, membership forms are available online. Just go to the district's website [avonlake-cityschools.org](http://avonlake-cityschools.org) and click on **Learwood** then click **Learwood PTA**. If you requested a membership card, it will soon be available for pickup at the Learwood office. For the second year, PTA has opted not to have a traditional fundraiser and run a flat donation campaign instead. Our

goal is to raise \$5,000. We have currently not met our goal and may have to look into other attempts to fundraise. If you would like to contribute, please send in your donation to school with your child marked "PTA Fundraiser". Our funding provides support for programs that benefit the entire student body and staff. Any contribution is greatly needed and appreciated!

Thanks to everyone who volunteered to help with PTA functions. We had a great response. Cheryl Higley did a fantastic job collecting the forms, organizing the volunteers by committee, and distributing the list to the committee chairs. Thanks for all your hard work!

The directory is available online through GradeBookWizard. This is the only means of distribution. To access the directory, sign on to your child's GBW account. It will be located under the button "Handouts". Thanks to

Nancy Klingshirn for undertaking this task!

PTA meetings are on the second Thursday of each school month, except for December. We meet in the Learwood cafeteria at 9:00 am. Attending meetings is a great way to keep informed with what is happening with PTA and the school. We hope to see you there.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns! Have a great year!

Jennifer Porter  
933-0160  
[jporter895@gmail.com](mailto:jporter895@gmail.com)



It's not too late to become a PTA member! Find a Membership form in this newsletter

## Reflections Creative Arts Fair 2012

This year's theme is "Diversity Means"

It's time to create! Students can enter as many times as they wish in any (or all) of the six categories:

- Visual Arts
- Musical Composition
- Literature
- Photography
- Film/Video Production
- Dance Choreography.

Professional teachers and artists from the surrounding area will judge each entry based on creativity, merit, and interpretation of the theme. Winning entries will be sent to Ohio PTA to compete at the state level. Entry forms and rules can be found online at [ohiopta.org](http://ohiopta.org) under **Programs**.

To inquire about Saturday creative sessions at Vintage Gallery, Lear Rd., Avon Lake or with any other questions, contact Jennifer Porter, 933-0160 or Suzy Pate, 930-6730

## Choir Concert Raffle

Attention: Parents of 7th and 8th grade chorus members. We are once again going to raffle off the opportunity to enjoy RESERVED SEATING and PARKING at the upcoming Winter Choir Concert. PTA volunteers will have

raffle tickets to sell at the parent-teacher conferences in November (Nov. 17th and 21st). Look for our table at the front entrance to Learwood School. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

Don't miss this opportunity to take the stress out of the evening.



## CRS Basket Donations Needed

CRS is once again asking for our help by donating a raffle basket for their annual charity ball. If you would like to donate a gift card for this basket, please bring donations to our next PTA meeting in November. Any gift card for food or entertainment will

work well. Also....we will collecting cash donations or gift card donations at the same table where we will be selling the raffle tickets for the Winter Concert during the November parent/teacher conferences. There will be a basket there for you to drop in your

donations for CRS. This was very successful last year, and we would like to continue the tradition.

THANK YOU!!!

Wendy Hamilton  
Community Service  
Chairwoman

## Learwood PTA Fundraiser

In lieu of our PTA sponsored Magazine Fundraiser, Learwood PTA runs a flat donation driven fundraiser. Our participation rate last year was 162 parents and staff. Our PTA has set a donation goal of \$5,000.00, last year we raised \$ \$ 4,196.00. If we do not reach our goal by the end of September, we will have to attempt another form of fundraising later in the year.

Learwood PTA sponsors many activities for the Learwood students and staff. We provide breakfast for the 8th grade students before their Washington DC trip and offer financial assistance through CRS to help students attend this field trip. Our PTA also hosts 2 dances per year for the students. Our staff is supported through PTA with a dinner during the winter conferences as well as lunch during Staff Appreciation Week in May. We also help purchase gifts to the classrooms. Last year we donated many different tools for the History, Gym, and Science classes.

Please send your cash or check (to Learwood PTA) donation that you feel is appropriate in an envelope with your child to their first period teacher. If you would like a receipt for your donation, please fill out the form below and a receipt will be sent home with your child.

The PTA looks forward to a successful donation drive and eliminating the need for additional fundraising events for the PTA. We believe this will simplify the fundraising efforts and allows 100% of the money donated to go directly to the PTA.

Thank you for supporting the Learwood PTA! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either one of us.

Sincerely,

Jen Porter

2011-2012 PTA President

933-0160

jporter895@gmail.com

Nancy Klingshirn

Fund-Raising Committee

933-7802

nancyjeanine@aol.co

~~~~~  
Yes, I would like a receipt for my Learwood PTA donation.

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's grade: \_\_\_\_\_

# LEARWOOD PTA MEMBERSHIP

PLEASE SEND THIS FORM IN, WITH YOUR PAYMENT TO "LEARWOOD PTA"

ATTN: PTA MEMBERSHIP

Learwood PTA meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month (except no meeting in December) at 9:00 a.m. in the Learwood cafeteria. We hope to see you there!

Parent(s) Names(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

(email address is solely for the private use of PTA and will not be shared with any outside sources)

Child #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_

Child #2 \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_

Child #3 \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_

I would like a Membership Card: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Cards will be available soon in the Learwood Office. Ask Mrs. Vogel for the Learwood PTA Membership Card box.

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## Membership

QTY

TOTAL

\_\_\_\_\_ Membership, \$5.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Donation to Learwood General Fund \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Donation to PTA Council Scholarship \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Questions?

Call or Email Kristen Masa 930-0474 kmasa@oh.rr.com

### **Executive Board Members 2011-12**

|                  |                  |          |                         |
|------------------|------------------|----------|-------------------------|
| President        | Jennifer Porter  | 933-0160 | jporter895@gmail.com    |
| President Elect  | Kristen Masa     | 930-0474 | kmasa@oh.rr.com         |
| Secretary        | Tammy Johnson    |          | tammywv@oh.rr.com       |
|                  | Vicki Fritzman   | 930-4782 | singingvic@gmail.com    |
| Treasurer        | Amy Lodge        |          | alodgekdils@oh.rr.com   |
| Council Delegate | Wendy Hamilton   | 930-2155 | wenhamilton22@gmail.com |
|                  | Nancy Klingshirn | 933-7802 | nancyjeanine@aol.com    |
| BOE Delegate     | Nancy Klingshirn | 933-7802 | nancyjeanine@aol.com    |
|                  | Suzy Pate        | 933-6730 | suzy1230@hotmail.com    |

### **Standing Committee Chairs**

|                       |                  |          |                           |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------|---------------------------|
| Community Service     | Wendy Hamilton   | 930-2155 | wenhamilton22@gmail.com   |
| Conference Dinner     | Kathleen Scott   | 933-4382 | kscott@ashland.edu        |
|                       | Tina Durisek     | 933-6851 | kdurisek@gmail.com        |
| Cookie Walk           | Julie Grosel     |          | julgrosel@centurytel.net  |
|                       | Theresa Baker    | 653-9306 | theresatibbitts@yahoo.com |
| Curriculum Liason     | Joanie Umek      | 933-9981 | umekd@aol.com             |
| Dances - Admissions   | Merri Killius    | 930-4621 | ckillius@aol.com          |
|                       | Melissa Bubolz   |          | boobolts@aol.com          |
| Dances - Concessions  |                  |          |                           |
| Directory             | Nancy Klingshirn | 933-7802 | nancyjeanine@aol.com      |
| Fundraising           | Nancy Klingshirn | 933-7802 | nancyjeanine@aol.com      |
| Gifts to the School   | Tara Nardi       | 930-5081 | nardililo@oh.rr.com       |
| Health and Safety     | Tara Nardi       | 930-5081 | nardililo@oh.rr.com       |
| Hospitality           | Vicki Fritzman   | 930-4782 | singingvic@gmail.com      |
| Legislation           | Kathleen Scott   | 933-4382 | kscott@ashland.edu        |
| Membership            | Kristen Masa     | 930-0474 | kmasa@oh.rr.com           |
| Newsletter            | Joanie Umek      | 933-9981 | umekd@aol.com             |
| Reflections           | Jennifer Porter  | 933-0160 | jporter895@gmail.com      |
|                       | Suzy Pate        | 933-6730 | suzy1230@hotmail.com      |
| Scholarship           | Amy Schmidt      | 930-2447 | schmidthouse5@oh.rr.com   |
| Staff Appreciation    | Vicki Fritzman   | 930-4782 | singingvic@gmail.com      |
| Vendor Rewards        | Tina Durisek     | 933-6851 | kdurisek@gmail.com        |
| Volunteer Coordinator | Cheryl Higley    | 933-2187 | cheryl.higley@gmail.com   |
| 8th Grade Recognition | Cheryl Higley    | 933-2187 | cheryl.higley@gmail.com   |
|                       | Tina Durisek     | 933-6851 | kdurisek@gmail.com        |
|                       | Amy Schmidt      | 930-2447 | schmidthouse5@oh.rr.com   |

# Learwood PTA Meeting Minutes

Sept. 2011

As a prequel to the meeting, president Jennifer Porter made sure there were enough attending active PTA members to be a voting body during the meeting.

Jennifer Porter, PTA President, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m..

The PTA membership recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes from the last meeting (May) were distributed and approved.

Also distributed were the Meeting Agenda, Standing Rules, and the Proposed Budget. The clipboard was passed around to log in member hours and read paraphernalia.

**First Order of Business** – Installation of Officers that were not present at May's installation. Officers installed were: Amy Lodge – Treasurer and Wendy Hamilton – Council Delegate, and were accepted by the membership.

**Jane Ramsey, Learwood Principal.** Began with thanks to the PTA for being involved with Learwood and its students. Mrs. Ramsey gave an update on building construction. Despite a few quirks (PA system bugs, Multi-purpose room still being finished and a punch list of items still in progress), the school is very close to being complete. Their hope is to be able to use the Multi-purpose room for the Activity night on Friday, but it is not finished enough for the membership to go through it today.

Activity Night is being run by the Student Council and the fee will be \$5.00. The money goes toward paying the D.J. Mrs. Wilson is the Student Forum advisor and is in charge of the Student Council. Mrs. Ramsey gave new members a history of what Activity Night consists of. There has been discussion about the role of a dance, the purpose of the dance and having it right after school, therefore making it safer for the children who would not have to walk home in the dark as well as it cutting down on parent travel time.

She introduced Mr. Kaiser and Mrs. Schanz, school counselors, to speak on their role as counselors.

**Mr. Kaiser/Mrs. Schanz** discussed looping, where the counselors have switched the grades they were previously responsible for. Mr. Kaiser is now in charge of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and Mrs. Schanz is now dealing with 7<sup>th</sup> grade. He made it clear that both of them are available to any student regardless of grade and allow the students to speak with whomever they are comfortable with. The purpose of the looping is so the students stay with the same counselor their entire stay at Learwood.

They are also responsible for Response to Intervention (RTI) process. Are working on getting discovery assessment up and running in order to benchmark assessments. Also working with Testing Works for housing data so teachers have access to info on students at all grade levels and prior year's teacher's notes.

Also responsible for OAA testing, PSAT testing as well as counseling, helping out in the hallways and assist in monitoring the cafeteria.

In response to questions: PSAT is Oct 12, 2011 for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. This gives the students exposure to that type of format of test. Mrs. Schanz ordered 110 tests. The fee for the test is \$13.00. It is done at Learwood in the morning and should be completed by 10:30 a.m. This is not a mandatory test; it is optional, purely for testing experience. It can also be done in 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> instead of 7<sup>th</sup> and if the child wants an extra opportunity to gain more testing experience. The identifying information will be done outside of the testing time in order to make sure there is sufficient time to complete the test.

**Mrs. Ramsey again** – getting 8<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to Washington on Oct 19, 20, 21st. 240 students signed up to go, out of the 290 enrolled at Learwood. Room assignments are being put together Mrs. Slagle.

Open House was very successful. The revised format of the evening, allowing the parents to remain stationary and the teachers rotate, went over very well with the parents.

Curriculum additions: Chinese 1 by Dr. Ku

New Employee: Janet Smith, prior tutor, has taken over Mrs. Bowman's position and Susan Beckman is the new tutor.

Athletic teams are up and running. Mr. Cocco is hosting an athletic directors meeting and will address the membership at later time. Numbers are approximately 62 on the 7<sup>th</sup> gr. Football team, 40 on the 8<sup>th</sup> gr. football team, 25 for volley ball, 50 for cross country and 15 for cheerleading.

Future dates: Mid period is Sept 28<sup>th</sup>, Oct 14 there is no school, Nov. 14 Veterans Day, conferences will be the Thursday before Thanksgiving and all of this information can be found on Gradebook Wizard as well. Learwood students will have full days during conferences. Jennifer Porter inquired about the conference dinners normally provided by the PTA based on the full day schedule and Mrs. Ramsey will get together with Jennifer and discuss how to incorporate the dinners into the plan, based on past similar circumstances.

The question was raised about a potential golf club. Mrs. Ramsey stated that there is no advisor for that, but in the past it has been a parent so if there is any interest and a parent would take it on, it would be up for discussion. Also have a fall intramural program and has always gone to the bowling alley and the advisor from last year can not do it this year. It's a great way for students who are not as athletic to be involved in a social event as well. Anyone wishing to be an advisor would have to apply for the position.

Jennifer Porter drew attention to the clipboard once again to put down hours and read thank you notes from staff members that came in after last May's meeting expressing the staff's thanks for the Staff Appreciation Week the PTA provided. A job well done.

### **Executive Board Reports:**

**Secretary:** May minutes approved and will be filed as such.

**Audit Report** – Nancy Klingshirm: Finalized in July, complete with no problems. One comment about the savings account being combined with the checking account since the \$.04 interest is inconsequential. Ending balance was \$5,120.54 and everything was up to date.

**Treasurer's Report** – Amy Lodge: Proposed budget passed around to look at. Changes if we combine savings and checking we would lose the interest, but have budgeted \$3.00 and could amend the budget to take out the \$3.00. Amy pointed out the changes in the budget from last year, then asked for the budget to be approved. Monique Boudreaux motioned to approve the budget. Stacy Jantz seconded the motion. Budget passed.

Amy revisited the suggestion to get rid of the savings account and merge those monies with the checking account. After much discussion on the logistics of a PTA having a savings account that is not earmarked for a specific purpose, the proposed budget discussion was re-opened to remove the line item of interest from the savings account. A motion to approve the amended budget was made by Shelly MacDonald and seconded by Wendy Hamilton. Motion passed. The line item of interest will be removed and the savings and checking accounts will be merged.

Amy stated that the forms for reimbursement are in the office as well as tax exempt forms, with a reminder that tax is not reimbursable, so try not to spend it. No monies collected should be taken home, but put in the school safe, as it is not covered by our bonding insurance. Jennifer stated that there is no longer a school safe and they would work out something in lines with what the school is using for their money. Amy suggested the option that if you can not pay for something and get reimbursed, call her and she will try to accompany you to pay for it with the checkbook.

### **President's Report:**

Committee folders are available to be taken, please do so.

Please let Jennifer know if your contact information changes during the year.

Still 3 open committees: Curriculum Liaison, Dance Concessions and Newsletter

Our unit is up for by-law revision, which is done every 3 years. Jen and president-elect, Kristin Masa will work on the by-laws together. One big change to the by-laws is the National PTA dues have been raised by \$.50 per person. The change must be made and voted on before our PTA unit can raise dues to accommodate this increase. Jen wants to change the standing rules to include the president-elect to be eligible for check signing privileges along with the president and treasurer.

8<sup>th</sup> grade DC trip. 240 out of the 290 8<sup>th</sup> graders are signed up. There are 15 chaperones and 5 buses. All the money that went to CRS was used to help students financially to go on this trip. Mrs. Slagle has requested from the committee chairs that there be a more substantial breakfast this year.

Copy Center fee of \$75.00 has been paid so please utilize the copy center as much as possible in order to get the best value for our money. The copier in the office has been limited for us to 10 copies per day on our account and then we get charged per copy. A card must be retrieved from the office to access our account. So please use the copy center whenever you can. Copies can also be obtained at the UPS Store for a discount on copies, but those would have to come out of the individual committee budget.

The office safe has been removed during the construction process has not been replaced. There is a room the school will be using to hold money and a staff member will be able to access the room for PTA funds as well. It was brought up that funds must be turned in within 24 hours

Mr. Lisi visited the meeting with a question about QSP magazines and whether the PTA is still receiving funds from his renewals. Answer was yes. He also inquired on behalf of the staff about PTA membership forms. They are in the boxes now.

Committee Reports:

**Directory** – Nancy Klingshirn: Directory will be online Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>. The deadline is September 10<sup>th</sup>. Packets went home with the students. Additional forms will be put on line by Jennifer Porter and she will try to get an announcement pertaining to this on Gradebook Wizard. A suggestion was made to put a PTA packet with the Open House information that goes home with parents.

**Gifts to School** – Jen Porter for Tara Nardi: Will follow the procedure from last year and will begin communication with school staff in March regarding gifts.

**Health and Safety** – Jen Porter for Tara Nardi: Will coordinate with the nurse soon regarding vision screenings.

**Hospitality** – Vicki Fritzman: Open House went really well. Without the folder, had to wing it. Decided to use budget and purchase cookies. Decided not to go with Giant Eagle's version of cookie tray, they were too expensive for the amount of cookies given. Wound up purchasing 30 packs of cookies to arrange on trays and 4 veggie trays. An Igloo with water and one with lemonade were also supplied. The 2 leftover veggie trays were brought up to school for a staff meeting. It was well received by all.

**Fundraising** – Nancy Klingshirn: \$370 to date, which is 10% of the PTA goal.

A suggestion was made by Connie Datko to procure more funds for PTA by hosting a concession stand at the home football games, taking advantage of the hot weather. Even just selling water would be helpful to players and parents as well as the PTA. Adding a small bag of chips would be acceptable too. There are only 5 home games for each grade. It was deemed a viable option and will be further researched and cleared with Mr. Cocco.

**Membership** – Kristin Masa: 38 members and 1 faculty to date. Nancy Klingshirn has a paper mentioning all the great reasons the staff should be members of PTA that she would be willing to give to Kristin to help with staff involvement. School staff membership in PTA was discussed at length. Wendy Hamilton brought up the possibility of having a PTA/Staff delegate.

**Volunteer Coordinator** – Cheryl Higley: List is almost done; just need to add in recently turned in volunteer sheets and will try to get it done this week.

No old business.

No New business.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:05.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Fritzman

Learwood PTA co-Secretary