



MUSTANG MEMO

ANNUAL RECAP

2022/2023

 www.memorialnatickpto.org

 pto@memorialnatickpto.org

 107 Eliot Street, Natick MA 01760

How YOUR Support Impacts Memorial's Students, Teachers and Staff

Have you ever wondered why you don't have to write a check for field trips? Or how the school has all those cool art and science enrichment programs and assemblies?

Yup, that's our PTO at work!

*The PTO is excited to share how your **generous support** made such a tremendous difference in our 22/23 school year! We also want to hear from YOU! Have ideas of how we can fundraise or what we should be spending money on, please email us!*

Email: pto@memorialnatickpto.org

About the Memorial Elementary School PTO

Our mission is to provide educational and personal enrichment to the students of Memorial Elementary School. Among other things, we:

- *fundraise to support student enrichment activities;*
- *provide a forum for parent, teacher and student interaction through events;*
- *support teachers and staff; and*
- *promote open communication between parents, teachers and the greater community.*

How we spent funds in 2022/2023

On our Teachers and Staff:

- Welcome Back Hot Breakfast right before school started
- Monthly surprise treats like Bake Potato Bar and the Candy Count Jar
- Provided Mustang Spirit tee shirts to all new staff for Spirit Days
- Thankful for You Coffee and Pastries Cart Thanksgiving week
- Charles River Coffee Shop breakfast or lunch vouchers before December break
- Valentines Day bags filled with classroom supplies and treats, flower arrangements for each classroom and goodies in the staff lounge
- Teacher Appreciation Week: spoiled staff with a new surprise each day - coffee and donuts, popcorn bar, succulents, cookies and brownies and sundae bar

- While not MES staff, we periodically gave small tokens of appreciation to our amazing bus drivers who are crucial to our daily operations!

Offered to our Teachers and Staff to benefit our Students:

- Provided all classroom teachers, specialists, and nearly all other building staff with \$125 mini grants for their supplemental classroom or work needs.
 - *What do they purchase with this mini grant?* Lots! Area rugs for cozier reading nooks, fidgets to keep hands busy, calming toys, books, balance balls, magnetiles, math manipulators, board games, posters, puzzles, supplemental flexible seating, storage solutions, and much more.
- In the spring we welcomed all Memorial staff to apply for additional grants to support supplemental educational projects aligned with the state curriculum. The idea is to connect high interest learning to the greatest number of students. The following projects were funded:
 - “Pollinators” - all 3rd grade classes - to give the students the experience of watching caterpillars change into butterflies
 - “Fourth Grade Buddy Reading Library” - 120 books were purchased to revamp the inventory of our beloved 4th grade/kinder reading buddy program. These books will outlast all the students currently at Memorial!
 - “Rosenfield Publishing” - 3RO wrote, illustrated and published their very own book and all students received a copy!
 - “Kinder Sensory Bins” - Open-ended manipulative bins and fine motor sensory bins that will rotate through all K classrooms to help strengthen small hands, foster collaboration, communication and community across our student population and grade level.
 - “3rd and 4th Grade Garden” - third and fourth grade students rebuilt the “Barter Botanicals” garden by the main playground, be sure to check them out.
 - “Allergy Awareness” - Every year during allergy awareness week, all classes read books to build food allergy awareness. These were previously borrowed and now the school has a second set to pass around!
 - “Custodial Refresh” - We helped the custodial team help us by replenishing some necessary tools to keep the building running smoothly!

On our Students:

- Welcome signs and balloon arches to welcome students back to school
- Provided Mustang Spirit tee shirts to all new students for Spirit Days
- “Recess bags” for each grade full of balls and outdoor toys for use at recess
- Purchased a new projection screen for teachers to use in class
- Provided snacks and water cups to the Health Clinic throughout the year for students who forgot theirs
- Purchased a ADA compliant handicap accessible swing for the main playground
- Purchased (3) picnic tables for the blacktop area for use at snack and recess
- Purchased headphones for teachers to have extra on hand
- Placed motivational yard signs throughout the campus, with the content created by our students!
- Surprised kids with an inflatable obstacle course for Field Day
- Funded 22 **cultural arts events/virtual field trips:**
 - **Fourth Wall Ensemble (all)**

A variety show called “Fruit Flies Like a Banana.” The kids got to vote on the order of events in the show. The performers combined instruments with acting and even used hoverboards! There were opportunities for both students and teachers to participate in different elements of the show. It was very engaging and a great way to finish off the year!
 - **Ball in the House (all)**

A capella group! They were featured on The Today Show and on America’s Got Talent. They taught the kids about what it’s like to be an a cappella group along with how to create music by changing the treble and bass.
 - **Pumpernickel Puppets (K)**

Mr. McDonough presented two short stories, Three Billy Goats Gruff and The Lion and the Mouse. After the stories, he gave the kids a glimpse into what happens behind the scenes. His virtual presentation included a lot of creative voices, sound effects, and fun characters.
 - **Weather with Discovery Museum (K)**

Our kids became young meteorologists learning the important role weather plays in daily life, engaging in the practice of science and engineering by developing tools for forecasting and observing day-to-day changes and seasonal patterns over time.
 - **Water Wizardry with Steve Lechner (K)**

Steve did a workshop, where he demonstrated the magic of water and how its properties impact varying objects and colors.
 - **Forces and Motion with the Discovery Museum (K)**

What makes an object move? Can we control the movement? Does the strength of a push or pull have an effect? Students explore concepts of force and motion while interacting with a variety of toys, balls, and vehicles.
 - **Loose Leashes Poetry workshop (K)**

Students learned what it means to be creative thinkers, storytellers, and writers. They were led through an interactive idea-generating session and at the end were given their own idea journals to spark inspiration for creative drawing and writing.

- **Animal Adventures Live Animal Presentation (1st)**

The Northeast's leader in exotic animal education came in to teach our students all about wildlife and conservation!

- **Imagine a Dragon Illustration Workshop with Eujin Kim Neilan (1st)**

The presentation is based on her book *Imagine a Dragon* (written by Laurence Pringle). Her storytelling and readings from the book introduce the students to many types of dragon stories from around the world. Each dragon is illustrated in a style inspired by the art and traditions of its culture of origin. Eujin also focuses on comparing the contrasting nature of Western and Eastern dragon myths.

- **Sound Presentation by the Discovery Museum (1st)**

Students actively engage in exploring sound, creating unique sound makers with household materials.

- **Author Visit from Suzy Kline (1st and 2nd)**

Suzy talked about her important writing tools and seeds for stories. She shared her fifth grade writing, her pile of rejections, and mementoes from her 27 years of teaching that inspired her to write stories. She talked about her *Horrible Harry* series and *Herbie Jones*, and involved the audience in a Readers' Theater.

- **Curious Creatures (2nd)**

Students in 2nd grade enjoyed a show from *Curious Creatures*, learning virtually about a dozen animals and their habitats, which they were able to view up close despite the remote environment. Their collection included baby alligators, lizards, snakes, hedgehogs, chinchillas, tortoises, tarantulas and tree frogs

- **Poetry Workshop with Andrew Green (2nd)**

Andrew Green will be hosting a poetry workshop as our second graders develop their poetry skills.

- **Discovery Museum (2nd)**

The kids were able to observe physical changes of matter watching solids change to liquids and liquids change to gasses and then back again. They also explored the role of temperature in these changes and learned about the role of the tiny particles that matter is made of!

- **Force and Magnetism with the Discovery Museum (3rd)**

Students explored how magnets can be used as a force to move objects and specifically consider the effects of balanced and unbalanced forces. Applying what they learn, students construct an original moving toy of their own design that uses magnetic force to operate

- **Creative Writing with Andrew Green (3rd)**

Andrew Green worked with our 3rd graders to develop a narrative story from an alternate point of view.

- **Visit from Educators from Paul Revere's House (3rd)**

Students got to find out what really happened during Paul Revere's midnight ride when educators from the Paul Revere House visited our classrooms. While using slides of the Revere House as a backdrop, students reenacted the story of Revere's Ride, donned hats and carried props as they went, taking on the roles of Paul and Rachel Revere, their children, British soldiers, rowers, Samuel Adams, John Hancock and others.

- **Plimoth Patuxet Museum Visit (3rd)**
Plimoth Patuxet’s Museum Educators visited our classrooms where they helped students explore and understand 17th-century Wampanoag culture and how Wampanoag children learned through stories and play. Students enjoyed a retelling of the classic story “The No Face Doll” and made their own corn husk doll to take home.
- **Comic Books with Mat Hegarty (4th)**
Mat talked all about the process of writing a comic book. The kids all received copies of his latest book. It was interactive and they seemed to really enjoy it!
- **Bud Not Buddy (4th)**
Fourth graders went off campus to Wheelock Theater for this musical performance!
- **2 Poetry Workshops with Andrew Green (4th)**
Andrew worked with our fourth graders to fine tune their poetry skills. They had so much fun with the first one that they begged for him to return!

Our most successful fundraisers in 2022-2023:

<i>Book Fair ~ \$5,250</i>	<i>MES Spirit Wear ~ \$1,036</i>
<i>Boo Bash ~ \$4,216</i>	<i>Takeout Tuesdays ~ \$1,029</i>
<i>Outdoor Movie Night ~ \$2,413</i>	<i>HomeTown Sweat Night ~ \$615</i>
<i>Artwork Fundraiser ~ \$1,798</i>	<i>Minted Card Sales ~ \$318</i>
<i>Ice Cream Social ~ \$1,479</i>	<i>Mabel’s Labels ~ \$258</i>

ONGOING WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL

- **Minted Fundraising Program is not just for holiday cards- it is offered year round! Enjoy 20% off Minted cards and gifts using our unique promo code: **FUNDRAISEMEMORIAL** at checkout and 15% will be donated back to the PTO!**
- Download the **BoxTop app** and start earning rewards for Memorial! Use the app to scan your receipt or email your digital receipt to receipts@boxtops4education.com
- **Mabel’s Labels**: Durable labels to help keep your child’s items out of the lost and found! Search for “Memorial Elementary PTO (Natick)” under the Fundraiser section; make your purchase and Mabel’s will give 20% of your purchase price back to us!

GET TO KNOW YOUR PTO!

**Have an idea for a fundraiser? Want to become more involved?
We are here to make Memorial the best it can be for our kids.
Please reach out with any ideas or questions!**



Jess Roy, Co-President

I was in a 7.4 magnitude earthquake in California.



Keri Clark, Co-President

I once performed on stage with Cheap Trick.



Jess Holmes, Vice President

I race triathlons & have won a World and 4 National Championships.



Lisa Durken, Treasurer

I was a mail carrier for the USPS in College.



Jenn Slemrod, Secretary

I grew up in Natick, but I went to Brown :)



Amy Maloney, Asst. Treasurer

I grew up in Natick, and I went to Memorial!



Kelsey Hampton, Events Co-Chair

I cheered D1 in college and can still do a backflip!



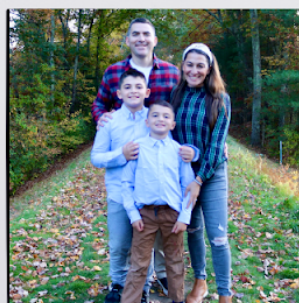
Diana Papalilo, Events Co-Chair

I collect Christmas ornaments from each place I travel.



**Lauren Potischman
Communications Co-Chair**

3 of 4 people in my family are lefties!



Liz Colanto, Communications Co-Chair

I create youth sports highlight reels in my sleep.



Jaclyn Nelson, Hospitality Co-Chair

I married my high school sweetheart.



Kaelyn Zakem, Hospitality Co-Chair

I played golf in college.

Special shout out to our incredible Committee Volunteers!

Art to Remember (*formerly Square1 Art*): Emily Grant

Book Fair Co-chairs: Emily Levy and Kelsey Hampton

Cultural Arts Chair: Jen Burdon

Cultural Arts Committee:

Kindergarten: April Garry

First Grade: Sarah Bluemmers

Second Grade: Caitlin O'Reilly

Third Grade: Jen Burdon

Fourth Grade: Jenna Zadek

Grounds Beautification: Alaina Farabaugh

HUG Chair: Jen Steinberg

Takeout Tuesday Chair: Gia Gordon

Room Reps: thank you in advance to all who volunteer!

Spirit Wear: Lauren Bavuso

Yearbook Co-Chairs: Liz Colanto and Lauren Potischman

And thank you in advance to all of our room parents who will work hard throughout the school year!