

**Have you ever wondered what a Goodwin PTO meeting is like?**

**Have you been thinking you'd like to be more involved with the PTO this school year?**

**Are you interested in volunteering, but unsure of what's needed or concerned about the commitment?**



**The Goodwin PTO has many opportunities for you to participate - most requiring minimal time and commitment and are fun!**

Below is a list of PTO activities and committees. If you have questions or a particular interest, please contact the person specified or [goodwinPTO@mansfieldct.org](mailto:goodwinPTO@mansfieldct.org). As each activity approaches, we will send out more details and volunteering needs.

**Backpack Brigade** - A community service project occurring in the early spring to provide area shelters with backpacks full of school supplies for children. There is a school-wide drive to collect supplies, outreach to community businesses for donations, and a fun evening potluck event to pack the bags. Committee co-chairs are Laura Scruggs ([lylescruggs1@charter.net](mailto:lylescruggs1@charter.net)) and Karri Prandy ([karbear81@sbcglobal.net](mailto:karbear81@sbcglobal.net)).

**Book Fairs** - These generate funds for the PTO and occur twice a year, in early September during Open House and in May during Science Fair. Volunteers are needed to help set up and pack up, as well as to collect money during the fairs. Chairs are: fall - Maggie Judy ([m.judy@yahoo.com](mailto:m.judy@yahoo.com)), and spring - Heather Willis ([hwnbw@charter.net](mailto:hwnbw@charter.net)).

**Corn Maze Days** - This social fundraiser is a great autumn activity with an educational twist. The Merrow Corn Maze (<http://merrowmaze.com>), located on 4-acres right in Storrs, incorporates an informative scavenger hunt into a traditional corn maze. The 2009 theme is "Made in Connecticut." The PTO receives a portion of the money from tickets purchased through us. Meet a group of friends there or simply make it a fun family activity!

**Election Day Bake Sale** - This event is an easy opportunity to help generate funds for the PTO. We need volunteers to bake goods for selling and to sign up for one-hour shifts collecting money. Email [GoodwinPTO@manfieldct.org](mailto:GoodwinPTO@manfieldct.org) with questions.

**Enrichment Programs** - A core part of the PTO's mission is to provide enrichment activities for the students. These range from classroom activities to recess programs. We are seeking volunteers to share a special skill or talent with students during the recess hour, either one time or for a small series. Some past activities have included four-square, soccer, karate, dancing and bracelet making. Committee co-chairs are Jessica Neumuth ([jjineumuth@aol.com](mailto:jjineumuth@aol.com)) and Maryann Rollins ([maryann.fusco@uconn.edu](mailto:maryann.fusco@uconn.edu)).

**Family Ice Skating** - This is a well-loved Goodwin winter tradition. Families gather at the UCONN ice rink for an afternoon of ice skating. It's free of charge and open to new and experienced skaters. Diane Briody ([dbri22@aol.com](mailto:dbri22@aol.com)) is the coordinator.

**Fourth Grade Promotion** - Near the end of the school year, the PTO sponsors this traditional event to honor Goodwin fourth graders, celebrate their Goodwin experience and passage to middle school. Families of the current third graders coordinate the celebration. If you are interested in helping, contact [GoodwinPTO@mansfieldct.org](mailto:GoodwinPTO@mansfieldct.org).

**Fundraising Committee** - Most of us get squeamish at the thought of fundraising, but this is seriously a FUN committee! Share your ideas, provide input and meet great people. Contact Megan Meikle at [nmeiklefam@msn.com](mailto:nmeiklefam@msn.com).

**Fun Fair** - This is a hugely popular May event that is the PTO's primary fundraiser, typically bringing in enough money to keep us from having to sell wrapping paper. There are many opportunities to offer your time and assistance - particularly if you are short on time - and it's also a great social activity. Examples of how you can contribute are baking a sweet treat for the cake walk, working the popcorn machine for an hour, selling tickets at the door, setting up tables the night before, or soliciting donations to the silent auction. John Prandy is coordinating the event this year, but it's not a one-man show. Contact John ([karbear81@sbcglobal.net](mailto:karbear81@sbcglobal.net)) with questions, ideas and ways you can help.

**Hospitality Committee** - The PTO appreciates all that the wonderful staff at Goodwin does for our kids day in and day out. We celebrate them by hosting a Holiday Luncheon in December and coordinating Staff Appreciation week in the spring. Adele Lanza ([adelanza@yahoo.com](mailto:adelanza@yahoo.com)) is the chair of this committee and always needs help with cooking, baking and volunteers to monitor recess so the staff can enjoy a sit-down meal together.

**Ice Cream Social** - A traditional social activity that kicks off the school year, the Ice Cream Social occurs a few days before the start of school in August. Volunteers are needed to set up, clean up and, of course, scoop up delicious bowls of ice cream. The event has passed for this year, but if you'd like to add your name to the list for next year, please contact Lori Roy ([roy\\_david@sbcglobal.net](mailto:roy_david@sbcglobal.net)).

**International Potluck** - This is a relaxed and fun way to meet Goodwin families over a tasty meal of food from various cultures. Diane Briody ([dbri22@aol.com](mailto:dbri22@aol.com)) organizes this event.

**Movie Madness** - Meet your friends at the Movieplex to see a movie on the scheduled date and time. Tickets are purchased through the PTO.

**Mileage Club** - New last year, Mileage Club is a hugely popular recess activity sponsored by the PTO. On select days during recess, kids may choose to run or walk laps around the field. Each lap is logged and after five laps (or one mile), the student is rewarded with a foot charm. Volunteers are needed to help out at recess by punching cards for each completed lap. Look for new and exciting activities related to this program this year! Maryann Rollins ([maryann.fusco@uconn.edu](mailto:maryann.fusco@uconn.edu)) is leading these efforts.

**Outreach Committee** - This is a great way to get involved in the PTO by assisting with social, community-building activities. The primary mission of this committee is to facilitate Goodwin community involvement and to encourage open communication with the PTO. We'd love your ideas and feedback on how to make this new committee successful. Contact Suzanne Hathaway ([skhathaway@charter.net](mailto:skhathaway@charter.net)).

**Playground Socials** - These are relaxed evenings at the Goodwin playground scheduled for this fall and organized by the Outreach committee. Come enjoy the cooler weather while seeing your friends. Bring a ball for a pickup game or a thermos of hot chocolate. Dates will be posted soon.

**School Pictures** - Scheduled for October, a percentage of profits from school pictures goes towards funding PTO activities. Individual and class pictures are available for purchase. Katie Irizarry ([katie\\_irizarry@hotmail.com](mailto:katie_irizarry@hotmail.com)) coordinates this activity.

**Student Banking** - Through Liberty Bank's school banking program, students set up an interest-earning bank account. By making deposits once a week at school, they earn points towards

rewards. Volunteers are needed for approximately 30 minutes once a month at the start of the school day to accept deposits. Darren Cook ([dcook02@snet.net](mailto:dcook02@snet.net)) is the coordinator.

**TV Turnoff Week and Sock Hop** - A week without TV? No worries! The PTO has it covered. Kids sign a pledge to avoid TV, video games and leisure computer time in exchange for other activities such as reading and exercising. The PTO sponsors several events during the week, ending with a fun and popular Sock Hop Dance on Friday evening. Kids that stick to their pledge receive a prize. Jessica Neumuth ([jjneumuth@aol.com](mailto:jjneumuth@aol.com)) is coordinating the week of activities this spring.

**Yearbook** - At the end of each school year, the students look forward to receiving the yearbook, provided by the PTO. Kathy Marshall ([kmarshall@mail.tolland.k12.ct.us](mailto:kmarshall@mail.tolland.k12.ct.us)) and a group of students at Tolland High School work hard throughout the year to make this possible. Parents are encouraged to share photos of school-related activities and submit personal dedications to their students for a small monetary contribution, which helps defray the production costs.

**As you can see, the Goodwin PTO is active and busy. Help us be successful by getting involved this year!**

**Please feel free to email any questions to [goodwinpto@mansfieldct.org](mailto:goodwinpto@mansfieldct.org) or come to our first meeting of the year on September 16 at 6:30 p.m.**