



Bulldog Monthly

Official Newsletter of the Bedminster Township School PTO

December 2018

Volume 1 Issue 4

2018-2019 PTO Executive Board

Ramsey Melendez

President

Danielle Fredella

Vice President

Meghan Schulze

Secretary

Ralph Wojtech

Treasurer

Dates to Remember

December

- 2 First night of Hanukkah
- 3 Cub Scout holiday party 6:30 pm
- 4 Orch/Strings Concert 7 pm
- 6 Band & Jazz Concert 7 pm
- 11 **PTO Mtg 7 pm Room 315**
- 12 Choral & Handbell Concert 7 pm
- 13 BOE meeting 7:30 pm
- 21 Early Dismissal 1:30 pm
- 24 No School
- 25 Christmas Day
- 26 First day of Kwanzaa
- 27-30 No School
- 31 New Year's Eve



Happy December,

The turkey has been eaten, there are no leftover desserts in the fridge and all the relatives have left. Now it's time to jump into one of the most exciting, and busiest, time of the year for our little Bulldogs.

We hope you have had a chance to read our '**Fall Fest Fallout Fundraiser**' letter that went out two weeks ago. If you haven't, a copy can be found [here](#). We have had a great start to our fundraising drive and we are extremely appreciative of the donations we have received. As of publication, we have received over \$1,000! We still have a long road ahead of us, but we are optimistic that we will get to the end of this journey with the help of our Bedminster families. We have approximately 400 families in our school, imagine the possibilities we could achieve if we all came together and gave a little. Any amount is appreciated. Checks can be mailed to the school: Attn: PTO 234 Somerville Road, Bedminster, NJ, 07921 or we have a [GoFundMe](#) page available to accept credit cards donations.

Our Spirit Wear sale was a great success! Thank you, Jessica P. & Melissa K., for choosing great merchandise and running a successful sale. Thank you as well to everyone that wants to show their 'Bulldog Pride' and made a purchase. Merchandise will be available prior to the December break and will be sent home with students.

Our *amazing* Music Dept. will be hosting their Holiday Concerts on multiple nights this month. Please check our 'dates to remember' and the school calendar as well to note the different dates for the specific concerts. The students have been working so hard practicing over the past few months, we are sure each show will be spectacular and will make both Mr. Copeland and Mr. Lefurge extremely proud.

With holiday shopping in full force, remember that you can help contribute to the PTO by shopping [AMAZON SMILE](#). We receive 0.5% of all eligible purchases if you chose us as your charity, as we are a 501(c)(3) charity. From the Amazon Smile link, you will log into your already established account, your Prime membership (if you are a member) is still in effect and there are no price increases. More specifics can be found further in this newsletter.

This month's PTO meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 11 at 7 pm in Room 315. We will be sharing more Spring Fling information and updates to our fundraising efforts as well. *Homeroom Parents: please remember that it is strongly suggested that you attend these meetings as you are the first point of contact when a parent in your class has questions.

"On your mark, get set, race!!" Our first Box Tops for Education contest of the school year is set to run between December 3 and the 20th. Check the [Box Tops Link](#) for updates on which classes are in the lead as well as everything else PTO related.

On behalf of the PTO Executive Board, we wish our Bulldog families and our community friends warmth, kindness, love and a little extra holiday magic this season.

Happy holidays,
Ramsey Melendez
PTO President
melendez.family07@yahoo.com

“RACE TO THE FINISH”


This contest will *race* from December 3 until December 20th.

The class that turns in the most eligible Box Tops will win a \$100 Amazon gift card to spend on their classroom!!

Send your Tops in at anytime labeled with your teacher’s name clearly written on the bag or envelope so that the correct class gets the credit. Questions: Stephanie ezpeezylife@gmail.com
Race progress will be posted on the PTO website. [Click Here](#)



Company Matching

- The PTO is a 501(c)(3) tax deductible charity 
- Most companies offer a matching program. They may match your donation in part or possibly by 100%!
- Check with your HR or Acct Dept.

PTO Meeting

Tuesday, Dec. 11

7 pm

Room 315



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You shop. Amazon gives.

**HOLIDAY
SHOPPING?**

**Why not combine
shopping and
supporting the PTO
at the same time!!**

SUPPORT BEDMINSTER PTO

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon **donates 0.5%** of all eligible purchases. You pay the same price either way!

1. Go to smile.amazon.com Log into your Amazon account
2. Go to **Your Account > Change Your Charity**
3. In the search box: type **Bedminster Township School Parent Teacher Organization**, then click **Select** button.
4. From now on, always go to smile.amazon.com to make your purchases.



**8TH GRADE
HOLIDAY
BOUTIQUE!**

DECEMBER 5TH, 9AM-3:30PM
DECEMBER 6TH, 9AM-3:30PM
DECEMBER 7TH, 9AM-3:30PM

Items ranging from \$1-\$20. A wide variety of gifts including jewelry, home goods, Dad gifts, pet gifts, etc. Find the perfect gifts for your family and friends!

On the days of the Holiday Boutique, please send your child with cash or a check made out to: Cash or Bedminster BOE, clearly noting the max amount your child can spend in the memo section of the check.

**THANK YOU FOR
SUPPORTING THE 8TH GRADE!**

Three wrapped gifts in red and white paper with white ribbons, one large and two smaller, stacked together.



It may only be December but planning for Spring Fling is already underway.

- We are looking for solicitors. Would you be willing to call 5 local businesses for us? We will train you and give you everything needed to be successful. Thanks to last year's solicitation team we had over **\$28,000** worth of donations from local businesses!
- Do you own or have a contact at a local business? We find it's always easier when the person asking for a donation is a regular customer.
- Are you employed by a company that makes charitable contributions? Let's talk.
- Got baskets? Clean out your closets. We are accepting baskets in good condition for Spring Fling. Please drop off in the main office at school.

COMMENTS? BASKET IDEA? THOUGHTS? SUGGESTION?

CORPORATE CONTACT? OWN A BUSINESS?

SPECIAL EVENT PLANNING TALENT?

Reach out to Sandy and Carolyn

sandy.ruzicka@gmail.com carolyngrau@yahoo.com

JANUARY UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Time	Place	Chairperson 1
1	No School New Year's Day			
3	BOE Reorg. Mtg (probable)	7:30 pm		Suzie Stevinson sstevinson@bedminsterschool.org
8	PTO Meeting	7 pm	Room 315	Ramsey melendez.family07@yahoo.com
21	No School MLK Day			
25	Marking Period 2 Ends			

* Dates and times are subject to change w/o notice

Please remember, our FALL FEST FALLOUT FUNDRAISER is ongoing. We have assemblies, bussing for field trips and teacher grants to cover in the coming months. Please help us help our kids and amazing teachers. Any size contribution is appreciated. Here is a copy of the letter that went out with all the details. THANK YOU

Dear Bedminster School families and friends; (first published November 14, 2018)

It was Thursday, October 25, when I received a text message stating that the Bedminster Charities Fall Fest committee was asking for the PTO's vote as to whether or not to cancel this year's event or, go forward as planned.....

The week leading up to October 27, we were hearing there was a chance of a nor'easter, but we were optimistic Mother Nature would be on our side. Bedminster Charities Fall Fest is such an amazing event. It brings together the families and friends of our little town where kids can jump in bounce houses with their buddies, music from local bands drifts through the air and moms get excited over the silent auction bids they put down. New this year was to be the Halloween Costume contest for adults, kids and our little furry friends too. The PTO was prepping for a fun day as well. Our 'Bedminster Bulldog' pumpkin was painted in school colors and ready for the 'guess the weight' contest. We were excited for our friends to visit our tent and make their car magnet and PTO membership purchases. Months of planning was all about to finally be seen and excitement was just around the corner. Then the text message was received.

To be honest, making the decision to cancel Fall Fest wasn't very hard, but let me explain why. The nor'easter we were expected to have was predicting 40 – 60 mph winds and there was no way I would put our Bulldog families in harm's way. My reply text read, "For the Bedminster School PTO, I vote to cancel the event". The second text message I sent was to the other Executive Board members informing them of the outcome, I was heartbroken. With Fall Fest being cancelled, it meant all seven charities would lose out on *thousands* of dollars, and with all 7 being non-profit organizations this would be a *tremendous* blow for each of us as we all rely on donations to get us through the year. Ultimately for the PTO, this meant we would not be receiving our share of the proceeds which in previous years was approximately \$6,000!

During the first few months of school, we brought in 3 amazing assemblies to kick off the year. We hosted the 'All In' motivational speakers, a BMX Stunt Team and the Hip Hop Dance assembly. For the 2nd half of the year we have 3 additional assemblies that we have committed to and are already scheduled. Field trip bussing grant requests and invoices have already started coming in. Teacher grants and grade level programs have been approved by Administration and submitted to the PTO as well. In the early Spring we generally receive multiple requests from school clubs asking for our assistance in some way or another. Our Spring Fling Committee has already started the wheels in motion by acquiring our raffle licenses and securing our event space with a down payment. With this *significant* loss in funds the remaining seven months of school will be a *struggle* for us. The PTO has *always* been able to approve *every* request that has come our way, we have *always* been able to help our teachers and students when they've asked, and truth be told, we want to continue in the same direction.

Over the past three weeks, the PTO Executive Board has met numerous times to try to figure out a solution and we think we have come up with an idea that is both simplistic and has the possibility to help us tremendously. **So, here we are going over our bank account and realizing we won't be able to fund all these marvelous assemblies, bus trips and grants for our children without your additional help.** Spring Fling is our biggest and most profitable fundraiser and we are hoping beyond hope that it will be again this coming April. However, April is six months away and we need your help now. The Bedminster Township School PTO has decided to hold a **"Fall Fest Fallout Fundraiser"**. If you can help us continue the programs and grants that I mentioned above, we would appreciate any monetary donation you could give, and all donation amounts will be kept confidential.

With your donation we will be able to continue what the PTO does best, enriching the lives of every student at Bedminster Twp. School.

It is with sincere hope that during this rough patch we can come together to get back to where we should be and then after an amazing 20th Anniversary Spring Fling we can look back at this time and it will be a distant memory. From there, we can continue looking forward to amazing school years ahead.

If you can help, any amount would be appreciated. Please make checks payable to **"Bedminster School PTO"** and they can be sent into school in an envelope marked "PTO" or they can be mailed to: Bedminster Twp. School, Attn: PTO, 234 Somerville Road, Bedminster, NJ, 07921. All donations are tax deductible. Please speak with your accountant and/or financial advisor for more details.

With extreme gratitude,
Ramsey Melendez
President - Bedminster Township School PTO
melendez.family07@yahoo.com