

# **The Bishop PTO welcomes you to the 2011-2012 school year!**

## **What is the PTO?**

The PTO is the Bishop community, working together to make our school the best it can be. We strive toward two goals: enriching our children's educational experience and building community spirit at Bishop school.

We accomplish this by funding all the wide range of events and activities throughout the year and by supplementing the resources available to the school and our teachers.

We are moms and dads, uncles and aunts, grandparents, and friends who care about our children and their education. We are welcoming. We are friendly. We are your neighbors. We share many of the same concerns that you do. We are about working together to create to create a a great school and a superior educational experience for our children.

Of course, this takes hard work and money, so we rely heavily on volunteers and fundraising to get the job done.

There are many ways to get involved with the PTO, whether you have one hour to give all year, or one hour to give each week. All parents or guardians of children attending Bishop School, as well as each member of the professional staff, are members of the Parent Teacher Organization and are encouraged to participate in it's activities.

The PTO isn't a club – it's our community. The PTO is managed collectively through a committee-based structure. Committee chairs and event coordinators build teams of volunteers and report back to the entire group at monthly meetings. This makes it possible to distribute the workload across many people and to create many different avenues for getting involved. New faces are always welcome.

The PTO is a registered non-profit organization, as such, we have elected officers on a one year term. Co-Presidents Mary Ellen Aronow and Breck Peabody, serve an overall coordinating and communication function; Treasurer Catherine Hoffman, manages our finances; our Corresponding Secretary, Usha Iyer, handles communication to the community; the Recording Secretary, Alixe Bonardi, records minutes of PTO meetings; and we continue to search for a Fundraising/Family Outreach Coordinator to oversee fundraising and provide outreach to Bishop families. Elections will be held in May, to elect officers for the 2012/2013 school year - Co-President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer.

## **Want to help?**

You can make a difference by:

- **Coming to Meetings:** Participating in meetings is a great way to learn about PTO activities, weigh in on enrichment programs being planned for the year, and contribute your ideas for future events. Principal McAneny addresses parents at each meeting, providing information updates on current happening at Bishop. Meetings are announced on the Bishop News email list, but are generally held on Wednesdays, every month, at 7:00 pm, in the Bishop School library. **Our first meeting for this school year will be held September 26th (a Monday), followed by an October meeting on Wednesday October 26<sup>th</sup>** - we'd love to see you there.
- **Volunteering:** The success of the PTO depends on the strength of our volunteer force. Please take a moment to review the summary of PTO committees and volunteer opportunities on the Bishop School on our website at [www.arlington.k12.ma.us/Bishop/communityVolunteer.asp](http://www.arlington.k12.ma.us/Bishop/communityVolunteer.asp)
- **Making a Financial Contribution:** Each year, the PTO funds many activities that enhance our children's school experiences. Examples of these activities include: cultural enrichment performances; classroom field trips; teacher training; and classroom supplies. As always, we will need the generous support of our families to fund our activities. Please make your family contribution to the Annual Fund today and receive Bear Bucks as a thank you!

The best way to stay informed, is to keep an eye on the Bishop School website [www.arlington.k12.ma.us/Bishop](http://www.arlington.k12.ma.us/Bishop) and most importantly, **join the Bishop e-mail list**. **Details on how to subscribe were recently sent home in backpacks and are also available on the PTO bulletin board outside the school office.**