



ASTOR PTSO NEWSLETTER

September – October 2015, Volume 4, Issue 1

Astor PTSO Board Message

Hello and welcome to the 2015-16 school year!

It has been a fast and furious start, and I could not be more excited about the year ahead. The number of memberships and volunteer forms flooding in is such an incredible encouragement to the PTSO Board and a testament to what an amazing community exists at Astor.

If you haven't had the opportunity, please stop by the PTSO table in the front hallway at drop off or pick up to meet a board member and learn more about all the events and opportunities in the months ahead.

Be sure to join us **Wed, Sept 23, 6:30-8:00 pm**, in the Astor library for our first General PTSO Meeting. We will be having a Resource Fair, full of information about sports, learning opportunities and extracurricular activities available in and around Astor. Refreshments and childcare provided.

Have you joined the PTSO yet?? All of our membership dues stay at Astor to directly enrich the experiences of our students, and this year all members will get a **FREE GIFT** for joining....while supplies last! Pick up your gift at Back to School Night or at our first General Meeting on Sept 23.

Looking to get involved?? Fill out our Volunteer form, or stop by the PTSO table to talk with a Board member about ways to volunteer. I encourage you to find something that sparks your passion or interests, and start where you feel comfortable. There is such a wide variety of opportunities, both one time and on-going.

Wondering where to find information?? We have a Facebook page (Astor PTSO), send out reminders in red homework folders, and use the wipe board in the front hallway to relay PTSO news. The best way, however, to find out what the PTSO is up to is to come to our meetings and stop by the PTSO to talk!

The PTSO could not do what we do without the support of our parents, teachers, and students. Thank you for making Astor such a great community!!

-Susan Starman, President

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 10th

Back to School Night

6:30-8:00 pm

Sept. 23rd

PTSO General

Meeting/Extracurricular Fair

6:30 pm Astor Library

FREE childcare

Oct. 8th

Run for the Playground

K-3 grades 10:00-10:30 am

4-8 grades 1:00-1:30 pm

Oct. 13th

Burgerville Night

4:00-8:00 pm

St. Johns Burgerville

Oct. 26th -29th

Scholastic Book Fair

M-F 8:00 am- 2:30 pm with a

Café Night on Tues. Oct. 27th

Astor Library

Volunteers Needed!

Oct. 29th

Grandparents Day/Halloween

Parade

8:30am

Fundraising Update

Thanks to you, Astor community! Last year alone we raised \$32,185 to support our amazing school!



We are excited to announce some of the FUN-draising opportunities coming this fall! These events help raise money to support our students and teachers. **Our first annual trivia night is coming soon! Trivia Night** is a fun opportunity where parents can relax and get to know each other while showing off their knowledge of all things trivial (Look for further information, which will be coming home on this soon!)

Last year's **Game Night** was such a success we've decided to do it again! Students and parents can enjoy a fun, family evening playing board games, with the chance to purchase your favorites. We encourage everyone to attend even if you aren't planning on purchasing games. It's such a fun night! Look for more information soon on Game Night coming **November, 6th**.

Burgerville will also be generously hosting us again this year which is an easy way to help out our school and a fun place to meet up with school friends, too. Our first **Burgerville Night** will be on **Tuesday, October 13th from 4-8pm**.

What does the PTSO do with all of the funds raised during the year?

As many of you know, we are in the final stages of a plan to **improve our playground**. The asphalt rectangle does support a surprising amount of play as is, but soon there will be an expanded climbing area, swings, outdoor study and meeting areas and eventually a turf soccer field. The great thing is that the plan is modular, so work can be done as there is money available. We are well on our way to implementing the first part, and every dollar we earn helps us get closer.

In addition to funding the playground, money the PTSO earns is also used to **help teachers fund field trips and purchase needed supplies for the classroom**.

There are many ways to get involved in your child's school. A busy work schedule and family life can make it hard to commit to another activity, but one way you can really help, which does not take much time, is to **become a part of the Astor community by joining the PTSO and attending its monthly meetings**. This is a time to learn about what is happening with the school and what vision the faculty and district have for the future of your child's education. Come share your voice in a supportive and receptive environment! **Did we mention childcare is provided?**

Current funds raised for the playfield to date:
\$39,285.82



What is Scrip?

Scrip is "substitute money" – gift cards and certificates to local and national merchants. The Astor PTSO purchases scrip at a discount and YOU can buy them at face value – a dollar for dollar exchange – and it costs you NOTHING extra.

Why Purchase Scrip?

Using gift cards increases the power of your shopping dollars. Families get the FULL face value of the gift cards they buy PLUS Astor receives a profit! Gift cards make the perfect gift for holidays and birthdays!

There is never a minimum order and using Scrip can help you budget your own money and plan ahead.

The profit (2-41%) is used to fund our programs and other Astor school needs. The discount adds up quickly - In one week, the benefit to Astor can be HUGE! Last year with those participating, the Astor PTSO raised **over \$4,200** with this fundraiser alone.

Where can I use Scrip?

There are over 200 local and national merchants that participate in the Scrip program, including Fred Meyer, Safeway, New Seasons, Burgerville, Lowe's, Petco, and Papa Murphy's, just to name a few.

How do I purchase Scrip?

There are two ways you can purchase scrip – you can complete the order form that is included with the newsletter and have your payment to school by 8:15 am every other Tuesday beginning September 8th, or you can purchase what we have on hand. We only keep popular merchants on hand (Fred Meyers, New Seasons, etc).

We also accept credit card payments (for orders placed on Tuesday mornings)!

Should you ever have any questions about scrip, please contact us as scrip@astorptso.org.

Meet the PTSO Board:



Susan Starman, President

I'm Susan Starman, PTSO President. I'm starting my eighth year serving on the PTSO Board, and have previously served as Secretary, Treasurer, and VP. I am mom to Alia, grade 8, and Anna, grade 6. I grew up in Beaverton, attended Whitman College, and got my Masters Degree in Social Work from the University of Denver. I work as a hospice social worker, devotedly attend my book club brunches, walk a half marathon every year and love to travel with my family. This photo was taken during the two weeks we spent hiking the Redwoods of California this summer.

Rachel Homan, Membership



Rachel Homan grew up in University Place, WA. She attended U of O and earned a degree in Human Services. Since college she's lived in Eugene, Salem and Portland, settling in North Portland for the last 15 years. She and her husband have 2 children at Astor, Jack is in 8th grade and Leslie is in 3rd grade. This is Rachel's second year of her second term on the PTSO Board. She's been both the Volunteer Coordinator as well as the Membership Coordinator which is what she does for Astor now. She volunteers in the Astor library, in her sons' and daughters' classrooms and on field trips. Rachel enjoys doing Crossfit and working out with her trainer. She enjoys time outside at the beach and playing with her dog. She feels very lucky that her family is part of the Astor community.

Recycling, Waste Reduction and Fundraising Opportunities at Astor

As an Oregon Green School, Astor is dedicated to helping with waste reduction of harder to recycle items on the list below. There are collection bins in the main hallway (past the office and before the library) for collection of these various items.

Drink pouches – Fundraiser through Terracycle

Any brand juice pouches including straw (not the box type juice)

Bar wrappers – Fundraiser through Terracycle

Any brand of bar wrapper (granola, power, fruit, protein, etc.)

Chip bags/Salty snack bags – Fundraiser through Terracycle

Any brand/style/size of chip bags or salty snack bag

Elmer's glue - Fundraiser through Terracycle

Elmer's glue sticks, bottles and caps.

Food pouch – Fundraiser through Terracycle *NEW THIS YEAR*****

Any food pouch including lid

Ink Jet Cartridges – Fundraiser for Astor school supplies

All ink jet cartridges (home printers and larger office printers)

Wine corks - Fundraiser

One of our parents makes items to sell at the Astor

Auction/Astor Bazaar and the money raised goes to the PTSO. All wine and champagne corks accepted.

Rigid caps – Recycling through Aveda

Shampoo, beverage, milk, flip top, detergent, and pharmaceutical caps. Through the "Recycle Caps with Aveda program" these items will get "upcycled" into new bottles for Aveda products. No flimsy lids please.

Batteries

Batteries are hazardous waste and should be disposed of properly. The district picks up batteries and disposes of them for schools.

Block Styrofoam

This item cannot be recycled curbside. If you have a small amount of block Styrofoam (no peanuts), feel free to place it in the bin in the hallway. If you have a large amount, please chat with me or visit Far West Fibers (Beaverton or Hillsboro locations ONLY)

String/Holiday Lights

String lights that are broken, not working, outdated can be turned in for metal recycling. I will transport these lights to the Oregon Zoo who has a drop off over the holiday season.

Plastic (stretchy) bags

Please consider reusing these items for your garbage cans

at home or to pick up dog waste. Dog parks often have tubes that house these bags and anyone is welcome to drop them off in these tubes. Fred Meyer also has a drop off at the front entrance.

Metal Silverware

Astor uses durable forks and spoons in the cafeteria. This allows the school not to use the "spork package" which is a spork, napkin and straw wrapped in plastic. Please bring in any metal forks and spoons, does not have to match, throughout the school year to help keep our supply up.

Far West Fibers @ 2005 N. Rosa Parks Way takes many plastic items for recycling that we do not accept at the school and that are not accepted curbside. Swing by and check them out or visit their website for more information www.farwestrecycling.com

Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions about any of these items or if you have thoughts on additional items for recycling at terracycle@astorptso.org ~ Amy Hash

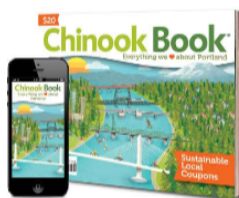


Announcements



Chinook Books are on sale!

Product is on sale in the front hall before and after school through Friday, October 4th!



Tell your friends, family and neighbors about this great fundraiser and how 50% of sales go toward our school playground project!

Book sells for \$22, Mobile Pack sells for \$15 and the combo pack is back with a selling price of \$30! **The book easily pays for itself by using only a few coupons!** Some of our neighborhood businesses with coupons in this year's book include: Green Zebra Grocery, Coffee Kids, Cha!Cha!Cha!, Grocery Outlet, New Seasons, and Burgerville.

We truly appreciate all your efforts in raising funds for our Astor students!

Any questions or concerns please email fundraising@astorptso.org.



LAST YEAR, WE EARNED OVER \$3,000 JUST BECAUSE OUR SUPPORTERS LINKED THEIR FRED MEYER REWARDS CARDS TO ASTOR PTSO!

YOU CAN HELP US EARN EVEN MORE THIS YEAR!

With the return of Community Rewards, Fred Meyer is donating \$2.6 million this year to non-profits in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, based on where their customers tell them to give. If you have already linked your card, thank you! If not, here's how the program works:

- Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to **Astor PTSO** at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards.
- Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping the Astor PTSO earn a donation!
- You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates, just as you do today.
- If you do not have a Rewards Card, they are available at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer store.
- For more information, please visit www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards.

Free/Reduced Lunch

Please remember to complete your applications for free/reduced lunch. You should have received an application in the mail from Portland Public Schools, and they were also sent home with your child in the First Day Packets. The application can be completed online, if you prefer, at

<http://www.pps.k12.or.us/departments/nutrition/3984.htm>.

Help Wanted!

- The Auction Committee needs a leader for the 2016 auction!
- A volunteer is needed to bring back the Reading Challenge program!
- Grant writers are needed for the 2015-2016 school year
- Boxtops and Labels for Education needs a coordinator!

Please contact Susan Starman,
president@astorptso.org



Mural completed by Sara Kaltwasser of PNCA. Sara is a Youth & Pre-College Program Coordinator. Sara holds a BFA from PNCA and has worked there since 2007.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you are interested in helping with the Astor PTSO on events or activities, please contact **Marla Doughty** or **Blake Robertson**, our volunteer coordinators, at volunteer@astorptso.org

ASTOR PTSO

PARENT TEACHER STUDENT ORGANIZATION

Board Members:

Susan Starman, President;
 Miranda Robertson, Co-Vice President;
 Jeff Omundson, Co-Vice President;
 Rachel Homan, Membership;
 Tasha Chambers, Treasurer;
 Kamarin Ring, Treasurer;
 Blake Robertson, Co-Volunteer Coordinator;
 Marla Doughty, Co-Volunteer Coordinator;
 Sofia Yrazabal, Co-Events Coordinator;
 Sara Craig, Co-Events Coordinator;
 Shelly Ranspot, Co-Secretary;
 Cecilia Guerra, Co-Secretary;
 Renee Espinoza, Teacher Liaison

Contact Us

Astor PTSO

www.astorptso.org

volunteer@astorptso.org



Find us on
Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/astorptso>