

## **PTA Corner**

### **Jerome Prairie Elementary PTA**

If you have not already heard, the former Jerome Prairie Elementary PTO is now Jerome Prairie Elementary PTA. There are a number of reasons why our Parent and Teacher group has decided to join the Oregon PTA, and, ultimately, the National PTA. Most notably is that we are now considered a tax exempt organization by the IRS under the PTA's 501 C3 status. It was recently brought to our attention that we, in good faith, have been operating as a tax exempt organization when, in reality, we should have been filing tax returns every year. The benefits of joining the PTA, however, are much greater than the necessary status with the IRS. The PTA has a strong political voice for education at both the State and National levels. The PTA also offers training for officers, workshops, fund raising ideas and discounts, and support from the other established PTAs in our area. There is little change that will occur in the day to day operations of our organization. Your elected officers will remain the same and are now recognized as PTA officers.

Oregon PTA requires that each member pay \$9.50 in dues each year. For this fee we receive all the services listed above as well as discounts on our insurance. If you participated in our PTO membership drive at the beginning of the school year you have already received a letter explaining that \$9.50 of your original contribution will be sent to the state to secure your membership in the PTA unless you indicate that you do not want to join. Much like our former PTO meetings, our PTA meetings are open to all, but only members can vote. Our meeting days are still the second Wednesday of every month at 2:10 pm in the Library. If you want a say in how our fundraising dollars are spent to benefit our kids, please support our PTA by returning the bottom portion of your letter indicating that you wish to join. If you did not participate in the membership drive you can still join by submitting the attached application with the fee of \$9.50. Checks can be made out to Jerome Prairie Elementary PTA. Any additional donations are greatly appreciated and will go toward enrichment activities for our kids.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact any of our current PTA officers:

President- Deanne DeSoto - 541 596-8536 or [deannequesto@hotmail.com](mailto:deannequesto@hotmail.com)

Vice President- Kimberley Flow – 541 955-1702 or [kim\\_n\\_doug@yahoo.com](mailto:kim_n_doug@yahoo.com)

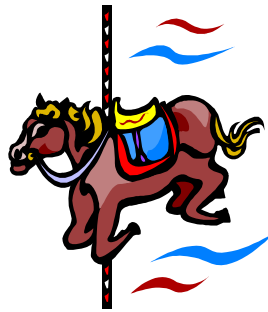
Secretary- Stacy Countiss – 541 476-4055 or [countiss@oigp.net](mailto:countiss@oigp.net)

Treasurer- Alicia Beachy – 541 956-8664 or [aliciabeachy@yahoo.com](mailto:aliciabeachy@yahoo.com)



## Carnival

Plans for Carnival are well underway. Carnival will be held on Friday April 13, 2012 from 5:00 pm to 8:00pm. Our theme will once again be J.P. school spirit, and our colors will be blue and yellow. Cassie Bare, our Carnival Chair, will be holding the next Carnival meeting on Wednesday February 8, 2012 at 1:00 pm in the J.P. Staff Room. She will also hold an additional meeting at 5:30 pm in the Library for anyone that cannot make it to the afternoon meeting. All room parents, co-room parents, and anyone else who would like to help with Carnival should attend one of these two meetings. Booth themes will be decided and themes and baskets will be assigned to each class. Room parents are responsible for assisting their teacher with creating the artwork that will decorate the class booth. Decorating booths often means creating the art project based on the assigned theme and helping ensure that the students complete the project in class. Any stress you can take from your teacher is greatly appreciated. Room parents and helpers should also help to solicit donations for the auction baskets assigned to their class. Last year the PTO was unable to have a Carnival because we didn't have enough help. We received a lot of negative feedback from parents who missed this wonderful community event. Our new PTA is here to say that it really does take the dedication of a lot of people to make it happen. We have brought it back, and now we need your support to make sure the Carnival is a success.



## Raffle

The PTA would like to say a **BIG** thank you to Cummings Communication for the third year in a row. The Cummings family has once again donated the prizes for this year's raffle, and this raffle is the biggest and best ever. They have also donated kids' prizes to reward our J.P. students that sell tickets for our raffle. This year's 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the raffle will be a big screen TV and the second prize will be an iPad. Tickets for the raffle will cost one dollar and all proceeds will go to the J.P. PTA to help support enrichment activities. Our JP kids can earn 1 entry in the kids raffle for each 10 tickets they sell. The kids raffle first prize is an XBOX 360 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize is an iPod. Please be on the lookout for more information coming home regarding ticket sales. The winning tickets will be drawn at the Carnival for the TV, iPad and the kids' raffle. Winners do not need to be present to win.

## Science Club

Mr. Harrington could use more parent volunteers for Science Club. Science Club is on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00 to 3:30. If you have a child that participates in Science club please consider volunteering some time. All other volunteers are welcome also.