

# Cabin John Middle School PTSA 2015-2016

On behalf of the Cabin John Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA), I would like to welcome everyone to the 2015-2016 school year. While we hope your family is having a relaxing, fun-filled summer, the PTSA is busy gearing up for another great year. Our PTSA is strong and has a great executive board in place. We are very excited to continue the great programs we have offered in the past and to improve and expand our support to the students, administration, and teachers at CJMS.

Listed below is some very important information on the CJMS PTSA and how you can support our efforts. We can't do any of this without your help! Thanks in advance for all of your support and generosity!

## **Ongoing programs supported by the PTSA:**

**Back to School Picnic** – See old friends and meet new ones on Weds. Sept 16<sup>th</sup> from 5-7pm. Eat at the food trucks and jump on inflatables. The PTSA sells spirit wear and volunteer students will show new parents how to get set up on Ed-line. COST: \$1500

**Outdoor Ed** – 6<sup>th</sup> grade – PTSA provides funding for evening entertainment (DJ and reptile show) and assists with students who need financial support. COST: \$1600

**Shakespeare Workshop** – Professional actors “take over” 7th grade English classes for a week. The students have an in-depth opportunity to study Shakespeare and produce mini-Shakespeare plays. Interested students have an opportunity to stay after school and produce a full-length Shakespeare play. COST: \$6000

**Poetry Workshop/Gayle Danley** – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students work with an actual poet in this special workshop at school. Evening “Poetry Slam” for parents can be considered if enough funding is raised. Cost: \$3000/\$3500.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade End of Year Cruise/End of Year Gift** – 8<sup>th</sup> graders celebrate on Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup> 2016 with a dinner/dance/harbor cruise in Baltimore. The PTSA provides funding for students who need financial help. We hope to also be able to provide a small gift for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Last year we gave all the kids ear buds! COST: \$2000

**Odyssey of the Mind** – Interested students participate in this after school activity where they problem solve and use creativity. Last year we helped send two winning teams to the World Competition in Michigan COST: \$1500

**Teacher Appreciation** – We provide special meals for the teachers during the school year. Sometimes we provide the main course and ask families to contribute side salads and desserts. COST: \$4000

**2016 -2017 Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade Welcome Bag** – We would love to again welcome our newest students with a gift. Last year we gave each of them a drawstring CJMS logo bag to use all summer COST: \$900

## **Some of NEW initiatives for 2015-2016:**

**Leadership initiative for teachers** – Each classroom teacher requests leadership materials. COST: \$400

**Chrome Books for the special needs classroom** – Our special needs students request additional Chrome Books to use in their classrooms. COST: \$500

**Replace Video Cameras for Morning News Show** – Our current cameras are outdated and need replacing. We are one of the few middle schools in the county with the technology to produce a LIVE news show of our morning announcements! Help us replace these cameras. COST: \$500

**Gardening/Grounds Maintenance** – MCPS does not upkeep this area as we would like. We are looking for a Chairperson to help the school with maintenance efforts as well as anyone with connections to landscaping to help in keeping costs low but maintaining and improving our school grounds. COST: \$1000

**School Initiative for Academic Assistance for Underachieving Students** – CJMS has identified a target initiative and we want to help. This could be in the form of study aids, family/community support, etc. COST: \$500

**New Science/Technology Club** – We have received requests to start an after school Science or Tech club. Maybe a competitive Science Bowl? COST: \$1000

**NEW School Store** – Students will be able to shop 3 times a week at lunchtime for needed classroom tools, spirit wear and other fun items. COST: \$1500 to stock the store and then we need your help to staff it!

## We need to raise \$35,000 to fund the PTSA this year! HOW CAN YOU HELP???

\* **Join the PTSA** - Your \$40 dues pays National, State, and Local PTA fees plus helps with our basic operating expenses and begins to fund some initiatives. **ONLY CJMS PTSA members receive a copy of the printed student directory as well as the on-line APP.** For an additional \$10 your student can also join the PTSA. Joining the PTSA allows you to vote in elections and receive other discounts and privileges allowed by PTA. (PTSA form attached here or pay and donate through our website link at [www.cabinjohnptsa.org](http://www.cabinjohnptsa.org)) \*You can also join the PTSA, donate and verify your directory info through the AtoZ website (families new to CJMS read below)

\* **Donate to the PTSA** - We do not want to use outside fundraisers and this year we are asking all families to contribute a monetary donation (\$75 suggested) to aid in the PTSA goals for students and staff. We can't do it without your help. Please consider helping us with your voluntary donation.

\* **Attend PTSA meetings:** We invite dynamic speakers to each meeting who address relevant topics that are focused on improving our relationships with our kids and ensuring their safety. Our first PTSA meeting is at Back to School night on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Check out our website for future dates and topics, [www.cabinjohnptsa.org](http://www.cabinjohnptsa.org). You do not need to be a PTSA member to attend meeting and hear the speakers.

\* **PTSA E-Mail List (Cougar Clips) and Facebook:** Get weekly PTSA news delivered to your inbox and learn more about upcoming events – stay connected to your child's school! To sign up go to the Cabin John website [www.cabinjohnptsa.org](http://www.cabinjohnptsa.org) and go to the "Stay Informed" tab and subscribe. We also have a Cabin John Middle School PTSA Facebook page, so like us on Facebook and get the latest updates, news and pictures of school events.

\* **Volunteer Opportunities!** We have Committee Chair positions waiting to be filled and we need volunteers on other committees. Our new school store requires lots of volunteers! Your level of commitment can be as little as one afternoon, one event, or a year-long commitment and we can find the right job for you! Please go to our website for more information or email [cjmscommunication@gmail.com](mailto:cjmscommunication@gmail.com) and we are happy to match you with a great volunteer position.

\* **New Families to CJMS – this includes 6th graders and all other NEW kids** – Go to [www.schooldirectoryupdate.com](http://www.schooldirectoryupdate.com) and select "Join as a new family." Your completed submission will be approved within 24 hours at which point you will be able to join the PTSA online and access the directory App.

Sincerely,

*Mandy Lemar*

Cabin John Middle School PTSA President 2015-2016

Do not miss these upcoming September events and then check out the complete PTSA school calendar on-line at [www.cabinjohnptsa.org](http://www.cabinjohnptsa.org)

- **Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>: Back to School Night from 6:00PM – 8:30pm**
  - 6:00 pm - PTSA Meet and Greet with PTSA membership, afterschool activities, spirit wear and more!
  - 6:45pm - PTSA meeting and administration welcome
  - 7:00 pm - Using your child's schedule you will tour the school and meet teachers, getting a brief overview of your child's academic year (bring your child's school schedule with you!)
- **Weds., September 16<sup>th</sup>: PTSA Sponsored Back to School Picnic from 5:00pm – 7:00pm** with inflatables, food trucks, ice cream, and more! PTSA membership, SSL info, spirit wear sales, Ed-line training for new parents.
- **Upcoming PTSA meetings at 7pm in the CJMS Media Center – Oct. 13, Jan. 12, March 8, May 10**