

# H o u d i n i P T A W i n g

## Knowledge-A-Thon is almost here!

Do you know the answers to 50 questions yet?

### March 7th is the big day.

If you have lost your question packet or pledge sheet, please let your teacher know or stop by the office for an extra copy. Be sure to turn in your pledge sheets by Friday, February 10th even if you have not been able to collect any pledges.

Houdini moms, dads and grandparents, are you available to help with KAT?

If you have any time free on Wednesday, March 7th please join us! Adults are needed for set up, testing, counting, classroom runners and serving food. If you have an hour or two to spare, please email or call:

Anita Cimijotti

[anitacimijotti@yahoo.com](mailto:anitacimijotti@yahoo.com) 205-2578

Jen Kitzman

[jenkitzman24@gmail.com](mailto:jenkitzman24@gmail.com) 277-1284



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Next Family Night Out

Wednesday Feb.15<sup>th</sup>

4pm- close at Golden Corral

## The Book Fair is Coming!!

This March, we will again welcome the Scholastic Book Fair to Houdini! The book fair is a wonderful way to find excellent children's books at affordable prices - and a great way to help place more books in Houdini classrooms. Committee plans are beginning, and we are in need of a co-chair to run the event. If you are interested in co-chairing this event, or are interested in volunteering during the event, please email Kathy Hammerton at [kjhammerton@earthlink.net](mailto:kjhammerton@earthlink.net).

# FEBRUARY 2012

## PTOs and PTAs

**At the February 2 PTA meeting, we will be voting on whether to begin the transition to a PTO.**

We are currently established as a PTA (Parent Teacher Association), which reports through the Wisconsin PTA to the National PTA. A PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) is an independent group that establishes its own mission, objectives, and bylaws and may or may not have relationships with other organizations.

Why are we considering changing? We would have more autonomy to make decisions regarding what we spend our money on, and what our objectives and bylaws are. We are also currently sending \$5.25 of the \$5.50 of our dues to State and National PTA. As a PTO, we could either keep that money at Houdini—or decide not to have dues at all if we think it is in the best interest of our group.

What would we give up? We currently have Wisconsin PTA advisors available to us if we would want their help. Our 501(c)3 non-profit status is awarded to us by association with the Wisconsin PTA, so we would have to register our group as a 501(c)3, which will require some paperwork, as well as register our organization with the State of Wisconsin.

What do other schools have? Several AASD elementary schools have already converted to PTOs, for similar reasons as we are considering, and the CityWide PTA is giving up its PTA membership. They are willing to share their experiences to make our transition easier and smoother. We have a good network with other schools to exchange ideas and learn from each other on a regular basis.

How would the transition occur? We anticipate that we would get the paperwork in place to transition to a PTO over the summer, when our fiscal year ends. We need to establish our mission, objectives, and bylaws in writing to file with the State of Wisconsin, and get our 501(c)3 status established prior to dissolving the PTA.

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact Channon Arteman at [channonarteman@gmail.com](mailto:channonarteman@gmail.com) or 733-6126.



**VOLUNTEERS  
ARE  
PRICELESS!**

Looking for a way to help Houdini on

your schedule? There are several types of “cash back” or “points” products in the lobby that currently don’t have someone in charge of redemption.

- Printer ink cartridges
- Campbell Soup Labels
- Aluminum can tabs (which might also include aluminum cans)
- Caprisun pouches (cash back \$0.02 per pouch)
- Tyson A+ (\$0.24 per label)

If you would be interested in managing any of these redemptions, please contact Kathy Hammerton [kjhammerton@earthlink.net](mailto:kjhammerton@earthlink.net) or Channon Arteman 733-6126 [channonarteman@gmail.com](mailto:channonarteman@gmail.com)  
We can arrange for them to be sent home through your child’s backpack if that helps.



In December, Houdini received a check for \$1314.50 for Fall Box tops submissions. Final Box Top submissions for the 2011-12 school year must be postmarked by March 1<sup>st</sup>. All box tops after that, will count towards the 2012-13 school year. Watch for classroom incentives coming soon!



## **SAVE THE DATE**

*ANNUAL HOUDINI FAMILY SOCK  
HOP*

*FRIDAY MARCH 2<sup>nd</sup> 2012 6PM-8PM*

### **YEARBOOK DONATION PROGRAM**

*In the month of February, the Yearbook committee will be collecting donations for the "Give A Book" program. Funds collected will be used to buy books for students who would otherwise not be able to purchase a book. Recipients will be selected by Houdini staff. Look for flyers in February or send your donation to the school office in an envelope marked "Yearbook Give A Book Program". Books are \$11, but any donation amount is appreciated. Please make checks payable to Houdini PTA. Cash or checks only please.*

**Next PTA Meeting:  
Thursday February 2<sup>nd</sup>  
6:30-7:30 Houdini LMC**