

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

*Welcome, Houdini families, to another great school year at Houdini Elementary. At Houdini, teachers and families work together to create a learning, caring and inspiring environment. Get involved in YOUR school and MAKE A DIFFERENCE!*

*"Many hands make light work" --John Heywood*

*Thank you to all of the parents who provided food, supplies, set-up, and clean-up for teacher conference meals. All donations were greatly appreciated by our teachers and staff!*

*~June Contreras*



Yearbooks for the 2011-2012 school year are on sale now! If you did not purchase a book at conferences, your child will bring home an order form that can be returned to Houdini school.

The deadline to pre-order a book is November 18th. Books are \$11 each with the option to purchase personalization (name and picture on cover) for an additional \$5 and ZOOM (current events insert) for an additional \$2. Order your copy now as there will be limited extra copies at year end and they will sell at a higher price! Please also consider donating any amount to help us put yearbooks in the hands of Houdini students whose families are going through challenging financial situations. If you have questions, please contact Jill Georger at [jageorger@gmail.com](mailto:jageorger@gmail.com).

## NOVEMBER 2011

Wow, has October been a flurry of activity! Many hands not only make the work light, but the mood light through making a difference together. Thank you to all who have helped with activities to keep our Houdini community alive and growing. Jen Kitzman led a successful Entertainment Book fundraiser to support Peer Mediators, Battle of the Books, Child Care for PTA meetings and conferences, Safety Patrol, and the 6<sup>th</sup> grade celebration. Thank you to Girl Scout Troops 2220 and 2238 for your child care service that enables Houdini to have such a high rate of parents attending conferences. (We hope they were tipped well!) Stacy Peapenburg and Kathy Hammerton ran a wonderful book fair during conferences, and many of you were able to purchase quality books for your children. The proceeds from this event are maximized by using "Scholastic Dollars" to purchase books for our library and classrooms. Jill Georger kicked off the Yearbook sales, which will continue through November 18<sup>th</sup>. June Contreras organized meals for staff during conferences. And at the end of the week, we enjoyed our Houdini community at Romp in the Swamp at Bubolz. Thank you to Vicki Vogel for your vision and leadership in orchestrating this family event and the sunny weather. It was a wonderful opportunity to enjoy our extended community as a Houdini group. All of these events had many joined hands making them happen.

*~Channon Arteman*

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO: Kathy Hammerton, Channon Arteman, Heather Joy, Lynn Hunter, June Contreras, Marni Knoebel, Nicole Lavigne, Doris Kalbus, Kris Bard, Donna Larsen, Amy Froehlich, Amy Hopfensperger, Jill Georger, Sara Campana, Marsha Bauer, Carrie Wendt, Nancy Hendel and Becky Hinkens. Without your help, the Scholastic Book Fair and teacher preview would not have run so smoothly.

*~Stacy Peapenburg*



The next Family Night Out will be Wednesday, November 16th at Papa Murphy's on Northland Avenue. All Proceeds from these events support Reading/Math nights and Staff Appreciation events. Kristi Lauterbach needs a co-chair for these events to help put flyers up at school and in folders, and to follow up with restaurants to confirm dates & times.

**City-Wide PTA** is a network of representatives from Appleton elementary and middle schools who meet four times a year to exchange ideas and experiences so that we can learn from each other. City-Wide PTA recently decided to pursue PTO (independent) status vs. its current PTA status with National and State affiliations. Several Appleton schools have recently or are currently also converting from PTA to PTO, based on greater autonomy and being able to use dues locally vs. at the state and national level. Donna Larsen is our current CityWide PTA delegate; we would like to also have an Alternate Delegate to build more networking with other schools long term. Please contact Channon Arteman if you are interested.



#### **BUDGET/TREASURER**

Major expenditures this year include PBIS, with \$1500 in purchases toward recess equipment that is colored by grade-level, and the Thursday take-home folders with PBIS behaviors printed on the back. Additionally, we spent \$13,000 toward classroom technology, bringing our PTA total contribution in the last two years to just over \$30,000 toward SmartBoards, document cameras, projectors and related equipment.

The Treasurer position is currently open, and we are actively looking for someone. A solid transition plan and support will be provided. Please contact Channon Arteman if you are interested.

#### **VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT**

[WWW.AASD.K12.WI.US/HOUDINI/PTA.HTM](http://WWW.AASD.K12.WI.US/HOUDINI/PTA.HTM)

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Treasurer – Open  
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#### **HOUDINI STAFF NEEDS/WANTS**

Mrs. Weitermann:

- Legos
- Battery wall clock (nothing fancy)

Mrs. DePasse:

- NEED TO BORROW 4-5 artificial Christmas trees for Dec 8 concert
- NEED TO BORROW strings of white lights
- Box of 50 plastic Hawaiian Leis (Party City \$9.99) for concert props
- Need a volunteer or two to help decorate gym on Wed Dec 7 after school

Ms. Kolbeck:

- CD players

Mrs. Henrikson:

- Grade 1 level phonics games/activities/teacher resources

Mrs. Rivers:

- 30 student book boxes for Reading Workshop

**NEXT PTA MEETING:**

**THURSDAY NOVEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2011**

**HOUDINI LMC 6:30 pm**

**Childcare Provided**