



UNION MEMORIAL SCHOOL

Parent Newsletter
September 4, 2009

PTO Organizational Meeting: The first PTO meeting of the new school year will be held on Tuesday, September 15 starting at 6:30 PM in the library. This is a great opportunity to meet fellow PTO members and learn about the various volunteer opportunities. The PTO traditionally meets on the second Tuesday of the month, but given where Labor Day falls this year, it would be too hard to coordinate a meeting so soon. Also, we are in need of a president for the PTO. Please touch base with me if you are at all interested. I hope to see you there.

Opening to the Year: Wednesday night a friend of mine's son asked me how my first day of school was. I told him it was my 34th first day of school (either as a student, teacher or principal) and it was the best and smoothest one I've ever had. Everything from the buses, lunches, the weather, welcoming our new kindergarten friends and generally transitioning from summer back to school couldn't have gone better. If the beginning is any indication (and it usually is) we're going to have a GREAT school year.

Title I Screening: For the next few weeks the Title I staff will be screening students in reading and math. Students are screened based on referrals from the classroom teachers. You will be notified in writing if your child qualifies for Title I support.

School Pictures: School pictures will be taken on Wednesday, September 9. Please note picture packages must be purchased in advance. If the money and envelope are not received before the picture is taken, your child will have to do a make-up in order to receive a package. If you choose not to purchase a package, your child's picture will still be taken for the yearbook and all children receive a copy of the class picture. Finally, we will set the make-up date once the pictures arrive.

Lock-Down/Safety Drill: Lock-down/safety drills are important for the safety of students and staff. We practice this type of drill 2 times during the school year. We will conduct our first drill sometime in the next couple of weeks. During the drill, all interior and exterior doors are locked and the phones are not answered. There will be a uniformed Colchester Police Officer stationed at the main entrance to inform visitors they must wait outside until the drill has been completed. The drill should last 20-25 minutes and students will be informed in advance a drill will be conducted. We keep the drill very low-key and de-emphasize the "stranger with a gun" scenario with the students. We've conducted these drills for a couple of years now and the students handle it beautifully.

PTO Fund-Raiser: You should have received (or be receiving very shortly) a flyer from the PTO with information on the annual wrapping paper fund-raiser. This one fund-raiser supports all PTO events for the year. Sales start on Friday, September 18 and continue through Friday, September 25. The PTO and I want to thank you in advance for your support in this area.

Respectfully,

Chris Antonicci
Principal

Upcoming Dates

September 9	School Pictures
September 15	PTO Organizational Meeting (6:30 PM)
October 8	Open House (6:30 PM – 7:30 PM)