



WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back to a new school year, or if you are new to Plato St Pete, then **WELCOME!** The PTO is very excited about the upcoming school year and we hope you are too.

Open House is the opportunity for you to stop by after visiting the classrooms to meet the new board. We will have PTO information regarding what we do, how you can get involved, and how to sign up for membership. **Our annual membership fee is \$10.00 per family** – a small sum to become part of our team and a great way to show your child that school matters and that you are invested in their success. We will also be selling our new spirit T-shirts for the kids and adults, as well as providing information on **Adopt-A-Class. Spirit shirts are only \$8 each** for everyone. We will accept cash, checks, or credit cards.

We look forward to meeting you! Please know that your involvement is essential for a successful school year. None of the PTO events would happen without you, our parent volunteers. The volunteers are the engine of our school! When we commit our time, talents, and treasure to Plato, our wonderful children and staff are rewarded.

Our first upcoming event will be a Friend-a-thon at Walter Fuller Park on **Friday, August 25th** from 3:30 pm - 6:30 pm. Please come by to meet others families of our school, let the kids play, and then cool down with some ice cream! (Ice cream truck has been arranged as a service to the families and is pay on your own to partake)

Our first General Meeting will be held on **Thursday, September 7th at 6:00 pm**. Babysitting will be provided for students and siblings (ages 3 and up). We will be discussing our exciting plans for the year ahead. We have also arranged for A-1 Finger Printing to be there to do Level II volunteer fingerprinting*, which is required if you ever wish to chaperone a field-trip. Even better news: We will be giving each family who attends the General Meeting a "Free Uniform Day" pass for their child. This year we will be having one raffle per meeting, but the prizes are big...including Disney tickets, an overnight stay at a beach hotel and well, let's just say you need to attend the meeting to find out about the others! We really look forward to seeing you at all our meeting and events.

Here's to a successful 2017-2018 school year with our amazing families. If you ever have any PTO questions, please email us at storm@platoacademy.net

Rose Harnen - President

Emma Bryan - Vice President

Julie Hally - Secretary

Tressy Guadagno - Treasurer of Fundraising

Idi Idiong - Treasurer of Bookkeeping

*As per school policy, in order to have your Level II finger printing done (at our meeting or at an offsite location) you must first complete and return the Level I paperwork to the school. Forms for Level I will be included in your Classroom Open House packet.



What the PTO has contributed through the years...

2016-2017

Spirit Shirts
Student Agendas
Apple TV
Document Cameras
Safety Patrol Equipment
Walkies for both campuses
Manual Pencil Sharpeners for all classrooms
Shelving for Teachers Lounge
Student Workbooks for upper grades
Character Enrichment Breakfasts
Holiday Family Party
Holiday Show DVDs
Holiday Gift Shop
Family Literacy Night – Books for Bingo
Spirit Nights
Grandparents Luncheon
Staff Appreciation Luncheons
Amazon Gift Cards - Teacher Appreciation Week
Student Rewards Party's for Box Tops & Fundraiser Winners
Caught Ya Program for Staff
Raffle Prizes for PTO Meetings
Used Uniform Sale
Bounce House for End of Year Fun Day

2014-2015

Spirit Shirts
\$1275 towards classroom libraries
16 New Walkie-Talkies
7 Golf sized Umbrellas
Grandparents Luncheon for 130+
Free water at Trunk or Treat
Holiday Family Party
DVDs
Used Uniforms
Teacher Appreciation Breakfasts
Paper Shredder
Encyclopedia set for Greek Class
Sign displays at office
Book Fair → \$1700 for school
Bounce House(s) for End of Year Fun Day

2013-2014

Apple TVs
MDI Cables
Document Cameras
Extension Cords
Paper Roll Rack
Paper Shredder
Teacher Enrichment Subscriptions
Holiday Family Party
DVDs
Teacher Appreciation Breakfasts
Thirty-One Bags for each teacher
Student Rewards Party's for Box Tops, etc.
Bounce House for End of Year Fun Day



BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT: ROSE HARNEN

I am so excited to be this year's PTO President. This will be my 3rd year on the Board previously holding the role of Secretary. My involvement in the PTO is inherited from my Mom. She always had some sort of role in my school's PTA so I can say from experience, when your child sees how much you're invested in their education and school activities it really makes a difference in how they perform and behave at school. Having your child see you taking a stand to make their school better for them and their peers will lead them to do the same. As your President, I pledge to continue Plato's mission to create a positive and safe environment that supports our students and school. We have lots of exciting things planned this year and I hope you will all join in on the fun while supporting our students, school and PTO.



During the day I'm a Property Service Coordination at R.W. Caldwell Inc. - Property Management Division. It's challenging - ever changing and I love it but, my greatest accomplishment in life is my son Anthony; an amazing 3rd grader who truly is my sunshine that makes me happy every day. I enjoy hanging with my son & our friends, organizing events, creating (I'm a Pinterest Mom), binge watching Netflix and volunteering at PLATO ST PETE!

"At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents." ~ Jane D. Hull

Reach Rose at rosemarie.harnen@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT: EMMA BRYAN

I'm so excited to be the Vice President this year of the PTO! I wanted to step and serve the school that has given so much to our family and children. I am a former public lower elementary school teacher, and left the school system when we had our first child. It's been a crazy 7 years being a stay at home mom! Our oldest daughter (Coco) is in second grade this year, and has been at Plato since kindergarten. We also have twin girls (Charlie and Winnie) who are in VPK this year. We are excited that they will eventually all be at Plato together!



As a family, we enjoy traveling, family time and swimming at the pool and the beach. We also love watching movies together, going to Disney, and exploring new places.

"You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give." ~ Winston Churchill

Reach Emma at emmacaroline@earthlink.net

TREASURER OF BOOKEEPING: IDI IDIONG

Hello Plato Family! Welcome to the new school year. I am very glad to be serving as your Treasurer of Bookkeeping. When I am not performing my spousal and motherly duties, I am paid to work as the Associate Chief of Pharmacy Clinical Services at the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System. I am very proud of the work I do serving our nations Veterans.



I am married with two children, Audrey, 4th Grade and Henry, Pre-School. Our family enjoys participating in activities at our church, traveling and exploring new eateries. My husband and daughter are members of a competitive dance team which allows our family many opportunities to attend several dance competitions throughout the year. I have been known to lose my voice cheering them on, during their routines.

I have been a member of the Plato Academy – St. Pete Campus Parents Teachers' Organization (PTO) family since its infancy in September 2013. I have a passion for service to the community which is one of the reasons why I went into the medical field. I ran for the PTO board because several parents and faculty had approached me regarding active participation in the PTO. In the past, the timing has not been suitable.

"For it is in giving that we receive." ~ Saint Francis of Assisi, Catholic Saint, Founder of Franciscans

Reach Idi at idiidiong@hotmail.com



TREASURER OF FUNDRAISING: TRESSY GUADAGNO

I have been involved with the board going on 4 years. I have been here since they opened the school and love what this school has grown into. I feel we have a special place here and it will continue to grow yearly with the love and compassion of our parents and staff. I urge you to be involved – children love when their parents are involved and I promise you will get something out of it too. My daughter Gabriella “Gigi” will be starting 5th grade this year. We are so happy she is able to attend such a wonderful school.

I work full time as a pediatric occupational therapist for a non-profit organization that treats kids in Pinellas county. I have been an OT for 20 years and love it.

I love to travel to the mountains and I love live music. And if I can combine the two then it doesn't get any better. Locally my family loves to be at the beach or downtown enjoying what St Pete has to offer.

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.” ~ Elizabeth Andrew

Reach Tressy at Tressyg23@gmail.com

SECRETARY: JULIE HALLY

My two children Rachel, 4th Grade and Benjamin, 2nd Grade have both been students at Plato since Kindergarten. In my spare time, my family can be found at Rays games, at the baseball field where my son plays Little League, or at the soccer field where my daughter plays on a soccer team. My husband and I enjoy our crazy busy family life, but we also enjoy getting out and spending time with our friends. We work hard, but we have a lot of fun too.

I am the Outreach Specialist for PACE at Empath Health where I visit elderly members of our community in their homes and assess them for our program. My degree is in Gerontology, so this is where my heart is. I love it.

I ran for the PTO Board because I want to stay involved with my children's school as much as I possibly can. I truly believe we've got a special thing going here at Plato Academy St. Pete., and I feel incredibly lucky to be a part of this family.

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” ~ Mahatma Gandhi

Reach Julie at julie.hally@yahoo.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

There are so many ways to get involved at our school through the PTO...some big, some small, but ALL participation is important! The following provides a short description of each committee. If you have an interest in assisting with a particular committee, as a chairperson or volunteer, please contact our Vice President, Emma Bryan.

During the course of the school year, various programs and events are scheduled that we'll need someone to spearhead so they run efficiently. This is when other members of the PTO who haven't been elected to the board will get their chance to leave their mark. The committee heads should be prepared to work with the VP to solicit volunteers for their event. They should also be prepared to work with the Treasurers and Secretary to gather funds and put together communications. This involves coordinating a schedule of preparation meetings with the President, and to be present on the day of their event so that they can ensure everything is running smoothly. Each of the committee heads will determine the number of volunteers needed, and those volunteers will assist the chairperson with all the details and duties, at either the event, or prior to making preparations. Some of the volunteers will be needed at the event, while others can do work from home. It's a win-win for anyone who wants to help!

BOX TOPS/ MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: CHRISTIE CAMBUT & TBD

YEAR-ROUND COLLECTION OF BOX-TOPS WITH OCTOBER & FEBRUARY MAIL-IN.

STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK/ MEMBER-AT-LARGE: TBD

ANNUAL STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK (APRIL/MAY)



STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCHEONS/ MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: TBD

AUGUST/NOVEMBER/FEBRUARY/MAY LUNCHEONS TO CELEBRATE OUR STAFF.

HOLIDAY GIFT SHOP/ MEMBER-AT-LARGE: TBD

DECEMBER EVENT FOR STUDENTS TO SHOP FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS IN A SAFE, INEXPENSIVE WAY.

CHARACTER ENRICHMENT BREAKFASTS / MEMBER-AT-LARGE: TBD

MONTHLY BREAKFAST FOR THE CHARACTER OF THE MONTH STUDENTS.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT / MEMBER-AT-LARGE: TBD

OCTOBER EVENT FOR THE ENTIRE SCHOOL.

DONATION DRIVES / MEMBER-AT-LARGE: TBD

NOVEMBER FOOD DRIVE AND MARCH SOCKS FOR CANCER DRIVE

AUDIT COMMITTEE / MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: JODY SEPULVEDA & MICHAEL HALLEY

ANNUAL AUDIT OF THE PTO FINANCES (OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER)

RECYCLING / MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: TBD

WEEKLY COLLECTION / DROP-OFF OF OUR SCHOOLS PAPER RECYCLING.

BOOK FAIR / MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: TBD

BOOK FAIR TO KICK OFF OUR SPRING FUNDRAISER.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE / MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: TBD

MARCH ELECTION COORDINATION FOR UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR.

GRANDPARENTS LUNCHEON / MEMBER-AT-LARGE: TBD

SEPTEMBER EVENT

PTO HOSPIALITY / MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: TBD

SEPTEMBER, NOVEMBER, JANUARY & MARCH MEETING HOST AND GREETER.

STEM-A-DAY HOLIDAY FAIR / MEMBER-AT-LARGE: TBD

DECEMBER FUN EDUCATIONAL HOLIDAY ENSPIRED EVENT FOR THE STUDENTS.








FIELD DAY / MEMBER-AT-LARGE: TBD

END-OF-YEAR MAY EVENT FOR THE ALL STUDENTS





HELP US
HELP OUR SCHOOL

 <p>Sign up for important updates from Rose Harnen and Tressy.</p> <p>Get information for Plato Academy St Petersburg, right on your phone—right on handsets.</p> <p>Pick a way to receive messages for Plato Academy St Pete PTO:</p> <p><input type="radio"/> If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.</p> <p>On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:</p> <p>rmd.at/pasppto</p> <p>Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.</p> <p>Text the message #remind to the number 81010.</p> <p>If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting #remind to 212-782-2282.</p> <p><small>© Remind.com</small></p> <p><small>Don't have a mobile phone? Go to rmd.at/remind on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.</small></p>	<p>Remind</p> <p>This year we will implement the Remind program. Some of you may be familiar with this program as it is used by some of our teachers to communicate with the parents in a simple and safe way.</p> <p>The PTO will use this program to send out volunteer needs, reminders of events and meetings. Through a simple text message, PARENTS can stay in touch! Only the PTO President & Treasurer of Fundraising will have access to contact information (phone numbers or emails) so you never have to worry about your information being shared or seen by other members. In the Age of Technology in which we now live, the traditional hard-copy classroom handouts, by itself, doesn't cut it anymore. Like it or not, technology is a part of students' and parents' lives...</p> <p>Easy to use Parents sign up by sending a text message or email. You never have to visit the site unless you want to!</p> <p>We are very excited to start this up and have all PTO families join in. It's a very simple way of getting all the information we are sharing right on your phone within minutes of us sending!</p>
  <p>You shop. Amazon gives.</p>	<p>AmazonSmile</p> <p>Shop on AmazonSmile and Amazon will donate to Plato Academy St Petersburg! When you sign up for AmazonSmile, you will be asked to select a charity to support (Parent Booster USA Inc.).</p> <p>Plato St Petersburg PTO supporters should click on our unique link, and skip the charity selection process. Instead, you will be taken to smile.amazon.com and are automatically asked if they want to support Plato Academy St Petersburg (Parent Booster USA Inc. is how the organization is listed)</p> <p>Our unique charity link: https://smile.amazon.com/ch/46-3913060</p>
 <p>MAKE OUR SCHOOL A CUT ABOVE!</p>	<p>Box Tops for Education</p> <p>The Plato Academy St Petersburg Campus will once again continue our Box Tops for Education drive for the coming school year! Last year, we raised over \$1,600 and this year we're going for \$2,000. Thank you to all the dedicated students and families that clipped and save all those box tops throughout the school year and summer, each worth .10c each!</p> <p>Box Tops may be dropped off anytime throughout the year to your child's class teachers, but our school wide collection drives will take place in October and February. And don't forget to download the BoxTop app for Bonus BoxTops!</p> <p>There will be a party for <u>top class</u> in each grade so let's get clipping and clicking!</p>
  	<p>Spirit Nights</p> <p>Spirit nights are held throughout the year at local participating businesses & restaurants locations in the community. The host businesses & restaurants locations help our school by donating a portion of your check when you mention "Plato Academy St Pete". These events are a great way to foster a sense of community in the school, so please join us!</p> <p>Check out the school calendar on the website for scheduled dates and location.</p>



PTO Calendar of Events 2017-2018

Date	Activity
Aug-17	
4	Welcome Back Staff Luncheon
8	Open House
10	First Day of School
8/8-8/18	PTO Membership Drive
8/8-8/18	Spirit Shirt Order Collection Drive
8/8-9/22	Adopt-A-Class Collection Drive
25	Friend-raiser - Playdate at Walter Fuller
Sep-17	
5	Character Enrichment Breakfast
7	General PTO Mtg, 6:00-7:00
8	Grandparents Luncheon
21	Spirit Night - Astro Skates
9/25- 10/6	Fall Fundraiser Drive – Charleston Wrap
Oct-17	
2	Character Enrichment Breakfast
20	PTO Family Fun Night - Dance
13	Box Tops DUE
27	Trunk or Treat
Nov-17	
6	Character Enrichment Breakfast
13-17	Food Collection Drive for Park Street Baptist Church
2	General PTO Mtg, 6:00-7:00
9	Spirit Night - TBD
17	Thankful for Staff Luncheon
17	Box Tops Fall Rewards Party
Dec-17	
4	Character Enrichment Breakfast
TBD	Stem-a-Day Fair – Daytime Kids Event
15	Holiday Shop - Students Shop for Holiday Gifts

Date	Activity
Jan-18	
16	Character Enrichment Breakfast
18	General PTO Mtg 6:00-7:00
26	Spirit Night - Chuck-e-Cheese
Feb-18	
1	Family Literacy Night - Book Fair
5	Character Enrichment Breakfast
9	Friend-raiser - Parents Night - TBD
14	We LOVE our Staff Luncheon
16	Box Tops Due
19	NO SCHOOL
19-23	PTO Board Elections - NOMINATION PERIOD
March 2018	
1	Spirit Night - TBD
7	Character Enrichment Breakfast
8	General PTO Mtg, 6:00-7:00 ELECTIONS
12	NO SCHOOL
19-23	SOCKS for Cancer Collection Drive
Apr-18	
9	Character Enrichment Breakfast
20	BoxTops Spring Rewards Party
25	Administrative Assistant Day
May-18	
7	Character Enrichment Breakfast
7	Principal's Day
5/7 - 5/11	Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week
11	Staff Appreciation Luncheon
10	Spirit Night - Astro Skates
5/14 - 5/21	Used Uniform Collection Drive
5/18 - 5/24	Wacky Days of School - No Uniforms
21	Character Enrichment Breakfast
22	Used Uniform Sales
23	Student End of Year Fun Day - Field Day

Note - Some dates are subject to change and some events may be canceled due to lack of volunteers or interest. Sign-up Genius requests will be sent out closer to the event dates.