



## Greetings from the OQS PTO!

### Who are we?

The OQS PTO is a group of parents and teachers dedicated to making OQS the best school it can possibly be. The PTO is only as strong as its membership, and **we encourage all parents to participate!** **Meetings are held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7:00.** At these meetings we develop fundraisers to support school activities, plan events to build our school community, organize volunteers to support school sports and after school activities, and develop methods to support OQS teachers and staff.

### What did the PTO do in the 2011-12 school year?

SEPTEMBER: We organized a "Welcome Back" picnic. The PTO organized food (each grade level is assigned food or drink to bring), grilling and clean-up. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade wanted help to provide brown bag lunches to Irene recovery crews, so the PTO helped to fund the effort and parents volunteered to help with the organization. A major fundraiser began for the PTO is Innisbrook (please go to: <http://www.innisbrook.com/fundraising-programs> for more information on this fundraiser). Snacks were provided by the PTO for NECAP testing (at which our students performed exceptionally well). The PTO also funded the purchase of a band instrument for future students to play.

OCTOBER: Our fantastic garden club had over 60 children and several parent helpers who made the program possible. The PTO provided snacks and materials for a new garden shed. The first annual Harvest Dinner was hosted as an extension of the Garden Club and over 190 people were served! Box Tops for Education (please go to: <http://www.boxtops4education.com/learn/WhyJoin.aspx> for more information on this program) were collected and submitted with 4M winning a pizza party. The first annual Halloween Party was launched by the PTO and about 200 children came for spooky fun.

DECEMBER: The PTO organized Breakfast with Santa and a OQS clothing order.

JANUARY: The PTO provided 20 scholarships to the OQS ski program at the Quechee Ski Hill. The program was a success because of our wonderful parents who volunteered to help organize and instruct 125 students. The PTO organized a teacher appreciation pizza lunch for in-service day.

MARCH: Special PTO mini-grants allowed the following enrichments: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grades had an onsite Iditarod demonstration with real sled dogs on the playground, new library chairs were ordered, a special reading nook in 4T was created with bean bag chairs, and stylus pens and voice recorders were given to the special education department! A second staff lunch was provided during parent-teacher conferences. A second Box Top collection and 4M won another pizza party. (FYI: OQS parent box top collections have raised over \$1,000 for OQS supplies!) Roughly 2,000 Labels for Education points were collected for additional OQS athletic supplies. A spring offering of OQS gear was sent home.

MAY: The Ice Cream Social and Raffle was organized and sponsored by the PTO. This event was one of the best fundraisers of the year. The PTO also supported the 5<sup>th</sup> grade yearbook.

JUNE: The PTO helped on Field Day with parent volunteers and popsicles for all!

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR: The PTO hosted several movie nights, which are well-attended and great fun. Plus each teacher was given annual mini-grants to be used at their discretion for student enrichment (some field trips included Billings Farm, Lebanon Opera House, VINS and Hopkins Center shows).

**Please turn over for more PTO information...**

### **I can't make the monthly meetings. How can I help?**

1. Find us on Facebook: Ottawaquechee PTO. Here we post updates on how parents can help with upcoming events.
2. E-mail the PTO to get on the notification list.
3. Support the PTO by participating in fundraisers and collecting Box Tops for Education.
4. Volunteer on the weekends to help with PTO events.

### **How do I contact the PTO?**

**E-mail:** [Ottaquechee.pto@gmail.com](mailto:Ottaquechee.pto@gmail.com)

**Drop a note** in the PTO mailbox in the school office