



Longfellow Elementary School

Home of the Bears



August 2016

Welcome to the new school year! Please take a minute to look at this packet, which is designed to inform you about what the Longfellow Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) does, how you can help, and how you can stay informed about activities at Longfellow.

The Longfellow PTO plans, sponsors and funds a variety of activities that touch Longfellow children’s lives on a regular basis. We pay for school-wide assemblies, such as Opera for the Young and author visits. Our volunteers read to children in the classroom, help promote physical fitness, and support students in math and science. We provide appreciation lunches for teachers a few times a year. We sponsor family and diversity community building events, including school-wide picnics, Sports Night, Family Fun Night, Art Night, Kuumba Kids performances and much more. Lastly, to provide these events, we raise funds year-round through a lot of different programs – Box Tops, an annual Fun Run, Parties at Longfellow (PAL), Dining for Dollars and many more.

We all help to provide this to the Longfellow community. The PTO relies upon parents, guardians, family members and teachers to volunteer at PTO activities and to donate funds.

We don’t expect a huge time commitment from volunteers. A few hours from everyone can add up fast and can be a big help to our school community. We have positions and tasks to fit all schedules and interests. *We ask each of our parents/guardians to volunteer at least five hours a year.* We think you’ll find it easy and rewarding: you can volunteer during the day (Reading Buddies program, school picture days, book fairs), in the evenings (Back-to-School Picnic, Science Night, Art Night), weekends (at the Winter Carnival), or any time that is convenient (such as cooking and baking for teacher appreciation lunches, counting Box Tops, donating a PAL party).

Please take a moment to fill out the **High Five for Volunteering Form** and send it to school with your child. You can also reach out directly to the VP of Volunteers, Sarah Richards Burton (sarahrichardsburton@gmail.com). We’ll be in touch to let you know when you can help at activities that interest you.

Listed below are key events you'll want to put on your calendar. Watch the school website (<http://www.op97.org/longfellow/>), the weekly Digital Backpack e-mail from Ms. Cahill and the PTO’s e-newsletter What’s Happening at Longfellow (WHAL) for times, details and future events.

- September 5** NO SCHOOL – LABOR DAY
- September 8** Fun Run Rally, during the school day
- September 9** Back-to-School Picnic, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- September 12** Curriculum Night
- September 13** Fall School Pictures
- September 18** Kick-off for Parties at Longfellow (PAL), Trattoria 225
- September 19** PTO Meeting, 7 p.m. in the school library
- October 6** New Family Welcome Dinner, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- October 14** Fun Run (our biggest fund-raiser), during the school day

Members of the PTO Board

Sabrina Tellez-Brennan Co-President	Nikki Richardson VP-Community	Marta Ikegami VP-Diversity	Pam Morin Carmichael VP-Enrichment	Kiara Armstrong VP-Fundraising
Sarah Richards Burton VP-Volunteers	Diane Wendt Uher VP-Communications	Elle Morton Kindergarten/New Family Liaison	Stacey Hendricks Co-Treasurer	Heather Markell Co-Treasurer
	Michelle Mangan Recording Secretary	Rachel Gallagher Member-at-Large	Joe Gray Teacher Liaison	