

PTO PERSPECTIVE



AN INFORMATION SOURCE FROM THE SOMERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL PTO

WWW.SHSPTO.ORG

FALL 2014

WELCOME

Parents/Guardians of the Class of 2018!

The SHS PTO has been busy organizing fundraisers for the school year. September starts with the annual fall flower sale. Be sure to place your orders! The form can be found on the PTO website at www.shspto.org. The website is updated consistently with all pertinent information regarding fundraisers and upcoming events. Be sure to check it out.

The PTO plans many wonderful events for our students and we are always looking for volunteers. We work throughout the year raising funds to support these events and we need your help. Please come out and support the PTO.

The dates for this year's meetings are: October 30, 2014; December 16, 2014; March 18, 2015 and May 14, 2015.

The PTO meetings are held in the SHS library and begin at 7pm. If you are unable to attend meetings but would like to volunteer your time, or if you have any questions, please contact one of the officers listed below. ♦

Thank you,
Michele Grimm, President

Don't Delay—Join the SHS PTO Now!

It costs only \$10 a year to join the PTO! Register online at shspto.org. Or look for your membership form that is included in this Back to School mailing. All freshman families who join by September 18th (Back to School Night) are automatically entered in a drawing for a "Freshman Survival" gift basket.

This basket is full of 'Ville clothing and other assorted items to ensure stress-free survival. ♦

If you have questions about any aspect of the PTO, please contact...

President	Michele Grimm	michelegrimm@verizon.net
Vice President	Dina McTernan	dina_mct@msn.com
Treasurer	Karen Ksenzakovic	ksenzak1@gmail.com
Secretary	Cindy Dailey	daileycreative@gmail.com

HALLOWEEN IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

Before you purchase your Halloween costumes this year, please consider our fundraiser that supports SHS Project Graduation. Please visit costumeandpartyfundraiser.com and use the Promo Code **FUN3325**.

The company will donate 15% of all sales to Project Graduation. Please feel free to share this code with family and friends anywhere in the USA!

This site is now active all year for all your party needs. ♦

What You Should Know About Parental Involvement

Building parental involvement is the single most important thing that parent groups do. Often, it's the most difficult, too. And that's too bad, because there are many compelling and definitive reasons that are backed up by volumes of research as to why all parents should get involved in their child's education. These reasons apply to everyone—regardless of bank balance, ethnicity, work schedule, education level, or anything else. Researchers have been studying the effects of parent attitudes and actions on their children's academic success for more than 30 years. The results are consistent. In their book, *"A New Generation of Evidence: The Family Is Critical to Student Achievement,"* Anne Henderson and Nancy Berla state that when parents are involved in their children's education at home, they do better in school. And when parents are involved in school, children go farther in school, and the schools they go to are better. (www.ptotoday.com) ♦

How can you be involved at school? It's easy—join the PTO!

People say they don't have time, but an hour or two each month is a huge help! People say they don't feel comfortable at school, but we make you feel welcome. We always have fun! Even during the most hectic activities, there's always time to laugh! ♦

When Does the PTO Meet?

The SHS PTO will meet 4 times this year. Meetings are 7-8 PM in the library.

Thursday	October 30th
Tuesday	December 16th
Wednesday	March 18th
Thursday	May 14th

If you want to get more involved, there are many subcommittees that run activities throughout the year. Subcommittees usually meet just before or after the regular meeting. ♦

IMPORTANT DATES!!

Sept. 4 First day of school (full day)
Sept. 7 Market Day pick up, SHS Cafe
Sept. 18 Back to School Night, 7pm, SHS

IMPORTANT DATES!!

Sept. 19 Fall Plant Sale pick up
Sept. 25 No school
Oct. 12 Market Day pick up, SHS Cafe

IMPORTANT DATES!!

Oct. 13 No school (staff development)
Oct. 30 PTO meeting, SHS Library, 7pm

Where Does the Money Go?

The money the PTO raises goes back to all students in one way or another. Here are a few activities the PTO sponsors to benefit our children:

PROJECT GRADUATION This is the biggest SHS PTO project. Project Graduation is an opportunity for all seniors to enjoy a supervised, drug- and alcohol-free, all-night post-graduation celebration at the Rutgers University Sonny Werblin Rec Center. This year, after formal graduation ceremonies were over, seniors who have signed a contract agreeing to follow the rules and be on their best behavior, boarded buses at 9:30 pm for the trip to Rutgers. During the evening students enjoyed DJ-led karaoke and dancing. Seniors swam in the Olympic size swimming pool and played basketball, volleyball and racquetball. The inflatable Bungee Run was a huge hit as was the Temporary Tattoo table, three caricaturists, the photo booth and the air brush t-shirt booth. Sub sandwiches, beverages and tons of snacks were available all evening. Pizza arrived at 2 am and was devoured shortly thereafter! At 2:30 am the Annual Project Graduation BINGO game began! All our students participated in ten exciting, suspenseful games of BINGO in order to win great prizes – including five 19" TVs and 4 "Beats" Headphones – all generously donated by the Project Graduation. Seniors returned home tired but happy around 5:00 am. This year, Project Graduation cost \$23,500. All funds are raised through donations from businesses and parents as well as various PTO fundraisers throughout the year. Many PTO subcommittee members are needed to organize this terrific event for the seniors.

LOCKER STUFFING As part of Project Graduation, all senior lockers are stuffed 3 times a year with a small treat and a Project Graduation message. PTO members purchase treats and stuff lockers on Halloween, before the winter break, and on Valentine's Day.

COLLEGE INFORMATION NIGHT Each January, the SHS Guidance Department sponsors an evening for Junior and Senior parents to learn more about college admissions, college athletics, and financial aid. The PTO provides funds to sponsor the Financial Aid expert speaker.

FRESHMAN T-SHIRTS Class of 2018 t-shirts were purchased and given to the incoming freshman at their pizza social held on August 27th.

SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS The PTO provides scholarships to deserving seniors. Scholarships are awarded to Seniors, whose parent(s) meet the criteria for service to the PTO. A good reason to join the PTO!

ADMINISTRATION REQUESTS The PTO allocates funds annually (\$1000 or more) for school administrative requests. In past years, PTO funds have been used to support the "One Book, One Community" initiative, to purchase an automated external defibrillator (AED), a portable sound system, a large laminating machine, and to defray the cost of new stage curtains in the auditorium. Other requests include funding to provide assemblies for the students. ♦

BALLOONS IN JUNE

A sure sign that SHS graduation is close at hand is the bunches of bright orange mylar Ville balloons tied to mailboxes and porches all over Somerville and Branchburg! Each June, parents, relatives, friends, and neighbors can honor SHS seniors by ordering balloons (\$5 ea). This annual fundraiser is one of the most visible indicators of the SHS PTO at work – 2,475 balloons were delivered for the Class of 2014. Profits from this fundraiser go directly to Project Graduation. PTO members inflate balloons, organize balloon bunches, and deliver the balloons. ♦



PTO Fundraisers

Here is how the PTO earns money to support its activities. If you have any successful fundraising ideas or experiences, we'd love to hear them!

CLOTHING SALE

Start the year off right by purchasing orange and black Ville clothing. Look for new items we have added this year! Items such as sweatshirts, long- and short-sleeved t-shirts, sweatpants, flannel pants, shorts, knit hats and bags are available in a range of sizes. Ville clothing makes great holiday or birthday gifts. Order forms can be found on our website. Visit us at www.shspto.org to start building your VILLE wardrobe today! If you have any questions about VILLE clothing, please contact PTO Clothing Chairperson Rosa.Coulson@verizon.net. ♦



MARKET DAY

Market Day offers more than 160 convenient and nutritious food products (ie, poultry, meat, seafood, complete meals, appetizers, breakfast items, dessert) at competitive prices. Order online at www.marketday.com or via the order sheet in the progress report packet mailed later in the fall. A percentage of each order is given back to the PTO. Last year more than \$2,000 was raised. Market Day delivers the orders directly to the school, on the first or second Saturday of each month. PTO members receive and sort orders – all you do is pick yours up! Please contact Clare Daly with any questions. Her email is: clareedaly@yahoo.com. ♦

Market Day Calendar for 2014-15

ORDER BY DATE	PICK UP DATE	TIME
Mon., Sept. 8	Sat., Sept. 13	9:30-10:30am
Mon., Oct. 6	Sat., Oct. 11	9:30-10:30am
Mon., Nov. 3rd	Sat., Nov. 8	9:30-10:30am
Mon., Dec. 1	Sat., Dec. 6	9:30-10:30am
Mon., Jan. 5	Sat., Jan. 10	9:30-10:30am
Mon., Feb. 2	Sat., Feb. 7	9:30-10:30am
Mon., March 9	Sat., March 14	9:30-10:30am
Mon., April 13	Sat., April 18	9:30-10:30am
Mon., May 11	Sat., May 16	9:30-10:30am
Mon., June 8	Sat., June 13	9:30-10:30am