

Hanover PTA Newsletter



Hanover Elementary School PTA

Winter 2020

Winter 2020 PTA-Sponsored Events*

Thursday, January 23 (3 pm - 9 pm)

Chuck E. Cheese Fundraiser: Up to 20% of sales donated to school. Contact: Kristina Brandes.

Monday, January 27 (5 pm - 9 pm)

Dine to Donate: 15% of food/beverage purchase at Copperhead Grille donated to school. Contact: Emmanuella Dontas.

Friday, January 31 (6 pm)

Movie Night: Bring the family to watch Disney Pixar's Inside Out at Nitschmann MS and donate to Backpack Pals. Contact: Julie Getz.

Thursday, February 6 (6 pm - 8 pm)

Ice Skating Night: Hanover night at Bethlehem Municipal Ice Rink. Contact: Eva Moutafis Condoulis.

Wednesday, February 19

Author Day: Students meet with published author, Jordan Sonnenblick. Contact: Jennifer Stein LoConte.

Thursday, March 5 (6 pm)

PTA Meeting: All parents/guardians encouraged to attend.

Thursday, March 12, and Saturday, March 14 (7 pm)

Hanover Presents The Lion King: Theatrical production featuring the third, fourth, and fifth graders.

Thursday, March 19 (6 pm)

Bingo Night: Family bingo, raffles, snacks. Contact: Wendy Blomfield.

Friday, March 20

Science Day: Hands-on science activities in the classroom. Contact: Alison Lazewski or Melissa Dowd.

**This is not a comprehensive list of all school events—only those sponsored or otherwise supported by the PTA. Events/dates subject to change.*

Become an Active PTA Member

Many hands make light work! We have plenty of ways that you can get involved, whether it's through volunteering in the classroom or helping to coordinate details behind the scenes. You don't need prior experience to volunteer with the PTA; you just need the appropriate clearances and credentials, as outlined in the Parent-Student Handbook. We always need volunteers, and welcome new faces to become familiar faces among our community of involved parents. Come to our next PTA meeting, or contact any actively involved PTA parent or an event chairperson to get started!

MESSAGE FROM OUR PTA PRESIDENT

It's hard to believe that we're already in the second half of the school year! We had a very busy and fun-filled fall, and we are so appreciative of all the parents, teachers, and staff who worked to make our events run smoothly for students in every grade. As we begin 2020, we have yet another full slate of activities to plan and execute through the spring, and we need your continued help. If you've never volunteered before, this is a great time to jump in and get involved. Always trying to improve, we are introducing this PTA newsletter, to be published on a quarterly basis, to help keep you informed about opportunities to participate. We look forward to meeting some new parents, and we thank you for all that you do to make Hanover such an exceptional learning community!



—Tanya Doddy, President, Hanover Elementary PTA,
hanoverhawks18@gmail.com

Why We Need to Fundraise

Thank you to all the families, friends, and staff whose generosity and dedication helped to make our Fall 2019 fundraising efforts successful.

While we did a great job in the first half of the school year, it is critical that we do equally well fundraising this winter and spring. Why do we need to continue raising money? **Our fall fundraising supplies only a portion of what's required to support field trips, assemblies, student supplies, and more that are fully or partially funded by PTA money and often would not be possible without it.**



Some recent examples of what PTA funds help to cover at Hanover:

- admission and busing for field trips for all students in grades K through 5;
- opportunities, such as Author Day and Arts Day, for students to meet and learn from special inspirational guests;
- needs for student supplies, such as safety goggles, that arise throughout the year;
- costs associated with producing the school play (performance license, supplies, props).

Our students (and their dedicated teachers) depend on the continued success of our efforts to see them through this year. We have just a few more fundraising activities to look forward to this spring; let's finish them off strong!

Congratulations, Hanover Artists!

This year, we had a record number of participants for the **National PTA's Reflections Program for the Arts**. The theme was entitled, "Look Within."

On November 20, all Hanover students who submitted entries had the opportunity to attend a reception at the school, where their works were showcased and they could speak with guests (family, friends, teachers) about their creations. The top five entries from each category will move on to the Regional competition, and the finalists will move on to the state level in mid-February. Congratulations to all the Hanover participants who shared with us their creativity and talent!



Music Competition (Intermediate Division, Grades 3-5): Polina Dorman

Literature (Intermediate Division, Grades 3-5): Will Cresci, Lily Medaska

Visual Arts (Primary Division, Grades K-2): Jack Cresci, Natalie Georges, Lambros Nassif, Renee Yun Lin

Visual Arts (Intermediate Division, Grades 3-5): Polina Dorman, Amalene Erland, Alexis Flores, Stella Georgalas, Dulci Maurer, Devin Timman-Romig

Photography (Primary Division, Grades K-2): Jack Cresci, Brady Getz, Cooper Getz

Photography (Intermediate Division, Grades 3-5): Will Cresci, Polina Dorman, Stella Georgalas, Philip Kerrigan, Lily Medaska, Axel Tansu

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT: Mrs. Theresa Pinho

Mrs. Pinho joined Hanover as a fourth grade teacher in Fall 2019. Beyond the classroom, there's a lot to know about this Bethlehem native.



Here are five fast facts about one of Hanover's newest additions:

1. Her favorite day of the week is F-Sunday, when her entire family and friends who are family come over for food, football, family, and fun.
2. She has two kids of her own: Kylie, 17 (senior at Freedom High School), and Dominic, 14 (eighth grader at East Hills Middle School).
3. She's a New York Giants and Penn State football fan.
4. She worked for 8.5 years to earn her degree while being a stay-at-home mom.
5. Her taste in music is diverse—she likes everything from old school freestyle to Bon Jovi, Def Leppard, Run DMC, and even some country and pop.

Best wishes to Mrs. Pinho for an amazing year at Hanover!

Save the Date for the Spring Festival: Friday, May 22

One of the biggest events we have on school grounds, the Hanover Elementary Spring Festival is also one of our largest fundraisers. The money raised from this event funds field trips, special events, and other programs that take place throughout the school year to enhance our children's educational and life experiences. This year, the festival will take place on Friday, May 22 from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm. It is open to the public and includes inflatable rides, games, raffles, food, music, and more.



The success of this event relies heavily on volunteers and donations in the form of goods/services and money. We truly need every Hanover family to contribute to this event, and there are a number of ways to do so.

So, how can YOU help?

- Sign up to work a table/stand at the festival. We need help at the games, rides, food stand, etc. In addition to parents, high school students can volunteer to fulfill community service hours.
- Donate money to help offset the expenses of the event (rides, tents, food, etc.), so that we can turn a profit to benefit the students. Whether you can contribute \$10 or \$100, any amount helps.
- Give a gift card that can be used to purchase supplies for the event or used as part of a raffle prize. Maybe you even have some leftover ones from the holidays that you won't be using.
- Prepare/donate food and drink items to be sold at the snack stand.
- Put together a gift basket as a raffle prize. In past years, there have been some highly creative and sought-after baskets with themes ranging from "summer fun" to "a night at the movies." Tickets for the raffle prizes sell really well and help us meet our fundraising goal.
- Supply items to be used as prizes for the game stands.
- Maximize your social network. Know a friend or relative who owns a business? Ask if they'd be willing to donate goods/services or money to be a sponsor. For a small fee, they can also set up a vendor table on site at the festival. This is a win-win especially for local businesses looking to get their name out in the Hanover community.

More details and instructions on how to sign up will be sent home in the coming weeks, but please mark the date for this event now. Contact Darla Hepner at bdheps@ptd.net with any questions, donations, and your commitment to help!

Hanover PTA Soundbites

► CALLING FOR A CHAIRPERSON

The Hanover Talent Show is always a great event for students



to showcase their special interests, and we're currently in need of a parent (or two) to chair (or co-chair) the effort.

Among the responsibilities, the chair would need to oversee or coordinate parent volunteers to help with practices twice a week, likely starting at the end of February, through the night of the event, which usually takes place in mid-March or early April. The big night has typically included such talents as instrumental acts, ethnic dancing, and vocal performances.

In order for this Hanover tradition to continue, we need to have the commitment of a chairperson by the second week of February. If you are interested, please contact Tanya Dobby or Mackenzie Fetterman ASAP.

► PARKING LOT REMINDER

At the January 9 PTA meeting, parents, teachers, and Mrs. Hines discussed ideas for how to improve the drop-off/pick-up process and make the school parking lot safer for drivers and pedestrians alike.



Since Hanover does not use buses, there is a considerable amount of car and foot traffic coming in and out of the school property during peak times. Please always exercise caution, show courtesy in the parking lot, and obey the school speed limit on Jacksonville Road.

Mrs. Hines and the PTA will continue to explore possibilities to improve the traffic flow and safety in order to offer recommendations.

► ARE YOU AN AMAZON SHOPPER?

Make your purchases count! Register for AmazonSmile, a free and automatic way for the Hanover PTA to earn a percentage of your purchases on Amazon.



Here's how to do it:

1. Go to smile.amazon.com.
2. Under the search bar, select "Supporting."
3. Select the dropdown menu next to it and search for "Hanover Elementary PTA." Be sure to choose the one that says "Bethlehem, PA."

Hanover will earn 0.5% of all eligible purchases, so be sure to ask your friends and family to participate and select Hanover as well!

► SAVE THE DATE: IRONPIGS OUTING

The annual Hanover outing to see the Lehigh Valley IronPigs is scheduled for Thursday, May 21. The game begins at 7:05 pm and the Hanover Singers will be performing the National Anthem. Tickets cost \$11 per person. Order forms will be distributed the last week in March and will be due by April 15. Contact: Joslyn Lombardi Tapler.



► STAY CONNECTED

Join the "Friends of Hanover Elementary" group on Facebook to stay in the loop, share information, and be in the know when it comes to all things Hanover. This is a private group for Hanover Elementary parents/guardians only. When you request to join, you will need to answer a question to confirm that you have a child at the school.



While official communications are typically sent by paper in your child's school folder, this Facebook group is a great, more casual way to be part of the school community.