



Corl Street Chronicle

Published by the Corl Street PTO

February 2017

Save the Date:

- ✦ 2/5 Otto's Fundraiser
- ✦ 2/7 PTO Meeting
- ✦ 2/10 School Spirit Day
- ✦ 2/13 Snow Make-up day
- ✦ 2/24 Favorite Book Character Spirit Day
- ✦ 2/25 Family Night at Penn Skates
- ✦ 3/3—3/10 Spring Break (no school)
- ✦ 3/14 PTO Meeting

Snow Make-Up Day—Feb 13.

Due to a school cancellation in January, there will be school on Monday February 13th. Please make a note of it.

Learning While Helping Others

Service Learning Projects At Corl Street

by Elsie, Emily, Maya, Vanessa, Katie kp, and Grace

This month, I'm pleased to publish the following article written by fifth graders in Mrs. Hooper's class—Ed.

Corl Street Elementary School and the fifth grade do a lot of service learning projects. Service learning is when you plan a project to help the community, but it is different than community service, as participants learn while helping others. Fifth grade has worked on our school pollinator garden, helped raise money for the Books for Others project, collected coins for the Help for Haiti project, and is a leader in Corl Street's annual Read To Feed month.

One of the many community service projects fifth grade coordinates is the pollinator garden. The pollinator garden is a special garden for butterflies, moths and many other native insects. The garden provides the animals a place to eat, sleep, drink and lay their eggs. We aren't just stewards of the garden for the animals and insects; we also do this for us. Maintaining a healthy environment for the plants and animals allows the students of Corl Street to learn about native plants and animals while enjoying the peaceful and beautiful garden. The pollinator garden is great for everyone.

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Family Night at Penn Skates

The Corl Street PTO is again pleased to sponsor Family Night at Penn Skates. Roll in the fun on **Saturday February 25**, from **4:30 to 7!**

FREE admission for everyone, and **FREE** skate rental to all Corl Street students. Family members may rent skates for **\$3/person**.

The Principal's Interest

Wow, it is February - time is flying this school year. It is always good to revisit some information. All excuse notes have to be turned into the office within 3 days of your child returning to school. If your child had a doctor's appointment, please ask them to give you a note. Doctor's appointments are not counted as part of the 10-day count the state requires. Secondly, please try to complete and send to school trip forms as soon as you know that you will be going. I understand that some trips are last minute thoughts; however, even a day before is better than after. Also, if there are any changes to your early dismissal plan, please make sure that you send those to us, so we know what to do. If you need a copy of the form, let us know. If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to either call or e-mail me. Let's hope for more sunny days!

- Charlotte Zmyslo

President's Points:

Have you ever attended a PTO meeting? Are you afraid that as a newcomer you would be singled out and pressured into signing up for several committees?

I would like to assure you that these fears are completely unfounded.

When you attend a PTO meeting, you first drop your children off with our kind and competent babysitter, and then proceed to the meeting knowing that your child(ren) will be safe and happy while you spend time with other grownups. At the meeting, you will recognize some other parents, a teacher or two, and your child's principal.

You will get the inside scoop on what's happening at Corl Street and on the

school board from Mrs. Zmyslo and school board member Mr. Hutchison. You can even ask them any questions you have about the school, the upcoming construction, or other school board activities.

Finally, you will hear what the PTO has been working on. What exciting event are we preparing for next? (At the last meeting it was EXPO). What are we doing to support our teachers? (At the last meeting we voted to give every classroom and special teacher \$250 to spend in their classrooms.) As a parent, you can take part in these discussions and votes—democracy in action in your own neighborhood.

- Terrill Salter

Spirit Days Are Back!

Spirit Days are returning to Corl Street on many Fridays through the end of the school year. Dress to impress! Upcoming themes include:

Feb 10: School Spirit Day (Corl St. or Maroon/Gray clothing)

Feb. 24: Favorite Book Character

Mar 17: St. Patrick's Day

Mar 31: Silly/Mismatch/Jester/Clown

Apr. 28: Inspired by Nature

A complete list of Spirit Day themes are available on the Corl Street website.

Service Learning Projects (cont.)

Another service learning project at Corl Street is Books for Others. In the fall, Corl Street students brought in pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and dollars. Books for Others is a project where Mrs. Davis uses the money to buy books for schools and people in need. During the project, we learn about the importance of building strong libraries and putting books into the hands of children. This is a very important project and it's great that we do it. Our school is fortunate to have money and good books. We should help others, so let's keep doing this for years to come. Using the money to buy books for others is a great way for us to pay it forward.

In the beginning of the year, Corl Street raised money in a project called Help for Haiti. This project was organized by the 3rd and 5th graders. We made posters to raise awareness about the earthquake that struck. All the money went to an organization called Mercy Corps. Mercy Corps used the money to buy medical supplies, food, clothes, for the Haitians! We appreciate everyone's donations.

Another one of the community service learning projects is Read To Feed through Heifer International. We start reading in April to raise money that goes to Heifer International, a non profit organization, whose mission is to help people become self-sufficient. Then in May, with the money raised, we buy different animals for Heifer to give. We have been doing this project for eight years. The project helps others by giving means to produce food and all the animals we give are pregnant so that they can give the baby to someone else in their community. This program helps us learn about giving to others, geography, and economics. The overall message of this program is giving to others, helping others become self-sufficient, and paying it forward.

Everyone at Corl Street Elementary School cares about our environment and people's safety. Everyone should know that Service Learning Projects bring knowledge and kindness to heart and mind. The commitment we put forth makes us feel proud and happy to know we helped people. We learn from it and bring happiness to people even if we don't even know the people!