

# APTA NEWS

The Periodic Report From Alpha's Parent-Teacher Association



Volume 2, Issue 1  
November 2011

## Thank You!

Thanks to the many families who have paid their APTA dues for the 2011-2012 school year. The APTA has devised creative ways to raise money and is seeking out ways to spend monies raised on innovative programs and activities that will enrich our children's Alpha School experience. **If you haven't yet paid your dues, we strongly encourage you to send \$25 to APTA Treasurer Jen Foody today!**

## Thanksgiving Feast

Once again this year, the APTA was able to fully fund the cost of the Thanksgiving Feast from paid dues and other fundraising efforts. We send a special thanks to Catherine Paski for her hard work organizing this wonderful Alpha School tradition!

## Faculty Mini-Grants

The Mini-Grant program continues to be well-received. In addition to the grants reported in the May 2011 edition of *APTA News*, the APTA, in conjunction with the principal, awarded mini-grants to: Mrs. Brown-Clair to partially fund the 8<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to the Pittsburgh Glass Center; Miss Olivo and Mrs. DeVore for classroom manipulatives; and Lisa DeArmit (on behalf of the entire faculty) to purchase a laminator and laminating supplies. The Mini-Grant program is funded by various APTA sponsored events. Any faculty member who would like to apply for a grant should get a form from Sister Jacklyn.

If you have any questions about upcoming APTA activities, or if you'd like to get more involved with the APTA, please contact any of us:

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## Gala 2012: Save The Date!

It's that time of year again: time to start planning for Alpha's annual spring Gala. Co-Chairs Ruth Ann and Rob Pritchard have announced that the Gala will take place on **March 10, 2012**, at the wonderful Lexus Club at PNC Park. Tickets will be \$100 each. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend, as the Gala always promises a terrific night out! Also, please be sure to consider donating items for the live and silent auctions when approached by a Gala committee member. The Gala is the School's most significant fundraiser of the year, and we count on all Alpha families to pitch in and make it a success.

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## *Alpha Lights Social*

We invite all families, faculty and staff to celebrate the season of the birth of Christ together on Friday, December 2. A wonderful evening of dinner and kid-friendly activities is planned alongside the annual Festival of Lights. We will have the inaugural lighting of the Alpha Christmas Tree, followed by caroling. *Admission is free to all Alpha families, faculty, and staff*, courtesy of the Alpha Administration, the AAA, and the APTA. Festivities kick off at 5:30 in Casa D'Eagle (our transformed gym), dinner is at 6:00 p.m., and the evening culminates with the LaRoche fireworks (8:45 p.m.). If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help, contact Diane Staggers or Jack Goodrich.

## *Baby Jesus' Birthday Party*

Baby Jesus' Birthday Party—a cherished Alpha tradition—will take place on December 22. The theme of this year's celebration is "Teacher's Favorite Books." There will be seven craft rooms. We need lots of volunteer help, so please look in your purple envelopes for details and help if you can!

## *Santa Sale*

The Santa Sale will take place on December 6 and 7. This year, parents are invited and encouraged to bring the younger siblings of Alpha students in to shop! Stay tuned for more information!

## *Group Christmas Gift*

Once again this Christmas, the APTA will be collecting money for a "group" Christmas gift for Alpha faculty and staff. Monies collected will be distributed, pro rata, among full-time and part-time employees, and each contributing family will be listed in the accompanying card. Look in kid-mail after Thanksgiving for the specifics, and let the APTA simplify your holiday gift-giving by participating in this group gift!

## *Fundraising Report*

**Duquesne Light** sponsored an energy conservation assembly on October 11. Duquesne Light customers who returned the pledge form will receive CPL light bulbs, lime nightlights, weather stripping, and a furnace whistle. *All* of the children learned about easy ways to save energy—and money. Duquesne Light will be sending Alpha a check for \$1,900 (\$25 per pledge). Thanks to Caroline Cordisco for spearheading this effort!

Lynn Bileck, Ruth Ann Pritchard, and their team submitted 8,350 **Box Tops For Education**—an Alpha School record! The APTA and Sr. Rita agreed that the entire school should be rewarded with a Jeans Day. Children who submitted 100 or more box tops also will be recognized and their photos taken! Keep up the good work helping Alpha earn this "easy money!"

The **Scholastic Book Fair** was a big success, generating \$3,900 that Alpha teachers can use to purchase Scholastic materials. Thank you to Teresa Farls and Janell Butorac for coordinating the fair!

Don't forget to link your **Target Red Card** and your **Giant Eagle Advantage Card** to Alpha School. Contact Donna Doblick if you'd like more information on this easy way to raise money for the school.

## *Betsy Ann Candy*

Purchase your favorite Christmas chocolate from Betsy Ann and help Alpha School earn money at the same time! **Orders are due November 29.** Candy will be delivered December 12. If your child didn't bring an order form home last week, contact Carol Pellegrino.