

FROM THE CO-CHAIRS: MARY ANN ASHTON (HS) & JAN COUCH (JH)

2007–2008 Board and Budget

Thank you to everyone who attended the Annual PTSO Business Meeting and College Search Panel Presentation. This was our last meeting of the school year.

The PTSO budget for 2007-2008 was presented and approved. Thank you to PTSO Treasurer and Budget Committee Chair, Caroline Crosby and her committee of Mary Ann Ashton, Jan Couch, Ellie Halsey, and Alice Tam.

The approved budget is based on \$29,250 in income from the basic dues (\$30 per family, an increase of \$5 due to an increase in the costs of processing payments), other contributions, and sales of the school directories, as well as a \$2,100 allocation from our savings. Overall there are no material changes to the budget. A few items have been adjusted so that next year's budget is in line with this year's actual results. Our target result is expenses in excess of income of \$2,100 in accordance with a vote by the Board. The \$2,100 excess is allocated directly to the HS and JH grants at amounts of \$1,400 and \$700 respectively. The purpose of the excess spending of \$2,100 is to bring the year end bank balance to an amount that can sustain the PTSO operations for one year. The target amount is between \$7,000 and \$9,000. In the past three years the year end bank balance has been holding steady at \$12,000 because expenses have been coming in under budget.

Expenses total \$31,355 and include: \$5,600 for the production and mailing of the monthly PTSO newsletter, \$2,000 for graduation scholarships, \$10,900 grant for the High School, \$5,450 grant for the Junior High School (to be spent at the Principals' discretion), \$1,200 for Directory

printing, \$825 for the incoming Freshmen Pizza Party at Orientation (500 students!), \$500 for our AB Alumni Association, \$500 to Project Graduation, \$500 to Project Wellness, \$500 for Teacher Appreciation and a few other small items. Three line items reflect pass-through accounts for the RJG Blueprint, AB Spectrum and Project Graduation contributions received. Thank you to everyone who paid their PTSO dues and made donations this year, as well as to the many families that volunteered their time and expertise to our schools.

The last item of business was a vote on the proposed PTSO Board for 2007–2008.

Welcome to the following parents who will be new to the Board next year: Chris Renzi (JH Co-Chair), Pam Rogers (JH Directory), Jan Immerman (JH Newcomer Welcome), Elaina Kourepenos (JH Volunteer Coordinator), and Christine Dexter (HS Newcomer Welcome).

Thank you to the following Board members who will continue for another year: Mary Ann Ashton (HS Co-Chair), Jan Couch

(JH Co-Chair), Caroline Crosby (Treasurer), Janet Chinitz (Secretary), David Gerratt (Newsletter), Patti Babcock (JH Directory), Subha Thiagarajan (Gardening), Alice Tam (JH Membership), Holly Ben Joseph (HS Membership), Bonnie Maserang (HS Volunteer Coordinator), Ellie Halsey, Kavita Batra, and Debbie Clough (Interschool Council), and Dawn Gomez (Nominating).

The newsletter and publicity positions are still open for 2007–2008. Please give one of us a call asap if you are interested!

Thank you to parent volunteer Janice Ward for being our PTSO webmaster. She has been instrumental in keeping our website "sharp" and reducing our newsletter costs. THANK YOU Janice!!

Finally, thank you to Principals Craig Hardimon and Steve Donovan for their monthly updates at our Forums, articles in this newsletter, and their assistance throughout the year.

Have a great summer everyone!

— Mary Ann & Jan

ABRHS Principal Search Committee

High School Principal, Stephen Donovan, will be retiring in June, 2008. The School District is seeking interested parents/guardians to participate in the process. Five (5) parents/guardians from the High School and/or Junior High School will be selected to serve on The Search Committee. Two (2) of the parents/guardians will be selected by the PTSO Board while the other three (3) will be selected by the Superintendent. More specific information (schedule, tasks, etc.) is available on the District Web page (www.ab.mec.edu).

If you would be interested in serving on The Search Committee, please call Judy Segal at 978-264-4700 x 3209 to obtain an application (also available on the web site). Final date for submitting an application is Friday, July 13, 2007.

Thank You to Our Retiring Board Members

THANK YOU to HS Directory Chair, **Judy Peters**, as her youngest daughter graduates from AB has spent almost 20 years volunteering in our schools. She was on the Boards of the Acton Cooperative Preschool, the Douglas School, R.J. Grey JHS, and ABRHS. Judy created the first technology curriculum as a parent volunteer at Douglas, and streamlined the PTSO Directory process at the JH and HS. Her husband Dave's organizational and technology skills were instrumental in creating Project Wellness, not to mention both of the Peters' ongoing dedication to the growth of girls' lacrosse. Our school community will certainly miss the Peters family!

THANK YOU to Volunteer Coordinator, **Celeste Margolius**, who has also spent many years assisting in her four children's schools. Celeste is a former Merriam School Parent Leader and was instrumental in establishing a PTSO at that school. She spent a number of years on the RJG School Council as well as the Regional PTSO Board. Celeste is a founding member of the Project Wellness Committee and CAFY.

THANK YOU to Newcomer Welcoming Chair, **Sue Hart**, who has spent 10 years on the Boards of the Douglas School, as well as the JH and HS. Sue was often found setting up refreshments and being a friendly face and much appreciated resource to new families and volunteers.

THANK YOU to Interschool Council Rep, **Joyce Musacchio**, for over 10 years of volunteering on the Boards of the Douglas School, RJG, and ABRHS. Joyce has usually done this while also working full time in the corporate world. Her always thoughtful and enthusiastic "voice of reason" has been invaluable.

Last, but not least... **T**HANK YOU to Project Graduation 2007 Chair, **Patti Foye**. Patti took on the leadership of this year's "biggest and best party in town" and really hit the ground running!

Best of luck on your new adventures ladies and thank you!

THANK YOU to former PTSO HS and JH Co-Chair as well as Newsletter Editor, **Beth Petr**, for her many years of service on the PTSO Board. While serving six years as a co-chair of the PTSO, she used her extraordinary communication skills to ensure that important information from the schools and the PTSO was being provided to families within RJ Grey and ABRHS. She worked with former Principal Mac Reid to implement a change in parent conferences; the new system of scheduled times made the process more accessible for junior high parents. She initiated the e-mail list which continues today as an important backbone of school to family communications.

Beth has been continuously involved in leadership positions with parent organizations for the last 15 years, investing her time in the schools where her boys were students. She served as a member of the Acton Co-op board and president for three years, then moved on to five years on the Douglas PTO board, including two years as co-chair. In addition, she was deeply involved with the community groups that supported building projects at the elementary, junior high and high school (CARE) and which communicated the need for budget overrides in Acton in 2003 and 2005 (Together for Acton). She has served on the board of the Acton-Boxborough Special Education Parent Advisory Committee, and has enriched every single parent group in which she has participated.

Beth, we will miss working with you in all your many activities, but look forward to seeing what you do next.

Thank you, Beth!

"Surviving the College Search" Panel

The PTSO would like to thank AB Counselor Mrs. Linda Murphy for moderating our panel, and Counselors Mrs. Jennifer Gabel and Ms. Wioletta Pawlowska for helping us plan this 5th annual event.

THANK YOU to the following students and their parents who were our "experts":

- Doug Breuer
- Bonnie Cherner
- Jonathan Patten
- Kelsey Soberg
- Natalie Crutchfield
- Stephanie Clement
- Hannah Slocum

Handouts were taken from the ABRHS Counseling website at <http://ab.mec.edu/abrhs/counseling/index.html>

Naviance Anniversary

The ABRHS Counseling Department is marking the first anniversary of our use of the Naviance Program and the Family Connection component. The Classes of 2007, 2008 and 2009 have been introduced to the program and have set up personal accounts with user email logins and passwords. In addition 40% of the parents of juniors have set up their own personal accounts but only 8% of the sophomore parents have enrolled thus far. Parents/Guardians of juniors or sophomores that would still like to establish personal accounts should email Andrew Palmer at apalmer@mail.ab.mec.edu. If you would like to browse through the site as a guest you can go to <http://connection.naviance.com/ab>
Code: ABRHS

Daily announcements at the High School are posted on the website at <http://ab.mec.edu/abrhs/>.
(Click on *Announcements* to the right of *Quick Links*.) They are not emailed out as they are at the Junior High School.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Steve Donovan

May often feels like our busiest time of year. We are in the midst of recruiting and hiring faculty for next year, administering MCAS and Advanced Placement tests and preparing for senior activities, graduation, and the end of the school year. Performing arts and athletic activities are also in full swing.

Recognition

Congratulations to the 113 students who were inducted into the National Honor Society on April 24. Newly elected officers are Anishi Shah, president, and Anna Niro, vice president.

Our Academic Decathlon team placed seventh out of 39 teams in the national competition held last month in Honolulu. Team members included Sarah Zhang, George Hong, Jyoti Jasararia, Albert Chuang, Sue Zhang, Liz Petillo, David Richards, Gwen Davis and Yi Liu. English teacher Andrew Crick coaches the team.

Congratulations to the 125 students who received academic and extracurricular recognition at our Awards Night on May 2. A list of the awards and recipients is available in the Counseling Center.

Acton-Boxborough's Envirothon Team, coached by science teacher Brian Dempsey, placed fifth out of 60 schools at the state competition on May 11.

Congratulations to the students elected to class and Student Council positions on April 12.

Our Science Team came in second place at the Massachusetts Science Olympiad competition in March. The team is coached by science teacher Brian Dempsey.

Our Future Business Leaders of America returned from the Massachusetts State FBLA competition in April with an impressive array of awards. English teacher Blake Lochrie is the group's advisor.

Upcoming events

We hope many of you will join us for the Class of 2007 graduation exercises which will be held on Friday, June 8, at 5:30 p.m. on Edward M. Leary Field. If the weather is uncertain, please check our

<http://abrptso.ab.mec.edu/>

web site (ab.mec.edu/abrhs) for up-to-date information. Families of seniors should be sure to check the seating information on the school web site (Under Quick Links, click on Seniors, then Class Meetings).

For those new to the high school this year, here is some information about the schedule for the last four days of school (June 15 through 20), which is different from our regular schedule. Exams are taken by students during two time periods each day: 7:30 to 9:00 and 9:15 to 10:45. Bus transportation will be available at the end of the shortened days. Cafeteria operation ends on the last day of classes, June 14. Students and parents are reminded that any requests for early finals must be made in writing to Assistant Principal JoAnn Campbell.

Report cards will be mailed to homes about two weeks after the close of school. In August returning students will receive a mailing containing their schedule for next year and information about the start of school. Families with students who will not be returning to A-B next year because of a move or transfer to another school are asked to notify registrar Jane Link (978-264-4700, ext. 3443).

The Counseling Center and other school offices are not open every day during the summer. Hours for these offices will be posted on the school web site and at the main entrance of the school.

The school system calendar for next year has been set. Some critical dates are:

First day of school for students

Wednesday, September 5

Last day of school before winter recess

Friday, December 21

School reopens

Wednesday, January 2

February vacation

Week of February 18

April vacation

Week of April 21

Graduation

Friday, June 6

Last day of school (assuming 5 snow days)

Wednesday, June 25

It's a Date / ABRHS

MAY

- 28 Memorial Day
no school
- 29 MCAS – Social Studies
- 29 Senior finals –
Period 1 & 2 classes
- 30 Senior finals –
Period 3 & 4 classes
- 31 Senior finals –
Period 5 & 6 classes

JUNE

- 1 Senior finals –
Period 7 & 8 classes
- 2 SAT Administration
- 4 Graduation rehearsal
9:30 AM
- 4&5 MCAS – Science
- 5 Graduation rehearsal
9:30 AM
- 5 Scholarship Ceremony
7:00 PM
- 6 Prom
5:00–11:00 PM
- 7 Summer Volunteer
Opportunities Fair
All lunches
- 7 Step-up celebration
for juniors
- 8 Graduation & Project
Graduation
- 13&14 English finals (taken
during English classes)
- 14 Last day of classes
- 15 Final exams for period
1 & 2 classes
- 18 Final exams for period
3 & 4 classes
- 19 Final exams for period
5 & 6 classes
- 20 Final exams for period
7 & 8 classes

MCAS

All freshmen and sophomores currently enrolled in biology or chemistry will be taking the science MCAS tests on June 5 and June 6. Again, the tests are scheduled for first period. Beginning with the class of 2010 (current freshmen), students will be required to pass one MCAS science test in order to be eligible for graduation.

Thanks for the Support!

This year the PTSO enrichment funds that came to the high school were used for a variety of activities. Among the uses of these funds were: support for the Career Speakers program, field trip support, some costs associated with the Community Service program and Senior Community Service Day, support for classroom enrichment speakers, and some costs associated with the literary magazine, the broadcast program and student newspaper. Thanks to

the PTSO and you as members for making these enrichment funds available!

I hope that all of you, students and parents, have an enjoyable summer. We especially wish our graduating seniors well!

— Steve Donovan

Summer Volunteer Opportunities Fair

On Thursday, June 7, information about summer volunteering will be displayed during all lunches in the Commons area. This information will be available on a continuing basis after that point in the Counseling Center. For more information, contact Judi Bowes at ext. 3556 or at jbowes@mail.ab.mec.edu.

From the Academic Support Center

As the year comes to a close, the Academic Support Center staff reflects upon the enormous contributions of all of our wonderful Peer Tutors throughout the year. They are a vital and integral part of our program, and we would not be as successful without their presence. We recognize and sincerely thank those who are assisting the Academic Support Center program during the fourth term: Kiki Boyles, Erika Buckle, Joshua Cintolo, Elizabeth Cipar, Lauren Crofton-Macdonald, Vanessa DeMelo, Marissa Evans, Matthew Ford, Ingrid Gunther, Jessica Hatch, Anton Li, Phil Licari, Bryan MacDonald, Meghan Magee, Emily O'Brien, Elizabeth Olliver, Hannah Pinsky, Christina Proulx, Yura Pyatnychko, Lauren Rodda, Svetlana Romanova, Dipal Savla, Tina Sun and Sergy Tsitlenko.

—Jacalyn Starr,

Academic Support Coordinator

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Larry Fliegelman and Megan Hatt

The seventh and eighth grade bands and jazz band, directed by Mark Hickey, performed at the Spring Band Concert on May 15. Then, on May 22 the seventh and eighth grade choruses, under the direction of Bob Specian, showed off their talents at the Spring Choral Concert.

On Friday, May 25, the eighth grade band and chorus participated in the annual Great East Music Festival. During the festival, these groups performed for a panel of judges who adjudicated their performances. One judge also worked with each group in an educational clinic to practice higher-level musical concepts based on the judge's suggestions. As a reward for their hard work, the band, chorus, and a team of chaperones spent the rest of the afternoon at Six Flags amusement park.

Our Student Council officer elections will be held on May 30. This follows weeks of "campaigning" by dozens of seventh

graders. Each candidate prepared a short speech, which was videotaped and shown to the students on each team. Based on a primary election, two finalists for each position gave their speeches to all the 7th graders at an assembly. The officers of student council will take on a large and very active Student Council.

The end of the school year is coming quickly. Final exams are scheduled from June 11 to June 14. Teachers will give students the specific dates for each exam. Our eighth grade students are looking forward to the graduation dance on Friday, June 15, in the Junior High Cafeteria. Monday, June 18, will see the 7th and 8th grade relays and the 7th and 8th grade Variety Shows. The seventh grade outing will be at Kimball's Farm in Westford, MA; while the eighth grade spends the day at Canobie Lake Park both on Tuesday, June 19. The last day of school is Wednesday, June 20.

It's a Date / RJGJHS

JUNE

| | |
|----|--|
| 6 | Student Council, 12:22 PM |
| 7 | 6 th Grade Social, 7–8:30 PM |
| 12 | School Council, 7–8:30 PM |
| 15 | Grade 8 Graduation Dance 7–9:30 PM |
| 20 | Last Day of School: Dismissal 10:45 AM |

After an assembly at the high school, students will board buses there for dismissal at 10:45.

ABRHS School Council Candidates for Election School Year 2007–2008

Included here for your consideration are statements from the three parents who are running for the ABRHS School Council for next year. Please review these statements and submit your ballot for the three candidates of your choice. The results of the election will be published in the PTSO Newsletter, September 2007 issue.

NANCY COPPOLINO

I have been active for many years at ABRHS including past Co-chair of the ABRHS School Council, which initiated the Martin Luther King Community Service recognition night, Project Graduation, Proscenium Circus, and various booster organizations. My husband, Michael, and I have lived in Acton for 20 years and have three children, two presently in college and our youngest is a sophomore at AB. I have a B.A. and M.Ed. from Boston College and am currently a literacy specialist in a nearby community. The challenges that face our high school regarding the 990 mandate and in providing options for students of all abilities and interests are ongoing. I have been a member of the ABRHS School Council for 6 years and would like to continue with these discussions. I ask for your support in the upcoming ABRHS School Council election.

TERRY LINDGREN

Terry Lindgren is the parent of a 7th grade son at RJ Grey, a sophomore son at A/B High School, and a daughter who graduated A/B High School who currently attends William and Mary. He was on the Acton School Committees from 2001–2007, Citizen's Technology Advisory Board Acton/Boxborough Schools 1999–present, Joint Technology Advisory Board 1999–2004. He is a founder and Board member of the Community Alliance for Youth (CAFY). While his son was at the Conant School he served on the Interschool Council and the Conant Finance Committee. Terry has lived in Acton since 1999.

JIM O'NEIL

I have been an Acton resident since 1993 and currently have three children enrolled in Acton schools—a freshman at ABRHS, a sixth-grader at Douglas and a first grader at Gates. Currently, I work in Concord as a Systems Consultant at Sybase, Inc., a software and services company. From 1999–2003, I was involved with local youth as a Cub Scout Den leader, until my eldest graduated to Boy Scouts. For the last ten years I have served on the national board of the National Junior Classical League, an organization of over 50,000 secondary school students of Latin, Greek, and classical studies. I am also a member of the American Classical League, the professional organization of college and high school educators that serves as the parent organization of the NJCL. In my nearly 30 years of involvement with these organizations, I have had the opportunity to interact with high school age youth on a continuing basis. The experiences and friendships with teachers around the country have also given me some insight into the educational processes at other schools nationwide. I also had the privilege of serving on the RJ Grey School Council for two years (2004–2006) and enjoyed being part of the development of their School Improvement Plan. Parental involvement in the school system, especially during the teenage years, is key to the success of our children, and I feel that the experiences I have had inside and outside of the Acton school system will provide a unique contribution to the school council.

Ballot For ABRHS School Council School Year 2007–2008

Election open to all parents/guardians of **current and incoming Acton-Boxborough Regional High School Students.**

I am a parent/guardian of student(s) currently in:

8th grade 9th grade 10th Grade 11th Grade 12th grade

VOTE FOR THREE

Nancy Coppolino Terry Lindgren Jim O'Neil

Detach and return this ballot **no later than June 20 to:**
ABRPTSO
PO Box 912, Acton, MA 01720

Ballots postmarked later than June 20 will not be accepted.
All ballots will be forwarded to Principal Steve Donovan.

PROJECT GRADUATION • MAY 2007 UPDATE

For the past several months, many of us in the community have been working on a send-off party... Project Graduation ... *an all-night, chemical-free party exclusively for ABRHS graduating seniors*. This is our 18th consecutive year of providing a fun and safe evening for them on the night they graduate.

Project Graduation will take place at the High School on **Friday, June 8th from 10:00 p.m. through Saturday, June 9th at 5:00 a.m.** The event boasts a variety of entertainment and activities including a DJ, game shows, mock casino, hypnotist, comedians, challenge games, old-time photographs, arcade games and much more. There will also be lots of food served, and prizes and scholarships awarded. The event is planned, executed and chaperoned by volunteers; parents of underclassmen and members of the broader community.

Only ABRHS graduating seniors are allowed to attend, and once they have been checked in, they are **not allowed to leave until 5:00 a.m.** There are adult chaperones assigned to the exits and Acton and Boxborough police officers in attendance to help prevent attendees from leaving without our knowledge.

The school will be extensively decorated and transformed into a new venue. In keeping with tradition, the theme is kept secret. However, if you would like a sneak preview, please come to the **Project Graduation Community Open House on June 8th between 8:00 and 9:00 p.m.** Please enter through the ABRHS **auditorium entrance**. We hope to see you there!

Thank you!

A great big **Thank You** to all who make this possible:

The Project Graduation Committee, for doing an outstanding job of creating a fun, exciting event, while at the same time paying attention to the numerous details required to keep everyone safe. They are dedicated, creative, caring and talented individuals who have devoted untold hours and much effort to ensure the success of this evening. Thanks to Debby Adams, Mary Allard, Debby Andell, Cheryl and Charlie Arouchon, Mary Ann Ashton, Carla Bacharach, Debbie Clough, Caroline Crosby, Nancy Coppolino, Sandie Cremmen, Mary Duggan, Judy Gray, Melissa Hatanaka, Brenden Hearn, Julia Hutton, Jayne LaForest, Catherine Longwell, Pat Loria, Warren O'Brien, Nikki Sandhu, Kathy Saunders, Dan Silva, Beth Sloan, Janice Ward, Bitzy Wilson. (*Apologies to anyone I inadvertently missed*). Thanks to the Project Graduation 2006 Committee for their guidance. A special thanks to Beth Petr for including us in emails and PTSO newsletters and to Holly Ben Joseph for mail runs.

The ABRHS administration, for providing us with all the support we asked for including the invaluable help from the custodial staff and school electricians. Thanks to Lani Derome, Stan Nelson and team, Deb Trench, Jeanne Potter, Kay Steeves and Jill Groener. (*Apologies to anyone I inadvertently missed*).

The volunteers, more than 200 people volunteering their time to ensure the evening is a hit; planning, setting up, running activities and chaperoning. This group consists of parents, friends, underclassmen, community members and senior citizens.

The AB parent community, for their generous donations, which make this event possible, and helps us to provide a memorable evening for our new graduates.

The Acton-Boxborough community and businesses, we could not continue this annual celebration without their support. For the past 18 years, they have provided donations, goods and services, and 2007 is no exception. The event is dependent on this partnership and we are extremely grateful for their generosity.

The Acton Police and Fire Departments and the Boxborough Police Department, for their part in the planning and their presence of Officers including Youth Officers at Project Graduation and the department's generous donations.

Project Graduation is one of those traditions that make this community special. **Thank you to all who have helped to make this night special for our new graduates!**

Patti Foye
Chair, AB Project Graduation 2007 Committee

School Committee News

Michael Coppolino, Chair

The Regional School Committee met on Thursday May 3, 2007, and was serenaded beautifully with three songs sung acappella by the ABRHS Madrigals, who recently returned from a tour of Italy, and won a Gold Medal at the MICCA competition. This annual event set a relaxed and civil tone for the entire evening.

New School Committee members, Heather Harer and Xuan Kong, were welcomed and thanks were given to senior Student School Committee representatives, Lauren Levine and Doug Breuer.

Reports were given regarding Acton's Annual Town Meeting having passed both the local and regional budgets, as well as

the Massachusetts Association of School Committee's "Day on the Hill". Brigid Bieber and Heather Harer represented the Committees on Beacon Hill; they met with our local legislators and listened to Governor Deval Patrick's impassioned commitment to improve public education throughout the Commonwealth.

Additionally, the Community Alliance for Youth (www.CAFY.net) and Health Superintendent's Advisory Committee (SAC) reports talked about the compelling, yet sparsely attended presentation "Underage Drinking—A Community Response". Given the recent issue in this regard, at the semi-formal held in Boxborough, such low attendance by parents was surprising. See

CAFY's website for more information from this presentation's exceptional speakers.

The next Regional School Committee meeting is on Thursday, June 7 at 7:30PM in the RJ Grey Library.

The next Acton Public School Committee meeting is Thursday, June 21 at 7:30 PM in the RJ Grey Library. The next Boxborough Public School meeting is Thursday, June 14 at the Blanchard Memorial School Library.

As always, the public is welcome to attend.

All School Committee Members can be contacted at AB_School_Committee@mail.ab.mec.edu

Acton School Committee Members:

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Jonathan Chinitz | jchinitz@gmail.com |
| Michael Coppolino | copp@verizon.net |
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Boxborough School Committee Members:

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Brigid Bieber | tbbieber@comcast.net |
| Becky Neville | neville317@juno.com |
| Bruce Sabot | bruce_sabot@comcast.net |

Thank You Kay, Margaret, Jan, and Judi!

A huge round of applause from the PTSO goes out to:

Kay Steeves, High School Faculty Support Rep, for her endless answering of questions from students and parents alike. Kay attends all of the meetings and is invaluable in keeping things running smoothly between the PTSO and the High School.

Margaret Murray, Information Management Specialist, for her dedication to making things more efficient and effective. Margaret is the reason the PTSO was able to stop mailing 600 newsletters every month, saving \$100 in postage and hours of volunteer time each month. The PTSO will really miss her next year. Best of luck, Margaret!

Jan Vinal, High School Office Support, for copying the newsletter every month "like clock work"! Jan's dependability and fast work are much appreciated.

Judi Bowes, High School Office Support, for providing supplemental newsletter labels every month to be sure families and the community have the information they need about our schools.

PTSO News

<http://abrptso.ab.mec.edu>

**Newsletter of the Acton-Boxborough Regional
Schools Parent-Teacher-Student Organization**

Acton-Boxborough Regional High School
Acton, MA 01720

Nonprofit Org
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**Are you reading this newsletter online?
If not, check it out at
<http://abrptso.ab.mec.edu/newsletters.htm>
From this site, you can also join
the PTSO email list!**

**Submission DEADLINE for the
September 1 Newsletter is August 6th.
Please contact Mary Ann Ashton
at mabashton@aol.com
or 978.263-4399.**

Join the Regional PTSO Email list

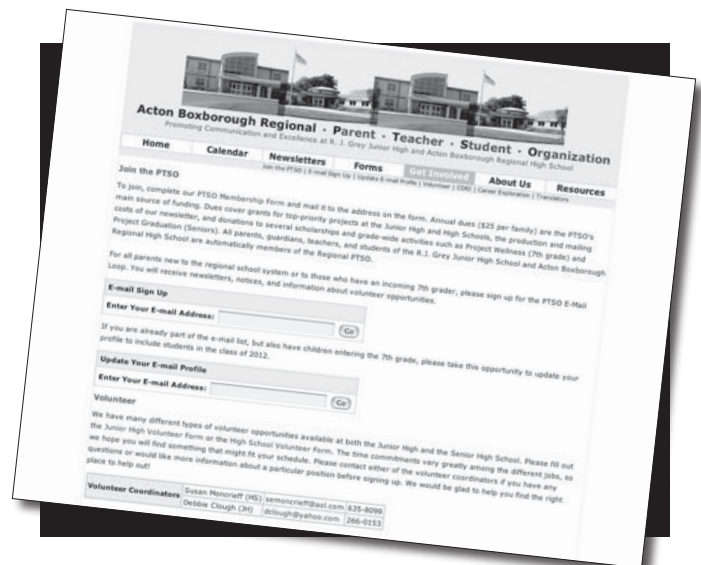
If you have a child at the R.J. Grey Junior High School or the Acton Boxborough Regional High School, one of the most valuable things you can do is to join the Regional PTSO (Parent Teacher Student Organization) Email list. (The JH and HS are together in one PTSO.)

Lots of different kinds of information goes out on these lists—reminders, explanations, volunteer needs, etc. They are not “official” school messages, but are maintained by the PTSO parent Co-Chairs. There is no charge, and it is not a “discussion” type of online activity.

To sign up, go to the PTSO website at <http://abrptso.ab.mec.edu/getinvolved.htm>. If you have more than one child, be sure to check each of their Class boxes on the sign up screen. The lists are organized by Class (Year of Graduation).

If you prefer to receive PTSO mailings electronically, and not have a paper copy mailed, please check that box on the same sign up screen, and include the name of your youngest child in grade 7-12 so your label can be deleted.

There is also a separate email list for parents/guardians of children who attend R.J. Grey Jr High, handled by R.J. Grey Principal, Craig Hardimon. To join that list, send a message to MCharter@mail.ab.mec.edu with “Principal’s Email List” in the subject line. Mr. Hardimon would like your name, your child’s name, and his/her grade included in the message.



The High School does not have a Principal’s List, although the ABRHS Counseling Department sends occasional emails to families who have signed up for Naviance (see article inside).

September is SUCH a busy time of year, and staying informed about our children’s school activities is vital. The school websites at <http://ab.mec.edu> are also a very valuable resource.