

# Iroquois NEWSLETTER

A Publication of the Iroquois Parent Teacher Organization

September 2015

## PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

I'm pleased to report that we are off to a great start this school year. We are excited to welcome our new sixth graders to our school community and welcome back our seventh and eighth graders. As always, I am impressed with the enthusiasm, responsibility and character our students possess.

The adults working with your children at Iroquois truly believe that middle school is a unique time for students and has characteristics that are different from the elementary and high school levels. As students enter the early years of adolescence, it is important that they are surrounded by educators who understand the changes they are going through and who can support them during this tumultuous time.

This year, I am excited to welcome a veteran member of our staff into a new role. Ben Smith, coach and PE teacher, will be serving as our Dean of Students. Coach Smith will have reduced teaching responsibilities, in order to assist me in the Main Office. The addition of this position will allow us to be more responsive to student and parent concerns.

Since the last few falls and winters have seen widespread absences due to illness, I'd like to remind you that we will arrange to collect missed work when a student is absent for three or more days. If you contact the Counseling Center by 9:00 a.m. the work can be made ready for pick up or can be sent home with a sibling or neighbor.

As always, I welcome you to contact us with any questions, concerns, or feedback. We are looking forward to a wonderful year!

Happy September!

*Mrs. Weid*

## PTO School Spirit Store!

Some fantastic renovations and changes have been made to the store this year, starting with fresh paint, a new layout, and a fun tropical theme. Folders, pencils, Bath & Body Works hand sanitizers, magic cubes, scratch off magnetic picture frames, pencil pouches, school spirit tattoos, and more can be found in the store. Tell your children to visit us on Tuesday and Thursdays during the three lunch periods. Thank you, Tina Dell, for chairing the School Store!



## THE NISKAYUNA MIDDLE SCHOOLS VISION STATEMENT

*Developed by the faculty & staff*

In order to contribute to the success of the Niskayuna School District Mission, our Niskayuna Middle Schools will engage the community of students, staff and parents to:

- provide a nurturing environment for students to build a strong sense of self, community, and responsibility as they transition from childhood to adolescence
- provide an educational program that challenges and supports all students based on their developmental, academic, and personal needs
- help students develop interpersonal skills and respect for the uniqueness of one another
- help students develop the learning and thinking skills necessary to become life-long learners

## GIVE A SOLE OR TWO...

*If you have any gently used shoes you no longer wear, please consider donating them to our Soles 4 Souls Drive. They will go to a needy individual in our community. The donation boxes are in our Main Lobby. Donation deadline is next Friday, September 25. Thanks in advance.*



IROQUOIS PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

[iroquois.niskypto.org](http://iroquois.niskypto.org)

[iroquois@niskypto.org](mailto:iroquois@niskypto.org)

# PTO WELCOME

Welcome back everyone! The new PTO Board has been working hard this summer planning to make this school year a great one! Take a look at our newly designed website at [iroquois.niskypto.org](http://iroquois.niskypto.org) and check out our newly decorated and freshly stocked school store.

Throughout the building there are new flat screen televisions, which feature the morning announcements and showcase student work – a purchase made possible though PTO funding. Before school began, we were also able to provide new two new microwaves in the cafeteria for student use.

We do this and more with the help and support of our members. Thank you to those who joined PTO at our Back to School Nights by paying your \$10 per family membership dues. If you haven't joined yet, you can send dues in with your child in an envelope marked PTO (please include your child's name). The school directory will come out in October and will be distributed to members.

We are always looking to get more parents involved with our PTO. You can sign up to volunteer on our website and we welcome you to join us at our first meeting on September 21, 2015 at 7 pm in the Media Center. We look forward to meeting you!

Heather Schechter and Lisa Weber  
PTO Co-Presidents



## PTO Points...

### PTO VOLUNTEER POSITION SIGN-UPS

New Parents? Don't be shy! Come give it a try! The Iroquois PTO recruits parent (and grandparent!) volunteers on a rolling basis and during an annual spring "Volunteer Drive" to be PTO committee chairs and members, and/or "day-of-event" helpers. Sign up online at [iroquois.niskypto.org](http://iroquois.niskypto.org) or email us at [iroquois@niskypto.org](mailto:iroquois@niskypto.org). We'll be happy to answer any questions about what's involved!

### DIRECTORY & DUES

The printed Iroquois PTO Family Directory contains useful information for easy reference, including team lists and school. It has contact information for district and school administration, teachers, PTO Officers and Program Chairs, and all students and parents (except families who opt-out).

The district releases directory information to schools after the October 1st "opt-out" deadline. Printed copies of the directory are distributed to dues-paying PTO members around mid-October. Annual dues defray directory costs and also fund other PTO events and programs.

To order your directory, please send an envelope to the Main Office. Make your \$10.00 check out to "Iroquois PTO" and include your name, one of your children's name & grade, your email, and "Directory" on the envelope.

[IROQUOIS.NISKYPTO.ORG](http://IROQUOIS.NISKYPTO.ORG)

Looking for information on anything and everything? Check out our newly-updated Iroquois PTO website. Our webmaster, Kim McClive-Reed, recently gave the site an overhaul. It's now updated with a ton of handy information like a link to a Sign Up Genius site for volunteer registration.

### Calendar of PTO & Other Activities

- Sept. 15** - Board of Education mtg. (6 PM)
- Sept. 16** - 7 & 8 Grade Back to School Night (6:30 PM)
- Sept. 21** - Iroquois PTO mtg. (7 PM)
- Sept. 23** - No School - Yom Kippur
- Sept. 25** - WEB Social (7 PM)
- Sept. 25** - School Spirit Day
- Sept. 29** - Board of Education mtg. (6 PM)
- Oct. 1** - Iroquois Picture Day!
- Oct. 5** - Friends of Music mtg. (7 PM)
- Oct. 12** - No School - Columbus Day
- Oct. 13** - Board of Education mtg. (6 PM)