

# Year-End Letter from Lisa Ciarrocca, Brunner PTA President

June 16, 2009

Dear Brunner Families,

As I come to the end of my first year as President of the Brunner PTA, I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to all of the members of the PTA Executive Board, committee chairs/members and parent volunteers that have made this year so much fun and rewarding for Brunner School.

I especially want to thank the following outgoing officers: Louise Rossi, Susan Rash, and Christine Ciccarino. It has been a true pleasure to work with all of you. I can not tell you how much I appreciated you sharing your knowledge with us. I could not have done the job I did this year without all of you.

I also want to welcome Dawn Horn, Cheryl Kriney and Jen Fazzino to the Board. Marla Mackey and Michelle Barcia we will again be together and continue to do great things as a group. I'd also like to thank Mrs. Frank for her support and help during my first year.

The new slate of PTA officers was installed at the June 2nd concert:

President - Lisa Ciarrocca  
VP - Marla Mackey  
Honorary VP - Mrs. Jodi Frank  
2nd VP - Joe Roskin  
Corresponding Secretary - Cheryl Kriney  
Recording Secretary - Dawn Horn  
Treasurer - Jen Fazzino

I look forward to working with all of you.

This year, the PTA sponsored many educational and fun activities for our children -- some old and some new. Highlights include Week of Respect, Walk-to-School Day, the Halloween Party, the Holiday Boutique & Craft Fair, ACE, Think Purple Week w/ Hearts and Hands, An Evening of Discovery and the Family Fun Roller Skating Party. Thank you to Lisa Giandana for organizing this year's Family Bingo Night to help get out the vote for the School Budget. We're not done -- as I write this letter, we're also getting ready for this year's Field Day on Monday, June 22 - thanks to Eileen DiGiacomo and the entire group of parent volunteers for your continued hard work.

I'd also like to thank the PTA 4th Grade Recognition Committee who are very busy planning a number of exciting end-of-year events for our 4th grade students including a picnic, pool party, and Evening of Recognition. The PTA also funded the 4th grade trip to Sterling Hills mine earlier this year. A special note to Valerie Uehlinger, my co-chair, who will be moving next month -- please keep in touch. You will be greatly missed.

In addition, the PTA provided many Cultural Arts presentations. A huge thank you to Valerie Uehlinger and Korrie Toll who did an outstanding job this year. We heard such wonderful things from our kids and staff. Staff Appreciation Week was a booming success as usual. I want to extend a very special thank you to Regina O'Connor and Mary Kay Cunningham for making a memorable week for the staff and to all the parents who helped. We could not have done it without you!!

Thanks to all of you for supporting our fundraising efforts this year, which included the following fundraisers: Wrapping Paper, School Pictures, Toner Recycling, fall and spring clothing drives, Kids Stuff Books, Gertrude Hawk Candy, vendor days with Five Below and Rita's Ice, and - my personal favorite -- pretzel sales. We also continued Market Day this year -- a great big thank you to Kim Gorman. The PTA also provided the following services that brought in funds - ACE, the Variety Show, and the Brunner Parent Social. Thank you to Sue Judge, Jane Mebes and all the parent volunteers for running this year's outstanding Parent Social. It was the most successful to date raising nearly \$5,000 for our school! Special thanks to the parents who attended, the gifts that were donated, and the support of our local businesses.

As a result of all the PTA's fundraising efforts this year, we were also able to fund several class field trips, flowers for the Brunner Children's Garden, playground and gym equipment, classroom materials for grades Pre-K through 4th and more than \$2,000 in PTA scholarships. Thanks to a surplus at the end of this year, we are pleased to be able to gift nearly \$6,000 in additional school materials and programs for next year, including:

- 9 guided reading tables (grades 1-2)
- 1 printer (grade 1)
- Author visit
- Encased bulletin boards for front and back of school (x2)
- Speakers - 10 sets (grades 3, 4, media center)
- 2 white boards
- Cork strips for hallways, coat/backpack hooks for 10 classrooms

The PTA introduced the Brunner Backp@ck this year, a weekly e-mail newsletter for parents and Brunner staff. It is our goal to greatly reduce the amount of paper we use to send flyers home in backpacks, and this e-mail is an important step. We encourage you to sign up. Thank you for supporting Brunner's efforts to go **green!**

I hope you all have a safe, happy and healthy summer. Remember the best gift you can give your kids and your community is the gift of your time!

Think summer!

Lisa Ciarrocca  
President