

# **CORPUS CHRISTI PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION**

## **Parent Information Guide October 2005**

Many parents have had questions about the PTO: what does it do, and how does it use the money it raises? This Parent Information Guide provides a summary of information about PTO events, activities and funding.

### FUNDRAISING

Some parents have asked: why does the PTO need to run so many fundraisers? In fact, not all of the fundraisers are PTO fundraisers. There are three types of fundraisers held at the school: school fundraisers, PTO fundraisers and fundraisers for charities.

#### School fundraisers

Corpus Christi School holds several fundraisers during the year, and also runs some ongoing fundraising programs, to raise funds for costs not covered by tuition payments and funding from diocesan sources. All of the funds from these fundraisers go to the school; the PTO does not receive any of these funds. The school uses these funds to pay for tuition assistance, to purchase books, supplies and equipment and to maintain and renovate the school. Some school organizations also run programs to raise funds; for example, the Student Council sells chips on Wednesdays at lunch to raise money for its activities.

The school fundraisers include:

- Innisbrook wrapping paper sale (September)—this is the school's major fundraiser
- Innisbrook magazine sale (February)
- Book fairs (December)
- Sale of grocery store certificates
- Recycled ink cartridges program
- Office Depot purchase program
- Giant, Safeway and Harris Teeter club cards program
- On-line purchase links for Schoolpop.com
- Target guest card program
- Campbell's Labels for Education program
- Sales of items with school logo, such as umbrellas and magnets

#### PTO Fundraisers

The PTO raises funds to pay the costs of events and activities run by the PTO for Corpus Christi students and families. The PTO also raises funds to pay costs for school events and activities that the school does not fund. Many of the PTO fundraising activities serve a dual purpose. Some fundraising activities, such as the Christmas Attic and the Spaghetti Dinner, also provide an opportunity for families to socialize with other Corpus Christi families, while other activities,

such as the pizza lunch and hot lunch programs and the uniform sales, are run for the benefit of students and families at the school.

The PTO fundraisers include:

- Christmas Attic (November)—this is the PTO's major fundraiser
- Membership fees/Directory sales
- Pizza lunch program
- Hot lunch program
- Christmas tree/wreath sale (December)
- Flower bulb sales
- Fuddruckers Night (November)
- Spaghetti Dinner (February)
- Uniform sales (September & June)

#### Fundraisers for charities

The school also holds several fundraisers during the year to raise money for charitable organizations. These fundraisers usually include:

- Jump Rope for the Heart (American Heart Association)
- Pennies for Patients (Leukemia & Lymphoma Society)
- Lee Denim Day (Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Fund)
- Mathathon (St. Jude's Hospital)
- Harvest Bakesale (So Others May Eat)
- Walk for the Homeless

### FUNDING FOR ACTIVITIES

Why does the PTO have to raise so much money, and how does it use the money it does raise? Many parents are not aware of the extent to which PTO monies are used to fund the costs of many different school events and activities. This year the PTO needs to raise over \$34,000.00 to pay for all of its budgeted costs.

#### Social Events

The PTO uses some of the funds it raises to hold several social events each year for Corpus Christi students and families. Last year the PTO social events included Movie Night and the International Pot Luck Dinner. This year the PTO began the year with the Meet, Eat and Greet Dessert Social, and the PTO Social Committee will be planning some additional social events to be held later in the year. Those social activities will probably include another Movie Night and an adult-only social event.

#### School activities

The PTO also uses some of the funds it raises to pay the costs of some school events and activities, which are organized and run by the PTO at the request of the school.

These events and activities include:

- Kindergarten graduation reception
- Eighth grade graduation reception
- August Teacher Luncheon
- Catholic Schools Week Teacher Luncheon
- Cultural Arts programs
- Field Day lunch and carnival games

### Additional funding

The PTO also provides funding for the costs of some school events and activities run by the school, which are not covered by the school.

These costs include:

- Appreciation gifts for staff and teachers
- Art Fair prizes
- Catholic Schools Week gifts and treats
- Christmas Gifts for teachers and staff
- ECC Fun in the Sun program and lunch
- ECC Thanksgiving feasts
- Extended Day supplies
- Buses for all kindergarten and CCE field trips
- First Communion reception
- ECC and CCE graduation gifts and awards
- DJ for eighth grade graduation party
- Sink or Swim program buses
- Teachers' Institute fees
- ECC pumpkin patch hay bales and pumpkins
- Colonial Day square dance caller
- Seventh Grade picnic
- Patrol camp fees
- Dinner for Science Fair judges
- Diocesan Science Fair participation fee
- Shakespeare Festival participation fee
- DJ for Jump Rope for the Heart program
- Donation for Lions Club vision and hearing screening program
- Junior National Honor Society reception and awards
- Poetry Contest awards
- Additional funding for School Play

The PTO looks forward to the continued support of Corpus Christi families to enable the PTO to continue to provide these benefits to our students and our school.