

# OMS-PTSO News

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## Stoughton O'Donnell Middle School



### ***In this Issue***

*The Mentor-Teacher Relationship at the O'Donnell OMS*

*Executive Board*

*OMS is making a Difference*

*School Improvement Council Member Needed*

*OMS PTSO 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Shopping Day*

*HOLIDAY PIES!*

*Volunteer Copy Committee Organizer*

*School Dance*

*Parent/Teacher Conferences*

*Campbell Soup Labels*

*OMS PTSO School Store*

*Shop Target and earn money for OMS*

*BoxTops for Education*

*CPR*

*Stop & Shop A+ Bonus Bucks*

*OMS has joined the Pouch Brigade!*

*Community Opportunities for Children with Special Needs*

*Show your school spirit!*

*How to contact OMS?*

*Health News: Flu Season*

*Surfing for OMS*

### **The Mentor-Teacher Relationship at the O'Donnell OMS**

David M. Guglia

One person can make an enormous impact on a life. In fact, it seems that nearly every successful adult can point to at least one person that mentored them in the formative years- one person that cared deeply about their success. For many middle school children, it's a parent that fulfills this role. For others it's a teacher, priest, coach, family friend or other adult that takes an interest and becomes a mentor. And what a difference it can make! Just one adult demonstrating they care can profoundly impact a student's performance in school, self-esteem and outlook on life.

At the O'Donnell Middle School a mentoring program has been running for six years. This program – Students That Need a Pat and a Push – matches students up with teachers in the building. Grades tend to improve and student attitudes toward school seem more positive. Additionally, many of the students mentored continue to visit with their mentors long after they graduate from middle school. These same students maintain powerful, productive relationships with their mentors well into their high school careers.

What conditions make this possible? What strategies work to motivate these students, many of them considered to be "at-risk?" How should students be identified for a mentoring program and what are the consequences for not identifying them early enough? Do teachers that mentor students need to have a certain mindset? How can mentors create a "growth mindset" in the students they mentor?

These are just a few questions that need to be answered before a better understanding of mentoring programs and the conditions necessary for them to succeed occurs. The mentor-student relationship has the potential to be a "game changer" for those deemed "at risk." Further study into the fine details of what makes this relationship work (and under what conditions) is essential for school leaders and teachers to understand, particularly at the middle school level.

### **Executive Board**

#### **2010-2011 OMS PTSO**

#### **Co-Presidents**

Lit Turner [litt@visionaries.org](mailto:litt@visionaries.org)

Lori Bates [lgb1120@comcast.net](mailto:lgb1120@comcast.net)

#### **Co-Vice Presidents**

Laura Mone [oms\\_ptso\\_news@verizon.net](mailto:oms_ptso_news@verizon.net)

Lynne Mitchell [lynnemitchell@yahoo.com](mailto:lynnemitchell@yahoo.com)

#### **Treasurer**

Lisa Freitas [liserq@yahoo.com](mailto:liserq@yahoo.com)

#### **Recording Secretary**

Cathy Joyce [kilkerrin58@comcast.net](mailto:kilkerrin58@comcast.net)

#### **Corresponding Secretary**

Julia Dubovy [juliadubovy@comcast.net](mailto:juliadubovy@comcast.net)

#### **Fundraising Chair**

Bonnie Hickey [bonnie.hickey@comcast.net](mailto:bonnie.hickey@comcast.net)

### **OMS is making a Difference**

Anton's Cleaners is holding their Annual Coat Drive from October 15<sup>th</sup> until January.

You can drop off used winter coats in good condition (for any age group) at the guidance department.



### **School Improvement Council Member Needed**

We are looking for a parent to join us in our school improvement meetings. We meet once a month at 3pm. Parents can participate via email if they wish to participate but are unable to make the meeting. If you are interested, please contact

Mr. Hester at  
[w\\_hester@stoughtonschools.org](mailto:w_hester@stoughtonschools.org)

# OMS-PTSO News

## OMS PTSO 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Shopping Day

Saturday 11/20/2010

9:00am – 2:00pm

\$1.00 admission or 20 box tops, students free.

Crafters, White Elephant, Sprit wear, Bake Sale, silent auction, door prizes breakfast and lunch. New this year, order your pies for Thanksgiving! A pie order form went home with your child. If you did not receive one, call Cathy Joyce 781-344-9229 or [click for one on our website](#).

**Vendor Tables** are still available for rent for \$30; contact Noralee Curtis ([noralee@norwoodlight.com](mailto:noralee@norwoodlight.com))

**Volunteers** still needed to help run kitchen, contact Lit Turner ([litt@visionaries.org](mailto:litt@visionaries.org)) 781-344-0961.

**Other Volunteers** to be part of the day please contact Lynne Mitchell ([lynnekmitchell@yahoo.com](mailto:lynnekmitchell@yahoo.com)). [Click here for volunteer form and email it to Lynne Mitchell](#).

**White Elephant** table donations are needed. If you have gently used items for the White Elephant table, You can send items in to the office marked "White Elephant". Please, NO electronics, clothes or gym equipment.

**Donations** are accepted. If you are interested in donating an item or becoming an event sponsor, contact Lit Turner ([litt@visionaries.org](mailto:litt@visionaries.org)) 781-344-0961 [We are also accepting donations for this event. Click here for donation form.](#)

**Baked Good table** we need your baked goods for the Bake Table! Please bring your baked goods to the OMS on Friday (11/19) afternoon or Saturday (11/20) morning.

**Theme Baskets to be Ruffled** please send in your theme basket donations by November 19th.

Themes are:

**Grade 6:** Kids Just Wanna Have Fun

**Grade 7:** Viva L'Italia

**Grade 8:** Clean It Up

**Staff:** Take a Break, Make Life Easier

You may send your theme-appropriate donation in with your student, drop it off in the office or bring it with you to the school the night of the dance, Oct. 29th or bring it with you to Parent/Teacher Conferences November 17th.

## HOLIDAY PIES!

The OMS is selling Wellsley Farms pies in time for Thanksgiving! Pie order forms went out last week. If you did not receive and one, please get one from our website: [www.baseclasstech.com](http://www.baseclasstech.com). We will be taking orders from October 18<sup>th</sup> through November 10<sup>th</sup>. Pies will be distributed at the OMS during the OMS PTSO Holiday Shopping Day ONLY. Payments must be made when ordering. Checks may be made payable to OMS PTSO. Contact Cathy Joyce with any questions 781-344-9229.

## Volunteer Copy Committee Organizer

Volunteers come in to OMS during the day to make copies for teachers. We just need someone to keep track of the volunteer schedule and periodically check t be sure we have the supplies we need. If you would like to be on the Volunteer/Copy committee or if you would like to organize it, please contact Lynne Mitchell at [lynnekmitchell@yahoo.com](mailto:lynnekmitchell@yahoo.com)



## School Dance

The OMS Dance is Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup> ~ Halloween theme! Costumes are welcome. There will be a costume contest!! Dance

tickets will be on sale during all lunches Monday through Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> through 29<sup>th</sup>.

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade dance will be 4:30-6:30pm and the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade dance will be 7-9pm.



## Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences are set up with a drop-in format from 6:30-8pm on November 17 if your last name begins with M-Z and

November 22 if your last name begins with A-L.

The PTSO will have a Spirit Wear table. Please be sure to stop by. Membership applications will also be available. If you or someone you know still need to signup for PTSO, please stop in and become a member for just \$5!

# OMS-PTSO News



## Campbell Soup Labels

Send in your Campbell's labels and earn FREE STUFF for our school!  
[www.labelsforeducation.com](http://www.labelsforeducation.com)



## OMS PTSO School Store

Attention Students!

Need a last minute school supply? A pencil? A pen? Check out the OMS PTSO School Store. This not-for-profit store is open every Monday during all lunches.



## Shop Target and earn money for OMS

Do you have a REDcard and want to earn FREE money for the OMS? Then, visit [target.com](http://target.com) and enroll the OMS as your school. Use school ID # **60110** or just search on Stoughton, MA



## BoxTops for Education

The OMS can earn money when you shop online! First, Go to [www.btfe.com](http://www.btfe.com) and sign up to support the ROBERT G O'DONNELL MIDDLE School. Next, click on the "earn" tab at the top of the page. Select "Shop Marketplace" and shop!

Keep sending in those boxtops. Mark them with your student's name, grade & room #.

The boxtop bundle winners for September were Kathleen and Thomas Walsh. Congratulations!!! September's collection brought in over 1,000 boxtops.

The grade level that sends in the MOST BOXTOPS by the end of May earns a Free Fun Day in June!

## "Dig for the Cure"

Tuesday, 10/26/2010 @ SHS  
Volleyball match Stoughton vs. Sharon.

Teams will play in pink colors during their regularly scheduled match. Spectators are asked to donate \$2 as an admission charge. Each player will be introduced and name a cancer survivor or casualty they are playing in honor of during the game. At the end of match, a presentation of all proceeds will be made to a representative from the American Cancer Society in the name of the students, faculty, and citizens of the town of Stoughton.

Game times  
JV 5:30pm  
Varsity 6:30-ish (following JV)

## CPR



Parents! There will be a Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation class on Monday 10/25/2010 @ 6:00pm – 9:00pm OMS. Peer Leaders will provide babysitting for those who need it. There is no cost unless you would like a CPR card (\$5).

If you are interested in taking the class, please contact

Mrs. Leonard  
[a\\_Leonard@stoughtonschools.org](mailto:a_Leonard@stoughtonschools.org)

or

Mr. Pirri  
[a\\_Pirri@stoughtonschools.org](mailto:a_Pirri@stoughtonschools.org)

# OMS-PTSO News

A+

bonus bucks

## Stop & Shop A+ Bonus Bucks

The OMS is participating in this program again this year.

Last year we earned over \$160! Call 1-877-ASK-APLUS (1-877-275-2758) or visit

[www.stopandshop.com/aplus](http://www.stopandshop.com/aplus)

to register your Stop & Shop card.

Our school id# is 07752. Then show your card when you shop and the OMS will earn CASH each time you shop! Tell family and friends about it! We look forward to seeing how successful our second year will be.



## OMS has joined the Pouch Brigade!

Bring your empty juice pouches to the office! We get paid and the company turns them into cool things!

Visit [www.tetracycle.net](http://www.tetracycle.net) and find out more!

## Community Opportunities for Children with Special Needs

**Who:** Stoughton Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SSEPAC)

**When:** Wed 11/03/2010 @ 7:00pm - 9:00pm

**Where:** OMS Media Center

The goal of this workshop is to provide parents and professionals with information about the unique opportunities open to children with special needs in this area. A panel of representatives from several different agencies will be available to describe their programs and answer questions from the audience.

Come learn about:

- Special Olympics
- Stoughton Extended Day
- Stoughton Association for Exceptional Citizens
- Camp Grossman
- TOPS Soccer
- Stardust Gym
- Canton Totplex

**Starting at 6:30pm** join us for a parent training workshop presented by Heather Tucker

Topic: **Overcoming the challenges of dressing and changing**

The Stoughton Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SSEPAC) serves families of any Stoughton student with special needs. We provide information on programs offered in Stoughton, best practices in special education, and information regarding special education regulations and the law. For more information, contact Mae Beth Robbins at [mae.robbins@gmail.com](mailto:mae.robbins@gmail.com)

# OMS-PTSO News

## Show your school spirit!



## Spirit Wear For Sale

Fleece Stadium Blanket.....	\$25
Hooded Sweatshirt (black).....	\$25
Lounge Pants (black/orange plaid).....	\$22
Sweat Pants (black) .....	\$20
Long Sleeve T-Shirt (black or gray).....	\$15
T-Shirt (black or gray) .....	\$10
Ladies Scoop Neck T-Shirt (black) .....	\$16
Girl's Gym Shorts (black) .....	\$10
Boys Shorts (black).....	\$10
Drawstring Bag w/ zipper pocket .....	\$12

For \$5 more, you can have your Spirit Wear embroidered or monogrammed!

To order, email Barbara Corrigan at [bcorrigan19@comcast.net](mailto:bcorrigan19@comcast.net) or 781-344-0374

Spirit Wear will be on sale during Parent-Teacher Conferences Nov. 17 and 22.

## How to contact OMS?

If you have any questions and need to talk to one of the OMS staff, you may contact the school by

Phone – Main office is (781) 344-7002

Come to the O'Donnell Middle School and talk in person

Email – If you know the teacher's name, then the format is the \*\*\*first letter of their first name + underscore + last name@StoughtonSchools.org

For instance, Mr. Hester's email address is:

[w\\_hester@stoughtonschools.org](mailto:w_hester@stoughtonschools.org)

\*\*\* Some email addresses have the first full name

For Contact information:

<http://www.stoughtonschools.org/Stoughton/ODMS/pages/staff.htm>

## Health News: Flu Season

Flu season is starting and parents should review with their kids hand-washing. This is the most important thing kids can do to keep themselves healthy.

It's generally best to wash your hands with soap and water.

Follow these simple steps:

- Wet your hands with running water.
- Apply liquid, bar or powder soap.
- Lather well.
- Rub your hands vigorously for at least 20 seconds. Remember to scrub all surfaces, including the backs of your hands, wrists, between your fingers and under your fingernails.
- Rinse well.
- Dry your hands with a clean or disposable towel or air dryer.
- If possible, use your towel to turn off the faucet.

When soap and water aren't available, hand sanitizer is a great option. Please remind your child to ask his/her teachers for hand sanitizer because it is available. Kids should advocate for themselves.

A poster for a Halloween costume drop. It features a white skeleton wearing a white top hat, set against an orange background with black bat silhouettes. The text is in white and black. The title is "HALLOWEEN COSTUME DROP!". The text says: "Donate a costume and make a child's Halloween treats come true! We are looking for gently used or brand new costumes, masks, bags and other Halloween accessories. (no makeup please) Donations can be made through November. Donated costumes will be distributed to families in need in the surrounding area. Drop box in Room 101 at OMS. If you would like to suggest a family please send an email to: [costumedrop@gmail.com](mailto:costumedrop@gmail.com) write a brief description of the families needs and any contact information."/>

**HALLOWEEN COSTUME DROP!**

Donate a costume and make a child's Halloween treats come true!

We are looking for gently used or brand new costumes, masks, bags and other Halloween accessories. (no makeup please)

Donations can be made through November. Donated costumes will be distributed to families in need in the surrounding area. Drop box in Room 101 at OMS

If you would like to suggest a family please send an email to: [costumedrop@gmail.com](mailto:costumedrop@gmail.com) write a brief description of the families needs and any contact information.

# OMS-PTSO News

## November 2010

DAY	DATE	EVENT/ACTIVITY
Tue	2	No school, Staff Development Kids' Vote 2:00pm – 8:00pm
Wed	3	SSEPAC meeting 7-9pm
Wed	10	Term 1 ends
Thu	11	No school, Veteran's Day
Mon	15	Newsletter deadline
Wed	17	Parent Conferences M-Z
Thu	18	PTSO meeting 7:00pm
Fri	19	Term 1 report cards issued
Sat	20	Holiday Shopping Day 9:00am- 2:00pm
Mon	22	Parent Conferences A-L
Wed	24	Early dismissal for Thanksgiving 11:00am
Thu	25	No School, Thanksgiving Day
Fri	26	No school, day after Thanksgiving

## December 2010

DAY	DATE	EVENT/ACTIVITY
Wed	1	SSEPAC meeting 7-9pm OMS media center
Thu	09	Early Release 11:32am (SYC Early Thursday activity)
Wed	15	Newsletter Deadline
Thu	16	Midterm reports issued
Fri-Fri	24-31	December Break

\* There is no December PTSO meeting... enjoy the holidays!

## Surfing for OMS

Going online? Check out these sites:

[www.baseclasstech.com](http://www.baseclasstech.com) our OMS PTSO site.

[www.btfe.com](http://www.btfe.com) enter sweepstakes to earn BONUS boxtops, print coupons and shop at their marketplace to earn percentages of your purchase for OMS

[www.growinglocallearning.com](http://www.growinglocallearning.com) register as a Robert G. O'Donnell supporter (enter the school name without punctuation) to earn bonus boxtops for the school and to get coupons for you!

[www.target.com](http://www.target.com) register your REDCARD. Enroll the OMS as your school. Use school ID # 60110 or just search on Stoughton, MA

[www.stopandshop.com/aplus](http://www.stopandshop.com/aplus) register your Stop & Shop card. Our school id# is 07752

[www.stoughtonschools.org](http://www.stoughtonschools.org) click on Schools then OMS and find out what's going on at the school... read the daily announcements, find teacher's email addresses, see what the kids are doing and more!

If you know of any websites that would be beneficial for middle school families, please email us and let us know.