

CROCKER FARM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARENT & GUARDIAN ORGANIZATION



September 2015

Dear Crocker Farm Families,

We hope you are all enjoying the beginning of fall, and that your children are now settling into their new classes. We are writing today to say hello, and to introduce ourselves.

All Crocker Farm families are automatically part of the Parent and Guardian Organization (PGO). The PGO's mission is to enhance our children's education and social experience at Crocker Farm by:

- Planning events that bring us together as a school community
- Sponsoring fundraisers to raise money for special school events, field trips, teacher mini-grants, and supplies for our school, and by
- Finding ways to support and show our appreciation of our teachers and staff.

The PGO's blog is a good source of information for the latest news on the PGO and school-related events. **You can subscribe at www.crockerfarm.blogspot.com to receive emails** (usually 1-3 emails per week) containing the newest posts. The PGO is also on Facebook ([Crocker-Farm-PGO](https://www.facebook.com/Crocker-Farm-PGO)).

The PGO is always seeking volunteers to help us with our various activities throughout the year, and many of our events would not be possible without volunteer help. If you are interested in volunteering, please return the PGO volunteer form or email us at crockerfarmngo@gmail.com. There are many ways to volunteer and even helping for just an hour or two can make a BIG difference. We are currently especially looking for volunteers to serve as class parents. We are also still seeking additional members for the Crocker Farm PGO Board.

The PGO is currently hard at work producing this year's student directory for families. **If you have not yet returned the student directory form that went home in backpacks, please do so as soon as possible.** If you would prefer, you can complete an online version of the directory form at the PGO blog, www.crockerfarmngo.blogspot.com. Many thanks to the families who have already returned their directory form!

The PGO has regularly scheduled monthly coffees with the Crocker Farm principal, Derek Shea, and the assistant principal, Sharri Conklin. All parents and guardians are welcome to attend. These coffees are generally held on a Friday at the start of the school day. We plan to hold some evening coffees as well. **The next PGO coffee is scheduled for Friday, October 9th, and special guests Assistant Superintendent Mike Morris and School Committee member Katherine Appy will attend and discuss the current Wildwood elementary school building study, the outcome of which could impact elementary students at all three Amherst elementary schools.** You can learn more on the district web site, www.arps.org.

The PGO is holding a back-to-school evening potluck picnic for all school families on Friday, October 2nd. More details coming soon. We hope to see you there.

Thank you. We look forward to a great year together.

2015-2016 Crocker Farm PGO Leadership Board

Tracy Zafian

Eva Fairchild

Ginny Hamilton

Amanda Lawall

Alicia López

ESCUELA DE CROCKER FARM

Organización de Padres y Guardianes



Septiembre de 2015

Queridas Familias de Crocker Farm,

Esperamos que estén disfrutando del comienzo del otoño, y que sus hijos se han acostumbrado a sus nuevos salones. Le escribimos para darles saludos y para presentarnos.

Todas las familias de Crocker Farm automáticamente son miembros de la Organización de Padres y Guardianes (la PGO). El objetivo de la PGO es enriquecer a la educación y a las experiencias sociales de nuestros hijos en la escuela Crocker Farm. Esperamos lograr esta objetivo con:

- * planificar actividades que unen a la comunidad escolar
- * Encontrar maneras para apoyar y mostrar nuestro agradecimiento a los maestros y al cuerpo administrative
- * Patrocinar eventos para recaudar fondos para eventos escolares especiales, salidas educativas, pequeños subsidios para los maestros, y materiales escolares.

El blog de la PGO es una buena fuente de información sobre las últimas noticias de actividades escolares y de la PGO. Se pueden suscribir en www.crockerfarm.blogspot.com para recibir mensajes de correo electrónico (1-3 mensajes semanales) con las últimas entradas en el blog. Las noticias de la PGO también se pueden conseguir en Facebook (Crocker-Farm-PGO).

La PGO siempre está en busca de voluntarios para ayudarnos con nuestras varias actividades durante el año, y muchas de nuestras actividades no tendrían éxito sin estos voluntarios. Si tienen interés en ser voluntarios, favor de devolver el formulario de voluntario de la PGO que se envió a sus casas con sus hijos. También se puede mandar un mensaje por correo electrónico a crockerfarmngo@gmail.com. Hay diferentes formas de voluntariado; una hora o dos de ayuda hacen una gran diferencia. Hay una gran necesidad de voluntarios para servir cómo padres o madres de clase. También buscamos miembros adicionales para la junta directiva de la PGO.

La PGO está actualmente elaborando el directorio anual de estudiantes para sus familias. **Si todavía no han devuelto el formulario que se envió con sus hijos en sus mochilas, favor de devolverlo lo más pronto que les sea posible.** Si no se rellena el formulario y no tenemos su permiso para publicar su información de contacto, no les podemos incluir en el directorio. Muchísimas gracias a las familias que ya han devuelto el formulario del directorio.

La PGO tiene una hora de café mensual con nuestro principal, Derek Shea, y con la principal asistente, Sharri Conklin. Todos los padres y guardianes son bienvenidos a asistir al café. Por lo general el café está programado el último viernes de mes a principios del día escolar. También estamos planificando otras horas de café por la tarde. La primer hora de café será viernes, 9 de octubre. Durante este café, los invitados especiales, Mike Morris, superintendente asistente de las escuelas, y Katherine Appy, miembro de la comité escolar, hablarán sobre el estudio de la construcción de la escuela primaria Wildwood, que puede tener un gran impacto en los alumnos actuales y en el futuro de las tres escuelas primarias de Amherst. Hay más información sobre este estudio en el sitio web del distrito de las escuelas, www.arps.org.

La PGO está organizando en pícnic para celebrar el regreso a la escuela por la tarde en 2 de octubre. Más detalles que vienen pronto.

Gracias. ¡Estamos entusiasmados por otro año juntos!

Junta de Liderazgo de la PGO 2015-2016

Tracy Zafian
Eva Fairchild

Ginny Hamilton
Amanda Lawall

Alicia López

CROCKER FARM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARENT & GUARDIAN ORGANIZATION (PGO)



UPCOMING CALENDAR:

Tuesday, Sept 29th: School Picture Day.

Friday, Oct 2nd: Back-to-School Family Potluck Picnic & Harvest Celebration.

Friday, Oct 9th: Coffee with the Principal with Special Guests Mike Morris & Katherine Appy.

Mon, Oct 12th: No School (Columbus Day).

Thurs, Oct 15th: Crocker Farm Curriculum Night.

Wed, Oct 21st: Crocker Farm night at the Toy Box toy store, 6-8 pm. Fundraiser for the PGO.

Wed, Oct 21st: Early dismissal (1:20 pm).

Fri, Oct 23rd & Mon, Oct 26th: Early dismissal (noon) for parent-teacher conferences/

Sat, Nov 7th: Crocker Farm Book Fair at the Hadley Barnes & Noble. Music, activities, & more.

Mon, Nov 9th, & Tues, Nov 10th: Crocker Farm Winter Coat & Clothing Share collection days: Oct 13th through Nov 6th.

Wed, Nov 11th: No School (Veterans Day).

FECHAS IMPORTANTES:

Martes, 29 de septiembre: Día de la foto de clase.

Viernes, 2 de octubre: Pícnic para celebrar el regreso a la escuela y del jardín cosecha.

Viernes, 9 de octubre: una hora de café con Derek Shea y los invitados especiales, Mike Morris y Katherine Appy.

Lunes, 12 de octubre:-No hay escuela.

Jueves, 15 de octubre: Noche de currículo en la escuela.

Miércoles, 21 de octubre: Noche de Crocker Farm en la tienda de juguetes, The Toy Box.

Miércoles, 21 de octubre: - salimos temprano (1:20pm).

23&26 de octubre: – salimos a mediodía para las conferencias entre maestros y padres.

Sábado, 7 de noviembre: Día de Crocker Farm en la Barnes and Noble en Hadley.

Lunes, 9 de noviembre y martes, 10 de noviembre: Distribución de ropa de invierno
Collection de ropa de invierno: 13 de octubre hasta el 6 de noviembre.

Miércoles, 11 de noviembre: –No hay escuela.

EMAIL LIST:

If you would like to receive the latest Crocker Farm PGO news and blog posts via email, please provide your email address here. You do not need to sign up again if you already receive these emails. The Crocker Farm PGO typically sends out 1 to 3 emails per week. You can also view the latest posts on the PGO's blog at www.crockerfarmngo.blogspot.com.

Email address: _____



PASSIVE FUNDRAISING:

Earn money for Crocker Farm and the PGO each time you shop at the following stores.

Stop and Shop:

Stop and Shop will donate a percent of grocery purchases made by families that register for this program. **Crocker Farm's program ID: 05194.** Sign up at your local Stop and Shop store or online at www.stopandshop.com/aplus. You do not have to reregister if you have registered last year or previously.



Target:

Families with a Target REDcard can sign up so that Crocker Farm earns 1% of the value of all purchases. **Crocker Farm's program ID: 58644.** You can sign up online at www-secure.target.com/redcard/tcoe/home



Atkins:

With an Atkins Farms' Crocker Farm Shopper Card, you can earn money for Crocker Farm each time you shop there. If you would like a Atkins Shopper, you can email the PGO at crockerfarmngo@gmail.com or stop by the Crocker Farm office and pick one up (there is a box of them in the PGO mailbox). You can also request on below. When you check out at Atkins, if you don't have your card, you can mention Crocker Farm (account #85) and the school will still be credited.



Name: _____

Child & Class: _____

BOX TOPS:

Box Tops from food packages really add up. The PGO send them in for redemption a few times a year. There is a collection box in the front lobby or you can drop them off in the PGO mailbox in the office.



Parents and Families Volunteering at Crocker Farm!

Parent and Guardian Organization (PGO) Activities & Events

Your Name _____ Phone (day) _____ (eve) _____

Child's Name _____ Grade _____ Teacher _____

Child's Name _____ Grade _____ Teacher _____

Child's Name _____ Grade _____ Teacher _____

Email _____

There are so many ways to get involved and help at Crocker Farm. Many of the school's great events and activities would not be possible without volunteers, and volunteering in any way makes a difference. Even a few hours helps and many of the volunteer tasks have flexible scheduling. Please let us know what events/activities you're interested in helping with and we'll get in touch when we need help. An online version of this form is available on the PGO web site: www.crockerfarmngo.blogspot.com. Thank you!

___ **Class Parent** (ongoing). Help your child's teacher during the year as needed. Class parents work with the teacher to determine how best to help. Share occasional PGO updates with class families. Please indicate teacher: _____

___ **I like to bake!** Help us once or more this year when the PGO needs bakers for events such as for the Teacher/Staff Appreciation Breakfasts/Luncheons, the Fall Harvest Fest, the Martin Luther King Jr. celebration, and more.

___ **Translation Help** (ongoing). Help with translating PGO flyers and blog postings into Spanish or another language, and with distributing information to families. Language(s): _____

___ **Art Room Aide** (ongoing). Help our creative Crocker Farm art teacher. Jobs vary depending on art room needs.

___ **Music Class Aide** (ongoing). Help our creative music teacher with music classes and projects.

___ **Library Aide** (ongoing). Help reshelv books in our school library.

___ **Community Gardens** (ongoing). Help plant, weed, and maintain our lovely Crocker Farm gardens.

___ **PGO Website and Blog** (ongoing). Help update and maintain the PGO website and/or blog.

___ **Mailings/Data Entry/"Office tasks"** (ongoing). Help the PGO with copying, data entry, the PGO calendar, etc.

___ **PGO Coffees** (school year). Help coordinate monthly/bi-monthly coffees with the principal for parents/guardians.

___ **Fall Harvest Festival** (October). This family event celebrates the fall harvest and our school gardens.

___ **Winter Coat & Clothing Share** (November). Help with the collection & distribution of used winter coats/clothes for school families.

___ **Chess Club** (Winter). Help coordinate or volunteer with our school chess club. The chess club meets afterschool once a week during the winter. Last year, over 50 students participated in one of the two 5-week sessions.

___ **Crocker Press** (March-June). Crocker Press "publishes" original books written and illustrated in younger grade classes.

___ **Science Night** (Winter-Spring). Help classrooms with science night projects and/or volunteer the day of the event with hands-on science demonstrations/experiments.

___ **Book Swap** (Spring). Help with collecting books and/or distributing them. All students take home new-to-them books.

___ **Ice Cream Social** (June). Volunteers are needed to scoop ice cream and toppings, and help with setup and cleanup.

___ **Yearbook** (April-June). Help produce the school's yearbook.

___ **Family Events** (Ongoing). Coordinate fun events such as a movie night, games night, potluck. Ideas welcome.

(More on back) →

Parent and Guardian Organization (PGO) Events & Activities

Fundraising. Fundraising is one of the main activities of the PGO. Funds raised go towards school equipment and supplies, special school events, field trips, scholarships, and mini-grants to our teachers and staff. Some of our fundraisers are ongoing. Others are once a year.

___ **General Fundraising Help.** Help with numerous fundraisers through the year and share your fundraising ideas.

___ **Annual Appeal/Lend-a-Hand Fundraiser.** Our main direct fundraiser each year. Organize and distribute pledge requests, and help publicize the fundraiser.

___ **Barnes and Noble Fundraiser** (November). Help coordinate this one-day fundraiser at the Hadley Barnes & Noble. Volunteer or help find volunteers for performances/run activities. Volunteer to staff PGO table at event.

___ **Ski and Skate Sale** (January). Help set-up, sell, break down this weekend sale of used and new equipment. The Lions Club of Amherst coordinates the event and the PGO provides volunteers; some of the proceeds go to the PGO.

___ **PGO Tag Sale** (June). Help promote the sale, and/or with set up, clean up, or sales.

___ **Box Tops for Education and Labels for Education** (ongoing). Collect Box Tops (clipped from General Mill's products) and Labels for Education (from Post, Campbell's, Bic, and other products) and send them in a few times a year. Money raised is used to buy equipment and supplies for our school.

___ **Other Fundraisers.** Hillside Pizza's pizza and cookie dough fundraiser (March), as well as almost effortless fundraisers such as the Atkins Farm, Stop and Shop, and Target programs for schools. Additional fundraising ideas welcome!

___ **Grant Writing** (ongoing). Seek out grants and work on grant applications to support special projects, special events at Crocker Farm, and guest performers, and to help reduce field trip costs.

Other Ideas. Please share any other ideas on how you'd like to help here. We welcome your suggestions!