

South Elementary School PTO



2017-18 Committee Descriptions

All volunteers are greatly appreciated! Please contact Betsy Crouch [ecrouchlaw@aol.com] or Emily Kelly [emilykelly15@gmail.com] if you are interested in a particular committee, or if you would like to know more.

1000 Book Club

This club is an early literacy program serving our preschool age through kindergarten children in the South School District. Our purpose is to instill a joy of reading and develop a familiarity with the South School with each visit they make to select a new bag of books. The goal is for each child to read 100 bags (1000 books) by the spring of their Kindergarten year.

Story times with South staff members and guest readers will be scheduled throughout the year. Children are invited to take out and return the book bags Monday-Friday during school hours. Parents should sign-in at the Main Office and obtain a visitor sticker before proceeding to the 1000 Book Club room. In the room, parents may register, record their child's participation and enjoy a quiet reading area.

Birthday Books

This program offers a fun way to supplement our school library by donating a NEW book in honor of your child, teacher, or in memory of a loved one. Each child (usually on the Friday of their birthday week) receives a new 'birthday book', complete with a special bookplate (on the inside cover), and a goody bag, which is presented to them in their classroom.

5+ Volunteers are needed to:

- prepare books for delivery on Wednesdays
- deliver books and goody bags to the classrooms on Fridays

BOKS [Building Our Kids Success]

This free, before-school exercise program gets South students moving and ready to learn before class begins. Classes are based on a curriculum provided by Reebok, which is full of fun games, exercises and nutrition lessons. Volunteers are needed two mornings per week to run the classes or support the trainers.

Book Fairs

Our fairs are held in the winter and spring inside the South Gym. This is an easy way to earn money for South School through the purchase of new books, posters, and other materials.

Parents can even choose a book(s) to be donated back to their child's classroom.

We need a total of 12 volunteers in our 'hive' to work 2-hour shifts the day before and during the fairs. Typical hours are Friday from 3-8pm and Saturday from 9-2pm. No experience necessary.

6 Volunteers - Book Fair Set-Up

6 Volunteers - Work during the Book Fair

BOOSTERTHON

Boosterthon is the major fundraising/school spirit venture for the 2017-18 school year. It will start with a pep rally on October 17th and continue with daily activities run by Boosterthon. The event ends with a fun run on October 26th. Students will request donations, such as \$1/lap with a 32 lap maximum. All students and staff will participate, whether or not they raise funds. Boosterthon will run the pep rally, the daily school spirit activities. This committee will be responsible for coordinating with Boosterthon and publicizing the event. On the day of the event 2 nurse volunteers are needed, along with 8-10 people to staff the water stations and 5-6 lap markers.

Box Tops

This committee manages the General Mills Box Tops for Education reimbursement program. Parents and their children are encouraged to rip off any 'Box Tops' coupons found on many common household grocery items (i.e., cereal boxes, baking mixes) and submit them in bags of 25 to their teachers.

This is a simple way for all families to earn extra money for South PTO. Our committee will reward the classroom with most Box Tops with an ice cream party each month.

We are looking for 5+ volunteers to assist us with this program.

Class Photographers

Photograph class events, ideally following class through South School history. These photos will be used for the PTO newsletter and for 5th Grade memory books.

Community Service

This vibrant committee provides opportunities for South School students and families to engage with, and provide support to members of our South School and Hingham Community. The generosity of spirit at South School is inspiring. If you want to participate in something that will lift your spirits and inspire your children to volunteer, this is a great way to get started!

Examples of past activities include:

- collecting and delivering donations for the Hingham Interfaith Food Pantry and other organizations
- facilitating a monthly program for our 5th graders to serve/clear lunch for a low vision group of seniors at the Hingham Senior Center's "Meals on Wheels" program
- working with the South School art teacher to have 4th graders make decorations for the Interfaith Holiday Party for clients of the "Friends of the Homeless"
- collecting coats for "Anton's Cleaners" annual coat drive for men, women and children. Coats are professionally cleaned by Anton's and distributed to families in need in our community.
- distributing unclaimed "lost and found" items at school to the American Red Cross bin at the Hingham Transfer Station on the last day of school before various breaks in the school year (Thanksgiving, vacation weeks, end of the year)

We are looking for volunteers to help with the following:

- food pantry schedule coordinator- this individual will work with the Food Pantry and Mrs. Eastwood to set a delivery schedule
- food pantry deliveries- are made once a month on Monday afternoons. You can volunteer for one or more Mondays. Children are welcome.
- interfaith holiday party coordinator
- support for 5th Grade serve/clear program coordinators
- volunteer to help transport coats to Anton's Cleaners
- volunteer to help transport unclaimed "lost and found" items to the American Red Cross bin at the Transfer Station

Cultural/Academic Enrichment

This program uses PTO raised funds to enhance and supplement cultural and educational programs for our students. Past year's programs include: Museum of Science, Irish Step Dancers, Starlab, Johnny the K, Bay Colony Educators, New England Aquarium Tidal Pool, Ooch!, and author Todd Strasser.

E-newsletter

The PTO distributes a weekly e-newsletter to keep the entire South Elementary community informed about school events, PTO events and happenings around town. Submissions are due Thursdays by 3PM and the newsletter is distributed the following Sunday evening.

Family Fun Run/5K Walk

Our annual family fun 5K Run/Walk is a wonderful community event. We start at South School, run through Liberty Pole and end at South School for light refreshments. We ideally need 20 volunteers total to help organize and put on this multi-school event. Pre-race help is needed with publicity, securing event permit and insurance, registration(s), solicit sponsors, refreshments, giveaways, and number pick up. Race Day volunteers are needed to help with registration, course directions, water stops, refreshments, set-up, clean-up and first aid.

Field Day

This is a school wide, half-day event that includes water games, field games, races, slushies and LOTS OF FUN! The goal is to build school spirit and encourage physical activity and teamwork as an end of year celebration. 100+ volunteers buzzing with energy will be needed to assist on Field Day in June.

Fifth Grade Community Outreach

This committee encourages community service among fifth graders. Past activities have included visiting the residents of Linden Ponds.

Fifth Grade Leadership

The Fifth Grade Leadership Club promotes school spirit and encourages leadership training in South School 5th graders. All fifth grade students are welcome to join the club. Fifth grade leaders participate in fun monthly leadership development activities, and use their leadership skills to assist the South School community in promoting, organizing and sponsoring school events (such as Winterfest.) Meetings are ½ hour long and take place once a month during an extended morning recess. Each month 2-3 volunteers are needed to help assist with club meetings.

Garden/Go Green

This committee focuses on managing the school vegetable and Memorial gardens as well as the planters around the school building. South School's vegetable garden needs volunteers to plant, water, and weed throughout the summer months. In the summer we harvest the garlic planted and in the fall which is used to make garlic bread for our children. A harvest is also planned for the fall for the summer crops.

Additionally, our committee aims to raise recycling awareness and education at South School. Past initiatives include:

- paper recycling- feel free to use our Abitibi bin in the bus loop for your household paper recycling. This relieves trash from our Transfer Station and benefits our school financially.
- Recycling bins in the cafeteria to teach students how to recycle and compost
- Reusable lunch bags to cut down on the use of plastic bags.

New ideas are welcome!

Get Smart About Art

This fun program is held during the spring. Two or three parent volunteers are needed for every classroom to present an assigned artist and their work; it requires no previous artistic experience and about 1 hour of your time to help out in the classroom.

All presentation materials, instructions and supplies for the classroom project will be provided by the committee-all you need to do is show up!

In addition, our committee could use several volunteers to help set up all the beautiful artwork the children create in the school gym for display during the Spring Book Fair/Art Show.

Halloween Party

A South Family tradition including costumes, crafts, pizza and spooky hallway! We need 10-20 spirited volunteers to set-up, staff and breakdown stations after the party.

Hospitality

This is an active committee that needs a “Bee Hive” of volunteers for various tasks, and events throughout the school year that promote South School Spirit. Events will be planned and managed by the Hospitality Director(s)/Committee Chairs.

- PTO Meetings
- School Committee Event
- Halloween Party
- Movie/Pizza Nights

Tasks include organizing games, buying gifts for giveaways, chaperoning events and organizing bakers. Ideally this committee needs 40-50 Bee Hive volunteers to call upon during the school year. An initial planning meeting is held at the beginning of the school year in late September to organize subcommittees to manage our exciting and fun events.

KidsArt

This committee celebrates our kid's artwork while raising funds for our PTO. We help Mrs. Rollins organize the Kids Art Fair held during Winterfest in early December, and organize the KidsArt, Inc. (www.kidsartinc.com) fundraiser held in early March.

Responsibilities for the Kids Art Fair include: helping frame the kid's art, set up and decorate the art fair, and working a shift the day of the Art Fair. Responsibilities for the KidsArt, Inc fundraiser include helping to organize and tally up orders by classroom.

8 to 10 volunteers are needed.

New Family Liaisons

Assist kindergarten and new South families through their first year. Attend New Families Welcome Reception. Send emails with upcoming events and helpful reminders before school opens in September and throughout the year. The liaison will be available to answer questions that come up on an individual basis as well. Also this volunteer will be in communication with the kindergarten team during the school year to assist with communications.

Library

Volunteers on this committee directly assist Mrs. Daly, the South School Librarian. They check-in and out books, help children during school hours to find books, shelve books, and other special projects. Volunteers attend a brief training session and then record dates and times on a calendar provided when they would like to come in.

8-10 Volunteers are needed. Flexibility to work independently at your time preference.

Math Olympics

South school's supplemental math program requires parent volunteers for grading student work and reporting scores and progress. Our program needs 8 volunteers for short-term (10 weeks) correcting. This can be done from home over the weekend. Answer keys and all materials (stickers, pens) are provided. Volunteers would receive his/her first folder of sheets in late September.

Mini-Grants

The purpose of this PTO mini-grant program is to help pay for classroom supplies and materials that enhance the educational experience of South School students. The mini-grant committee is responsible for allocating funds provided by the PTO to mini-grants submitted by the teaching staff. Grants are reviewed in the fall and spring. Two to three volunteers are needed to spend 4-5 hours each year to review grants and report funding decisions to the PTO.

School Council Representatives

The School Council is comprised of Mrs. Eastwood (Principal), two teachers and two parent representatives. The Council meets the last Wednesday of each month from 3:15-4:15PM to discuss pertinent school related information. Each term runs for 2 years.

School Kidz

Save time and support South PTO by ordering your child(ren)'s school supplies in the spring before schools out for their next grade. The supplies are delivered to your child's classroom for the first day of school in a sturdy keepsake box. Look for the School Kidz flyer in your child's backpack in May 2017.

School Pictures

This committee coordinates with the teachers, staff and photographers to ensure that picture day runs smoothly.

Shopping For South

This committee reviews South School fundraising and discount opportunities offered by local businesses in our community. Examples include: Hannaford's Rewards Program (schools compete for a chance to win \$1,000), School Pop! on-line shopping, Target Red Card, Stop and Shop rewards card and a designated shopping day in Hingham Square (10% of proceeds are donated to the South PTO).

5 Volunteers are needed to seek out new opportunities and publicize them to the South School Community for participation.

South School/Hingham Apparel

Wear your South/Hingham spirit! Parents can order South/Hingham logo sweatshirts, sweatpants, and t-shirts with proceeds going to the South PTO.

Volunteers are needed to help organize opportunities to sell apparel.

South School Social

Good food, music, and company bring our South Community together for a fun parent's night out! A planning meeting is held in the fall to secure volunteers for subcommittees.

Subcommittees include:

- solicitation for food/entertainment donations
- publicity (producing and distributing fliers to the South Community and preparing vendor thank you signage
- ticket sales
- food and entertainment (securing venue and coordinating menu and music)
- working the night of the Social (checking guests in)

We are looking for 2-3 chairs and approximately 30 volunteers to run the event successfully.

Winterfest

(10+ volunteers needed)

This South Tradition is a festive event held in December in the cafeteria. Our committee provides children the opportunity to buy holiday gifts (donated ahead of time by South families) for their families at bargain prices! This is a great committee to join, as there are many small jobs!

We need 50-60 volunteers to work on this committee. One meeting is held (kids are welcome both at the meeting and at Winterfest) where you can sign up for a subcommittee.

Subcommittees:

- Decorating- something simple for the day of Winterfest.
- Publicity- create fliers and send them home via backpacks, e-Newsletter article and announcement 4 weeks out and Newsletter Blasts a few days before Winterfest.
- Scheduling- create the timeline of events for set-up on Friday as well Winterfest on Saturday.
- Hospitality- provide baked goods and/or call volunteers to provide them for Winterfest
- Raffle- ask parents to donate items for a kids raffle during Winterfest and set-up a table with prizes. Parents can also just work a 90-minute shift the day of Winterfest and help children select their gifts.

Volunteers Needed:

- 6-9 Volunteers for pre-event planning (time commitment depends on subcommittee). Some planning begins in November. Other planning doesn't happen until closer to the event date.
- 10-15 Volunteers the morning before the event for collecting and sorting gift inventory. Estimated commitment is 2 hours.
- 5-8 Volunteers the afternoon of the event to help set-up, decorate and assist the Metco Students with their shopping. Estimated commitment is 2 hours.
- 30-40 Volunteers on the day of the event for 2 hour shifts.