



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the purpose of the Progress South Elementary PTO?**

The PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) partners with our school principals, teachers and staff in a strong working relationship. We work to fund programs not covered by the school's budget. We put the students FIRST in every activity we do. Our goal is to create a better school and a better educational experience for our children. We strive to create an atmosphere where teachers and administrators can do their best work—and so can our children.

### **If I join PTO, what do I have to do?**

You don't *have* to do anything! Joining the PTO and paying your membership fee supports our organization; thereby supporting your student(s) at Progress South. If you choose to do more, PTO provides volunteer opportunities at Progress South as a way to be involved.

### **How do I contact the PTO or Where do I get information?**

The PTO Board members are representatives of the parents & we want to hear from you. We also want you to have the most up-to-date information about what is going on with the PTO. There are several ways to stay connected:

Our website: [WWW.PSEPTO.ORG](http://WWW.PSEPTO.ORG) Facebook : Facebook.psepto.org Email: [PSEPTO@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:PSEPTO@HOTMAIL.COM)

### **Why do you charge a membership fee to join PTO & how do I join?**

Our PTO is a non-profit organization. We are now a recognized 501(c)(3) organization if you really like IRS lingo. Your membership fees go directly back into the school, funding various programs you will see listed in the next question. Registration forms are available on bulletin board or our website or email us to get one.

### **What does PTO fund?**

A ton! PTO tries to provide for PSE students the things that are not included in our budget from the district. To name a few:

- Kindergarten Beach Day
- First Grade's Memory Books
- Second Grade's Mothers' Day Tea
- Third Grade's Dads' Night
- Forth Grade's Missouri Day
- Fifth Grade's Class Picture, Graduation reception, Camp & DARE T-shirts,
- Academic Competitions & Robotics Program
- Student Recognition Lunches & Awards
- Staff Appreciation
- End of School Year Parade
- Elementary Expressions Night
- Pancakes with Santa
- Movie Night
- The Fun Run
- Basketball Shootout
- Technology in the Classroom
- Special Ed equipment
- Management of the Spirit Shop
- Spirit Stick program
- And MORE!

### **How do I find out when volunteers or donations are needed?**

As a registered member of PTO your email will be added to our volunteer list. Every time a volunteer or donation is needed a SignUpGenius email will go out. Simply respond to the sign-up if you are available to help or donate. If you have a specific area you'd like to help with send an email to [PSEPTO@hotmail.com](mailto:PSEPTO@hotmail.com).

**Why should I volunteer?**

There have been more than 500 independent research studies about parent involvement. The results are startling. When parents get involved in their children's education, grades go up, test scores go up, children become more likely to pass and to attend better schools after high school, they have fewer discipline problems, and they're less likely to use drugs and alcohol. Volunteering doesn't mean a huge time commitment - an hour or two per school year makes a big difference!

**Can I see your financial records?**

Yes! You can see them at any time. Request access to these records through [PSEPTO@hotmail.com](mailto:PSEPTO@hotmail.com).

**What's with the Box Tops?**

The money we earn by sending in Box Tops is specifically ear-marked for Technology. Because of our success with the Box Top program, the PTO has been able to purchase 60 Chromebooks with carts, install a new sound system, replace old walkie talkies for the staff. As of March 1, 2016 we are #1 not only in the area, but in the state in Box Tops money earned, we rank #40 in the country! Pretty impressive! The Box Tops are collected once a month, with bragging rights to the class with the most collected and a pizza party to the class with the most for the year. So start clipping!

**What is eScrip?**

eScrip is a free card that you present at the checkout of various retailers, including many online vendors, as well as, Schnuck's grocery stores. By presenting your card during the checkout process, our school automatically earns money (up to 3% of your purchase)!

**Do you make money on the Spirit Shop?**

Very little. Our goal is to make PSE spirit wear affordable for all. We essentially just want to make back what we paid for the items.

**When is the Scholastic Book Fair?**

We will have two book fairs this year, our usual Big Fair with after school sales on 2/2 from 3:30-6pm with large sale on 2/7 from 3:30-8pm. Then we will have Buy One Get One (BOGO) fair on 5/9 in conjunction with our Elementary Expressions Arts Expo. We hope you come out to both fairs, find lots of great books & help provide new inventory for the PSE Library & classrooms. Our teachers and certified staff get to pick out books for their classrooms. In fact, we have given our teachers on average \$75-\$100 worth of books every year for the past 5 years. The library gets approximately \$1,000 in books from the fair too!

**I have ideas! How do I get them in front of the PTO board?**

We love to explore new ideas! Come to any of our unit meetings throughout the year and share them with us. Or, if you'd like something discussed at a PTO board meeting, bring it up with any PTO board member. We just need to know in advance to get your ideas/issues on the agenda. If you need to specifically address something at a meeting email us at [psepto@hotmail.com](mailto:psepto@hotmail.com).

**Please remember that the PSE PTO Board are volunteer parents, we strive to listen to the concerns, ideas and wishes of parents and teachers. We want to represent the best interest of all PSE Students and constantly welcome input from all parties. Again, if you have a question ... ASK. We are all in this together to make Progress South Elementary a great place to learn.**

Website: [WWW.PSEPTO.ORG](http://WWW.PSEPTO.ORG)  
Facebook: [FACEBOOK.PSEPTO.ORG](http://FACEBOOK.PSEPTO.ORG)  
Email: [PSEPTO@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:PSEPTO@HOTMAIL.COM)

