

# AAPSNews

News, features, profiles and activities in The Ann Arbor Public Schools

More news and features online at <http://news.a2schools.org>

### Inside:

- Forsythe KMO earns state honors, page 2
- New Business Partnership Coordinator named, page 3
- Ann Arbor PTO Council profiled, page 5

Issue No. 26, December 13, 2010

## Logan student and mom create a sweet success in bakery businesses

By Casey Hans  
AAPSNews Service

Staff members at Logan Elementary have done the taste test: And the baked goods and sweets from the Page family kitchen get a solid thumbs up.

This sweet duo includes Shalae Page, a Logan fourth-grader who owns and operates Shalae's Sweets, and her mom, Shenida Page, 27, who has her own home-based baking business called The Bakery Down the Street.

Shalae does a variety of decorative cookies, suckers, chocolate-covered strawberries and chocolate-dipped pretzels selling for between 75 cents and \$2 each. "It depends how big, how many there are and how decorative they are," explained the young entrepreneur.

"At first I thought I would grow up to own my mom's business, but I decided to have my own," she added.

Last summer, Shalae was invited to the



Shalae Page, a fourth-grader at Logan Elementary School, has started Shalae's Sweets, creating cookies, chocolate-covered strawberries and fancy suckers.

University of Michigan to speak to a group of high schoolers that were learning about business and entrepreneurship. She spoke to about 100 students – and gave each of them a handmade, specialty U-M sucker that she had designed. "They all laughed when I said I had a Facebook page,"

See Business, page 6

## Scarlett partnership planning continues

### Balanced calendar will get more study

By Casey Hans  
AAPSNews Service

Planning for a proposed Ann Arbor Public Schools K-8 campus on the east side will move ahead, but a balanced school year calendar will not be implemented in 2011-12.

The Ann Arbor Board of Education heard a formal presentation on Dec. 8 about the proposed campus at Mitchell Elementary and

See Board, page 4



## Community giving on the rise at Haisley, Eberwhite

From AAPSNews Service

Fourth- and fifth-graders at Haisley and Eberwhite elementary schools have learned spirit of giving through homemade baking.

The King Arthur Flour Company, based in Norwich, Vt. visited the Ann Arbor schools last week to teach students to bake fresh, nutritious

Young bakers at Haisley Elementary show classmates how to make a loaf of bread with the help of a free lesson from King Arthur Flour Company.

bread from scratch through its Life Skills Bread Baking Program, which also encourages students to donate their homemade break to the community.

Although King Arthur Flour has visited many schools around Michigan in the past, this is the company's first visit to Ann Arbor, according to media spokeswoman Allison Furbish.

In a setting similar to a cooking school, King Arthur Senior Life Skills Instructor Paula Gray and two "student bakers" selected from each

See Bread, page 2

# Exceptional Education

## Bread, from page 1

school demonstrated how to make a great loaf of bread at a simulated “kitchen.” Students learned the science of yeast action, math skills in measuring ingredients and reading comprehension by following the recipe. Another student at each school served as a media representative, taking photos of the events as part of the experience.

“Bread’s just like kids – every loaf is different,” explained Gray, a former teacher who now travels around the country for King Arthur’s school program. “If yours looks like brown, muddy water, smells bad and is kind of gross, that’s good,” she said as they mixed their ingredients.

Beth Saenz, a teacher from Haisley Elementary School and Susan Haines, a teacher at Eberwhite Elementary School coordinated the visits to the Ann Arbor elementary schools. “I hope all of you feel inspired to bake bread at home,” Saenz told her students.

Parents from both school communities found out about the free King Arthur Flour program on the company’s website and the schools put in an application together to be considered for the program. Paula Brown, the PTO enrichment coordinator at Haisley, said she was pleased to have a program come to their school at no charge that she estimated would have normally cost the PTO about \$300.

“One of our goals is not only to complement the curriculum, but to give back to the community and learn about service,” she said. “For



*Students at Eberwhite Elementary were selected as “student bakers” as part of the King Arthur Flour Life Skills Bread Baking Program. Students were given flour to bake bread, some of which will be donated to the Bryant Community Center.*

a company like King Arthur to do this program free, in this economy, it really says a lot.”

Brown said she also appreciated that the program encouraged a family experience of baking at home. “You can’t discount the importance of that,” she said.

Assemblies took place on Dec. 8 at Haisley in the morning and Eberwhite in the afternoon and the company also visited the Jackson area during their time in Michigan. Students will use

their skills, along with ingredients donated by King Arthur Flour, to bake their own loaves at home – one to keep and one to donate. Haisley plans to donate its loaves to HERO of Washtenaw County during a special assembly today and Eberwhite’s loaves will go to the Bryant Community Center.

The King Arthur Flour Life Skills Bread Baking Program visits students in grades four through seven in schools across the country and in the past decade has

taught more than 120,000 school-children how to bake bread. The program stresses three elements: the school-based lesson, family time at home baking the bread with their families, then donation of a loaf to a local food pantry, homeless shelter or community organization.

King Arthur Flour also incorporates whole grains into the demonstration, teaching kids what whole grains are, why they’re important in a healthy diet, and how to use them in everyday baking. Each student receives bags of both King Arthur All-Purpose Flour and King Arthur 100 percent Organic White Whole Wheat Flour to help them bake healthy breads at home.

Gray said she loves teaching children the skill of bread baking – a hands-on way for kids to learn math, science, and cultural traditions all while having fun and learning about community service, too. “They’re learning the value and the joy of giving something back to the community,” she said. “Food pantries are delighted to have freshly baked homemade bread to offer the people they serve.”

“Human beings have been baking bread for some 10,000 years,” said King Arthur Flour Board Chairman Frank Sands, “but these days, fewer people are baking at home, so the tradition isn’t being handed down. We want to pass on this traditional life skill to the next generation.”

*For more information, visit [kingarthurfour.com/lifeskills](http://kingarthurfour.com/lifeskills) or call 802-299-2240.*



## Forsythe KMO Club places 1st in state

*A team of 40 students from the Forsythe Middle School Knowledge Master Open Club came in first out of 11 teams in Michigan when they competed on Tuesday. Nationally, the Viking Auks placed in the top one percent, as they were No. 5 out of 543 teams in the country. The team score was 1,666 out of a perfect 2,000, compared to the state average score of 1,301 and the national average of 1,189. Second place in Michigan was Chippewa Middle School, in Okemos, with 1,629. Also, KMO announced that Forsythe was first place in the nation in schools with over 500 students. A team from Tappan Middle School finished fifth in the state, with a score of 1370.*

*KMO is an academic competition that tests teams’ ability to answer questions in all the subject areas quickly and accurately. The Forsythe KMO Club meets every Tuesday after school in teacher Dan Ezekiel’s room and is open to all students in all grades. The next competition is in January and will be for 6th graders only.*

## Staff in the Spotlight

### District restructures partnership office, names new coordinator

Annette Ferguson will lead outreach to business community

By Casey Hans  
AAPSNews Service

Annette Ferguson's strong sense of community is a main reason she was selected this fall as the Business Partnerships Coordinator for the Ann Arbor Public Schools.

She is focused on building relationships with area businesses and related groups and will work closely with the Ann Arbor Public Schools Educational Foundation in its work to garner support for the district. School officials have called this outreach effort important to building bridges in the community.

"We are pleased to have Annette on board," said Director of Communications Liz Margolis, who oversees the partnerships office. "She has many connections in the community and has a strong sense of what we want to see in this position.

"In addition to being experienced in the business and marketing area, she also brings a solid knowledge of our district and the community. That will be important as we move ahead."

Ferguson replaces Norma McCuiston, former community partnerships and projects coordinator, who retired earlier this year, but the job has been restructured.

The school district has had a partnerships office for 25 years and many relationships are already in place that Ferguson will build upon. The volunteer coordination formerly done in this office will be handled separately, Margolis said.

Not only is Ferguson an Ann Arbor parent, but she also is a product of the Ann Arbor Public Schools, having attended Carpenter Elementary, Scarlett Middle School and graduated from Huron High School. She and her family moved to Ohio for a time, returning when

her husband, Rob, took a job at the University of Michigan. The two just celebrated 17 years of marriage.

She comes from a family of four children, with two younger siblings – a brother in Saline and sister in Ohio – and also has an identical twin sister in Wisconsin. Her parents still live in the area and she said a lot of her approach comes from their influence. "They led by example," she said. "And that meant a lot of volunteerism."

In addition to volunteering in her children's schools, Ferguson has been involved with the Washtenaw Elementary Science Olympiad and is just completing two years of service on the Pittsfield Township Board of Trustees.

"It goes back to my sense of building community," she said. "Schools are a key component. We need to bring the community and schools together in tangible ways that enhance the experience for both."

Ferguson started her post on Nov. 8 after working at Direct Incorporation of Ann Arbor, assisting companies with trademark searches and research for forming businesses. She previously worked in advertising.

She has been working on a new strategy and approach for the partnerships office, speaking with building principals to determine their needs and beginning to meet with partners. Her role will include connecting local businesses with Ann Arbor schools for a variety of opportunities at all levels. That can mean anything from internships in the community to business involvement in the classroom.

"The partnerships are a two-way street," she added. "It's a balance to find out what the partners need, what the schools need and how it fits together."

She is meeting weekly regularly with Wendy Correll, executive director of the AAPS Educational



Annette Ferguson, the new AAPS Business Partnerships Coordinator.

Foundation, so they can discuss how to best coordinate their outreach. Correll said the revamped partnerships position will strengthen the public education message in Ann Arbor and build bridges between public and private sectors. She noted that the district's Strategic Plan makes an expanded partnership program a priority.

"Just as private giving is part of a solution to funding issues in K-12 programs, business partnerships are important, as well," Correll said, noting that local businesses bring myriad experiences directly to Ann Arbor classrooms and through workplace internships for students.

"I look forward to working with Annette to develop an expanded resource pool," she added. "This will support student achievement and talent development in the AAPS."

Ferguson said although the partnerships will have tangible results, she expects other, less tangible benefits, as well. "Students will see businesses investing in their community and will see and experience firsthand the benefits of volunteerism," she said. "This can have a profound impact on how students relate to their community."

On a personal note, Ferguson said she feels that her experiences in marketing, community service and school activities have brought her to this place with the school system. "I do feel all the pieces of my life are converging in this undertaking," she added.

#### Annette Ferguson

**Occupation:** Business Partnerships Coordinator for the Ann Arbor Public Schools.

**Residence:** Pittsfield Township. She is a product of the school district, having graduated from Huron High School, and she also attended Carpenter Elementary School and Scarlett Middle School.

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in Advertising from Michigan State University.

**Age:** 44

**Family:** Married 17 years to Rob, an occupational therapist at the University of Michigan Health System. They have three sons: a third-grader at Carpenter Elementary School and sixth- and eighth-graders at Scarlett Middle School. She is one of four children and her parents still live in the area.

**Pets:** They have a Bichon poodle named Herbie.

**Hobbies:** She enjoys reading, gardening and bicycling with her family.

**Community service:** Is just completing two years as a member on the Pittsfield Township Board of Trustees and has been a longtime volunteer in her children's schools. Was also active with the Washtenaw Elementary Science Olympiad.

**Favorite meal:** "Fresh garden green beans and squash – there's nothing like fresh garden produce."

**Last books read:** She took her cue from Ellen Daniel, a teacher at Scarlett Middle School, who recommended a list. She has read "Water for Elephants," by Sara Gruen and "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo," by Stieg Larsson, among others.

**Life philosophy:** "I was raised to be thoughtful of others. Accepting others, not judging others. I think that makes a strong person."

## Scarlett-Mitchell, U-M partnership to move ahead with enrichments

Board, from page 1

Scarlett Middle School, a partnership between the University of Michigan School of Education and the school district which could bring a balanced school year calendar and enrichment activities for students.

Board committees had received interim reports on the plan, but this was the first presentation to the full board. Two parent forums were held this fall at Mitchell and Scarlett, raising questions by parents and prompting the district to extend its planning time.

The project planning committee originally hoped to launch the full partnership project in the 2011-12 school year, but members said last week they had decided against implementing a balanced calendar year in 2011. A district message to that effect was sent to parents of Scarlett Middle School students as well as its feeder elementary schools of Mitchell, Carpenter, Allen and Pittsfield.

Interim Deputy Superintendent for Instruction Lee Ann Dickinson-Kelley said the enrichment portion of the partnership would move ahead, but within a traditional school calendar. She said the hope is to have planned enrichment programs, called “inter-sessions” in place by February of 2012 to pilot so the community would have a better understanding of them.

Mitchell Elementary School Principal Kathy Scarnecchia told the school board that the Mitchell-Scarlett campus was selected for the project because an achievement gap persists there and because both schools serve a comparatively large proportion of ethnically and economically diverse populations. Such a setting would provide a rich array of opportunities for beginning teachers, she said.

Officials have also said the geographic proximity of the two schools also played a role in the selection.

Members of the Ann Arbor Board of Education voiced support for the proposed partnership last

**The district will survey parents in January and host additional parent forums, as needed, to gather more feedback on the project. The community will also be invited into the extended planning process.**

week and said they looked forward to hearing more about it as plans progress. Parent comments were mixed, with some concerned about the balanced calendar and how it might affect families with students at different schools and others saying they were looking forward to the opportunities such a calendar would bring.

If adopted, the balanced calendar would include extended school breaks – allowing for either family time or school enrichments – and a shorter, six-week summer recess with school starting in early August and ending in late June.

Some parents asked the district to consider an “opt in” or “opt out” policy as it would relate to any future calendar change. Others have suggested the district consider such a K-8 campus as a “school of choice” similar to Ann Arbor Open @ Mack.

Dickinson-Kelley said many of the issues raised by parents were being taken into account. She said the district would survey parents in January and host additional parent forums, as needed, to gather more feedback on the project. The community will also be invited into the extended planning process.

School board members suggested that all parents in the district be surveyed so that the level of interest in the project and the balanced

### Balanced Calendar

The planning committee for the K-8 Mitchell-Scarlett Partnership with the University of Michigan School of Education will take an additional year to plan and study the program, piloting some enrichment partnership activities but using a traditional calendar for the current and 2011-12 school years. A “balanced calendar” is still being considered.

Here are the basics being considered for a balanced calendar:

- ◆ Approximately 6 weeks of summer break, including all of July.
- ◆ School would start in early August and end in late June.
- ◆ One or two week “inter-sessions” offered in fall, winter, and spring, aligning with or adjacent to times on the regular district calendar. Inter-sessions would be additional days for children and families who choose to participate.
- ◆ It would have the same school curriculum and same number of official school days as other AAPS schools on a traditional calendar.

### About Inter-sessions

Some students regress during summer break, requiring time to be taken for re-teaching at school start-up. The inter-sessions are designed to counter the effects of this “summer slide.” Research on extending school time suggests that well-designed, extended school year programs can support student learning, especially for students at risk.

- ◆ One- or two-week inter-sessions” would be offered in the fall, winter, and spring around breaks. Children could either take vacation during these times or choose to participate in academic and enrichment activities taught by teachers, U-M faculty and teacher interns.
- ◆ Possible topics: academic enrichment activities through study of literacy and math, special science or social studies topics, the arts and humanities, physical education and other explorations. There would be opportunities to link to resources on the U-M campus.

*Source: Ann Arbor Public Schools & University of Michigan School of Education Dec. 8, 2010 presentation to the Ann Arbor Board of Education.*

calendar could be gauged.

Officials stressed that plans for a K-8 campus did not include transporting students between middle school and elementary school campuses, but noted that the K-8 approach would address the teaching partnership between AAPS teachers and U-M teaching interns and staff.

*AAPS administrators involved with planning for the K-8 Mitchell-Scarlett Partnership include: Interim Deputy Superintendent of Instruction Lee Ann Dickinson-Kelley; Interim Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education Ruth Williams; Assistant Super-*

*intendent for Secondary Schools Joyce Hunter; Scarlett Middle School Principal Gerald Vazquez; Scarlett Middle School Assistant Principal Edward Broom; and Mitchell Elementary School Principal Kathy Scarnecchia.*

*Members of the planning committee representing the U-M School of Education include: Associate Dean for Research Elizabeth Moje; Clinical Associate Professor of Education Cathy Reischl; Clinical Associate Professor of Education Tim Boerst; lecturer Debi Khasnabis; and graduate student assistant Melissa Stull.*

# Ann Arbor PTO Council on task for issues, assistance



At a November PTO Council meeting at the Balas Administration building, representatives from various PTOs around the district hear a report from AAPS Director of Communications Liz Margolis. The PTOC meets monthly.

## Group trains officers, keeps parents informed

By Casey Hans  
AAPSNews Service

The Ann Arbor PTO Council is making its mark, not only within the district, but also around the state.

The PTO Council's push in the past year to become involved with how public schools are financed at the state level has brought an honor to the group this fall: Vice Chairwoman Donna Lasinski was invited to join the Education Task Force for Michigan Gov.-elect Rick Snyder.

"I think that's a great place for us to be as the Ann Arbor Public Schools district," said Lasinski, in announcing it at a recent PTOC meeting.



Donna Lasinski

Lasinski has headed up efforts for the PTOC Advocacy Committee for School Funding Reform, formed last March. The group has met with state-level candidates and elected officials to keep the structure of public school funding at the fore as an issue, she said. They are also mobilizing parents to get involved with the issue of school funding through letter-writing campaigns.

"State funding of education is an issue that affects us across the board," added PTOC Chairwoman Martine Perreault, who is in her third year chairing the board. She said the council has worked with other groups locally, including the Ann Arbor Parents for Schools, to educate the community about school funding.

"State funding of education is an issue that affects us across the board," added PTOC Chairwoman Martine Perreault, who is in her third year chairing the board. She said the council has worked with other groups locally, including the Ann Arbor Parents for Schools, to educate the community about school funding.



Martine Perreault

"We'd love to inspire other groups in other areas of Michigan to do the same," she added. "We're trying to look beyond our district."

Although maintaining a strong face at the state level, the Ann Arbor PTOC keeps a high-profile presence locally and continues to build support. Participation in the PTOC has increased from 21 percent of schools in 2007 to 89 percent in 2010.

### A history of involvement

The group was formed years ago when Ann Arbor Public Schools PTO presidents began meeting; the group eventually evolved into today's council, which involves a representative of each PTO/PTSO. The group meets monthly during the school year and its executive board meets with the superintendent each month. The PTOC also hosts an e-mail discussion list for information sharing. All PTOs are invited to participate in the monthly meetings, where guest speakers are often invited to keep parents informed and representatives can share concerns and information with each other.

Parents serve on ad-hoc hiring committees, district bid review committees, strategic planning and action committees, and standing committees such as Celebration of Excellence. Parents serving need not be PTO Council reps, but PTOC facilitates that involvement, Perreault said.

See PTO Council, page 6

**Editor's note:** This is the second in a series of stories about school board-approved community groups in The Ann Arbor Public Schools. These groups have a regular seat and presentation slot at school board meetings.

**Featured today:** The Ann Arbor PTO Council (AAPTOC)

**Featured Nov. 8.:** The Ann Arbor Parent Advisory Committee for Special Education (AAPAC)

**Up Next:** The Black Parents Student Support Group (BPSSG)

## About the Ann Arbor PTOC

**What:** The Ann Arbor PTOC meets monthly in the main board meeting room at the Balas Administration Building, 2555 S. State St., Ann Arbor. The group will meet on the following Mondays in 2011: Jan. 24 (topic: Enrichment activities), March 21 (topic: Fundraisers), April 18 and May 16.

**Training:** Leadership Training is offered for a \$25 fee for nonprofit board officers (PTO and other parent groups.) **Officer Training:** Tuesday, Feb. 8 from 6:30-9 p.m. **Treasurer Training:** Monday, Feb. 7 6:30-9 p.m. (Both in the main conference room at the AAPS Balas Administration Building, 2555 S. State St., Ann Arbor. RSVP via e-mail to [ptoc.correspondence@gmail.com](mailto:ptoc.correspondence@gmail.com))

### Frequently Asked Questions

can be found through the PTO link at [www.a2schools.org](http://www.a2schools.org). Topics include: Bullying and Safety Policies, guide to school funding, Reviewing By-Laws and Constitution, Insurance, How PTOs can use their funds, Incorporation, Selecting Outside Speakers for your PTO and a statement on activities relating to elections and campaigns.

**Details:** [www.a2schools.org](http://www.a2schools.org) (click on PTO Council link.) Also, follow the PTOC on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/PTOCChair> or at <http://twitter.com/ptocouncil>

## Business, from page 1

Shalae said.

The story of their business startup is bitter-sweet.

Shenida Page got the itch to bake in 2004, and it wasn't the best of news that sent her to the oven. Her father had just died and this mother of five thought she would bake a special cake for two of her children's birthdays to lift their spirits. "It turned out awful," she said, but she was determined to get it right.

Her next effort was more pleasing. Using some specially shaped pans, she began baking cakes for others. And people started asking, "who does the baking?" Through word of mouth, her business, "The Bakery Down the Street," was born.

With encouragement from her husband, Khalil (who never went anywhere without mentioning his wife's cakes,) the word spread and business grew. Sheet cakes, themed cakes, cupcakes in decorative mugs – she does them all with a flair.

The business became sidetracked when her husband died in 2008. After spending some time with her grief, her energy and motivation rebounded and she began anew last summer.

When approached about baking cookies and making specialty chocolate suckers, Shenida Page thought her daughter might like to do that so she could focus on cakes. "She liked to make suckers and do the sweets," her mom said.

Nine-year-old Shalae got cooking and Shalae's Sweets was born.

Her four younger siblings – Dorian, Felicia and twins Linda and Larry who all attend Logan



Shalae Page, left, a fourth-grader at Logan Elementary School, and her mom, Shenida Page, with some of the specialty treats they create in their family kitchen.

– occasionally get their hand in the mixing bowl, as well. "They beg me and beg me and beg me 'I want to work for Shalae's Sweets,'" Shalae said. "But, they don't work very hard – they lose interest. You know, their favorite TV show might come on."

Shalae's favorite subject at school? "Most kids would say they like lunch and recess, but not me," she said. "Science and writer's workshop – those are my favorites."

As for her self-made business: "I would like to have a few more customers," she admitted. "I'm only 9 years old and the word has to get spread around yet."

Shalae's Sweets' Facebook page is where she stays in touch with customers, takes orders and posts specials with the help of her mom. Visit [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for "Shalae's Sweets."

Shenida Page is a success story of her own. She is a self-made Detroit native who decided to change her life and make something of herself. Having dropped out of middle school, she decided to better herself and re-enrolled in school to get her GED, which is where she met her husband. "I decided this is not the life I want to live," she said. "I got my GED and I've been doing so much better. I never saw myself as an entrepreneur, but here I am."

She is now working toward her college degree.

Her dream is to someday have a full storefront bakery in Ann Arbor, another in Detroit's inner city where she wants to help others better themselves and a third in Memphis, where her father-in-law lives. For now, watch for the license plate on her van that proclaims: "Cakedva."

"I'm so thankful to be here," she added. "It's the best place to live, in Ann Arbor."

*Editor's note: Although we do not normally publish elementary student's names, this story was published with parental permission.*

## PTO Council, from page 5

The group has also stepped up activities in recent years, hosting its third annual fall PTOC Launch Party in October, where PTO/PTSO officers and potential officers from across the district had a chance to meet, mingle and get informed.

"It's important to know that you're not alone when you take office," Perreault added. "We want to encourage PTOs to come to us as a resource. We're not here to tell them what to do, we're here to help them learn what to do."

To that end, the PTOC also has developed officer leadership and treasurer training through the NEW Center in Ann Arbor and has sessions scheduled in early 2011. PTO officers and members of AAPS booster groups can take the training for a cost of \$25.

"It's the most productive \$25 you've ever spent," Perreault said. "We're seeding the pool of people who will move on (as a nonprofit board officers) It works for them, it works for us."

Andy Thomas, a member of the Ann Arbor Board of Education, got his start with the PTO. Thomas was appointed to his school board post then elected to a seat in November. He started as a PTO representative at Burns Park Elementary, representing the school at PTOC meetings and eventually sitting on the PTOC Executive Board as an officer. His time with the PTOC helped spur interest in larger district issues.

Thomas said the biggest role the PTOC plays is to serve as an interface between parents and the school administration. "I've always found the administration to be very responsive to issues that come up at the PTO Council," he said. The most rewarding part of being involved with the PTOC (executive board) is sitting down monthly with the superintendent of schools. You can talk candidly and really get some insight into the district."

Thomas said the PTOC serves as a springboard for parents who want to get more involved with their school district and perhaps, as he did, move on to serve on the school board. "If you're looking for an opportunity to look beyond the

## Get involved

— The PTOC is seeking nominations for next year's Executive Board and also has a current open position on the board for Recording Secretary.

— Parent help is sought with newsletter production (not a board position.)

— The PTOC is forming a list of pro-bono service resources for PTOs in the areas of accounting, tax and legal advice. Parents interested in any of the above should contact Martine Perreault at [ptocexec@gmail.com](mailto:ptocexec@gmail.com)

— To get involved with the PTOC Advocacy Committee for School Funding Reform, e-mail: [ptoc.a2advocacy@gmail.com](mailto:ptoc.a2advocacy@gmail.com)

inside corner of your PTO, this is a great opportunity to do that," he added. "So much of what happens (in a PTO) is tied to that particular school – and there's a whole world beyond that."