



HHS PTO LATE WINTER NEWSLETTER

The Final Four

March

3/2 Spring Sports Registration due in Aspen

3/5 Monthly PTO Meeting @ 6 PM in Room 103

3/9 Spring Sports Night

Staff Soup & Salad Luncheon, Appreciation Day for Guidance Counselors

April

4/2 PTO Meeting at 6 PM in Room 103

4/10 Junior Prom

Appreciation Days for Paras, Bus Drivers and Administrators

May

5/7 PTO Meeting at 6 PM in Room 103

5/20 Front Row Raffle Drawing!

5/26 Senior Breakfast, Speaker & Field Day

5/28 Red Carpet and Senior Prom

5/30 Graduation & Senior Night

Appreciation Days for Cafeteria Staff, School Nurses, & TEACHERS

June

Andrew Warhaftig Catching Kindness Awards, End of Year staff luncheon, PTO Social for Exec & Committee Chairs

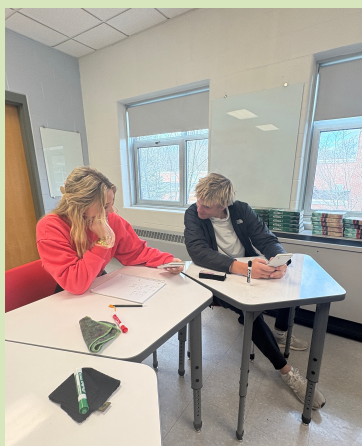
Front Row Seats To Graduation

Parents of Seniors! Stay tuned for info on a first-ever raffle for **FOUR FRONT ROW** reserved seats to graduation. Your participation in the raffle will help the PTO narrow our funding gap,

and the lucky winner will enjoy a leisurely morning and clear views of the ceremony. Look for tickets this May!

It's also time to start collecting hard copies of candid photos of your graduate throughout the years, from babyhood to today, for the Senior Night Memory Wall. The Memory Wall is a popular centerpiece to Senior Night! You will not get these photos back. Watch your email for more info about photo collection and Senior Night, or reach out to Jane McGrath at jane.e.mcgrath@gmail.com for info on how to help out.

First Semester Recap



Your donations are hard at work! Tuners for Orchestra and scientific & graphing calculators to benefit students studying math and science across all levels are just some of the Mini-Grants we awarded in December.

Our goal is to enhance the HHS experience for its entire community: parents, staff, and students. We do this by donating time to plan and coordinate support for school events (like implementing parent feedback to improve the Homecoming Dance), by raising money to fund the “extras” that make the school better for everyone, from academic supplies to pre-prom Red Carpet, and by communicating via our weekly insert in the Monday Message, our webpage, class Facebook pages for parents, Instagram, and now – in case you missed it – this newsletter.

Student Events. PTO welcomed the Class of 2029 with pizza at their Freshman Orientation lunch. We also helped with school pictures. We treated students and parents at the Fall Catching Kindness Awards with a Breakfast Buffet. We are continuing to solicit and implement student and parent feedback to improve the Homecoming Dance. And, of course, our amazing Class Parents are working with their respective student officers to help them fundraise and plan for their proms and senior activities.

Teacher and Staff Appreciation Events. Our stellar Hospitality Committee, chaired by Janelle Stockbridge, conveys our appreciation to HHS teachers, staff, and administration. They stocked the Teachers' Lounges not once, but twice! They specifically recognized the Custodial staff and the SPED staff. With your support, they organized a fresh bread give-

away, a Thanksgiving pie give-away, and put together a holiday raffle. Thank you, Hospitality! We appreciate your appreciation skills!

Mini-Grants. Huge thanks to Mini-Grant Chair Laura Accettella and Committee members Katie Connelly, Jane McGrath, and Maryellen McBride, who carefully deliberated over 21 applications from teachers and staff to fund over \$9,000 in Mini-Grants. Due to budgeting constraints, we were not able to fully fund all requests this year, but were pleased to make awards to support the Spring SWell session and Breathe Out Day supplies, physical books, a speaker to play music, fabric, easels, digital picture frames, and ceramics tools for art, two field trips, foreign language dictionaries, Babalingua language account, mini white boards, enrichment for Chinese class supplies, Latin class enrichment supplies, and SPED supplies, in addition to the tuners and calculators pictured above.

Financial Report

Just about 40% of HHS families made a donation to the PTO this academic year, leaving us about \$5000 short of our goal. As a result, we could not fully fund all of the Mini-Grant applications, and we are rather desperately looking for ways to avoid cutting programming or changing up town traditions. The pre-prom Red Carpet at the Bathing Beach, for example, costs \$2,300 to pay for the three required permits and mandatory police detail. (If you have any connections to the Bathing Beach Trustees or to Hingham Police Department, please reach out to Red Carpet Chairs Jennifer Nugent and Megan Pollenz.)

We'd like to think the low donation rate is an oversight. (At our Homecoming Table, parents had the opportunity to check whether they had donated: most thought they had done so, and many had not.) **We are happy to check to see if you donated if you aren't sure, and gratefully appreciate your support at any time!** Venmo @Hingham-HighSchoolPTO (please include your student's name in the notes section), send a check to HHS PTO via the Main Office, or donate via [our website](#).



Join Us!

PTO is looking to fill a couple of executive positions on our board next year. It's a great way to be informed on what's going on at HHS, and to positively work with the administration to strengthen the community -- and it's a much lighter lift than grade- or middle-school PTO Exec boards because the students themselves initiate most of their own programming, so we play more of a supportive role. We welcome moms, dads, and care-givers. Please join us this Thursday or email hinghamhighpto@gmail.com if you're PTO Exec-curious!



Field trips are the best! Ms. Shinney's Introduction to Yoga class is grateful for the Mini-Grant support. And we are grateful for yours!

