



# 2023-24 PTA Accomplishments

## Colonial Hills Elementary School PTA

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*Executive Board:* Natalie McCarthy, Pres.; Kristen Klopfer and Leslie McChesney, Vice Pres; Jill Kleinhenz, Treasurer; Shelley Coleman Casto, Secetary

What an action-packed year! We have been able to hold all our annual events and celebrations this year with the support of the PTA. We have been able to continue to support having babysitting available for monthly PTA membership meetings per our members' requests. Here we've outlined the PTA's accomplishments throughout this past academic year. We were able to stick closely to our budget and stretched it to cover a lot of programs and needs for our students and community. It takes many volunteers to make all this happen, and we are immensely grateful for all the support from you.

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### Teacher Grants and Classroom Funds

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We were able to support 3 individual **Teacher Grant** requests this year. These included: supporting the creation of a media club for 5<sup>th</sup> graders by Mrs. Wiedenhof, purchasing supplies for the putt-putt course built by Ms. Merringer, and buying 26 copies of *The Westing Game* for Mrs. Latshaw's ELA classes.

Additionally, we established a process to better support the teachers in using the classroom funds that they have available to them from the PTA. More than half the teachers participated in our **Classroom Fund** program this year, which has covered costs for books, art supplies, math games, learning toys, crafts, bulletin boards, and more.

Outside the classroom, we came together as a school community to help 13 CHES families with a total of 37 kids through our **Holiday Helpers** program. The families received gifts and household necessities they requested as well as gift cards totaling more than \$2000.

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### Events and Fundraisers

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Our two biggest fundraisers – the fall **Walk-a-thon** and spring **Plant Sale** – both met projections and provided fun opportunities for our students at home and at school. Each student got a Walk-a-Thon t-shirt courtesy of Mullen Hawkins Realty, and students who sold plants earned prizes. The **Square 1** fundraiser also met its projection and all of those funds go directly to Ms. Liddil to buy additional art supplies throughout the year.

We were able to host **Pastapalooza** again this year and were able to bring back a 3<sup>rd</sup> seating to allow more families of our school community to participate. This annual event was a huge success with the help of many volunteers and sponsors, including a successful teacher raffle, silent auction and 50/50 drawing. The PTA network also helped host many memorable class parties (Halloween, Winter, and Valentine's Day), as well as three roller **skating parties** at Skate Zone 71. The PTA is planning the **fifth-grade graduation** celebration on May 20<sup>th</sup> that will feature a video montage, treats, and t-shirts for all.

Given the huge success of the skate program in the 2022-2023 school year, the PTA has been working with Mrs. Merringer to plan on how to bring the this curriculum to CHES every other year. To help with raising the funds, we established a dedicated fund for the Physical Education program. And, to help with beginning to put monies in that dedicated fund we did 4 additional fundraisers specifically for this program. We were able to raise just over \$2000 this year.

To build pride in and connections among our school community, the PTA organized and organized a well-attended **Ice Cream Social** before school started with Dairy Queen donated to our school for all returning students, the popular **Pancake Breakfast** in the fall featuring Chris Cakes, two successful **Book Fairs**, the super fun **Cardboard Challenge** in the winter, the annual late winter **Read Across America** event to promote literacy with book characters, games and treats in the school, and the annual spring **Art Show** with cookies courtesy of Lion's Cub Cookies and a live performance by the Folk Group. Additionally, the PTA provides the infrastructure, volunteer base, and communication channels to help **support school events** such as the Volunteer Appreciation Lunch, Field Days, and more.

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## Outdoor Learning Space & Playground

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The PTA was excited to assemble the new **Gaga Pit** for the east/green playground at the start of the school year. In addition, we were able to purchase the supplies needed **Flag Football and sidewalk chalk**.

The **Outdoor Learning Space** and **Story Walk** were maintained this year and widely used by teachers and their classrooms. We also hosted a comprehensive **Clean the Ravine Day** in conjunction with Earth Day Columbus to maintain and beautify the ravine and school grounds. During this day, some of the needed maintenance of the Outdoor Learning Space was completed. The roof will need to be replaced and the PTA is working with the district to help coordinate those repairs.

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## Teacher & Staff Appreciation

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Each grade took a turn hosting a **monthly brunch** in the Teachers' Lounge. During **Back to School** and **Teacher Appreciation Week** teachers and staff were treated to meals, cookies, snacks, and tote bags. The PTA provided **dinner for teachers** for their two late nights during Parent/Teacher Conferences.

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## CHES School Spirit

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The PTA enjoyed the third year of its **Prideful Paws** program to spread school spirit. We have “pawed” 22 yards this year for students and their families.

We held **two online spirit wear sales** this year. We also had school spirit wear (socks, shirts, and magnets) available when possible, at functions. Additionally, we have made sure **Kirby**, our beloved mascot, made appearances at all relevant student gatherings.

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## School Supply Organization

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As a service to the school community (not a fundraiser), we managed the **annual pre-order of school supplies** and delivered to each student on the first day of school.

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## District Representation

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CHES is represented at the district-level with our **Curriculum Liaisons** and regular attendance at the monthly **Parent Teacher Advisory Council (PTAC)** meetings where we also donated money to support the PTAC’s scholarship program benefitting four Worthington district students.

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## End of Year Celebrations

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The PTA is happy to once again fund **SuperGames** stations around the school campus, **Jet’s Pizza** for lunch, and a **Dairy Queen** treat to all students making it a memorable last day. Last year we handed out sunglasses, and this year we have another **fun surprise** (rally towels) for every student as they leave the building for summer break.

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## Extras

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The job of the PTA is to fill in the gaps as needs arise, and this year we answered that call a few times. We were able to pay for **Kona Ice** to help all third through fifth graders celebrate the end of grueling standardized testing. It was a highlight for them and brought many smiles.

The office keeps a surplus of clothes, snacks, feminine products, and other items students might need, and the PTA was able to help ensure that the office and nurse have the supplies they need for the students.

We were able to bring back New Family Orientation this year and offered one parent education session on Kids and Technology presented by Lynsey Pearson. The PTA has again this year been able to offer babysitting for PTA meeting.

Thank you all for your continued support this year!

