

**Great Oak Elementary School
Parent Advisory Council
(PAC)**



**2021-2022 PAC Information
Book**

Welcome

The Great Oak PAC would like to welcome back all our returning families as well as greet the new families who have joined us. It is hard to believe we are back at school and ready for a new year! We are excited to support our children, families, teachers and school administration the best way possible to create a sense of ongoing community throughout the school year. We are happy to be working with Principal Martha Jancaitis, who we find to be warm, communicative and excited to join our community. We are also excited to share with you the pride and community of Great Oak Elementary School.

If you are wondering, what is PAC (Parent Advisory Council), you are not alone. We were all in your shoes at one time when we started at Great Oak. **All** parents and caregivers become a member of the PAC as soon as they have a student at the school. Our PAC's success is directly affected by your involvement. We would love to have your cooperation, support and guidance during the school year. The PAC is responsible for funding many different items for the school. We pay a portion of the field trips, fund monthly Cultural Enrichment programs for the students, put smart boards into the classrooms, recognize teachers with special items during Staff Appreciation Week, give kids a goodie at Dragon Day (Field Day), and donate a needed item to the school each year, such as a new stereo system in the gym or chrome books just to name a few.

We need your help to have a successful PAC. **So what can you do?** You can volunteer via the Volunteer Form which will be sent home, you can attend monthly PAC meetings so you can share your ideas, give input on fundraisers, and gain knowledge about the happenings at the school. The dates of our fundraisers are listed in this handbook. We look forward to a great year with your help!

2020-2021 PAC Committee

President	Holly Irgens	holly.irgens@gmail.com
Vice President	Carrie Burnett	cspiro00@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Rachel Keohane	rachelkathryn20@gmail.com
Secretary	Lindsey L'Italien	lindseydoherty81@hotmail.com
Cultural Enrichment	Jane Bolger Katie Hislop	jane.bolger0927@gmail.com katie.e.hislop@gmail.com
After School Enrichment	Amanda Daniels Mary Ellen Mayo	amandadaniels.1017@gmail.com mayo_1010@yahoo.com

If you ever have a question, please do not hesitate to contact one of us above or greatoakpac@gmail.com

Introduction

Volunteers have an important and valuable role at Great Oak, whether volunteering for the school, library or for the PAC. In the past, the PAC has always facilitated many in-school and out of school volunteer opportunities and we hope to be able to do this throughout the year whenever possible, though it will look very different this year. It does not matter if you volunteer one hour or one hundred hours over the course of the school year; any help you give is important in enhancing the education of our students. Some volunteers may help shelve books in the library, chaperone field trips, or work with the PAC on fundraisers, scooping slush or sorting items. Besides supporting the school, your volunteer efforts teach our children the joy and commitment which comes from sharing your precious time for worthwhile causes (*and they love seeing a parent or guardian during their school day*). We hope you find your volunteer experience to be a rewarding one.

We hope you find this handbook to be very informative about the upcoming school year. We thank you, in advance, for taking the time to read through it.

2021-2022 PAC Meeting Dates

The PAC meetings will be held at 7:00pm on the second Tuesday of every Month, either in the Great Oak Library OR Via zoom unless otherwise designated. They typically last one hour and all are strongly encouraged to attend.

Great Oak Open Houses

Open Houses are typically held in the evening at 6:00 p.m.

- Fall Open House - TBA
- Spring Open House TBA

Fundraising Activities & Community Events

First Day of School PAC Breakfast for Parents

Date: Thursday, September 9th 8:30-9:30am

Join the PAC for coffee and donuts after we send our kids into school on the first day. Join us outside by the playground!

Welcome Back Picnic

Date: Friday, September 17th 6-7:30pm

Bring some food and a blanket and enjoy a picnic outside on the Great Oak Grounds on Friday night for a fun community event. The PAC will have bubbles, chalk, music going and popsicles!

Fall Raffle Calendar

Date: Fall 2021

The PAC will be putting together a monthly calendar filled with prizes as our fall fundraiser to raise money for the PAC. More info to come.

Walk-A-Thon

This year, the PAC is planning either a virtual or in-person walk a thon to help raise funds for the school in the Spring of 2022. T-shirts are typically given to children around this time.

Slush

In the past, we have held a slush or Icee day the last Friday of every month where parents can go into the school and scoop slush during lunches. While we are still determining logistically how this will run, we will continue to keep you posted. More info coming soon.

Restaurant Nights

We will be holding a few Family Nights at local eateries:

- **Winter** Location and date TBA
- **Spring** Location and date TBA

School Store

The school store is run by the 5th graders and typically open before school once a week. However, due to COVID, it is currently on hold.

School Apparel

Apparel will be available for order several times during the school year. Ordering is tentatively scheduled for late November and in early February. Order forms will be sent home at the time and online.

Stop & Shop A+ Bonus Bucks

Every purchase you make using your A+ Bonus Bucks, you accrue points for our school. It even works with purchases made online with Peapod by Stop & Shop. Great Oak receives a check from Stop & Shop when enough points are accumulated. You can register your card at: www.stopandshop.com/aplus at any time,.

Box Tops

All you need is your phone this year! Download the Box Tops app, shop as you normally would, then use the app to scan your store receipt within 14 days of purchase. The app will identify Box Tops products on your receipt and automatically credit your school's earnings online. Twice a year, your school will receive a check and can use that cash to buy whatever it needs!

Mabel's Labels

Order labels for the school year and a portion of the proceeds will go to Great Oak PAC.

Ordering is easy and can be done throughout the year:

campaigns.mabelslabels.com

Amazon Smile

You can support the Great Oak Pac by doing your Amazon shopping at smile.amazon.com and choose our organization to donate funds back to us.

Celtics Night

Date: TBA. Ticket Sales are Fall 2021 for Winter 2022 game

Great Oak receives a special rate for Celtics tickets to a game this winter- we are currently on their schedule ! More information to come.

School Dance (Free Event)

DATE: TBA Spring 2022

We hold a FREE school dance for all grades K-5 for Great Oak students. Each student must attend with a chaperone (it is acceptable for one parent to watch multiple children. No students may be "dropped off") *Due to the capacity limitations of some venues, there may be a limited amount of tickets available for this event.* Should this occur, tickets will need to be reserved online in advance, and are based on first-come-first-served.

Family Book Fair Night & Ice Cream Social

Date: TBA

The annual Book Fair is an exciting way to promote the importance of reading to our children. The school library is transformed into a mini book store where students shop for affordable books on their own during their library hour or during this Family evening with parents. Volunteers are needed to work during the week of the book fair. *The Ice Cream Social is a 5th grade fundraiser.*

Staff Appreciation Week

Dates: May 2022

Each year the PAC sponsors breakfast, lunch, and treats for the staff in appreciation for their dedication and commitment to our children. These are held during National Teacher Appreciation Week during school hours. Volunteers are needed to get donations from local establishments and drop them at the school on designated days.

Topsfield Drive In Movie Night

Date: TBA Spring 2022

Join your Great Oak friends for a night at the Topsfield Drive In Theater! Movie and date to be announced later in Spring 2022.

Parent's Night Out

Date: TBA Spring 2022

All Great Oak parents are invited to a fun night out! In the past, we've done Trivia and Comedy nights at Breakaway!

Red Sox Night

DATE: TBA Spring 2022

Great Oak receives a block of tickets from the Red Sox for a discounted rate during the spring for a June game. More information to come.

School Supply Kits

Date: Spring 2022

Great Oak PAC hosts a fundraiser where parents can purchase next year's classroom school supply kits for their children and are shipped directly to the school. More info coming soon.

Cultural Enrichment Programs

It is the tradition of the PAC to sponsor the school's Cultural Enrichment Programs held during Faculty Forums. A significant portion of the funds raised by the PAC each year are dedicated to this important endeavor. Once a month, our children will be exposed to meaningful and enriching cultural programs through a variety of performances. Our Cultural Enrichment Programs enhance the educational experience, exposing our children to other cultures, history lessons, science and technology, and help them to be more tolerant and open to learning more. They will also learn to express themselves creatively, improve their self confidence, and promote further engagement in school. This year we are working to see how to incorporate these programs into our school year given COVID-19 concerns.

After School Enrichment Programs

After School Enrichment Programs are looking to see if they are able to hold programming this year! It is the PAC's goal to provide affordable After School Enrichment options to Great Oak families. More details will be sent home to parents in September but activities such as Knitting, Lego Animation, Floor Hockey and many more are normally offered. Sign ups are done online at <https://greatoak.schooltwist.org>. Classes are filled on a first come first serve basis. There must be a minimum number of students enrolled in each class or the class unfortunately will be cancelled. If you have any questions, please send an email to Amanda Daniels amandadaniels.1017@gmail.com.

Giving Back to Our Community

Each year, the PAC proudly awards two \$500 scholarships to graduating students at Danvers High School who attended the Great Oak Elementary School. The Scholarship Committee is

responsible for reviewing the scholarship applications and selecting the recipient. Look for an email in the spring asking if you would like to be on the Committee. The Great Oak PAC also makes donations to Danvers SEPAC (Special Education Advisory Council) and DEEP Wine Tasting

5th Grade Committee

Each year, the 5th grade students sponsor their own fundraisers to pay for the special activities during their final year at Great Oak. The funds raised help pay for the yearbooks, celebratory party, t-shirts and the moving on ceremony. This is a special time for the students and parents as the school's role models move on to the Middle School. We are very proud of them!

Staying Informed

The PAC Committee is thrilled to welcome you into the school. We are always available to field any questions you might have and get you in touch with the right person at the school to speak to you about issues or concerns you may have. Please feel free to contact any of us with your questions.

We have a Facebook page where we update information weekly about events, important dates, fundraisers, etc. Please Like "The Official Great Oak Elementary School PAC" page at <http://www.danvers.mec.edu/GreatOak.cfm>. We also have a Great Oak PAC website: <http://danverspublicschools.org/great-oak/pac> and a Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/GreatOakSchool>

In closing, we appreciate the time you took to read this handbook. We welcome you as a member of our PAC and look forward to seeing you at throughout the year at a school event, PAC meeting, fundraiser, volunteering, or family night.

Sincerely,

Great Oak PAC Committee