

What Is That?

A Guide to Hamilton Elementary School Home School Association Programming

Fundraising

Some of our social and service events double as fundraisers, but we have a few sales that are in place early in the school year to help raise important programming dollars. Our sale-oriented main fundraisers are:

GIFT WRAP SALE – This sale takes place early in the year so the wrapping paper, candy, and gifts arrive in time for the holidays. The HSA earns a percentage of the school's total sales. (September)

BOOK FAIR – The book fair is held in our multi-purpose room during the day and in the evening and features loads of fabulous books for children. The evening sale is accompanied by a “Family Night” activity (ex. ice cream social or cookie party), so families can meet and socialize. The HSA receives a percentage of the profits from the sale of the books. (fall)

KID STUFF COUPON BOOK – This is a fun and beneficial book filled with coupons for restaurants, sport and gaming places, clothing, toy stores and much more. The coupons are valid for a year, so our early sale provides buyers with as much time as possible to use the coupons. (October)

BOX TOP COLLECTION – This is an easy way to help our school, one dime at a time. Boxes from participating supermarket items have a small “Box Tops for Education” coupon on it. Clip the coupons, turn them into the school at the end of the month, and Hamilton will earn 10 cents apiece. Put a little baggie in your kitchen for easy collection! (year-round)

CHEESECAKE ALY – Aly from Cheesecake Aly is wonderfully supportive of Hamilton School. We love supporting her right back by ordering her delicious pies and cheesecakes before the Thanksgiving holiday arrives. Hamilton keeps a percentage of the cost of the treats. (holiday time)

GROCERY CARDS – This is an easy and profitable fundraiser that goes on all year round. The HSA sells supermarket gift cards to families, and the supermarkets give the school a percentage of the sales. You order the gift cards for the supermarket you prefer and use them like cash. If everyone purchased even one \$100 supermarket gift card each month, just think how much our school would earn! (year-round)

COMEDY NIGHT – This is a big night out and a big fundraiser! Parents buy tickets to attend a night of comedy performances by professional comedians, basket auctions, and a sports memorabilia silent auction. It's very social, very fun, and very popular. This event sells out! (spring)

School Events (These are not necessarily H.S.A. initiated)

TIC TOC ART DOCENT – Parents volunteer as art docents and visit their child’s classroom to teach about an artist or artistic style. Creative ideas can be supplied by the TIC TOC organization and no expertise is needed.

SCHOOL MUSICAL – Every year students from Hamilton can volunteer to be in a school show. The show is written, directed and run entirely by Hamilton parents, and rehearsals are held in the evening, once a week. Musical practice begins after we return to school in January, and the show is usually in March.

SCIENCE FAIR – Children create displays for the science fair, held during an evening in the spring. This is an H.S.A. event, and it is facilitated by Hamilton parents.

POETRY DAY – On this day, families come to school in the afternoon to listen to the students recite poems they have written. (spring)

ART SHOW – In May, a show of the children’s artwork is on display in the halls. Viewing time precedes the Spring Concert presented by 3rd-5th graders.

FIELD DAY – This is a fun-filled day of sports and games. Held outside in late spring, parents volunteer to help our PE teacher run a variety of activities and to grill a barbeque lunch for the school.

JUMP FOR HEART – Through P.E. class, students learn jumprope skills and heart-healthy living. Donations are collected for the American Heart Association. (February)

Community Support

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE – Some years, before school even begins, an email is sent out asking for school supply donations for nearby schools in need.

TOY DRIVE – December

HOLIDAY SHOP – December - This is an opportunity for the children to shop for their families with the help of a volunteer, so their families can remain surprised. The HSA does get 10% of the sales, but it is really intended to be a service to our students.

GLOVE AND HAT DRIVE - winter

GREAT BOOK GIVE-AWAY – during Read Across America week - Donate your gently used books.

Social Events

For parents:

FALL SOCIAL – The fall social provides a wonderful way to get to know new Hamilton families and reconnect with old friends. It's a fun night out – parents only.

LADIES' NIGHT OUT – This is a relaxed social at Ridgewood Town and Country, which features an evening of pampering. (winter)

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For Families:

PUZZLE NIGHT – This is an annual event, held on a Friday evening, where families race to finish their puzzle the fastest. (winter)

MOVIE DAYS – For early dismissal days, a local movie theater accommodates our school and a sister school for an afternoon of movie fun!

ROLLERSKATING PARTIES – Students love skating with friends at the town rink in Wilde Memorial Park, with a DJ and refreshments. (fall and spring)

POOL PARTY – It's the highlight of the family social calendar! In June, families meet at the Glen Rock pool to swim and party with a DJ!

HSA-PROVIDED SERVICES

FAMILY PORTRAITS – Pictures in the Park usually takes place in the fall. A flyer will be distributed, so families can sign up for a family portrait.

PIZZA DAY, SUBWAY DAY, BAGEL DAY – On various days throughout the year, you can take a day off from making lunch and partake in our special food day fundraisers instead. Flyers will be distributed to sign up for these lunchtime treats.

The Hamilton Home School Association (H.S.A.) is a volunteer organization striving to help Hamilton School and its students any way we can. There are lots of ways to get involved at Hamilton, whether you're working, have young children at home, or are in a season of life that you have more time to give. It's not about how much you do – everyone's contribution helps. So whether you have a couple of hours to share or you are ready to take on a committee; whether you just want to get your feet wet or wish to dive right in . . . join us! Getting involved is a wonderful way to show your child you care about school and want to help make his/her experience the best it can be.

You can also show your school support by paying membership dues in September to join the H.S.A. Each H.S.A. member will receive the district-wide student directory. Dues help cover this cost and help fund programming all year long.

Please come to the monthly H.S.A. meetings held in the school library. The times alternate between day and evening meetings, but the location remains the same. It's a great way to keep tabs on everything going on at school, and it's the perfect time to give your input. Please come!

Here are some helpful H.S.A. email addresses and websites!

<http://www.hamiltonhsa.com> - Hamilton H.S.A. web page

alexander_hamilton_hsa@yahoo.com - Hamilton H.S.A. email communications and website submissions