

What is the PTO?

The PTO is the Parent Teacher Organization. The PTO meets a critical need by funding programs, initiatives and supplies not covered in Newton's School Budget.

Why does the PTO fundraise?

The PTO holds fundraisers to support curriculum, provide for enrichment programs such as the city-mandated Creative Arts and Sciences, and hold community-building events. We are able to meet most of our costs through two main fundraisers: the **Annual Fund**, and the **Rockin' Raffle**.

What is the Annual Fund?

The Annual Fund is the PTO's biggest fundraiser and accounts for approximately 40% of our annual budget. It is voluntary and tax-deductible.

Why give?

As the PTO's first fundraiser of the year, the Annual Fund is critical. Contributions to the Annual Fund help us to reduce the amount of fundraising we do throughout the year.

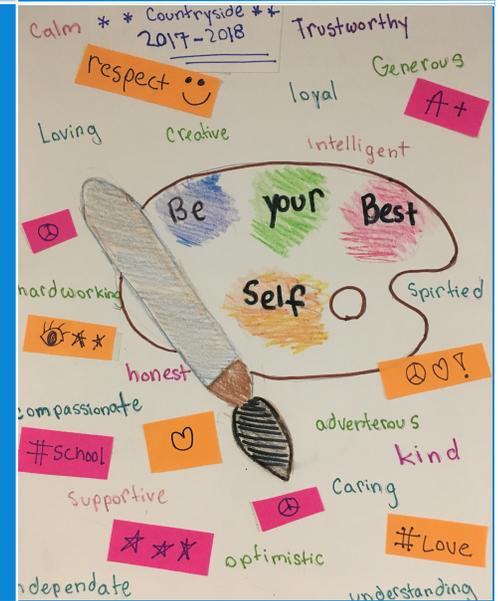
Show your Countryside pride!
Please donate to the PTO Annual Fund by November 10th!

How much should I give?

The PTO budget for the school year is the equivalent of approximately \$135 per student.

We recognize that each family in our community has its own obligations and expenses. Please contribute an amount that is comfortable for you!

**Cover artwork by Ashley Philips, runner-up in the 2016-17 4th Grade Art Contest.*

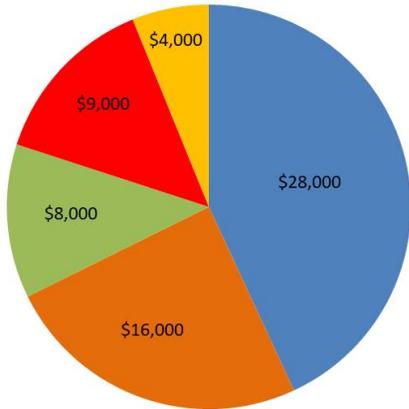


Countryside Elementary PTO Annual Fund 2017-2018



What does the PTO Budget pay for?

Annual PTO Expenses¹ \$65,000



- Student Enrichment **
- Teacher Support/Supplies
- Technology/Capital Purchases
- Building/Playground Beautification
- Operating Expenses

** 70% of Student Enrichment (\$20,000) pays for the City mandated Creative Arts & Sciences program

1. Represents average of 2015/2016, 2016/2017 actual expenditures plus 2017/2018 projected budget

In addition to our yearly expenditures, the PTO made other significant investments:

- A **mini-grants program** for teachers to pay for innovative curriculum-related initiatives
- Library books, including new fiction, non-fiction, and a comprehensive graphic novel collection
- Technology, purchased 6 new classroom mounted projectors
- Sanding and oiling the playground

Creative Arts and Sciences

Creative Arts and Sciences accounts for one third of the PTO's budget. This city-mandated enrichment program brings three curriculum and standards-based arts and sciences programs to every grade.



Under the guidance of last year's artist-in-residence, professional muralist **David Fichter**, students worked together to create a one-of-a-kind mural located in the Outdoor Classroom.



First Grade classes enjoyed a presentation by author **Matt Tavares**. He walked them through the process of writing, editing, and illustrating a book from start to finish.



Kindergarteners enjoyed an educational visit from **Ellen Goethel**, a scientist at "Explore the Ocean" in New Hampshire. She taught them about echinoderms such as sea stars and scallops, and crustaceans like hermit crabs and lobsters.

Please make check out to Countryside Elementary School PTO. Return this completed form with your check. Send it with your child's folder or put it in the PTO mailbox in the main office. Thank you very much!

Name: _____

Eldest students' name, grade & teacher (ex: Mary Lee 3-H): _____

My gift to Countryside: _____

\$135 dollars supports one student for the year. Please give what you can.

Does your employer offer matching gifts?

Double or triple your gift at no additional cost to you! Contact your HR department to see if your gift can be matched through a gift-matching program.