

What can I do to help?

The Skillin PTA is an active group of parents, teachers and staff, committed to working together for the benefit of our children. If you volunteer at Skillin then you are part of the PTA. The PTA provides many opportunities for our children that can not be funded under the regular school budget. Listed below are the major committees that make up the PTA. Please consider joining a committee or volunteering at a PTA sponsored event. There are many ways to volunteer at Skillin, big or small, at home or at school. It is a great way to meet other parents and help out the school at the same time.

The **Enrichment** program uses the money raised in the fall fundraisers to fund field trips and bring in speakers and performers to help enhance each grade's studies. The Enrichment committee works closely with the principal to schedule events around the school calendar. Help is needed to find and coordinate performers and activities.

The **Recognition** committee could also be called the Thank You committee. This committee coordinates events throughout the year for everyone who works at the school. Parent volunteers occasionally treat the teachers to breakfast or snacks during the school year and hot dishes for parent – teacher conference weeks. The big Recognition committee event is Teacher Appreciation Week in early May. This is a weeklong celebration of our teachers. Volunteers are needed to help plan events and bake treats for each event.

Holiday Shopping is a fun holiday tradition at Skillin that usually takes place the first Saturday in December. Parents, grandparents, and friends send in crafts for the students to buy to give as presents. The children go into the music room with their shopping lists to buy presents while their parents stay in the gym. Volunteers are key to this event. Many, many crafts are needed to make this event a success. Volunteers are also needed to assist the younger children with their shopping and wrapping.

The **Skillin Family Dance** happens twice a year - once in the fall and once in the late winter. They are fun family events with music, dancing, food, and prizes. Volunteers are needed to help set up the dances, solicit raffle prizes, and bake for the refreshment table.

The **School Fair** happens in the spring. It is a combination of inside and outside events depending on the weather. There are fair games, a moon bounce, a giant slide, food, special guests, and raffles, including the famous Skillin Class Basket raffles. Volunteers are needed to help plan the fair and set up for this event as well as to run games and tables on the actual day of the fair.

The **Learning Garden** is located behind the school by the playgrounds. The garden is a hands on project that all the Skillin students participate in. Skillin first grade teacher, Ann Cyr, started the garden during the 2005/2006 school year and it continues to expand and grow each year. Funds for the garden are raised by grants, fund raising, and donations. Help is needed planning the next stage of the garden as well as maintaining the current garden.

Fund-Raising starts at the beginning of the school year. There are two fundraisers in the fall. These fundraisers help fund the next school year's activities. The first is a catalog sale with wrapping paper, candy, and various novelties. The second is a pie sale where the pies are delivered the week before Thanksgiving. Help is needed tallying and distributing the fundraising orders.

Box Tops, Hannaford Dollars, Soup Labels, and Cartridge Recycling are handled by the PTA but the money goes to the principal to pay for misc. items that are not in the school budget. Boxes for these items are at the front of the school by the office. Volunteers are needed to cut, count, and bundle these items before they can be sent for reimbursement.

Your PTA Board is available for any input that you may have and we welcome any participation on your part. We look forward to seeing you at any of the school events. Thank you in advance for your support.

