

So what are all these events about?

- **Merry-Go-Round Players** is a theater production organization based in Auburn that travels to local elementary schools and performs developmentally appropriate productions of classic tales. They are supported through a BOCES grant and take place during the schoolday as designated/scheduled for different grade levels. This activity is not intended for parents to join, and is supervised during the day by classroom teachers. Feel free to visit MGR.com for more details about the organization.
- **Jack Gramlich** is the founder of Eco-To-Go, traveling to elementary schools throughout the county to present grade level science curriculum topics. His presentations are funded in part by PTO and the money raised at our events across the year, as well as being partially funded through the OCM BOCES Arts in Education program. Presentations take place during the school day for each classroom, and are not intended to involve parents directly.
- The **Fall Family Fun Fest** has changed its name and focus over the years, currently generating excitement and fun with our 'Trunk or Treat' event. The Allen Road edition of a family centered Halloween celebration, it includes signing up to decorate car trunks on the back lawn and hand out treats to students from our school. Inside the building we offer food, games, and prizes. Different than years past, we do NOT have a DJ/Dance as part of this event. Admission is ... and parent supervision is required – with both being encouraged to come dressed for some spooky spectacular Halloween fun!
- **Winter Wonderland** combines holiday traditions with cultural celebrations. Being one of two elementary schools in the district that serves our English Language Learners, we spend this December evening learning about the traditions and celebrations of our families from more than a dozen countries around the world. Additionally, our students are able to buy affordable presents for family and friends at our Holiday Shoppe. While this is NOT a food event, we do offer hot cocoa at our tree lighting at the beginning of the event, and invite your child to visit with our special bearded guest dressed in red!
- **Labor of Love** is the Allen Road celebration for Valentines, with a strong focus on showing our love to our community. A combination of family catered dinner and silent auction, this event offers a quality meal for an inexpensive price, followed by a silent auction of pottery, raffle, and gift items – proceeds to benefit a local charity. Staff create the pottery, local businesses make donations for bidding, and we even raffle off the ability to be 'Principal for a Day!'. Join us in taking time out to raise money for local organizations such as Vera House, Golisano Children's Hospital, GiGi's Playhouse, the Molly Project, Access CNY, and many, many more. This is a wonderful opportunity to teach our students about giving to others in our own 'back yard'.
- **Literacy Night** is a time to celebrate the importance and enjoyment of reading and writing. With different themes each year, families are invited to visit the school on this evening to celebrate guest authors, student writing displays, our bi-annual book fair, literacy activities, and more. This is NOT a food event, so please plan accordingly – but it IS a chance for us to come together around the key to academic success in every area at school: literacy.
- **Race For Education** has been deemed our one and only true annual fundraiser. While other activities profit across the year, RFE is our intentional event to raise the money needed for both annual operating expenses and capital project funding. Race For Education involves students coming up with a list of family, friends, relatives, etc. they can send flyers to, eliciting donations to our PTO. We benefit from this approach by receiving 100% of all funds donated, while raising money from supporters OTHER than you the parent. It also results in a celebration of exercising together as an entire building.
- The annual **ARE PTO Carnival** is a tradition dating back to the 1950's. Originally including a parade down Allen Road and pony rides on Saturday morning at the school – this event has been modified over the years but has always been our signature celebration for the year. With close to 1,000 students, parents, friends, and neighbors stopping by, you will have the chance to visit our food trucks, play carnival games, win prizes, watch performers, and more. This is a great way to end our year celebrating our success as a building. Mark it on your calendar now – and we will see you at the Carnival!
- **Monthly PTO meetings** this year will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of MOST months. Childcare is provided by high school students, and we have designed this years' meetings to include a first hour of special speakers and topics, followed by a short break, then a half hour of PTO board business. Your attendance is greatly appreciated, as we have tried to create a format where you can leave if needed, or stay to see how we operate on the planning side.