

ANNUAL REPORT
BOW PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION
2008 – 2009

Your PTO's goal is to enhance the learning environment at all three schools in our district, hence our motto "Building a Better Education. We work to achieve these goals by raising funds for projects and activities that are not part of the school budget and, most importantly, through the commitment of many volunteer hours. This year your PTO raised over \$40,000 for our three schools. Our biggest fundraiser is always our annual magazine drive. The two-week drive in September and ongoing on-line availability raised approximately \$25,000. Thanks to everyone who purchased a magazine subscription! Our wonderful volunteers also helped us organize the Ski & Skate Sale at the community building, the 29th Annual PTO Craft Fair which is widely recognized and well attended, a membership drive and a Scholastic Book Fair at the elementary school. The Scholastic Book Fair raised over \$1,000 in books for the elementary school library. Some examples of programs that we have funded this year include the Reptile Project in the Elementary School, the new Tech Ed Club in the Middle School and the Rocket Club in the High School. The PTO funds support teacher/specialist wants and needs by providing them with volunteers to help in the classroom and with monies to be used to purchase additional items for their class. We also fund school events and assemblies, library and nurse supplies, camps, artist in residence programs, appreciation days, scholarships and many other safety and educational programs. This year, through the help of our Bow community, the Bow Schools won the Hannaford Helps Schools program prize of \$1,000. This was awarded to the school district that that handed in the largest number of coupons! Good work to all!

In 2007, Bow was the proud recipient of its 22nd consecutive Blue Ribbon Award to honor over 7500 volunteer hours during the course of the year. Every day our volunteers help out in classrooms, supervise school stores and oversee Junior Great Books groups, chaperone field trips, staff after school activities, support recycling/environmental efforts, coordinate in-school banking programs and offer support to the offices, libraries, music departments, cafeterias, and support our many PTO activities! Volunteers can offer as little as a two hour a year effort or commit to a weekly classroom support function – it all adds up to our schools being enriched through each person's efforts. Plus our volunteers always show up to support PTO activities. Our schools are a better place because of them. It is always impressive and meaningful to see so many parents, teachers, administrators and friends make their commitment to this community in so many different ways. Thank you to each and every one of you!

Over the past year, Sharon Eng served as President and had to resign in October 2008 for personal reasons. We all wish to thank Sharon for her dedication and leadership to the PTO, and her efforts to expand our reach. Recognizing the importance of literacy, she launched Bow Book Clubs as a way to foster a love of reading at all age and grade levels. We also wish to recognize the many years of service of Ginger Fraiser, our former Treasurer who dedicated seven years of service to ensure the health of the PTO finance. We would also like to thank Heather Mckenzie our former Secretary, for her support and time ensuring the news got out.

We are excited to have a new group of officers this year, Ann Bouchard, who was Vice President, has stepped up as President. Dee Treybig has assumed the often daunting task of Treasure and implemented new accounting procedures to ensure our fiscal health. Jennifer Strong-Rain has filled the critical position of PTO Secretary with great attention to detail and up

to date minutes. We have many new chairpersons for our larger fundraisers this year, for which we are very grateful and through their tremendous efforts, have kept our budget on track for the year despite the ailing economy. The expanse of experience and volunteerism that we have on board is truly amazing. All of this work is not only done by the wonderful parents that turn out to our monthly meetings, but also through the teachers at all three schools that volunteer their time to attend meetings. Thanks to all for making this a great year, and for your commitment for another great year ahead.

During these tough economic times ahead of us, volunteerism and commitment to our schools is more important than ever. The PTO membership is looking forward to another terrific year in 2009-2010. We enthusiastically encourage every parent of a child in the Bow schools to become involved with the PTO in some way; come to a meeting, volunteer to help out in our schools, buy a magazine subscription or Scholastic book, attend a fundraiser, or let us know about your own ideas on how you would like to make a contribution. Our efforts are noted and sincerely appreciated by each member of the elementary, middle and high school staff and in some form enriches every student in our wonderful district!

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Bouchard

President