

Sierra Sizzle

PTO Monthly Newsletter

December 2011

Mark your Calendars!



December

- 14th Restaurant Night at Yogi's Grill
- 15th Cookie Exchange donation drop-off
- 19th Winter Break begins

January

- 3rd School begins
- 16th MLK Day (no school)
- 17th Coffee Social 8am-9am
PTO Meeting 9am-10am
PTO Chairperson (Red Folder) Meeting 10:30am-11:30am



Message from the Board

Happy Holidays! The busy shopping season is in full swing and winter break is just around the corner! We hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday with the family and were able to use up all those dreaded turkey day leftovers.

In this issue of the Sizzle, we will be recapping our wonderful Turkey Trot. What a beautiful day it turned out to be, with many families coming out to run the course with their kids! The Book Fair was also a huge success, and we enjoyed seeing all our kids come out to pick out just the right book for themselves or for a family member as a gift!

We also want to offer our apologies for the last-minute change in our November restaurant night location. Due to a mix-up in booking, we had to do some last minute rescheduling. However, a big thank-you goes to **Tukee's Family Sports Grill** for being flexible in accommodating us last minute and donating 20% of dinner proceeds to Sierra without a flyer.

If you haven't had the chance to pop into the school and see our Fall Fundraiser thank-you plaque, please be sure to do so! The plaque came out beautifully and is hanging on the wall in the hallway outside the office. Special thanks to **Tempe Trophy** for doing such an amazing job for Sierra on this order!

Finally, [please be sure to take our online survey](#) in this issue regarding PTO meetings. Our meetings have, unfortunately, been suffering from declining attendance, and we would like your input on how we can raise our attendance numbers and better serve the Sierra community.

We look forward to seeing everyone after the Winter Break. Be safe and enjoy the holidays!

Sincerely,

Your 2011-2012 PTO Executive Board

Jill Ostendorp, Vice President, jostendorp@cox.net

Lara Safa, Secretary, zaxmom_phx@yahoo.com

Rhonda Jones, Treasurer, rwjones0217@qwest.net

Terri Keaton, Financial Admin, thekeatons@cox.net

Beth Hare, Volunteer Coordinator, bthare@cox.net

Gail Kronick, Communications Coordinator, gailmiya@cox.net



Look us up on the Web
www.sierrapto.org





Our Book Fair was Out of this World!

Thank you to everyone for making our "Reading is Out Of This World" Book Fair a great success! We made **\$10,166.36**, which earned a profit of **\$5,083.13** for the library to purchase books! We were impressed with how many students and parents showed their generosity by donating money to "One for Books" and purchasing Gift Certificates for teachers!

Huge thanks to our super awesome co-chairs, **Helen Baker** and **Nicole Evans**, who organized the entire fair to make reading more fun and interesting for all! Thanks also to our wonderful principal, **Ms. Pastor**, who we found out is really an alien in disguise who likes to read to children! ☺ Finally, the fair would not have been possible without the volunteers who helped in all areas. These individuals include: **Patti Tollefson, Kelly Brown, Dwayne Baker, Rachel Kelly, Diane Li, Margo Lipari, Gloda Adorio, Katherine Broze, Gail Kronick, Lynn Brown, Candy Ruhl, Heather Kingsley, Chris Zaenglein, Kay Moroz, Liz Dudley, Doris LeeTom, Heidi Clayton, Terri Keaton, Tamie Dirrigl, Jennifer Breeding, and Lindsey Bly.**

For those who missed this book fair and were unable to take advantage of our online book fair, mark your calendars for the "**Buy One, Get One**" (BOGO) free Book Fair Luau, **May 14-18th, 2012**. We hope to see you in the spring! ❖

PTO Morning Coffee Social in January!



Parents, the PTO will be hosting a morning coffee social on Tuesday, **January 17, from 8-9am**. Come join us right after drop-off that morning and enjoy a leisurely cup of coffee while meeting and mingling with other parents. Our PTO meeting will follow immediately after at 9am, and we encourage you to stay for that as well! We look forward to meeting you all over coffee after the break! ❖

December Restaurant Night

Our December restaurant night will be held at **Yogi's Grill** on **December 14th**. Simply show up during lunch or dinner and say you are there to support Sierra! No flyer needed! ❖

Turkey Trot Recap



Congratulations to all the Woggers, Joggers, and Runners who made our annual Turkey Trot a big

success! Huge thanks to **Mr. Huntley** for hosting a fun-filled morning of running, stretching and doing the Chicken Dance!

We appreciate everyone who came out to support the runners and to cheer them on. We were impressed with how many parents ran the course with their child! A HUGE thank you goes out to our turkey, **Scott Fenner**, who entertained the kids, posed for pictures, and even did the shuffle. (How did he do that!?) We would also like to thank **Sara Lee, Darlene Leresche, and Fresh n Easy** for donating pies for the raffle. Congratulations as well to all the lucky winners of the pie raffle, which included such unique flavors as mincemeat and broccoli pie!

Thank you to **Captain Chris** and our wonderful **Phoenix Firefighters** for bringing a fire truck for the kids to tour and enjoy. Thank you to everyone who donated a toy for **Toys for Tots**. We are proud to say that our donation bins were overflowing! These items will be hand delivered to kids in need throughout our community by our own **Phoenix Firefighters**. Your generosity will make a difference in someone's life this holiday season.

Finally, big thanks to our Turkey Trot chairperson, **Beth Hare**, and all the wonderful volunteers, attendees, and teachers who made this event possible, from signing in visitors, providing water, to handing out finishing stickers and cheering on runners at the finish line. We could not have pulled this off without your help! ❖

Survey - PTO Meeting Attendance. Please Read!

Parents, we have a problem! Our PTO Meetings have not been well attended. The following are our attendance numbers from this year (not counting PTO board members):

9/13 Morning	9 parents
9/13 Evening	6 parents & teachers
11/15 Evening	6 parents & teachers

Unfortunately, despite offering evening meetings with free on-site childcare, which had been a popular request from parents at the end of last school year, we have not seen enough attendance to justify the extra expense of paying for a trained staff member to provide this service. The continued drop in attendance is becoming a big concern for us all, and we would like your help to understand how we can do better.

We are asking everyone to please take a minute to fill out a short survey regarding meeting times, frequency, and content. [Please click here to go to the online survey site.](#) This will take no more than 2 minutes of your time, and you will be helping us to schedule PTO meetings that all parents can attend. We will be accepting responses to this survey through **December 31st**, so please take the time now to go through the survey and tell us what you think. ❖



Cookie Exchange Donations Needed!

We are planning our annual Cookie Exchange for our amazing Sierra teachers and staff on **December 15th** and need your help! We are in need of 83 people to donate at least 2 dozen cookies or holiday treats. **Treats may be homemade or store bought.** Please email **Ann Marie Braun** at ambraun@cox.net if you can contribute. Please also specify how many dozen you are able to contribute. Volunteers will be collecting donations at parent drop-off the morning of December 15th. The treats can be put in ziploc bags or on disposable plates. We will be putting cookie boxes together that morning. This is a very special treat for the Sierra Staff and we really appreciate all your help and support! ❖

October Box Tops Winners



The winner of the Everything Counts contest for the month of October was **Mrs. Hebert's class!** Each child received a certificate for Peter Piper Pizza tokens!

The winner of the Pump It Up/Hungry Howie's pizza party for the most collected Box Tops was **Mrs. Prather's class.** They enjoyed a pizza party, and each child received a pass to go to Pump It Up!

If your child's class didn't win this time, don't despair - you have **another chance!** The class who turns in the most Box Tops between **October and the end of January** will receive a **Pump It Up party!**

Just keep collecting those Box Tops, Labels for Education, Tyson, and Coke Rewards all year long! There will be a winning class every month! ❖

Whoops! We Didn't Mean to Forget!

In our last month's Sizzle we neglected to thank **Steve Pettit** for helping us with our Fall Festival. Thanks also to **Café Valley** for donating 12 pudding cakes to the Cake Walk. ❖

Parent Reminders - To Do in December

- Complete the **online PTO meeting survey** by December 31st.
- Donate** to the Sierra teacher and staff **cookie exchange** on December 15th.
- Register your **Fry's** and **Safeway** cards and turn in your **Box Tops** and **Labels for Education.** ❖

My Coke Rewards

Happy Holidays! As you bring the family together to celebrate the holidays, don't forget to save your My Coke Rewards! Sierra has earned over **4,000 MCR points** since August. We can use these points to get things we need for our school, e.g., art supplies, PE equipment, and lots of other great items. Just **send in your caps and 12-pack codes** to the office and we will be able to enter them for Sierra! There are a ton of Coke brands, so lets make every drink count for our school - Dasani, Powerade, Sprite, Minute Maid, and Fanta, just to name a few. ❖



PTO Tip of the Month

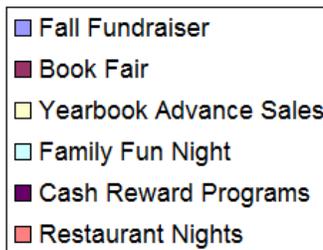
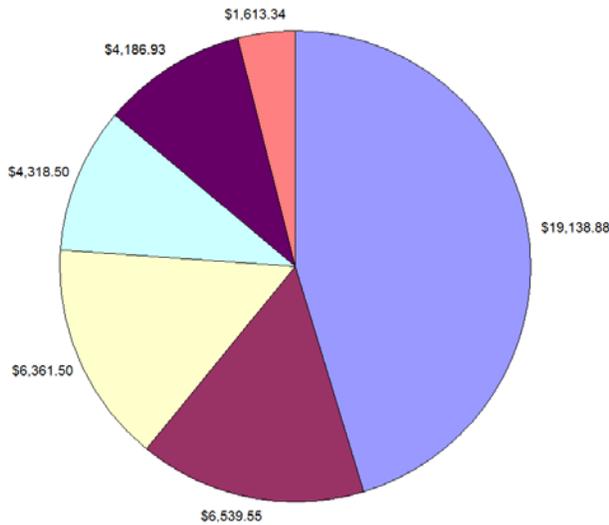
As one of the world's largest online retailers, Amazon.com's wish list feature is no doubt a favorite of shoppers everywhere. However, did you know that Amazon now has a Universal Wish List Add-On, which allows you to add items from any site on the web, not just Amazon? The Add-On is freely available for installation on all popular browsers. [Click here for more information.](#) ❖

Financial Corner - Summary as of 12/1/11

The following is a financial summary from our treasurer detailing our income and expenditures so far this school year.

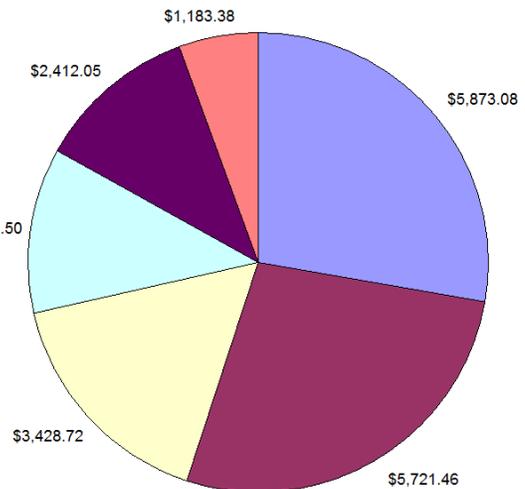
Income

\$42,158.70 total



Expenditures

\$21,081.19 total



Ending cash balance as of 12/1/11
\$54,770.48

New Ways to Earn Points for Sierra!

eLabelsForEducation



You've registered your Fry's Card for Fry's Cool Cash.

You've signed up with Safeway eScrip.

You're clipping and submitting your Box Tops and Labels for Education.

Now there's **one more way** you can earn **free stuff** for our school. Sierra has signed up with the Campbell's eLabelsForEducation program, which earns us points **in addition** to clipping Box Tops and Labels for Education. It's easy to do:

1. Register

Visit www.eLabelsForEducation.com, create a profile, enter your Fry's and Safeway cards, and then select Sierra as your school to support.



2. Shop, Swipe, and Earn

Each time you purchase a participating product at Fry's or Safeway, you will earn points that will be credited automatically to Sierra.



3. Redeem

Sierra will be able to redeem these points for free educational merchandise!

And don't forget to continue clipping those Box Tops and Labels! They are still worth cash and points to us and are separate from the eLabelsForEducation program outlined here.

Campbell's Labels for Education® Cookbook Promotion



Need help with the nagging question of **what's for dinner tonight?** Announcing a powerful new program that offers Sierra supporters great Campbell's® cookbooks that yield big Labels for

Education point credits! You can choose from a wide array of Campbell's cookbooks that contain ample family-pleasing, quick and easy recipes. Each cookbook purchased is worth **125 Labels for Education points** to Sierra's account. These cookbooks also make **great holiday gifts!**



To get started, visit <http://lfecookbooks.com>

No Cost Fundraising!

Box Tops, Campbell's, Tyson's and Coke Rewards -



There are many participating products that help our school earn cash and points. Have some clippings you've saved over the summer? Send them in to your child's teacher! During the school year, keep clipping and saving those Box Tops, Campbell's UPC codes, Tyson labels, Coke bottle tops and codes on the inside of the Coke product cartons. Some of you might be saying, "These Box Tops say they're only worth 10

cents. That's hardly worth saving." Although it may not seem like much, **last year we earned \$3,500 from these rewards!** They add up to big bucks for our school, so please keep sending them in! Spread the word and have grandparents, aunts, and uncles save as well. For a complete list of participating products, see the PTO web site at <http://www.sierrapto.org/> under the "Retail Programs" section.

Fry's Cool Cash



Parents, on your next shopping trip to Fry's, present this UPC along with your V.I.P card to your cashier. Every time you shop, every purchase you make will automatically be deposited into the school's account. Within 72 hours, you will see a "COOL CASH" message on the bottom of your grocery receipt. Ask grandparents, aunts, uncles,

friends and neighbors to have this UPC scanned with their V.I.P card at their next Fry's Food Store visit. Download more barcodes for family and friends from the PTO web site at <http://www.sierrapto.org/> under the "Retail Programs" section.

**Program runs from
September 1, 2011 – April 23, 2012.**

The UPC code only has to be **scanned once per year**

A Sierra Fundraiser that's Easy and Free! Link Your Safeway Card to Sierra!



Link your Safeway Club Card to Sierra – it only takes a minute. The school receives a percentage of profit on grocery purchases. Even occasional shopping trips can help out. There's absolutely NO COST to you!

The school can earn hundreds of dollars per month and funds help with classroom needs, academic program needs, school site improvements, etc.

Sign up online at eScrip.com!

Note: Sign-ups Must Be Renewed Every Year! So even if you registered last year, you still need to do it again for this year in order for your points to count. Thank you for your support!



Activity Calendar

2011-2012



<p>August</p> <p>4th - Meet the Teacher Night 5:30 - 7pm</p> <p>8th - First Day of School</p> <p>17th - Curriculum Night: K 5:30pm, 1st grade 6pm, 2nd grade 6:30pm</p> <p>18th - Curriculum Night: 3rd 5:30pm, 4th grade 6pm, 5th grade 6:30pm</p> <p>24th - Restaurant Night at Native New Yorker</p>	<p>September</p> <p>5th - Labor Day (No School)</p> <p>7th - Gifted Curriculum Night 6-7:30</p> <p>8th - Restaurant Night Sweet Tomatoes</p> <p>9th - Flag Raising Ceremony</p> <p>12th - Stay at Home Fundraiser begins</p> <p>13th - PTO Meeting 9-10am & 6-7pm</p> <p>15th - Picture Day</p> <p>22nd - PTO Chairperson (Red Folder) Meeting 6:30-8:30 PM</p> <p>23rd - 20th Anniversary Celebration 5:30-7:00 PM</p> <p>25th - Yoasis Fundraiser Week Begins</p>	<p>October</p> <p>1st - Last Day of Yoasis Fundraiser</p> <p>7th - Stay at Home Fundraiser Packets due back today</p> <p>10th - 14th - Fall Break</p> <p>17th - Staff Development Day (No School)</p> <p>20th - Picture Retakes</p> <p>TBD - AZ Science Center Workshops Begin in Classrooms</p> <p>25th - Restaurant Night at Florencia Pizza Bistro</p> <p>28th - Family Fun Night/Harvest Festival 5:00-8:00 PM</p>
<p>November</p> <p>11th - Veterans Day (No School)</p> <p>15th - PTO Meeting 6-7pm (Child Care!)</p> <p>18th-23rd - Scholastic Book Fair</p> <p>21st - Restaurant Night at Loco Patron 5pm-10pm (no flyer needed)</p> <p>23rd - Turkey Trot 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM (Book Fair will be open during Turkey Trot)</p> <p>24th - 25th - Thanksgiving Holiday</p>	<p>December</p> <p>14th - Restaurant Night at Yogi's Grill</p> <p>15th - Sierra staff and teacher cookie exchange.</p> <p>19th - Winter Break Begins</p>	<p>January</p> <p>3rd - School Resumes</p> <p>16th - MLK Day (No School)</p> <p>17th - PTO Coffee Social 8am-9am PTO Meeting 9am-10am PTO Chairperson (Red Folder) Meeting 10:30am-12:30pm</p> <p>TBD - Restaurant Night (to be announced)</p>
<p>February</p> <p>16th - Class Pictures</p> <p>TBD - Restaurant Night (to be announced)</p> <p>20th - Presidents Day (No School)</p> <p>24th - Family Dance 5:30-8 PM</p> <p>27th - Read-a-Thon Week Begins</p> <p>28th - PTO Meeting 6-7pm (Child Care!)</p>	<p>March</p> <p>2nd - Read-a-Thon Book Walk</p> <p>2nd - Dr. Seuss's Birthday</p> <p>5th - Read-a-Thon packets due back today</p> <p>12th - 16th - Spring Break (No School)</p> <p>20th - PTO Meeting 9am-10am</p> <p>22nd - Restaurant Night at Sweet Tomatoes</p> <p>30th - Movie Night 6:30-9:00 PM</p>	<p>April</p> <p>6th - Good Friday (No School)</p> <p>10th - PTO Meeting 9am-10am (Officer Elections)</p> <p>16th-27th - AIMS testing</p> <p>TBD - Restaurant Night (to be announced)</p>
<p>May</p> <p>TBD - Staff Appreciation Week</p> <p>15th - PTO Meeting 9am-10am</p> <p>15th-18th - Scholastic Book Fair</p> <p>17th - Volunteer Recognition Event</p> <p>TBD - Restaurant Night (to be announced)</p> <p>23rd - 5th Grade Celebration</p> <p>24th - 5th Grade Promotion 8:30 AM</p> <p>24th - Last Day of School with early release at 12:35 PM</p>	<p>June</p>	<p>July</p>

*Activities, dates and times are subject to change

Updated: 12/07/11