



Dear Parents,

We're off to another exciting year at Harrisburg Academy. We have an impressive group of new teachers to join our returning faculty and send a warm welcome to our 93 new families!

Academy students are successful for many reasons—small class size, excellent programs and faculty, a challenging and nurturing environment—but the greatest reason for their achievement stems from the active role parents play in their children's lives and in the school. With this in mind, we wanted to discuss the role of the Parents Association and the Development Office and provide you with an idea as to how you can become involved in the life of the Academy.

The **Parents Association** is here to assist parents in getting the most out of the school and to help channel parent efforts to give to the school as well. There are a variety of different ways to get involved and volunteer. Working on a committee, serving as a class parent, attending games and artistic presentations are ways in which you can help provide the best possible school environment.

The **Academy Fund** is a yearly appeal to parents, alumni, trustees, faculty and other friends of the Academy. These gifts are tax-deductible and unrestricted, meaning that the funds go directly into the operating budget and are allocated to budgeted expenses where funds are most needed. This effort is coordinated by the Development Office. The school requests that every family make an Academy Fund contribution each year. Gifts of any amount are greatly appreciated. The Academy Fund campaign begins on July 1 and ends on June 30.

The **Auction** celebration is held each spring and is the school's major fundraising event. The event is coordinated by the Development Office and supported by the Parents Association. Whether through volunteering your time, donating an item, or bidding, there is an opportunity for every parent to get involved. This is a fun event intended to engage all parents and to raise significant funds for the operating budget.

While parent participation in the Academy Fund and the annual auction is an expectation, deciding how and to what extent to participate is a personal decision that every family must make based on its particular circumstance. We are appreciative of the tremendous generosity that our parents exhibit.

Some other ways that you can become involved through your membership in the Parents Association and raise funds for the Academy include:

- Great American Fall Fundraiser—fundraising packets have been distributed. The Great American representative, Nate, will be in school with samples of the wonderful gifts on Monday, Oct. 6. We are planning to have a chocolate tasting, too — sorry, just for the adults! If ordering online, make sure to use ID# 1869338. [Please click here for more information.](#) The Fall Fundraiser will end Nov. 13.

- Scholastic Book Fairs— the first book fair for the year is October 4-7, 2010. [Click here for more information.](#)
- GIANT A+ School Rewards—thanks to those of you who supported Harrisburg Academy in the GIANT Food Stores A+ School Rewards Program during the 2009-10 school year. We had 519 bonus cards designated to the Harrisburg Academy and the Giant Rewards money allocated for the school was \$7,203.25. We were ranked 26 out of 1,580 schools registered! Re-designation is required for all BONUSCARDS holders every year, please sign up to participate in 2010-11. E-mail [Sharon DePamphilis](#) with your, or a family member's and/or friend's last name and 11 digit bonus card starting with 4800. Sharon will make sure your card is signed up for the 2010-11 program.
- Spirit Merchandise—last year's online store has now been closed as we have decided an in-store school will better meet our needs. You can order online by emailing an [order form](#) to Cei Conlan or sending it in with payment to school in an envelope marked to the attention of the Parents Association.
- Laps For Learning (April TBD)—volunteers are needed for this bi-annual walk/jog-a-thon. Help is needed with pre-event planning and race day.

If you have any questions related to the fundraisers listed above, please feel free to contact either of us at the email addresses listed below. We thank you for all that you do to make the Academy a better place for our children!

Warm regards,

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