



Welcome to the Totoket Valley Elementary School PTO!!



**How was school today? Fine.
Did you learn anything new? No.**

Dear TVES Family Member,

If your family is anything like mine, then the above illustrates the standard after school conversation. Being a Mom of two children I sometimes felt equally frustrated at the lack of information my children gave me or the conflicting information that they each relayed. Wanting to be informed about what was happening at TVES and looking for a way to stay connected to my children's school is what led me to join the TVES PTO.

People often have a misconception about what belonging to the PTO entails. You can make as much or as little out of it as you feel comfortable doing. Here's the jist of it...feel free to do one or all:

- 'Join' the PTO by completing a membership form. The \$7 you pay to 'join' goes directly into our budget to help fund PTO sponsored events. You will be added to our email list to receive communication directly from the PTO keeping you informed of events and activities.
- 'Come' to a Meeting if you want to. They are held from 6:30-7:30 in the library. Notices are sent home announcing the dates of upcoming meetings. The monthly PTO meetings are chock full of pertinent information to help you stay informed. Each meeting has a Principal's report where Dr. Lindsay updates us on TVES specific issues like educational concerns, building maintenance, and cultural arts and assemblies. The PAC report updates us on district wide school issues affecting all of North Branford. Finally the committee reports keep us informed about the upcoming PTO sponsored events.
- 'Volunteer' – that scary word! Our new initiative this year is "There Is More Than One Way To Volunteer". From simply donating a jug of juice or a baked good-to setting or cleaning up for an event-to helping with an activity for a small block of time at an event – every little bit helps.

Nothing listed above is required. You simply do whatever works for you and your family. If you can't make the meetings but want to help at an event, you can do that. If doing activities isn't your thing but you want to donate cookies, you can do that. If the thought of finding time to bake is overwhelming but you want to help out by sending in paper goods or juice, you can do that.

This packet contains all you need to get started...

- A membership form to 'join' the PTO.
- A 'There Is More Than One Way To Volunteer' form.
- A 'Year At A Glance' summary of the events and activities that the PTO is involved in.

Feel free to check out the PTO tab on the TVES website: <http://totoket.northbranfordschools.org/>. Meeting minutes, event flyers, current budget details and more can be found there. I am always available if you have any questions or would like more information. I look forward to meeting you and working to enhance your child's experience at TVES during the 2011-2012 school year.

Sincerely,

Brandi Little
TVES PTO – President
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