

Dear Parents,

Thank you so much for your patience and cooperation with our first family fun night.

Overall, I think the hermit crab races were a success. I know the kids enjoyed themselves and hopefully you had an opportunity to interact with some other student's families that you might not have been able to otherwise.

I enjoyed hearing from a parent shortly after the hermit crab races. She said she had gone to the pet store to buy some things for the crab her child had won. While there, an employee said, "I don't know what is going on. We have had sooo many people coming in for crab accessories. We can't keep them in stock." (Little did he know that there were 50 new crab owners at Deal School!)

Coming up this November we have an exciting opportunity- an after school enrichment for 20 students in grades 1-4. Bricks 4 Kidz is a hands on class using Legos where students will design and build models while learning about the concepts of engineering and architecture. The FREE demo class is November 4th from 3:15 to 4:15. Parents are encouraged to attend with their child. Classes then begin on Thursday November 17th and run on consecutive Thursdays until December 15th. The cost for the 4 sessions is \$60 and students will each receive a custom Lego minifigure and t-shirt to take home. Please see the Deal School website for more information.

Also this month on November 16th is an assembly for students in grades K-8; Animals and the Environment. Students will have a chance to get up close and personal with some of the animals that have been affected by pollution and habitat destruction that will be discussed during the presentation.

To follow up, we were excited to see so many new faces and hear so many great ideas at the PTO meeting. Bricks 4 Kidz was one such idea and another was hosting a used book fair in December, just before the holidays. I would like to make this a reality but will need help. Anyone with any interest or experience please contact either Danielle or myself.

The PTO also showed a video to students in grades 1-8 about Kindness this past month. If you heard about it or were curious, it is now available on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwAYpLVyeFU>

It is put out by LifeVest Inside and called Kindness Boomerang.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our annual Gift Wrap fundraiser. Your products will be in shortly. Our next fundraiser will be an Otis Spunkmeyer cookie dough sale. Many of you had the chance to sample the cookies at the Family Fun Night. Your generosity and support of Deal PTO is tremendously appreciated and enables us to continue with our dynamic programming and enrichment.

Also, we will be collecting any unwanted Halloween Candy in "Trick or Treat for the Troops".

Through November 4th we will collect candy and send it to our troops through Operation Gratitude.

[www.operationgratitude.com](http://www.operationgratitude.com). More information can be found on the school's website as well.

As winter approaches, many of you may be out buying new coats for your children, I would like to ask that you please hold onto the old ones. Coming up in December, the PTO is partnering with [www.onewarmcoat.org](http://www.onewarmcoat.org) to host a coat drive to benefit LunchBreak in Red Bank. More information will be forthcoming.

In conclusion, I just needed to reiterate that there are still two vacant PTO board seats. We so appreciate the offers made, "call when you need help", "keep my number", etc. But in order to move forward it would be most convenient for someone who may be interested to come out now to see how things are done so that when Danielle and I step down there can be a seamless transition. Please consider it.

Thank you, and Have a safe and healthy Thanksgiving.

Keelin Hutzley