

# **Cabot PTO 2018-19**



[cabotpto.org](http://cabotpto.org)

225 Nevada Street  
Newtonville, MA 02460

## **What is the Cabot PTO and what does it do?**

The PTO, or Parent Teacher Organization, works with the staff and faculty to support the School, enrich our children's education, strengthen our community, and enhance student life.

The PTO provides families with information about what's happening at the school, offers an opportunity to get involved with our children's experience, and gives essential financial support for a wide range of curriculum enhancements and social gatherings.

Here are just some of the activities that were supported, funded, and organized by the Cabot PTO last year:

- ☆ Meet and greet/tours
- ☆ Community Supper
- ☆ Back to School Night
- ☆ Picture Day
- ☆ Library helpers
- ☆ Campaign for Cabot
- ☆ Program enrichment grants
- ☆ Halloween candy drive
- ☆ Book Fair
- ☆ Safe Routes to School
- ☆ Holiday gift drive
- ☆ Website/communications
- ☆ School directory
- ☆ School Council
- ☆ PTO Executive Committee
- ☆ Cabot Connecting Families
- ☆ Cabot Carr-nival
- ☆ Families Organizing for Racial Justice (FORJ)
- ☆ Spring Fling and Auction
- ☆ Special Education Parent Advisory Council
- ☆ Kindergarten orientation
- ☆ Taste of the World
- ☆ Color Day
- ☆ Creative Arts and Sciences
- ☆ Understanding our Differences
- ☆ Invention Invasion and Maker Madness
- ☆ Teacher appreciation lunch
- ☆ Class/grade picnics
- ☆ Room Parents
- ☆ Field trips
- ☆ Cabot Goods
- ☆ Parent Workshop
- ☆ T-shirts for all new students
- ☆ Fifth Grade Activities

## **Who makes up the PTO?**

If you're a parent/guardian of a current Cabot student or a member of the faculty/staff, you're already a member! Our Executive Board works together—and meets monthly—to keep the PTO running smoothly. We welcome feedback from the wider community.

## **Who leads the PTO and how can you contact them?**

Our co-presidents for the 2018-19 year are Nicky Chapman (mom to Isabelle and Sophie, 5th and 3rd grade), Joanna Josephson (mom to Emily, 3rd grade), and Michele Morris (mom to Gus and Sevi, 3rd and 1st grade). You can reach them at [cabotpto.copresident@gmail.com](mailto:cabotpto.copresident@gmail.com).

We also have a representative of each grade on the executive committee—feel free to contact them about grade-specific issues:

- K Allana Kelly, [cabotpto.k@gmail.com](mailto:cabotpto.k@gmail.com)
- 1st Mandy Smith, [cabotpto.1@gmail.com](mailto:cabotpto.1@gmail.com)
- 2nd Ginny Richmond, [cabotpto.2@gmail.com](mailto:cabotpto.2@gmail.com)
- 3rd Jude Carlson-Wang, [cabotpto.3@gmail.com](mailto:cabotpto.3@gmail.com)
- 4th Suzy Yospin, [cabotpto.4@gmail.com](mailto:cabotpto.4@gmail.com)
- 5th Jacqueline Badeau, [cabotpto.grade5@gmail.com](mailto:cabotpto.grade5@gmail.com)

For a full list of the PTO leadership, visit <http://cabotpto.org/about/2018-19-board-chairs>.

The executive committee meets monthly (2018-19 dates: 9/5, 10/2, 11/8, 12/4, 1/3, 2/7, 3/6, 4/2, 5/1, 6/6). Minutes of these meetings are posted on the PTO website: <http://cabotpto.org/about/meetings>.

General PTO meetings are also held at various times throughout the school year and provide for an exchange of information, updates from the Principal, and guest speakers on relevant topics. They are held in the Carr cafeteria unless otherwise noted. Dates will be publicized well ahead of time. All parents/guardians and faculty are welcome and encouraged to attend.

## **What does the PTO need from you?**

In order for the PTO to thrive, we need help from every Cabot family. Involvement will differ for each family, but we ask that you attend events, help behind the scenes, volunteer your time, and contribute financially (more on that below) to the best of your ability.

Cabot is known among Newton's schools for having a thriving and active PTO and we want to keep it that way! Thank you in advance for your help and support.

## **VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME**

There are many opportunities to volunteer throughout the year both during and outside of the school day. Keep an eye on the weekly Cabot events newsletter for opportunities as they arise. Consider the variety of options at [cabotpto.org/volunteer](http://cabotpto.org/volunteer) and in the following pages.

Almost all Cabot events and volunteer opportunities are also publicized individually via email, including specific requests for volunteers and personal sign up links. Any parent/guardian with an email address in our directory can log in (online at [www.myschoolanywhere.com](http://www.myschoolanywhere.com) or using the MSA mobile device app) to see all active volunteer requests at any time, view the requirements of each, and sign up to help.

## **ATTEND PTO EVENTS**

We hope you will attend and participate in events and social gatherings. All PTO events are organized and staffed by parent volunteers. Check out the calendar of events, look out for invites and reminders, and come along to join in the fun.

## **PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

The 2018-19 Campaign for Cabot kicks off on Oct 1<sup>st</sup>. Every dollar donated is appreciated, enables the PTO to work, and directly supports the school. Don't forget that Cabot is a 501(c)(3) charity, and many companies offer matching gifts for employees. Ask your HR department and give a boost to our campaign by making your donation go further.

Our other major fundraiser of the year is the Silent Auction that takes place during our adults-only Spring Fling. This year's event will be on Saturday, April 6 in the Carr gymnasium. Mark your calendars now!

Amazon smile is an easy way to support the Cabot PTO. Log in at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), select Cabot PTO, and make your purchase. The AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of every eligible purchase back to Cabot.



Box tops for Education coupons can be found on a variety of food, household cleaning, and office supply products. Cut them out and drop them in the box in the Carr lobby. See a list of participating products at [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com).

## **What volunteer roles need to be filled now?**

### *Room Parents*

Room Parents play an important role as liaisons between classroom teachers and parents. Ideally, each classroom has 2-3 Room Parents. There are a range of responsibilities that can be flexibly shared and structured—the primary roles are to communicate important messages from the PTO and the administration, help classroom teachers organize class get-togethers, and organize holiday and end-of-year gifts for the classroom teachers and aides. This is a great way to get involved with your child's class and doesn't require a significant time commitment. Sign up at MySchoolAnywhere.

### *Understanding Our Differences*

Grades 3, 4 and 5 take part in this citywide program run by parent volunteers. It is a hands-on, participatory curriculum that fosters respect, acceptance, and compassion for people of all abilities. Each grade has a volunteer coordinator who attends citywide training sessions. Additional volunteers are recruited to help coordinate the presentations to our students during the school day. (Deb LeCamera is our 2018-19 school coordinator and is looking for someone to work with her and take over the role next year!)

### *Library volunteers*

Library volunteers assist with checking in and re-shelving books as well as helping students during their library time. It's a great way to get to know your child's class, learn about new books, and provide much-needed assistance to our wonderful library teacher, Jill Leibowitz.

### *Day-time volunteers*

Occasionally small tasks crop up that need to be completed during the school day – things like bagging lost and found items for donation, or sorting and distributing school spirit wear. If you are typically home during the day and are willing to help out on occasion, please add your name to the day-time volunteer signup in MySchoolAnywhere.

### *Book Fair*

We work with a vendor to supply new books for sale. We also collect used books from the community and sell them for a minimal price. Volunteers are needed to help plan the event, coordinate used book collection, and staff the fair on December 8 (early release Wednesday).

## **What other committees need your help?**

### *Spring Fling and Silent Auction*

If you have a flair for party planning, join our team! We also need help soliciting and organizing items for the event's silent auction on April 6.

### *Cabot Carr-nival*

With the Cabot Fair on hold until we return to our neighborhood, we debuted a scaled down event last year that was a smash hit! Join the group that's planning and organizing this June 1 event.

### *Campaign for Cabot*

Help our treasurer team coordinate and manage our annual fundraising campaign. We hope to reach a high level of participation from families this year to put us in a strong financial position in anticipation of the move back to the new Cabot.

### *Families Organizing for Racial Justice (FORJ)*

FORJ is a district-wide group of diverse families working together and within our school communities to help our children -- and ourselves -- learn about issues of power and inequality, and how to stand up for racial justice. Cabot's FORJ group aims to generate curiosity, appreciation, dialogue, and understanding about differences in our community and society and work together for racial equity. The FORJ team manages a One Book/One School initiative and community-wide events during the year.

### *Fifth Grade Activities*

There are a host of activities and events to be planned for this year's graduating class. Volunteer to help create the yearbook, plan the graduation party, or organize Penny Wars.

Email [cabotpto.copresident@gmail.com](mailto:cabotpto.copresident@gmail.com) to find out more about any of these opportunities. We're happy to give you more details and put you in touch with the committee chairs!

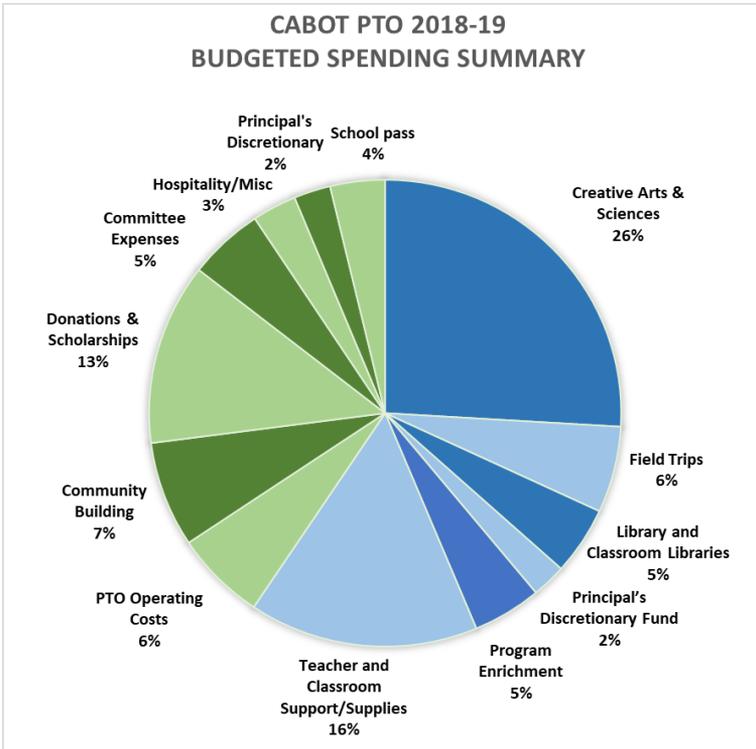
*As the year progresses we encourage you to consider how you may like to be involved in the future. Would you like to play a part in the planning side of events? Would you like to take on a role on the executive committee? Having attended an event could you volunteer at it next year? Is there something new you would like to help the PTO do? Email [cabotpto.copresident@gmail.com](mailto:cabotpto.copresident@gmail.com) and let us know.*

## How does the PTO spend its money?

The Cabot PTO is a non-profit organization. 100% of our funding comes from the Campaign for Cabot, the Spring Fling auction proceeds, and other smaller fundraisers throughout the year.

Our 2018-19 budget estimates \$63,000 in expenses this year. That's approximately \$160 per student (or less than \$1 a day for the school year). Below is a detailed breakdown of how that money will be spent.

(Blue indicates equity spending – costs that are directly related to the classroom and curriculum. The district sets a cap for maximum spending across all schools in this category. Green represents non-equity items, which includes operating costs and community events.)



You can view the detailed PTO budget at [cabotpto.org/about/budget](http://cabotpto.org/about/budget). (Note: the mural project is not included within this operating budget.)

## What is the mural project?

We are very excited that one of the features of the new Cabot building will be a large glass tile mural, designed and created by your children! We've partnered with local artist David Fichter (who also collaborated with Angier and Zervas) to work with us throughout the year in order to complete and install the piece prior to Cabot's reopening in fall 2019.



The mural's theme will be *Together, We Go Far*. It will recognize the history of Cabot's first 90 years, and look ahead to the next century of our community coming together to support each other, advance learning, and enrich the life experiences of all.

Part of the process will include students learning about artistic collaboration, working with peers and members of the community. Upper grade students will work with Historic Newton to explore the history of Cabot School including its architecture, traditions, values, and diversity. Students will create images inspired by these concepts and David will integrate them in the final mural design.

In February, David will complete a 3-week residency at Cabot to construct the mural itself. Each student will have the opportunity to help fit tiles into the design. We will also organize community days, offering neighbors and alumni to be involved in the creation of the final piece.

The mural will be placed in the new Cabot's main lobby, on what was an exterior wall of the original 1928 structure. This placement will be a perfect intersection of Cabot's past, present, and future.



Throughout the year you will hear more about the project and how you can participate. We will be asking current Cabot families as well as the wider community for financial support to help offset the significant price tag of this project.

Have experience with submitting grant applications? Know a local business owner who might consider a financial donation? Want to help in the classroom during David's residency? Please let us know!

Contact Ginny Richmond at [cabotmural@gmail.com](mailto:cabotmural@gmail.com) with any questions about the project.

## PTO communication

The PTO communicates with the Cabot community in a number of ways. Please make sure you're signed up for/checking each of these sources regularly.

### WEBSITE



[cabotpto.org](http://cabotpto.org) – Our website is full of information about Cabot, our events, and the PTO. You will find answers to many of your questions there. Send website queries to [cabotptowebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:cabotptowebmaster@gmail.com).

### WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER



Make sure you're receiving our weekly Cabot Events newsletter. Emailed every Sunday evening throughout the school year, it includes important reminders, events taking place each week, volunteer requests, and community announcements. Subscribe by entering your email address in the box at the top right of [cabotpto.org](http://cabotpto.org).

### MYSCHOOLANYWHERE (MSA)



[myschoolanywhere.com](http://myschoolanywhere.com) – Our PTO management system is a great place to access contact information for other parents, your child's friends, teachers, and administrators. It is also where you sign up to volunteer for events throughout the school year. All current Cabot families have an account, and we encourage you to download the mobile app. Not sure you're signed up? Send your child's name/grade to [cabotschooldirectory@gmail.com](mailto:cabotschooldirectory@gmail.com).

### EMAIL BLASTS



We'll send out important information and reminders via email throughout the year. If you are signed up for the weekly newsletter and you've updated your information in MySchoolAnywhere, you will automatically receive them.

### FACEBOOK



School events and reminders are posted on Cabot's Facebook page. You DO NOT need an account to see posts. Search [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) for Cabot Elementary School.

## Helpful Cabot @ Carr information

### SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION



Main office: 617-559-9400

Eric Sprung, Principal ([sprunge@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:sprunge@newton.k12.ma.us))

Sydney Balise, Exec Asst ([balises@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:balises@newton.k12.ma.us))

### SCHOOL NURSE



Karen Kerrigan: 617-559-9404

### ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL/ABSENCE REPORTING



Log in to School-Pass at <http://cabot.school-pass.net>. If you need help using the website or mobile app, email [cabotpto.copresident@gmail.com](mailto:cabotpto.copresident@gmail.com).

### TRANSPORTATION



City of Newton Transportation dept:

[www.newton.k12.ma.us/Page/214](http://www.newton.k12.ma.us/Page/214)

Regina Moody, Transportation Director: 617-559-9051, [regina\\_moody@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:regina_moody@newton.k12.ma.us)

### SCHOOL LUNCH



Sodexo is Newton's food vendor. You can access menus at <https://newton.sodexomyway.com/menus>. To add funds or monitor your child's purchases, create an account at [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com).

### NEWTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNICATION PORTAL



Aspen is Newton's online system for all official district communications, report cards, and letters from the Superintendent's office. Log in to check your contact details and see progress reports. Contact [aspen@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:aspen@newton.k12.ma.us) with questions.

### LIBRARY



Our librarian, Jill Leibowitz, is onsite Mon-Thurs. Visit <http://elemlibraries.newton.k12.ma.us/cabot> for more details about the library and to sign up to volunteer in your child's library class.

## What's happening with the Cabot construction project?

A lot! If you've driven by the Cabot School lately, you've probably noticed the progress being made on a weekly basis.

Since the topping off ceremony in the spring where the final steel beam—signed by the Cabot community—was put into place, there has been a lot going on. Some of the progress is visible, such as the new roof on the 1929 building and walls on the 3 additions. Other improvements include plumbing, electrical and mechanical work taking place inside.



For details and project updates, visit the project manager's website at [cabot.projects.nv5.com](http://cabot.projects.nv5.com). There you'll find meeting agendas and notes, design presentations, and contact information for the Cabot School Building Committee. (Cabot parents and Principal Sprung are members of the CSBC.) Monthly updates are provided prior to the regularly scheduled Newtonville Area Council public meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm.

We are excited to see the finished building and hope to get a sneak peek before this school year is out. We can't wait to move in for the 2019-2020 school year!

## 2018-19 Cabot PTO Calendar\*

<b>SEPTEMBER</b>		
Thursday 6th	New family welcome and tours	5:30-6:30pm
Monday 17th	Cabot Community Supper	5:30-7:30pm
Sunday 23rd	Cabot Connecting Families Social	3:00-5:00pm
Friday 28th	CASP/PTO Movie Night	6:00-8:45pm
<b>OCTOBER</b>		
Tuesday 2nd	Library Volunteers Coffee	8:30am
Thursday 4th	Picture Day	
Wednesday 10th	Flu Clinic	
Thursday 11th	PTO Coffee	8:30am
Sunday 21st	Cabot Connecting Families event	TBD
<b>NOVEMBER</b>		
Thursday 1st	Halloween Candy Drive	8:20am
<b>DECEMBER</b>		
Wednesday 5th	Cabot Book Fair	12:00-7:00pm
Tuesday 11th	PTO Cookie Swap	7:00pm
TBD	Holiday Gift Drive	
<b>JANUARY</b>		
Sunday 27th	Family Dance	TBD
<b>FEBRUARY</b>		
11-14th	Social Action Food Drive	
<b>MARCH</b>		
Thursday 7th	Invention Invasion & Maker Madness	6:00-7:30pm
<b>APRIL</b>		
Saturday 6th	Cabot Spring Fling and Silent Auction	7:00-11:00pm
Sunday 28th	NewtonSERVES	12:30-2:30pm
<b>MAY</b>		
Friday 10th	Taste of the World	5:30-7:30pm
Tuesday 14th	Teacher Appreciation lunch	12:30pm
Thursday 23rd	PTO annual meeting	8:30am
<b>JUNE</b>		
Saturday 1st	Cabot CARR-nival	9:00am-1:00pm
Tuesday 4th	Cabot Color Day	8:45am-12:00pm
Tuesday 11th	Cabot Color Day (rain date)	8:45am-12:00pm
TBD	Fifth Grade Graduation Celebration	

\*All dates and times are subject to change. For up to date information please check the school calendar at [newton.k12.ma.us/Page/18](http://newton.k12.ma.us/Page/18) or visit <http://www.cabotpto.org>.