



Welcome families to a new year at Cottage,

Whether you are a returning family or new to Cottage, the Cottage Street Parent Teacher Organization (CSS PTO) welcomes you and asks you to join in the work we will do this year.

Who is CSS PTO?

We are a collaborative group made up of parents, teachers and staff who take an interest in working to support curriculum, build community and raise funds to enhance student learning at Cottage. PTO welcomes your input and involvement at *any time*, and the fee paid to join will go to work for all of our children.

What does CSS PTO do?

PTO volunteers act as room parents, serve on on-going committees and give their time and energy at events held through the year. There is something for everyone's taste, talent and availability within PTO. CSS PTO fundraises throughout the year and chances are good that if your child came home talking about a special presentation, a field trip, or used some exciting new equipment in class, CSS PTO had some hand in bringing that to Cottage. Our goal is to support exciting learning opportunities for our children, aid teachers in their classrooms and enhance community at Cottage.

Why should you get involved?

Communities work best when the people who are a part of them step up and join together to work towards common goals. Cottage is a central part of all our children's lives and by giving some time, expertise, or financial support to the work of CSS PTO we provide tremendous support to Cottage, helping to ensure it is a place our children thrive. It's as simple as that.

In 2013-2014 CSS PTO...

- provided each Cottage teacher with a stipend to purchase materials for their classrooms, paying out approximately \$5600 to teachers to support their classrooms
- purchased two additional water fountains with bottle filling stations to match the one purchased in 2012-2013; sound equipment and microphones to improve sound quality in Cottage productions; a new die cut machine for the teachers; and fans for classrooms to keep cooler in the warmer months
- put annual monies in reserve for the drama program and into the playground fund for the purchase of a future play structure when it is needed
- organized and funded two educational programs at each grade level (i.e. visiting artists, historians, and animal specialists), two school-wide programs and helped support field trips in all classrooms
- hosted multiple community building family events: Back to School BBQ, Halloween Bingo, Roller Skating, Winter Dance, Iron Chef Diversity Night, the Ice Cream Social and last, but certainly not least, Fun Fair!
- sponsored Teacher Appreciation week, Screen Free week and the Mother's Day Plant Sale
- produced the Cottage yearbook and directory

PTO Contact Information

www.cottagepto.org • cottagepto@gmail.com • Cottage Street School-PTO on Facebook

When... Where... How?

Meetings are held the **first** Thursday of each month at 7pm (they usually run one hour or less).
Cottage Street School Library :: Childcare is provided, free of charge.

Dates for 2014-2015:

FIRST MEETING; September 11th at 7pm

(note this is the second Thursday as we will have just begun school on the first Thursday)

Future Meetings: 10/2, 11/6, 12/4, 1/8, 2/5, 3/5, 4/2, 5/7, 6/4

Membership **dues are \$25 per family***

With your PTO Membership, you receive a copy of our Directory, a valuable tool for parents in scheduling playdates, planning birthdays or just connecting with the CSS community.

Being a PTO member does not require you to attend all meetings,
but we hope you will attend when you are able.

**Please contact PTO Presidents, Meg Dussault (781-784-2273) or Liv Van Dyke (617-851-7838)
if membership dues present a financial hardship. All conversations will be kept confidential.*

CSS PTO Membership 2014-2015

We cannot do this without YOU!

Please join and help us achieve our goal of 100% membership participation.

Return to school by SEPTEMBER 19th

in an envelope marked "CSS PTO MEMBERSHIP"

Student(s) Last Name: _____

First: _____

Grade: _____

First: _____

Grade: _____

First: _____

Grade: _____

YES, we'd like to join CSS PTO for 2014-2015 and receive a copy of the Directory!

We have enclosed our **membership dues of \$25** (checks made payable to CSS PTO).

YES, would like to make an additional tax deductible donation of \$ _____

Funds donated to Cottage Street School PTO further support the many great programs that are funded throughout the school year by PTO.

Please keep a copy of this form for your receipt for making a tax deductible donation to a 501(c)(3) organization.

Matching Gift Employer: _____

Questions? Contact CSS PTO at cottagepto@gmail.com