

# Ann Simpson Davis Middle School PTO

## November 2020 Newsletter

Home of the IRISH!



*Happy November everyone!*

*For those of you who don't know me, I am one of the co-treasures here at Davis. I have 2 boys who are at the middle school level, Owen (8th) and Brant (7th). We all love being part of the Davis community! I am so thankful for our school and being able to work with such an amazing administration.*

*Speaking of being thankful, I honestly cannot believe we are already in the month of November (the month of giving thanks!) And also, one of my family's favorite holidays- THANKSGIVING! Thanksgiving may look a little different this year to some, but we are still going to make the best of it! One of our traditions is having friends and family over the night before to help prep for the feast. With good conversation, games, and food, it makes Thanksgiving preparation so much fun! Other traditions consist of... the best turkey cookoff between my husband and me. And while one son likes to find the biggest turkey leg to eat, the other is compiling a delicious thanksgiving feast for our Boxer, Syrah. :)*

*This year, however, I am going to add one special touch. Instead of setting the perfect table, I am simply going to wrap our table in brown paper and scatter various writing utensils. I am going to ask that everyone write what they are thankful for and to then read aloud for everyone to hear. I think this alone will make this Thanksgiving that more special. Despite the craziness in our world, I still feel we have so many reasons to be thankful.*

*I wish each and every family here at Davis a wonderful November and a Happy Thanksgiving!*

*Ginger Kockentiet*



# We are grateful for...

**"I'm grateful to be surrounded by so many educators and parents who truly care about the needs of EVERY student. It absolutely fills my heart." ♥ - Melinda Norfleet**

**"I am thankful for the unexpected silver linings that came out of Covid--learning how valuable time together truly is, how refreshing it is to explore outside, and that comfort is found in the arms of family." - Elaine Spielberg**

**"I am thankful that my family has remained flexible and optimistic as we continue through this pandemic. We are reevaluating what is essential and important and realizing that just because we have always done it a certain way doesn't mean it has to continue that way. It makes me very hopeful for the future." - Jennifer Talley**

**"I am grateful for the wonderful people I've met through the PTO. We share this 12+ year journey with one another because of our children and I'm thankful to go along for the ride with every single parent in our Davis Universe!" ☺ - Tiffany Marr**

Message from [Jennifer Talley](#) - Give Back Week/Adopt-A-Family Chair

## **Davis PTO is sponsoring Welcome Warehouse families for the 2020 holiday season.**



This year we are adopting 3 families (with a total of 6 children) for the holidays.

- Each family will receive \$50 in grocery gift cards.
- Each child will receive approximately \$100 worth of gifts.

A Signup Genius will be created so that you can select an item to contribute.

Look for the communication to come out mid-November.

Message from Melanie Gamez - Spirit Wear Chair

**SPIRIT WEAR ORDERING WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR NOVEMBER PURCHASES!**



**Assortment of items include:**

*2 designs in 2 color variations*

**T-shirts  
Hoodies  
Sweatshirts  
Sweatpants  
Joggers  
Masks  
and more.**

**Keep an eye out for the Link to place your order...**

Message from [Elaine Spielberg](#) - UNFundraiser Chair

**The PTO would like to give a shout out to those families who made last minute donations, which helped us reach a grand total of over \$12,000.**

**Way to go, Davis, on your amazing support and generosity!**

**GO IRISH!**



## Message from Amy Starnes - Fall Festival Chair



**\*CANCELLED THIS YEAR\***

**HERE'S A LITTLE SOMETHING TO ANTICIPATE THE NEXT TIME WE GATHER!**

Kiddos are settling into school, there is a chill in the air and in years past, planning is underway for FALL FESTIVAL. Davis student council diligently works on preparing activities for our Davis families to enjoy during this community event. They transform the football field into an area to enjoy the music of Taiko drummers, our band students and tunes played by DJ \_\_\_\_\_. Friends can enjoy challenging each other at Gaga ball, pumpkin carving and carnival games. Parents, no need to make dinner, the concession stand sells pizza, sandwiches, hot chocolate and candy galore. Best of all Davis can spend time together enjoying our Irish community.

A few quotes for our students about Fall Festival memoires.....

“I like the music and hanging out with my friends”

“I like the decorations and running around with my friends and eating bundt cakes.”

“I really like how all the groups of students came together to create something for the community and how everyone at Davis was really a part of it. “



## Message from Katie Welsh – Library Partnership Chair

Greetings Davis Parents,

As the new school year begins we are facing challenges like no other; nevertheless, Davis PTO is here to help and assist families and students make this year both successful, fun, and engaging. As the PTO Volunteer for the Davis Library I wanted to reach out and let you I'm bummed, I will not be able to engage with the Davis families and students in a traditional way. I wanted to utilize our newsletter to provide some awesome ideas on how you and your student can stay engaged and continue to foster a love for books! Below are my top three recommendations for you and your student to explore;

1. **Open Library**- A nonprofit which offers a free account that connects readers with over a million eBooks for all ages, including more than 30,000 titles for children through young adult. To sign up click; <https://openlibrary.org/>
2. **Hoopla**- Do you have a library membership? This site links your membership and you can digitally borrow thousands of free eBooks, comics, movies, and more. Our family likes to choose an age appropriate book and compare it to the movie! This site can also be downloaded as an app on any handheld device. To learn more start here: <https://openlibrary.org/>
3. **Book Club**- Connecting our students may look different this year. Beginning a book club with some friends is a great way for our kids to connect, foster peer accountability, and even learn different perspectives. This video can help parents kick start a small book club for their student and friends- as we try to provide creative ideas to continue to engage and foster peer to peer learning. Interested? Watch; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IzptilzodwA>

I hope you have read something which can spark a great place for you and your student to explore. Thank you for supporting Davis PTO and know we are here to assist you in making this new normal fun and successful. We are in this together!

Katie Welsh



Message from Robyn Shay - School Store Chair

**Dear Davis Families,**

This year is unlike any other, it all seems so crazy!

I wish I was at school opening up the School Store and seeing the kids laughing and hanging out with friends during lunch! Looking forward to getting back to it once we get the green light! Until then, hang in there Davis families, we've got this!!!

Robyn Shay





## October PTO General Assembly Meeting

Thank you to nearly 20 parents and administrators who attended our *Virtual* October PTO General Assembly Meeting on Wednesday, October 28<sup>rd</sup>! Our community is family!

## NOVEMBER Events include:

- Monday, 11/2 – Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Tuesday, 11/3 – No School/Safety Waiver
- Wednesday, 11/11 – Veteran’s Day Assembly (*Tentative*)
- Sunday, 11/15 – STATE/FEDERAL Annual Filing
- Mon-Fri, 11/16-11/20 – Give Back Week (*Tentative*)
- Friday, 11/20 – PTO Executive Board Meeting
- Wednesday, 11/25 – PTO General Assembly Meeting **CANCELLED** due to Holiday
- Wednesday, 11/25-11/27 – NO SCHOOL due to Thanksgiving Break

## We have several avenues to locate Davis PTO information, starting here:

*Website:* [www.dmspto.org](http://www.dmspto.org) (Sign up to receive blog posts in real time! Enter your email address and click “Follow” on any tab.)

*Facebook (public):* @DavisMSPTO

*Twitter:* @PTODavis

*Instagram:* davismspto

## Reach out to us:

*Email:* [ptodavis@gmail.com](mailto:ptodavis@gmail.com)

## Join our rewards programs. When you make everyday purchases, the PTO benefits!

*Amazon:* <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-1246476>

*Kroger:* <http://www.kroger.com/communityrewards> Organization Number = VJ441

## Spirit Wear:

Online options available this month. *Remember, you will be the first to receive updates once you sign up to receive blog posts at the website.*

## Open Volunteer Roles:

If you would like to get involved, connect with us!

## 2020-2021

The PTO will be **fully virtual** for all general assembly meetings and **100% electronic** for all donations, due to COVID-19. Zoom information will be provided the week of each meeting. Current donation methods include 99pledges and Square.