

PTO Newsletter

Parents - Teachers - Students



Happy Holidays & New Year!

December's Festive Fun at State Street Elementary

We kicked-off December with PTO's "Merry GRINCHmas Movie & PJ Party". This was a fun, festive and free event for our Kindergarten - 2nd Grade families. During the second week of December, PTO encouraged the spirit of giving by hosting State Street Elementary's Annual Santa Shop. Then, we built-up excitement for Christmas Break with Christmas Spirit Week, Classroom Christmas Parties and a visit from Santa Claus! PTO told Santa that State Street students are STARS and demonstrate kindness... Santa was so impressed that he gave each student a candy cane! On behalf of teachers, staff, students and PTO Board members - Happy Holidays & New Year to all!



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 "State Street PTO" &
 "State Street Elementary School"



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 To be added to our email list, please contact us at:
ptostatestreet@gmail.com

YOU made PTO thrive in December! THANK YOU!!!

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Annual Santa Shop

A Time-Honored Tradition

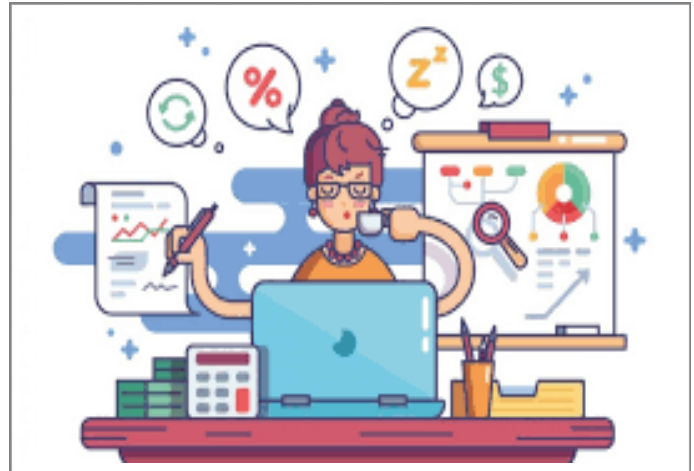
State Street Elementary's Annual Santa Shop is a time-honored tradition that our students look forward to each year. It "takes a village" to pull Santa Shop together and we'd like to give a big, beautiful "Thank You" to all who made it possible.

This year, we had about 8 parent volunteers and 23 high school volunteers who helped students shop and wrap their gifts. We also had 11 different vendors, including our own State Street Student Council! Our community vendors work hard year-round to find a variety of affordable gifts for students to purchase for their loved ones. We were delighted to see the students smiling and having fun while they thoughtfully selected and wrapped their gifts.



We also received a generous donation from Baden American Legion, which allowed PTO to discretely distribute "Santa Dollars" to students in need so that all students had an opportunity to participate in Santa Shop.

Overall, for this event PTO received \$385 from vendor rental fees and spent \$383 on wrapping supplies as well as snacks, refreshments and lunch for the volunteers and vendors each day.



Principal for a Day Raffle

Thank You for Your Support!

There was A LOT of interest in this raffle - students were very excited for a chance to be principal! One winner was selected for PreK - 2nd and one winner was selected for 3rd - 5th. Congratulations to Jayce B. (Mrs. Medovitch's kindergarten class) and Britney F. (Mrs. Fishel's 4th grade class).

Treasurer's Corner

Finance Update: December

There were no fundraisers in December because PTO is taking a break from fundraising during the holiday season. Fundraising will begin again in mid-January. Upcoming fundraisers include: Hoagies, Nothing Bundt Cakes, Penny Wars, etc.

Summary of December Income:

- Vendor Rentals for Santa Shop - \$385
- "Principal for a Day" Raffle - \$243

Summary of December Expenses:

YOUR support allowed PTO to give-back about \$900 to our State Street Family! These funds paid for snacks/refreshments/raffles at the Merry GRINCHmas Party, candy canes for Santa to give to all students and Anderson's chocolate gifts for all State Street teachers, staff and bus drivers.



We'd like to give a big, beautiful "THANK YOU" to our donators, volunteers, teachers/ staff, vendors & community groups who helped make PTO possible in December!

Volunteers

- Principal Jo Ann Hoover
- Beverly Cobern
- Harold Sloppy
- Lauren Tierney - Thank you for helping PTO set up the Merry GRINCHmas movie & projector.
- Classroom Christmas Parties - thank you classroom head parents, volunteers & all who sent-in games/crafts and snacks.
- Santa Shop could not have happened without the help of our fabulous:
 - High School Volunteers
 - Parent Volunteers (Casey Bayer, Melissa Coley, Renee Draganac, Bridget Grimm, Amy Hill, Amy Fitsko, Amy Fodor, Danielle Zatchey.)
 - Student Council Members

Vendors & Community Groups

- **Santa Shop Vendors** - Michelle Botanic, Savannah Fisher, Julie Hribar, Cathy Huwar, Shiloh Kehoe, Yvonne McConnell, Jerry Mickey, Josie Rubenstein, Nanci Rudnicki, Linda Williams.
- **Baden American Legion** - Thank you for your generous donation for Santa Shop 2022. We appreciate you and your generosity.

Meet Our Second Grade Teacher

Mrs. Melissa Paulos

Mrs. Paulos couldn't imagine another profession because teaching has always been her passion. When she was a little girl growing-up in Hopewell Township, her dad hung a large chalkboard on her bedroom wall. She would often play school by teaching her "students", which included her dog, stuffed animals and little brother.

After graduating from Penn State with a bachelor's degree in Elementary and Kindergarten Education, Mrs. Paulos taught kindergarten and first grade in State College for two years. Then she returned home, working as a permanent substitute in Hopewell and Monaca before joining our State Street Family in 2004 where she taught 4th grade for 10 years. In 2011 she earned a Master of Education degree with a reading concentration from Slippery Rock University and a Whole Brain Teaching Bronze Certification in 2020.

Mrs. Paulos is in her 19th year teaching at State Street Elementary and 9th year teaching 2nd grade. She loves teaching 2nd grade because second graders love school, have a sweet nature and are inquisitive & eager to learn new things! Also, teaching 2nd grade allows Mrs. Paulos to play an instrumental part in helping students further develop their reading skills.

If Mrs. Paulos could live near the beach, she absolutely would... it is her happy place! We are so thankful that Mrs. Paulos just visits the beach and returns home to share her love of teaching and reading with our State Street Elementary students! Thank you for giving our primary students a fabulous (and fun!) education.



- **Favorite Color:** Purple
- **Favorite Food:** Homemade Gnocchi
- **Favorite Drink:** Diet Coke
- **Favorite Snack & Sweet-Treat:** Chocolate
- **Favorite Hobby:** Reading, Cheering on her son Gavin in baseball & football, Shopping
- **Favorite Author:** Kristin Hannah
- **Favorite Quote:** "Be the reason someone smiles."

Mrs. Melissa Paulos
2nd Grade Teacher
State Street Elementary School

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Meet Our Second Grade Teacher

Mrs. Lauren Tierney

Mrs. Tierney is a home town girl - born and raised a Bridger! She grew up in Harmony Township, graduated from Ambridge in 2003, stayed close-to-home for college and now lives in the district with her husband and three children. Although Mrs. Tierney started Slippery Rock's 6-year doctorate program for Physical Therapy, she switched to education during her first year, earning a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Special Education. She then began her teaching career at Ambridge Area School District (AASD) and has been fortunate to teach in all three elementary buildings, including: gifted, kindergarten, 2nd, 4th, 5th and 6th grades.

This is Mrs. Tierney's 16th year teaching at AASD and 6th year teaching 2nd grade at State Street Elementary. She is currently the 2nd grade department chair on the Curriculum Council and has been a Technology Integrator for the district since 2013, recognized as a Keystone Technology Innovator for utilizing the many benefits of technology to improve instructional practices. She's also trained in Crisis Prevention and Elementary Student Assistance Program.

Mrs. Tierney loves teaching 2nd grade because she gets to help students master fluency and comprehension, which prepares them to "read to learn" in third grade. Mrs. Tierney absolutely loves her students and treats each student that walks through her doors as if they were her own child, helping each child grow not only as a student but also as an individual by creating a "classroom community" atmosphere. She also strives to create positive parent/teacher relationships with each student's family. We are so thankful Mrs. Tierney is part of our State Street Family! Thank you for all that you do for our school and loving your students the way that you do!



- **Favorite Color:** Purple
- **Favorite Food:** Spaghetti
- **Favorite Drink:** Coffee or Tea
- **Favorite Snack & Sweet-Treat:** Cheddar Chex Mix
- **Favorite Hobby:** Crocheting and Reading
- **Favorite Author:** Jodi Picoult
- **Favorite Quote:** "Good decisions come from experience. Experience comes from making bad decisions" - Mark Twain

Mrs. Lauren Tierney
2nd Grade Teacher
State Street Elementary

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