



Greetings from the Darby Creek Elementary school
Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO)!

Welcome to the 2015-2016 school year to our new and returning Darby Creek families!

Who we are...

We are *your* PTO - anyone who has a student who attends Darby Creek is an automatic member, so welcome to the group! You can read in detail about the PTO by perusing our by-laws (found on our website), but to quickly sum up, **the purpose of the PTO is to:**

- A. Promote the education and welfare of each student at home, in school and in the community.
- B. Bring into closer relationship the home and school so that parents and teachers may cooperate in the education of the student.
- C. Provide a volunteer base to assist teachers with the education of students.
- D. Enhance the educational facilities and opportunities for the students of Darby Creek that are not otherwise provided for in the school budgets. (Such as new technology, Artists in the School programs, playground equipment, and many other programs and services to support the students and staff.)
- E. Raise funds as required to provide for all of the above objectives.

The executive committee for the upcoming school year is made up of: Pam Pyles, President; Kimber Whanger, Vice President; Megan Troyer, Secretary; Melanie Ault, Treasurer. We also have three Inter-school PTO (ISPTO) representatives, Megan Troyer, Michelle Woodham, and Carrie Drovdlc. **PTO meetings are the first Monday of the month in the media center at 7pm (with exception of Sept).**

What we do...

We host social events like Family Game Nights and I love Darby Creek Winterfest; we provide meals and gifts to our teachers on conference nights and teacher appreciation week; we distribute school supply kits; we promote healthy habits with our Wellness committee and Walking Wednesday programs; we create a contact information directory for Darby Creek families. **We also spend a great deal of time and effort raising funds to support the goals outlined above.** To this end we try to provide a variety of opportunities for families to support the school in a way that fits their schedule, including having spirit nights (local businesses/restaurants donate a percentage of the night's profit to the PTO), selling spirit wear (t-shirts, sweatshirts, etc.), and offering the monthly Market Day grocery. **Our largest fundraiser is our annual Walk-a-Thon**, which is the main source of funding for our budget of almost \$40,000. Our community and Darby Creek families have embraced this event and made it so successful that for past few years our students have not had to sell items like cookie dough and wrapping paper, and many of you told us you were happy about this!

New last year...

The Darby Creek PTO has a new, updated website (www.darbycreekpto.com) (It can also be found by clicking on the PTO tab on the school website.) It includes an updated calendar of events (in the "News and Events" tab), and a current list of committees with the opportunity to sign up online to volunteer, among many other things.

Darby Creek PTO is on Facebook! Please look up our page (Darby Creek Elementary PTO- make sure you type "PTO" or you will go to the school's page) and "like" us. We will be posting PTO news and sending out reminders about PTO events throughout the year. **We recommend that you to also subscribe to eNews** through the district website, www.hilliardschools.org under the News and Info tab. This will allow you to stay updated on PTO *and* school/district events.

School hours: First bell: 8:35 am; Tardy Bell: 8:50 am; Dismissal: 3:15 pm; **and please remember we have a new traffic pattern** that can be found at: dcr.hilliardschool.org

Our calendar... We are still scheduling most of our events, so the list below is not complete. Please visit our website periodically for an up-to-date list.

August 24th – Open house for grades K-5 from 4:30 to 5:30pm

August 24th – First day of school!

September 4th – Darby Creek/Alton Darby Field Day

September 7th – Labor Day - NO SCHOOL

September 8th – PTO meeting at 7:00 p.m., DCE media center. (**voting on the year's budget**)

September 21th – Safety Training Day - NO SCHOOL

October 6th – PTO meeting at 7:00pm, DCE media Center

October 14th – Walk-a-thon, all day

The bottom line...

We need you. Supporting the PTO with your time and/or resources supports your school, which supports your child's education. No amount of volunteering is too little - every job counts and we need people for projects big and small. Visit our website to see a list of committees and areas where you can lend your time and talents. **You can sign up online to volunteer.**

I look forward to seeing you at PTO meetings this year, and if you have any questions you can email me at darbycreekpto@gmail.com.

Best wishes for a great school year,

Pam Pyles
PTO President