



MARCH 2019

In the Loop

WINDOM ELEMENTARY PTO NEWSLETTER

From
the

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Dear Grade 3-5 Parents/Guardians:

Your student will be taking the New York State English Language Arts (ELA) Assessment and the New York State Mathematics Assessment shortly. In the event that your child is ill on testing days, there will be an assessment make-up day. If your child will be absent, please remember to call the automated attendance line at 209-6279 (press *) to report the absence.

Previously, each assessment was given over three days for a total of six days of assessment. Like last year, each assessment will be given over two days for a total of four days of assessment for ELA and Math. This is a welcomed change for students and teachers alike.

The schedule is as follows:

English Language Arts Assessment (2 sessions)

Dates: Tuesday, April 2nd & Wednesday, April 3rd

Make-up Dates: Thursday, April 4th – Tuesday, April 9th

Mathematics Assessment (2 sessions)

Dates: Wednesday, May 1st & Thursday, May 2nd

Make-up Dates: Friday, May 3rd – Wednesday, May 8th

These assessments will be given during the morning of the designated testing days. Please make every effort to make sure that your child is here on time for the assessments. Unfortunately, we are unable to administer the assessments outside of the make-up windows.

If you have any questions about the assessments, I would be happy to discuss them with you. I encourage you to go to engageNY.org for more information. This web page has a section for parents and guardians that is very helpful. There are also sample questions for the ELA and Mathematics assessments on the website.

In closing, I want to thank you for being so supportive of our mission.

Phil Johnson
Principal

What's Inside March

6

WINDOM'S AUTHOR VISIT

welcoming NYT bestselling
author Susan Verde

7

MCTEACHER'S NIGHT

stop by to see your
favorite Windom staff

8

SQUARE 1 ART

get your orders in by
March 19th

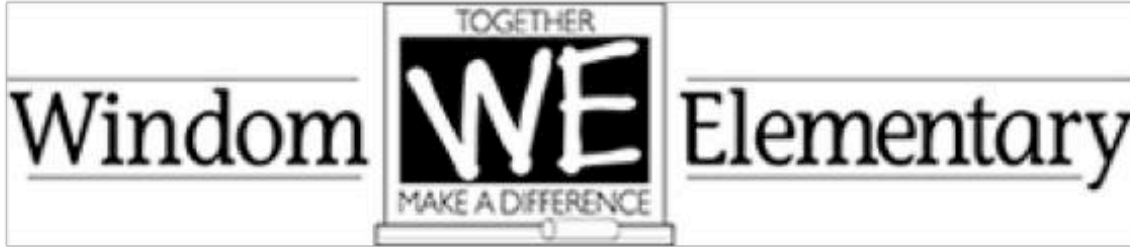


Questions or Comments?

contact [Jennifer Spoto](#),
Newsletter Editor

COMPLETE YOUR MISSION AND VISION INPUT FORM TODAY!

It will only take a few moments of your time.



Dear Families,

This year, the Windom Shared Decision Making Committee, a committee made up of parents, community members, support staff, and administration have looked to support Windom in the development of new mission and vision statements. Orchard Park Central School District has mission and vision statements for the district as a whole but Windom as a unique building does not.

Mission and vision are similar but not the same. A vision statement is what we want to accomplish and a mission statement is why we want to accomplish these things.

The Windom staff have begun this process and we need your help. Parents and families are equal partners in the work of education and your input into mission and vision is vital.

As we work to create our mission and vision statements, beginning with the end in mind may be a good starting point. We want to create a learning environment where all children feel welcome, valued, and part of a bigger supportive community. Each child's unique needs and strengths should be met and celebrated.

In order to make that a reality, we need to answer a few questions. As we think about our children, what kind of place do we want Windom to be for them, and for us? What skills or qualities do we want our children to possess/exhibit when they leave Windom? What do you want our legacy to be for them?

Please help us by clicking the link below which takes you to a survey on Google Forms. You'll be asked to provide up to five words or phrases that describe the characteristics you want your child to possess following their time at Windom.

We intend to collect as much feedback as possible that will help us establish the values, expectations and hopes of the community which will then be critical as we develop mission and vision statements.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE SURVEY](https://goo.gl/forms/Mlg1e33s9a4yANhB3)

OR enter the below address into a web browser:

<https://goo.gl/forms/Mlg1e33s9a4yANhB3>

Or email me at pjohnson@opschools.org and I can send you the form.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for your time.

Phil Johnson
Principal

From the

P R E S I D E N T

Dear Parents,

I can't believe it's already March! Hopefully Spring is right around the corner and we can get outside and enjoy some warmer weather and sunshine. We really appreciate everyone who sent in Box Tops. We collected over 13,000 which turned into \$1341.90 for our school! Please continue collecting them for next year's contest, which will be in February 2020. Our Niagara Chocolates Fundraiser was a HUGE success! Thank you to the families who submitted orders. Please remember to pick up your order on April 1st from 3-7 p.m. in the cafeteria.



It may only be March, but it's not too early to start thinking about the 2019-20 school year! If you are interested in becoming more involved at Windom and would like to be a chairperson for one of our events, please consider doing so in the upcoming school year. We will be posting openings for available positions in our April newsletter so please keep an eye out for those. Each year as 5th grade parents graduate with their children to the Middle School, chairperson vacancies occur. Many of these events substantially enrich your children's elementary experience, whether it's a fun activity or a major fundraiser. We hope you'll consider volunteering to chair an event next year. If you'd prefer to share event planning with a friend, co-chairs are always welcome. If you've considered volunteering in the past but haven't, I ask that you take a leap of faith and sign up for an event for next year. We can always use more volunteers! We promise you'll have the support you need to make your event a success. I have enjoyed working more closely with Windom staff and playing an active role at my children's school.

Ordering information for the Square 1 Art fundraiser should have recently come home. In collaboration with Art Teacher Mr. Bond, students in each class create some unique and beautiful artwork for this biennial fundraiser. There are a lot of fun things your child's artwork can be transformed into with this fundraiser. My kids each have their own hot chocolate mug with their artwork on it and they all love it!

The Mother's Day Plant Sale will be here before we know it! This is a fun event where students can purchase up to three plants for moms, grandmas, and special moms in their lives.

If you have any questions or are interested in helping out the PTO, feel free to e-mail me at jrobisonwindompto@gmail.com.

Thank you,

Jaclyn Robison
Windom PTO Co-President

If you are a new PTO member, please be sure to visit join.myschoolanywhere.com and enter join code *windompto* to register online. You will get access to our electronic directory, event listings, signups, and email notifications.



FEELING SOCIAL?

Want to stay informed about the latest updates, news, and special events? Follow us on Twitter **@WindomElem** and join our Facebook group **Windom PTO**.



WINDOM ELEMENTARY PTO MEETING MINUTES 3/7/19

Attendees: J. Smith, A. Hanlon, J. Robison, C. Shields, K. Dash, B. Smith, J. Spoto.

February PTO Meeting Minutes approved by K. Dash, B. Smith

PTO Correspondence

Mrs. Lobur's and Mrs. Hanlon's class made thank you cards for winning a B&N gift card from the Box Tops Contest. Fifth graders made thank you cards for their field trip to see *Tuck Everlasting* at Theatre of Youth. Mrs. Smith made a large poster to thank the PTO for supporting *The Jungle Book* musical.

Reports

Treasurer: Kevin Dash – Report dated 3/7/19 for February 2019

Monthly Treasurer's Report for Feb 2019			
	Checking Account	Savings Account	Total
Beginning Balance	\$11,001.59	\$1,485.48	\$12,487.07
Income			
Membership	\$5.00		
Fundraising (Musical)	\$500.00		
Dividend Transfer from Savings	\$0.56		
Misc. Fundraiser - Tops	\$57.85		
TOTAL INCOME	\$563.41	\$3,229.27	\$3,792.68
Expense			
Box Tops	\$150.00		
Field Trip - 1st Grade	\$860.00		
Central Council Dues	\$572.50		
Busing Expense	\$351.92		
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$1,934.42	\$1,258.04	\$3,192.46
Ending Balance	\$9,630.58	\$3,456.71	\$13,087.29
Net Income (Loss)			\$600.22

There was brief discussion among the group on the new CCPTO by-laws/guidelines as they pertain to how PTO funds should be spent. Expenses need to benefit the general Windom population as opposed to targeted groups or individuals. PTO account balances should generally be in line with expected recurring or imminent expenses. Therefore going forward, we are minimizing annual fundraisers and keeping only a handful of the top revenue-generators such as the Fun Run and Niagara Candy.

Principal: Mr. Johnson – March 15th is now a half-day of elementary attendance. NYS Testing for grades 3-5 will take place in April and May. ELA is April 2-3; Math is May 1-2. Susan Verde will visit Windom March 12-13. She will meet with every grade and do a yoga session with prize winners from the essay contest. Please fill out your Mission and Vision input form that was emailed to all parents recently. Another reminder will go out soon.

Teacher: Mrs. Hanlon reporting – There were thank you cards made from Mrs. Hanlon's and Mrs. Lobur's class, as well as Mrs. Smith (see above for details). McTeacher Night is on March 13th from 4-7 p.m. at the Orchard Park Rd. McDonald's. Mrs. Biondo thanks the PTO for Henry & Mudge tickets at Kleinhans.

PTO Updates

Niagara Candy Pickup – Candy orders were submitted to Niagara Chocolate. Sales were generally the same as last year (~\$13,000). Candy pickup will be on April 1st from 3-7 p.m. in the cafeteria.

Square 1 Art – The stickers and catalogs with ordering information are going home with the students. Please submit your orders to school by March 19th. Delivery of the products will be before Easter on April 11th. A pick-up waiver form will be circulated to parents if they wish to have their order sent home with their child.

Box Tops Contest – Grand total earned = \$1341.90. Keep saving for next year!

Movie Event: *Small Foot* – About the same turnout as last year. \$108 pre-sale, \$10 at the door. Total: \$118.

Upcoming/Current Events

Mother's Day Plant Sale – Will be on May 9-10 in Mrs. Lew's gym. 1600 plants will be ordered so students can purchase up to 3 plants for \$1 each. Look in MSA for volunteer signup info as we get closer.

Spring Book Fair – We will communicate wishlist items to Larry Silver. These will be popular kid titles. Scholastic has contacted our presidents asking us to partner with them for this book fair, however we have no interest in working with them based on issues we've experienced with them in the past.

Upcoming

PTO Co-President Jaclyn Robison mentioned that her son is working on his Eagle Scout project. If there's a project that would benefit the outdoor space at Windom, he would love to consider it as his project. Those present supported the idea. Some suggestions were a pavilion or a nature trail. Will communicate further with Mr. Johnson and any other pertinent staff for consideration.

A Windom parent shared a link on FB about a [Project Learning Garden contest](#) sponsored thru Tops Markets. By entering, a school could win a grant to have a community garden installed on school property, which would provide various learning opportunities for students. We will look into this – it's a simple entry form, but will pursue if we think it would be worthwhile in the end.

Spring Assembly ideas – Nickel City Reptiles or perhaps Earth Spirit. The proposed time frame for this would be after state testing concludes in early May.

Restaurant Fundraiser – April would be a good time to hold one since it's a relatively quiet month. A sit-down dinner place was suggested, however Christy will look into our options and share.

Meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Spoto, PTO Secretary



Please join us at our next PTO meeting on
APRIL 4 AT 3:30 P.M. IN THE LIBRARY

Prologue Author Visit Library News

It certainly is time to SPRING into READING!!! And Spring at the best little school in OP means author visit time is here again!!! Susan Verde is her name and weaving poetry into stories is her game. Good golly Miss Molly knows we could use some of Susan's book themes in our lives or not. "I am Peace," "I am Yoga," "Hey Wall" (What? Too soon?).

As you know, the Windom Elementary community fully and completely embraces the author visit. Last year's author was local author, Amy VanDerwater. Of course she was blown away by our efforts (I truly believe our efforts make the authors up their game while they are visiting W.E.).

Since we knew early enough, we (Mrs. Powell) were able to get multiple copies of Susan Verde's books into the library well in advance. This way your children have been able to enjoy her books for much of the year and given us a head start on building the anticipation for Susan's visit. Next time you are at Windom peak in and around the library to see what the teachers and Mr. Bond have had your children create!!! Complete awesomeness!!

Susan is the author of more than ten picture books. Her books are funny, clever, meaningful, historical, silly and engaging. Some of her titles include *Rock n' Roll Soul*, *The Water Princess*, and *My Kicks!!*

There are some awesome video clips with songs based on Susan Verde's books *I Am Yoga* and *I Am Peace*. Click on the book titles to check them out.

Happy Almost Spring! Read to your children! Just for fun! In the words of Mo Willems (author of *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus*), give yourself a shameectomy and read like it's 1999 again.

Thank you and have a READtastic day.

Peace,
Jim Clark
Guybrarian



McTeacher's Night



Mark Your Calendar! Windom McTeacher's Night



McTeacher's Night
McDonald's @ Orchard Park Rd.
Wednesday, March 13, 2019 4-7 p.m.

Your favorite Windom teachers and staff will be working behind the counter at the Orchard Park Rd. McDonald's! Stop by to say hello and order your favorite menu items. Windom Wellness earns 20% of all sales.



Submit your order by
March 19th!

Orders will be in
before Easter on
April 1st!

Give the gift of
creativity!



Five Easy Ways to Give Back to Windom

1. **Tops in Education** - Register your TOPS BonusPlus card [at this link](#) and choose Windom Elementary as the beneficiary. Every time you scan your loyalty card at TOPS, Windom gets 5% back on eligible products.
2. **BoxTops for Education** - Buy, clip, and save on participating products. See pages 7-8 for details about our annual classroom contest and a collection sheet.
3. **AmazonSmile** - When you shop at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and select "Orchard Park PTO" as the AmazonSmile charity of choice, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to our collective group of PTOs.
4. **Restaurant and Retail Fundraisers** - Throughout the year, we will publicize a place and a timeframe for you to grab dinner or merchandise. An average of 20% of sales from purchases will come back to Windom.
5. **Imagine Recycling** - Drop off your used printer cartridges, mobile devices, cell phone batteries, charging ports & cords in the box located in the foyer at Windom. We will get a percentage back on items collected.

Kindergarten Registration is open for September 2019!

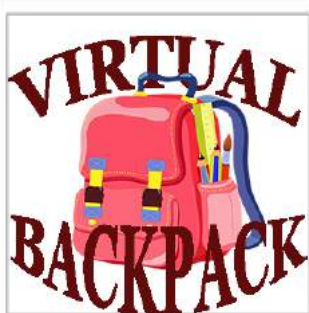
If your child will be 5 years old on or
before December 1, 2019...

please call or e-mail the
Orchard Park Registrar at

716-209-6325 or

aalba@opschools.org

to start the process. Thank you!



The **Windom Elementary Virtual Backpack** is a central repository of online informational flyers that are sorted by month for quick and easy access. Please check the backpack frequently to get the most up-to-date information on upcoming events, fundraisers, extracurricular activities, and school-specific information.



2019-2020

Orchard Park Central School District's
Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program

**UPK Registration begins
Wednesday, January 2, 2019.**

- Children must turn 4 years old by December 1, 2019 in order to be eligible to register for UPK.
- To make an appointment to register your child for the UPK Program, please call Amanda Alba, Central Registrar at 716-209-6325.
- There is limited availability for the UPK program based on grant funding. If more children apply than there are available slots, the district will hold a random selection lottery. This has been the case for the past three years.
- The Orchard Park Central School District partners with local preschool providers for this program. Due to capacity limitations, the program is not housed in our elementary buildings.
- Registration must be completed by Friday, March 29, 2019 in order to be eligible for inclusion in the UPK lottery. The registration forms may be downloaded from the district's website (www.opschools.org/upk) or mailed to you upon request.



**Registration is by
appointment only.**

**Please contact
Amanda Alba at
716-209-6325 to
make an
appointment.**

**There are only
100 available
slots for UPK.**

**Your child MUST be
registered by
3/29/2019 to be
eligible for inclusion
in the lottery**

**Don't delay!
Make an
appointment
today😊**

**AMANDA ALBA
CENTRAL REGISTRAR**

2240 Southwestern Blvd.
West Seneca, NY 14224

716-209-6325



Parent Information Series on Mental & Emotional Health

presents

SCREEN AGERS

GROWING UP IN THE DIGITAL AGE



"As the mother of three kids...we're all worried about how much is too much. For any of you wrestling with this issue, I loved the documentary. It combines smart insights and practical tips for raising happy, healthy, technologically empowered teens." - Melinda Gates



*A Community Screening Event
Followed by a Panel Discussion*

Monday, March 25th, 2019

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

**Orchard Park High School
Auditorium**

This award-winning film:

- Probes into the vulnerable corners of family life;
- Depicts the messy struggles over social media, video games, and academics;
- Explores a child's risk of addiction;
- Offers solutions on how we can help our kids navigate the digital world.

For more information about the film, please visit
<https://www.screenagersmovie.com>



Community News - Head Lice

Head lice can be a frequent occurrence, particularly in elementary schools. Head lice is a rapidly growing problem that has no reflection on one's own cleanliness, social or economic situation. Head lice are defined as parasitic insects that can be found on the head and are characterized by itching of the scalp as a result of live lice in the hair or ova (nits) attached to the hair shaft. The adult is a flat wing-less creature with six legs and a stubby antenna. Lice do not hop, jump or fly. The eggs they lay are called nits. The nits attach to the hair shaft and are very difficult to remove as they manufacture their own glue-like substance to hold themselves to the hair shaft. The most common symptom is the persistent itching. Children scratch behind their ears and at the base of their neck. Head lice are not contagious, are not known to spread illness, nor are they life threatening or due to poor hygiene. Rather, head lice are spread through the sharing of hats, combs, brushes or by direct contact with the hair of an infested person. Head lice feet are specially adapted for holding onto human hair. Head lice would have difficulty attaching to smooth or slippery surfaces like plastic, metal, polished synthetic leathers & other similar materials.

If a case is reported in a classroom, all parents in that class will be informed.

What can you do?

- We ask you to check your child's head, nape of the neck and behind the ears for live lice or nits (lice eggs) on a weekly basis. Do the same for siblings and anyone else in the home. See your physician to confirm any suspicions you may have about what you find.
- Immediately report any confirmed diagnosis found at home to your school nurse.
- Consult with your pharmacist or physician to choose the right product for treatment. Carefully read the directions for application and re-treatment.
- Remind your children not to share personal items such as combs, brushes, hats with one another.
- Check the OPCSD homepage (www.opschools.org), type the word lice in site search for more information.



Health Office Suggestions

- Fever of 100.4 or higher in the last 24 hours (keep home until fever free for 24 hours without the use of Acetaminophen/ Ibuprofen)
- Vomiting/ Diarrhea in the last 24 hours (keep home for 24 hours after vomiting/ diarrhea)
- Persistent cough
- Loss of sleep that might be due to illness and or coughing
- Runny nose/ cold symptoms (severe congestion)
- Looks sick, complains a lot about feeling sick, is very tired, can't/ won't eat breakfast or get dressed
- Flu symptoms- Fever, chills, body aches, headache, dry cough, nausea and/ or vomiting
- Diagnosis of conjunctivitis or pink eye (should be on antibiotic drops 24 hours prior to return to school)
- Diagnosis of strep throat (should be on antibiotics 24 hours prior to return to school and has returned to his/ her normal activity level)
- Undiagnosed rash
- Unsure? Please call your family Doctor or the Windom Health Office at 209-6322 and as always.... **Please help prevent the spread of illness by practicing and reinforcing proper hand washing technique!**

Orchard Park Central School District

2240 Southwestern Blvd. West Seneca, NY 14224

Matthew McGarrity
Superintendent*www.opschools.org*
(716) 209-6200

Dear Parent or Guardian,

New York State Education Law (effective July 1, 2018) requires a physical exam for all students in grades K, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11, as well as students new to the Orchard Park Central School District, and students identified as needing services from Committee for Special Education. This letter will be sent in advance of the upcoming school year when a new physical is required for your child to give you time to schedule/provide the necessary updated physical.

Please....

- Schedule an appointment with your child's doctor for an updated physical
- Have the physical form filled out by your child's doctor (available on district website or may use form provided by your child's doctor)
- Return physical form to your child's school Health Office (phone: 209-6322/ fax: 209-6490)

Your prompt attention and cooperation are greatly appreciated!

Sarah Johnson, R.N.
Windom Elementary School Nurse
(716) 209-6322

Philip Johnson
Windom Principal

Windom Elementary
3870 Sheldon Road Orchard Park, NY 14127
www.opschools.org/windom

(716) 209-6279
Fax (716) 209-6490

Orchard Park Central School District

2240 Southwestern Blvd. West Seneca, NY 14224

Matthew McGarrity
Superintendent*www.opschools.org*
(716) 209-6200

Dear Parents and /or Guardians:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of an important change in the immunization requirements for students entering sixth grade. Effective September 1, 2007 a New York State Public Health Law amendment requires students born on or after January 1, 1994 and those entering the 6th grade on or after September 2007 must receive a Tdap booster immunization. Tdap is the tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis vaccine.

Written documentation of this booster immunization must be provided by your physician's office. Please note that in accordance with New York State Public Health Law/ Education Law your child may be excluded from attending school if immunization requirements are not met.

Please...

- Call your child's doctor with any questions and to schedule an appointment for the Tdap booster
- Forward written documentation to school health office no later than June 15th
- If you are unable to complete immunization requirements by June 15th submit date of scheduled appointment student will receive this booster

It should be noted that school health personnel are not available during the summer months to receive this information. Your prompt attention and cooperation are greatly appreciated. Please do not hesitate to contact your school nurse for questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Philip Johnson
Principal*Philip Johnson*
Windom Principal**Windom Elementary**
3870 Sheldon Road Orchard Park, NY 14127
www.opschools.org/windom(716) 209-6279
Fax (716)-209-6490

Orchard Park Central School District

2240 Southwestern Blvd. West Seneca, NY 14224

Matthew McGarrity
Superintendent*www.opschools.org*
(716) 209-6200**Reminder to all parents and guardians of students at Windom re: "Food Allergy Classrooms":**

In order to keep our students with food allergies safe, we ask that you refrain from sending in any homemade treats or items bought from a bakery into classrooms for special occasions. We also ask that you refrain from bringing in any type of food into any common areas of the school other than the cafeteria. We cannot guarantee the safety of these homemade or bakery food items as cross-contamination may pose a risk. If your child is in a "Food Allergy Classroom", you were informed over the summer with a letter from the principal and Health Office. Food allergies can be life-threatening and we are all responsible to keep students safe in schools.

If you would like to send in a treat to the classroom for your child on a **special occasion only**, please make sure that the snack is store bought and pre-packaged from a safe snack list with the proper labeling/ingredient list.

A safe snack list is available for your reference from Mrs. Johnson (School Nurse) and at <http://snacksafely.com/safe-snack-guide/>. Please keep in mind that this is a safe snack list primarily for peanuts/tree nut, dairy, egg and sesame allergies. If your child is in a classroom with any other type of food allergies, please contact your child's teacher or the School Nurse for reference. Always check the label for possible cross-contamination.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Johnson in the Health Office and she can provide you with safe snack ideas.

Thank you for your cooperation in this effort to keep all of our students here at Windom safe, happy, and healthy!

Philip Johnson
Windom Elementary School Principal

Sarah Johnson, R.N.
Windom Elementary School Nurse

Philip Johnson
Windom Principal

Windom Elementary
3870 Sheldon Road Orchard Park, NY 14127
www.opschools.org/windom

(716) 209-6279
Fax (716)-209-6490

Help Wanted



The Middle School PTO is looking for leaders to
fulfill the duties of the following positions for
the 2019-2020 school year:

- . PTO Secretary
- . PTO Treasurer
- . Newsletter Coordinator
- . Bookstore & School Supply Sale Coordinator

If interested or if you have questions, please
contact Michelle Bouton:

(michelle.leigh.bouton@gmail.com)

**Orchard Park Quaker Marching Band Boosters
Invites You!**



Saturday, March 23rd

Time: 6:00pm -10:00 pm

RAFFLE STARTS PROMPTLY at 7pm

Location: Orchard Park Fire Hall

30 School Street

Orchard Park, NY 14127

**Meat
Provided by
Camillo's
Sloan Super
Market**



Cost: \$5 Presale and at the door

Tables of 8 can be reserved for \$35.00

21 and over event

Bring your favorite snacks and dollar bills!



For more information: email: scarlett927@verizon.net

**To purchase tickets online using PayPal please visit the Quaker Marching Band Webpage at:
www.quakermarchingband.com**