

The Parent-Teacher Association

By Victoria Wirth

From its inception in the early 1950s, the Queensbury Parent Teacher Association strove to address the needs of the school community. The newspaper articles that chronicle those early years are filled with the events that the association planned, such as raising money for a scholarship for a "deserving senior," sponsorship of the Christmas and Spring Music concerts in conjunction with the music department, the annual homeroom mothers' tea, and educational sessions to help parents and children better understand each other.

Attendance at the meetings often reached 150 to 200 people, and this was encouraged by the Homeroom Mothers Club, who awarded banners to the class with the largest number of parents participating in the meetings.

April 15 — 8:00 P. M.
"How Parents Handle the Question of
Sex Education"
Election of Officers
Dr. Maria Mintz — Warren County Chairman
of Parent Education for P. T. A.

May 13 — 8:00 P. M.
"Have We Reached Our Goals?"
Installation of Officers

June 10
Picnic Meeting

OFFICERS

President—Mrs. Christy Discenza 2-7270
1st Vice Pres.—Mrs. Peter Accardi 2-6477
2nd Vice Pres.—Mrs. Reginald Shultz 2-9315
Recording Sec'y.—Mrs. William Cook 2-0142
Corresponding Sec'y.—Mrs. Robert Kimball
Treasurer—Mr. Peter Accardi

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Program—Mrs. Daniel Evans 2-4809
Ways and Means—Mr. John Flower 2-0434
Membership—Mrs. Kenneth Crossman 2-9258
Publicity—Mrs. Howard Graham 2-8545
Hospitality—Mrs. Reginald Shultz 2-6477
Recreation—Mr. Robert Hughes 2-8025
Publications—Mrs. Winston Burt 2-3957
Historian—Mrs. Donald Weeks 2-0075
Welfare—Mrs. Preston Thomas

PARENT - TEACHER
ASSOCIATION

1952

1953



QUEENSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOL
Union Free School District 2
Town of Queensbury
Warren County, New York



Adirondack District, New York State Branch
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

Parent Teacher Association 1952 - 1953.



Marcia Behan Austin pours tea for students to serve to their mothers at the Homeroom Mothers Club Tea.

Concerns of the PTA membership were not very different from those expressed today. Employment opportunities were addressed in 1954 and it was revealed that there existed a great need for young women with stenographic and clerical abilities, while for young men, employment opportunities were described as “limited — principally due to military service requirements at the present time.”

Parent-child relationships were discussed on many occasions. At one meeting, Judge Charles Ringwood of the Warren County Children’s Court spoke on juvenile delinquency, stating that “ninety-five percent of the cases stem from broken homes” and “lack of parental understanding, present clothing and activity trends of the various age groups of children, and lack of parental interest in children and in their school and play interests accounts for the greatest neglect on the part of parents.”

Another meeting focused on “parent-child relationships and how they are affected by the emotional climate in the home.” The concerns are disquietingly familiar fifty years later!

The purpose of education and the people supporting the educational process were often highlighted in the PTA meetings. As early as 1954, a speaker explained that education has four primary aims: “To develop within the child self-realization, an awareness of his importance in the group within which he lives; human relationships, how to

get along in society; economic efficiency, or the ability to find a place in the world and adjust to it, and civic responsibility so that he will be able to assume the duties and privileges of a citizen."

Over the years, the PTA also put enormous effort into providing fun for the students, indeed the entire Queensbury community. Parent-faculty basketball games were very popular as was the Christmas Bazaar, at which, as early as 1957, the records show a special shopping corner where children could purchase gifts for family and friends.

Refreshments	
Mrs. John Goss	RX 2-4256
Mrs. Edmond Smith	RX 2-0066
Mrs. Donald L. Awrbrey	RX 2-2864
Mrs. Gordon Wakeley	RX 2-6681
Mrs. Chris Discenza	RX 2-7270
Mrs. James Bovee	RX 3-2242
Mrs. Clarence Krause	RX 3-2769
Mrs. Joseph Loper	RX 2-0532
Miss Marcia Behan	RX 2-3688
Mrs. Malcolm McIntyre	
Historian	
Mrs. Charles H. Bridenbaker	RX 2-9075
Legislation	
Mrs. Thomas A. Dickinson	RX 3-1547
Home Room Mothers	
Elementary	
Mrs. Robert R. Proulx	RX 2-1209
High School	
Mrs. R. Smith Johansen	RX 2-2990
Health and Safety	
Mrs. Robert D. Casey	RX 2-4261
Mrs. Roy D. Wilcox	NN 8-2184
Mrs. Ralph M. Nestle	RX 2-7246
Girl Scout Representative	
Mrs. Leroy Beckerle	RX 2-4483
Boy Scout Representative	
Mr. Richard White	RX 2-8963
QUEENSBURY HIGH SCHOOL	
BASKETBALL SCHEDULE — 1964 - 1965	
Nov. 20 Friday	Hartford H
Nov. 24 Tuesday	Lake George A
Nov. 27 Friday	Glens Falls H
Dec. 4 Friday	Warrensburg H
Dec. 11 Friday	Johnsburg A
Dec. 18 Friday	Fort Ann H
Dec. 22 Tuesday	Luzerne A
Dec. 26 Saturday	Glens Falls (3:00 P. M.)
Dec. 28 Monday	Schuylerville Tournament
Dec. 29 Tuesday	
Jan. 8 Friday	Argyle H
Jan. 15 Friday	Hartford A
Jan. 22 Friday	Lake George H
Jan. 29 Friday	Warrensburg A
Feb. 5 Friday	Johnsburg H
Feb. 12 Friday	Fort Ann A
Feb. 19 Friday	Luzerne H
Feb. 26 Friday	Argyle A
H - Home	
A - Away	

Parent - Teacher Association

PROGRAM 1964 - 1965

Queensbury School
Union Free School District 2

Town of Queensbury
Warren County, New York



Adirondack District, New York State Branch
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

Programs like this included information that today is put on the school calendar. Many people will remember when most local phone numbers began with "RX".

The types of activities over the years have included special events to raise money for a playground, "birthday parties" on the playground, balloon festival events, fairs including a special "Halloween Fun Fair," dances, After-School Creative Network, "Reflections" program, teacher appreciation luncheon, a book club, K-2 nights with storytellers, apple festivals, heritage days, and the development of an elementary school memory book. The PTA also at one time provided rides to school for the parent-teacher conferences to parents in need of transportation.

In the late 1980s, in an attempt to better meet the needs of the different age groups, the PTA, which had before been for the entire district, split into separate sections for each of the three schools: Elementary, Middle, and High School. During the 1990s, the middle school group became a Parent-Teacher-Student Organization (PTSO). The Elementary and new William H. Barton (4-5) buildings each have PTSAs; the High School has no active organization at present.



The 4/5 PTA of 1999-2000 sponsored a Sports Day in January. Pictured are Co-Presidents Jo Ann Harig and Stella Racicot with PTA member Karen Begin and students.

For the fifty years of the Queensbury Union Free School District, the PTA has not remained a stagnant organization. There have been many changes as it has responded to requests by teachers and administration and to the evolving needs of the students. But as past president Sylvia Kerchner said, "The PTSA has always tried to build community and develop community activities." In this endeavor, it has indeed been successful.

As a parent of two Queensbury students, Vicky Wirth was involved with the PTA for many years. She is the wife of Dr. Daniel C. Larson, school physician, and helped to initiate the first Elementary School Memory Book.