

Columbian PTO Direct Donation Program Frequently Asked Questions

- **Why is Columbian changing its fundraising activities?**

In the past, Columbian has worked with some wonderful vendors to sell products such as cookie dough, wrapping paper, and gift products. While we enjoyed our purchases, Columbian only received 40–50% of every dollar spent. Families might spend \$100 but we would only see \$40 to \$50 for our school.

We also heard from many, many of you who said you would rather donate directly rather than sell items. We're giving it a try this year, we are very hopeful that it will go well.

- **Why is my contribution important?**

Every contribution, big or small, is important to this program. With your help, we will be able to continue our school programs and activities.

- **How much should I contribute?**

Contribute whatever you can afford. For a guideline, the PTO will need approximately \$50 per child to meet our general budget.

- **Is my contribution tax deductible?**

Yes. Columbian PTO is a 501(c) 3 organization. You will receive a confirmation of your donation for tax purposes.

- **Will my contribution be kept confidential?**

Absolutely! Our Columbian Direct Donation committee will keep all contributions very confidential.

- **Are there incentives in this program?**

No. All celebrations and activities will include all students regardless of contributions.

- **How can I contribute?**

You may stop by the school office or send a check (Payable to Columbian PTO) or cash to school with your child – in a well-labeled envelope (PTO Contribution). The envelopes can be given to teachers or the office. The envelopes will be opened by our donation committee.

- **When does the program end?**

There is truly no end to the program; we will accept contributions throughout the year. We would like initial contributions by October 9, 2009 to help us with our budget planning.

- **Why are we being asked for additional funds to support the playground renovation?**

This is a wonderful, one-time opportunity for us to receive matching funds for our donated dollars. The more we raise for our playground fund, the more we will be able to add to our playground.

Our playground renovation involves purchasing and installing new equipment. Both can be very costly but this is a project that we know our kids will love!

We would also like to talk with or submit requests to businesses/corporations for matching funds or grants. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please let us know.

- **Who should I call if I have more questions?**

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