

## What is the PTO?

The PTO is the Parent Teacher Organization. The PTO meets a **critical need** by funding programs, initiatives and supplies not covered in the Newton Public School's Budget. **Everyone is a member of the PTO!** You do not have to pay to join the organization.

## Why does the PTO fundraise?

In a typical year, the PTO's largest expense goes towards **Creative Arts and Science (CAS) programming**. However, CAS events are on hold at this time given concerns with visitors coming into the school and ensuring equitable experiences for hybrid and DLA students. Therefore, the PTO will focus on financially supporting **Community Building (CB) events** and **Teacher Mini-Grants** this year.

## What is the Annual Fund?

The Annual Fund is the PTO's biggest fundraiser and accounts for **over 60% of our annual budget**. It is voluntary, but the more money we raise, the less the PTO will need to ask families for donations to support events during the year. **No donation is too small**; please give what you are able to.

## Why give to the Annual Fund?

The Annual Fund is **critical** this year, as it will be the PTO's **largest fundraiser (and possibly the only one)**. Your generous contributions can help make up for more than \$11,000 lost due to COVID-related cancellations of our other annual fundraisers.

Show your Countryside pride!  
Please donate to the PTO Annual  
Fund by **November 25<sup>th</sup>!**

## How much should I give?

The PTO budget for this school year is the equivalent of **approximately \$140 per student**. This includes funding for both Equity and Non-Equity items, as well as funding for Technology.

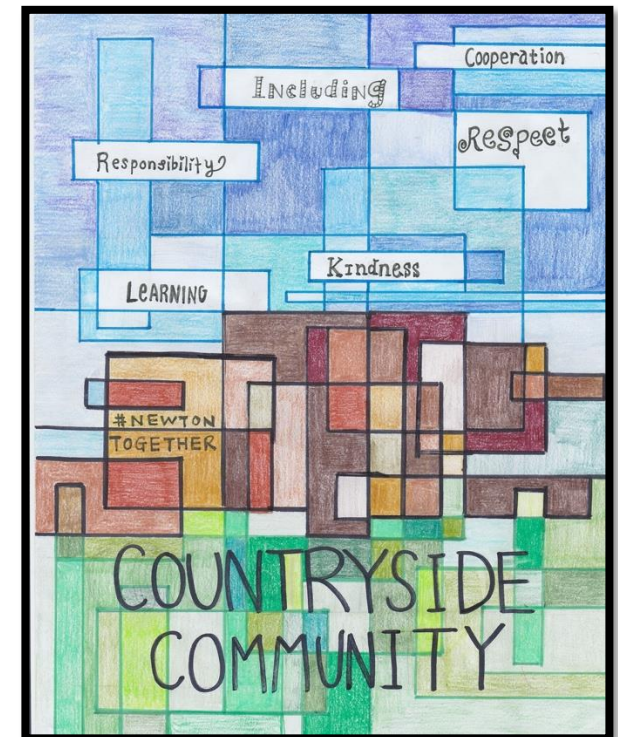
**\$140 supports one student for the year.** In typical years only 50% of families participate in the Annual Fund. If you are able to donate more than \$140 per student, the PTO & Countryside community would greatly appreciate it. However, no amount is too small or large! Please give what you can.

**ALL funds** raised through the Annual Fund will **benefit ALL Countryside students.**



**ANNUAL FUND**

**2020-2021**



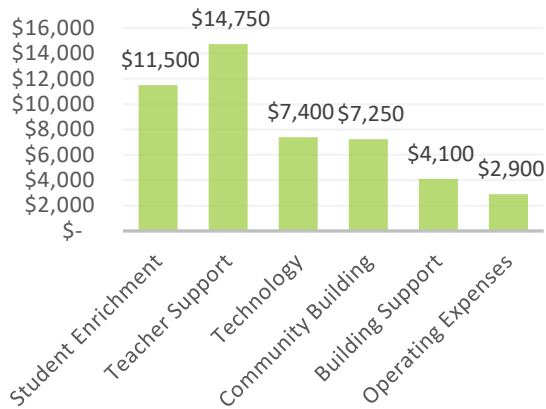
Artwork by Chloe Cheung, Runner-up  
5th Grade Art Contest (Fall 2020)

# What does the PTO Budget pay for?

## SHORT-TERM & LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE COMMUNITY

This year the PTO will focus on expanding Community Building activities within Health and Human Services guidelines, while maintaining investments in Teacher Support and tangible student enrichment activities. These investments are key to supporting Countryside's long-term goal of creating a resilient healthy community and learning environment for years to come.

2020 - 2021 Proposed PTO Budget \$47,900



### Teacher Support

The PTO offers teacher mini-grants to finance teacher-developed and teacher-led innovative curriculum-related projects. These projects support student enrichment, classroom capabilities, as well as teachers' professional competency. In past years, **Teacher Mini-Grants** have helped acquire social-emotional tools, cooperative games, equipment to teach caring for the common environment, active learning materials and alternative seating options.

### Community Building Activities

A main goal of the PTO this year is maintaining a strong community. We are **in the process of planning events** that allow all students, teachers, staff and their families to participate under our current conditions, **prioritizing safety during COVID-19**. These events are key for the short-term as well as the long-term health and prosperity of the broader Countryside community. Some ideas of potential events the PTO is working to organize include:

- ❖ Fall Pumpkin Decorating Contest
- ❖ Outdoor Dance Party (Field and DJ equipment fees)
- ❖ Spring Outdoor Community Painting & Mosaic (material)
- ❖ Movie Night (Field and projector fees, movie license)
- ❖ Multi-Cultural Festival (Field and materials)
- ❖ Pets of Countryside Parade
- ❖ Understanding Our Differences workshops (offered to grades 3-5)

### Other PTO funded items:

- ❖ New books for the Countryside library
- ❖ *Hard-copy directory for families who want one*
- ❖ Gym, Art, and Music supplies
- ❖ *Teacher appreciation lunches*
- ❖ Playground maintenance
- ❖ *PTO website and online directory*

**Invest in the health of the Countryside community and the future of your children! Please donate to the PTO Annual Fund by November 25<sup>th</sup>!**

Are you *contributing* to the Annual Fund? (YES) (NO)

If **YES**, please, indicate **method of payment** below and **return the completed form**.

Are you **paying by check?** (YES) (NO)

If **YES**, please, make check payable to Countryside Elementary PTO.

If **NO**, you can use Venmo OR PayPal through our website : [www.countrysidepto.org](http://www.countrysidepto.org).

If you are interested in **splitting your payments** up, you can do that! Make a payment now and again in January! (We will send you a reminder)

(Interested) OR (Not Interested)

Name:

Eldest student- s name, grade & teacher (ex: Mary Lee 3-H):

My Total Gift: \_\_\_\_\_ (Fall 2020 Payment: \_\_\_\_\_; January 2021 payment: \_\_\_\_\_)

Double or triple your gift at no additional cost to you with an **employer gift-matching program!** Contact your HR department to see if your employer offers such program.

**Thank you in advance!**

Remember no amount is too big or too small.