



Parents' Voice

Volume 1, Issue 1

December 2010– January 2011

Upcoming Events

- MSD Eagles Spirit Decal orders due - January 7, 2011
- MSDPO Meeting - January 22, 2011
- MSD Winter Homecoming Fundraiser - January 22, 2011

In this Issue

MSDPO Offering MSD Spirit Decals for Sale	1
Online Sales Store	2
MSDPO Fundraiser Night a Big Success	2
MSDPO to help sponsor 5K Walk / Run	2
Winter Homecoming	3
Officer Nominations	3
Six Months Later	3

From the President

Happy holidays. Can you believe that the school year is almost over? It seems that every year just goes by faster. It wasn't long ago that I can remember enrolling my son into MSD. Now he is a high school freshman.

When I agreed last April to take the job of Interim President of the Missouri School for the Deaf Parents' Organization, I set several goals for helping to make the organization vibrant again. Among the most important of those goals was to improve communication with the parents, alumni, administration, faculty, staff, and friends of MSD. The development of this bi-monthly newsletter is another step toward reaching that goal.

I also set other goals for the organization. Inside this newsletter, I provide an update on the progress we have made to meet them. While we have had great success during this first half of the school year, we still have a lot to accomplish. That is where you come in.

Throughout this newsletter, you will see articles talking about ways that you can get involved in furthering the mission of the MSDPO. These include assisting in fundraising events like the upcoming Winter Homecoming sales and the planned 5 K walk/run. It can be ordering Spirit Decals, buy items at Winter Homecoming, or purchasing items from the new online store. Finally, you can decide to run for an elected position in the organization. Remember, no matter what you choose, every little bit helps.

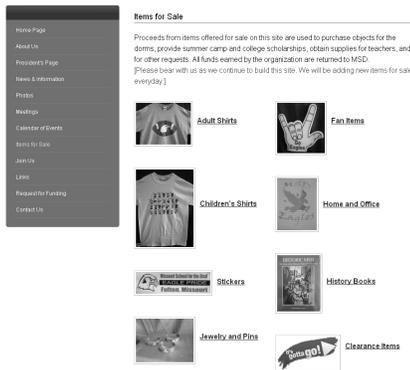
MSDPO Offering MSD Eagles Spirit Decals for Sale

You asked for it, and the MSDPO heard you. As you requested, the MSDPO is offering MSD Eagles Spirit Decals for sale. The decals are made of high quality vinyl and apply directly to your car window. The cost of each decal is only \$10.00

We are offering these decals in a choice of two designs, and with two different lettering colors. For no additional cost, you can add your name, the name of your child, "Alumni", or "Staff".

All orders are due by January 7, 2011. To find out more, visit www.msdp.org.

MSDPO Web Site Now Features Online Store



Want to purchase MSD-themed items, but don't want to wait until the next homecoming sale? Well, you don't have to. The MSDPO web site now features an online store.

Through the online store, the MSDPO can offer you all the same items that we sell during the football and winter homecomings. It also allows us to offer new items year-round.

The new store contains a variety of payment options through PayPal. Purchasers can either use their credit and debit cards or existing PayPal accounts.

Among the new items available are the polo shirts and hats that were offered during our recently completed advanced order campaign. The site also has a clearance section that contains items that are being discontinued from the MSDPO inventory. These items can be purchased at significantly discounted price.

To access the new store visit the MSDPO web site at www.msdp.org and then select the "Items for Sale" link on the left menu.



MSDPO Fundraiser Night at Fulton Pizza Hut a Success

The Fundraiser Night held on November 29 at the Fulton Pizza Hut was a huge success. Thanks to everyone who participated during the two hour event, a total of \$650.00 was spent. The MSDPO's share is \$130.00. According to the Pizza Hut manager, the MSDPO had "a very good night".

The MSDPO would like to thank everyone who participated in the event. Your continued support of the organization and its efforts to help the students of MSD is greatly appreciated.

MSDPO Agrees to Sponsor 5K Walk/Run

In our continued efforts to improve the health and educational opportunities for MSD students, the MSDPO has agreed to sponsor a 5K Walk/Run at MSD. The event is tentatively planned for April 30, 2011. Megan Key, a teacher at Stark Elementary, is overseeing the planning and organizing for the event.

Similar events have been held at the Tennessee and Kansas Schools for the Deaf. The MSDPO will provide additional information on the event as it becomes available. We will be looking for assistance from MSDPO members and friends to help make this event a success.

MSD Winter Homecoming

This year's MSD Winter Homecoming is scheduled for January 22, 2011. Once again, the MSDPO will be selling fundraising items. If you are interested in helping at the sales tables, please contact MSDPO Secretary Marcia Patridge at msdparentorg@gmail.com

MSDPO Officer Nominations

While election of new officers won't happen until April 2011, its time to begin considering if you would like to be an MSDPO officer. Positions up for election are President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. All elected officers will serve a two-year term.

With the move towards a more virtual organization, you do not need to live in the Fulton area to serve as a officer. The only exception being the treasurer's position.

If you are interested in being nominated for an officer or would like to find out more about the duties of a specific position, please contact us at msdparentorg@gmail.com.

The final day for nominations will be February 28, 2011.

Six Months Later

In an article published in the [Missouri Record](#) (Winter/Spring 2010), the MSDPO laid out a series of goals to adapt the organization to the changing world. These goals were very ambitious, but the officers believed they were necessary to revitalize the organization. Six months later, its time to see how well the MSDPO has done in meeting those goals.

The goals laid out were as follows:

- Full slate of officers by 2011
- Growth of members to 25 by 2011, 50 by 2012, 100 by 2014.
- Increase visibility at MSD
- Help with the development of a coordination effort between all support organizations for MSD.
- Continue to grow fundraising so that MSDPO can sponsor more projects and efforts.

The first goal was to have in place a full slate of officers by 2011. Currently, we have three of the four officer positions filled. However, we are still looking to fill the vice president's position.

The next goal entailed growing the members of the organization to 25 by 2011, 50 by 2012, 100 by 2014. As the article discussed, the concept of member has changed with the coming of social media sites like Facebook and MySpace. While the total number of actual members is currently less than 25,

Six Months Later (continued)

the number of members that have joined our virtual communities on Facebook and Twitter total over 200.

The third goal was to increase the visibility of the organization at MSD. The number one strategy to meet this goal involves improving communication between the MSDPO, parents, alumni, students, faculty, staff, and administration. Over the past six months, several steps have been taken to improve communication. These include the starting of this newsletter; the development of online meetings through tinychat.com; the creation of Facebook and Twitter pages; the revamping of the MSDPO web site to include copies of all meeting notes, news updates, a calendar of events, and a President's blog; and the development of a funding request form.

Goal number four involved improving coordination between the MSDPO and other MSD support organizations (Alumni Association, Booster Club, etc.). While attendance by a representative to the MSD Board of Advisors meeting is a good first step, more still needs to be done to coordinate fundraising efforts, and make the best use of the limited resources of these organizations.

The final goal entailed growing fundraising efforts to allow the MSDPO to sponsor more projects and efforts. After six months, MSDPO fundraising has proven successful. Sales at the Kansas and Iowa football games were strong, thanks to the offering of new shirts and products. These efforts were followed up by an equally successful advanced sales campaign for polo shirts and hats. The fundraiser night at Pizza Hut earned \$130.00 for the organization in two hours. Currently, the MSDPO is in a campaign to sell MSD Eagles Spirit Decals.

Another effort that so far has not paid off like the organization hoped is the development of an online store. Through the store individuals can purchase MSD-themed items. Payment can be made by credit or debit card, and PayPal account.

While these six months have been extremely productive for the MSDPO, there is still a lot of work to do. Efforts need to be made to have a full slate of officers, and to continue growing our membership. New products must be developed and offered to increase the use of the online store. Steps need to be taken to continue improving the coordination between the MSDPO, support organizations, MSD faculty and staff, and students. All ambitious goals indeed, but goals that are achievable with your help.

Important Contact Information for the MSDPO

Want to join the MSDPO, volunteer to help at an event, or keep up with the activities of the organization? The follow links will allow you to do just that.

Email: msdparentorg@gmail.com

Web: www.msdpo.org

FaceBook: search for "Missouri School for the Deaf Parents' Organization"

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/MSDPO>

Tinychat (for online meetings): <http://tinychat.com/msdparentsorg>