



September 2024

Dear Baker Families,

We hope your summer was well enjoyed. We hope the slower and sunnier days spent doing things we love with families and friends has brought us each back to school with great expectations of the year ahead and a strong will to continue to build community. As new members of the PTO, Tracy Zhang and I are excited to be co-chairing the Annual Fund this year for our school. In learning about efforts from past members, it is clear to us that our collective effort as parents is indispensable to strengthen our sense of belonging as Baker families and usher in greater opportunities for our community. So, let us be bold and say that this letter is to share information and request your donation to the **Baker School PTO Annual Fund**.

What is the Baker School PTO Annual Fund and what is its impact?

In 2009, the PTO moved from collecting membership dues to initiating an annual fund to collect the bulk of its operating expenses. In other words, the Baker School PTO Annual Fund is how the PTO is primarily funded.

This is a fund that we gather to support the academic and social development of our school community which in turn supports **more than 650 children**. This resource covers expenses that **enhance the experience that the school has to offer to each one of our children (and teenagers!)**. It includes funding for Grade level and Specialty teacher led initiatives that encourage creativity and tend to the students' interest in specific ways, be it by covering school buses for field trips, buying new music equipment, new library books and/or supplies. Funding from our community also helps generate excitement and happy expectations when the school year starts by offering our teachers the funds to prepare their classrooms for the first week of class. (I am sure your kids already came back telling you how great that went!) Our collective effort as donors have also offered teachers and students access to new learning tools such as BrainPop and RazzKids, which enriches the school's pedagogical approach and makes it a lot more fun for kids to learn. Resources gathered also fund scholarships and events that bring us together such as Culture Fest, Teacher's Appreciation luncheon, performances, amongst others.

We celebrate our PTO members from last year for ushering resources to purchase 100 headphones for classrooms, outdoor picnic tables, benches, supplies for our outdoor garden, invite authors to meet the community, and organize fun events like the end of year ice cream/popsicle parties.

What are this year's challenges and opportunities?

In addition to the activities mentioned before, we would like to take advantage of more STEAM initiatives within the community, at the same time as strengthen our student's social emotional development. We are also very intentional in our continued support of school field trips which have become increasingly more expensive and have unfortunately been cut down in other schools. Finally, we aim to continue growing as a fund. We are not back yet to the numbers we had as a school before the pandemic. The bigger our collaborative efforts are, the better the school experience will be for our families. Hence, every bit of our efforts matter!

What is our Baker School PTO Annual Fund goal?

Our goal is to raise \$40,000 with 100% family participation. No gift is too small or too large. Your donation to the Annual Fund is tax deductible and you will be sent a receipt via email.

How can you support the Baker School PTO Annual Fund?

As the PTO provides funding to every grade and every classroom at Baker, we ask that you consider donating \$100-150 per Baker child in your household to the **Baker School PTO Annual Fund** if you are able. No donation is too small and each one adds to bring joyful experiences that our kids and teachers have in mind into action.

How can you donate?

1. Via PayPal by scanning the QR code below or visiting <https://tinyurl.com/bakerpto>.



2. Via Venmo: @BakerSchoolPTO



3. Via Zelle: alessandrarph@gmail.com
4. Mail a check! Please write it to Baker School (205 Beverly Rd, Brookline, MA 02467) or drop off a check made out to Baker School PTO to the PTO mailbox in the main office. If you would like a check picked up from your home, please email bakerpto@gmail.com and a member of the PTO will pick it up.

Please do not hesitate to write to share questions regarding our fund and its goals. We look forward to this year and hope to get to meet more of you as our activities unfold.

With appreciation,
Monica Risi, Tracy Zhang and The Baker School PTO