

# The Derry Preschool 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Silent Auction & Dinner



*“Off to the Races!”*



## **Why does Derry Preschool have a Silent Auction and fundraising in general? Isn't my tuition enough?**

Fundraising is a part of life in any private school setting, even a non-profit school. We are not subsidized by any other group. We do not receive funding from any religious groups, government, or associations. We pay our own rent, insurance, maintenance, supplies, etc. And we are fortunate to have degreed, state certified teachers, most of whom could teach in the public school setting, yet they choose to stay with us for years. That level of dedication and skill requires and deserves a fair wage. Without fundraising, the cost of tuition would make it impossible for many families to attend Derry Preschool. We want to enable as many children as possible to get the best preschool education possible, and your generosity and the generosity of local businesses, families and alumni make that happen.

## **When is the silent auction?**

This year's auction will be held on Friday, March 1 at 6:00 pm at the Hershey Country Club.

## **Is there a cost for this event?**

Yes. The cost is \$40 per person. Invitations and response cards are sent home in your child's backpack in mid January.

## **How much does the school expect to earn from the silent auction?**

Each year, the Derry Preschool Board hopes to raise approximately \$25,000 from the auction and class baskets. This is our main fundraiser and we put a lot of time, effort and passion into making this night a fun and successful event.

## **What kinds of donated items will be at the auction?**

Our Silent Auction committee, made up of Derry Preschool parents, contacts businesses in our community and asks if they are willing to donate gift certificates, services, items they sell or simply become a sponsor of our event. Our gift cards come from restaurants, hair salons, athletic facilities, shopping centers, home decorators, fitness instructors, sporting events and venues, and family fun centers. Our donated items include clothing, purses, beauty supplies, food, office supplies, home décor, sports memorabilia and jewelry. Then we have our treasured class projects and vacation packages that are live auctioned that night. And we are blessed to have our teacher experiences: lunches with your child's favorite teacher, field trips, art classes, Zumba and much much more.

## **What are the class baskets that everyone is talking about?**

Each class at the preschool collects items to be put together to create a themed basket. The class room parents choose the theme and work with the classroom parents to collect the needed supplies. The baskets are then displayed in the hallway during the last week of February, "Silent Auction week", for parents, grandparents and kids to look at and purchase raffle tickets to try and win the basket. Raffle tickets will be sold for \$1/each or 6 for \$5.

## **Why is there a Live Auction?**

We found that doing an actual Live Auction makes the evening even more exciting and entertaining. Specific desirable items will be live auctioned at a set time during the evening. These include the very famous class projects, weekend getaways, unique birthday party venues and even tickets to Disney World!

### **What if I can't go but want to bid on my child's class project?**

Proxy bidding is available on Live Auction items only (including class projects). You decide the maximum bid for the item of your choice and your bid will be kept confidential. Proxy bidding forms will be coming home soon and can be returned to the box in Parents' Place.

### **What if I can't go but want to support the event?**

If you are not able to join us for this fun evening, you can still support the school in various ways. Everyone will have the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for the class baskets. Tickets can be purchased before or after school during the week of February 25<sup>th</sup>, "Silent Auction week". Other ways you can help include purchasing a photo centerpiece, donating an item or basket to be auctioned that evening, or completing a proxy bidding sheet for our live auction items. And you are always welcome to make a tax-deductible donation to the event or school at any time!

### **What do I wear?**

This year's theme is "*Off to the Races!*" but the dress for the evening is still "Dressy Casual" (no jeans). Be comfortable and prepared to have a great time!

### **Is there alcohol?**

Well, yes. There is a cash bar available.

### **What if I don't have anyone to go with? Can I bring someone who is not a preschool family?**

The Silent Auction is a fun night for everyone. Feel free to ask a friend or a group of friends to join you. All adults are welcome and encouraged to join us for a fun evening supporting the preschool. Simply include them on your RSVP. Last minute additions? Email Lindsay Papachristou at [lithomas42@gmail.com](mailto:lithomas42@gmail.com) to register.

### **Will I be able to reserve a table for my guest and friends?**

We have "reserved" cards that you can fill out when you register on the night of the Silent Auction. Simply write the name of each guest on a card and then you may enter the dining room and find a table with open seats. This is fun to do with old friends or new friends you have made this year.

### **Do I need to bring anything?**

Just yourself, your copy of the Silent Auction Program Booklet (you will receive this the week before the auction) and your wallet. A tip from the pros...if you would like to experience a speedy checkout, please bring cash or your checkbook. We happily accept credit cards, as well!

### **Does the Silent Auction sound like something you would like to help with? Do you know of someone who might be willing to donate an item or make a donation to our school?**

We are always looking for more volunteers to help make this night a success. We have jobs that need to be done before, the day and night of the auction and after the auction. Our auction committee is made up of ALL volunteer parents and we'd love to have more help if you have any time you are willing to offer. Please talk with Kristen Arndt ([krs10ms@yahoo.com](mailto:krs10ms@yahoo.com)) or M.E. Steelman ([meregan21@yahoo.com](mailto:meregan21@yahoo.com)) and we'll make sure you learn the ins and outs of this amazing evening.

### **Do you have more questions?**

Please don't hesitate to talk with M.E. Steelman (717-679-1697), Kristen Arndt (717-350-1616) or email the Derry Preschool Board at [dpFUNraising@gmail.com](mailto:dpFUNraising@gmail.com).

**We look forward to seeing you at the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Derry Preschool Silent Auction!**