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**Parents' Association**  
**Shannon Park, President**

## Parent Association Committees

The Muscota PA welcomes and needs parent support in all aspects of its operations ranging from volunteering in the classroom to fund raising activities. The more you volunteer, the more connected you become with other parents, the more you understand the school and the people who form it, and the more you appreciate what your child experiences on a daily basis. Quite simply, parent volunteers make Muscota a great place.

We understand that not every parent can be in the school on a daily basis but many of our events and committee work can happen from your own home or office. Please read through the committee descriptions to see which committee best suits your skills and interests. You can sign up for a committee by contacting the committee chair directly or by filling out the Parent Questionnaire.

- **Health & Safety**

*Committee Chair: Marcela Xavier e-mail: [bodhiananda@mac.com](mailto:bodhiananda@mac.com)*

Our main areas of concern are healthy food, proper exercise and hygiene, the elimination of toxic chemicals in our cleaning supplies, and safe air and water quality in our building. We have worked closely with Wellness in the Schools (WITS), a non profit organization to introduce Lunch Break Sports and Wellness Cafe to Muscota. Volunteers in this committee might offer time working lunch/recess, coming to our monthly Partnership meetings with School Food, creating wellness newsletters, and working together with parents, teachers and students on common wellness and safety issues that affect our school community. Parents with an interest in nutrition, exercise, and environmental health would be a great addition to this committee.

- **Fund Raising**

*Committee Chair: Wilma Leon e-mail: [wleon644@hotmail.com](mailto:wleon644@hotmail.com)*

Help raise funds for Muscota to help pay for special programs, teacher's needs and activities not included in the school budget. This committee focuses on creating and organizing fund raisers as well as reaching out to our community for donations. We are also responsible for annual school events such as Innisbrook and Mad Hatter's Ball and generating ideas for new events.

- **Grant Writing**

*Committee Chair: Eliza Miller e-mail: [ecm2137@columbia.edu](mailto:ecm2137@columbia.edu)*

Research public and private grant opportunities. Work with Principal, teachers, and staff to write and submit appropriate grant requests. This committee is most appropriate for parent volunteers with grant writing experience.

- **Public Relations Committee**

*Committee Chair: needed*

Promote Muscota events and success stories by preparing and distributing press releases to the local media outlets. Write copy for the PA newsletter. Work closely with the [www.muscota.org](http://www.muscota.org) Webmaster and designer Kari Steeves.

- **Political Action**

*Committee Chairs:*

*Guita Ranjbaran e-mail: [granjbaran@aol.com](mailto:granjbaran@aol.com)*

*Margaret Peeler e-mail: [margaretpeeler@att.net](mailto:margaretpeeler@att.net)*

Advocate for the interests of Muscota and its students by forming and maintaining relationships with local elected officials and state representatives. Engage in letter writing campaigns to local elected officials to advocate for resources and funding for our school and district.