Greetings!

The PTA warmly welcomes you to the Hamagrael family. We are incredibly lucky to have such committed staff and teachers, and the PTA strives to support them and their programs as much as possible.

The Hamagrael PTA keeps the community connected by hosting many fun events throughout the school year, fundraises to provide services above and beyond the school budget, and helps families build strong relationships.

All of this is possible only through the work of parent volunteers. We all have different skills, talents, and resources that the PTA always needs to continue making Hamagrael such a unique, tight-knit community. Some of our families have even made volunteering a tradition in their homes, but even small contributions of your time make a big difference - it literally “takes a village” as they say!

We hope to see you at the first PTA meeting on September 20, and look forward to meeting you.

The Hamagrael PTA Board 2018-19

● Bill Ketzer ● Helmut Philipp ● Colleen Driggs
● Erik Smith ● Janice Wetherbee ● Lori Bosworth
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WHAT IS THE HAMAGRAEL PTA?

The Hamagrael PTA (Parent-Teacher Association) is a not-for-profit volunteer organization, which serves to support the students, teachers and staff at Hamagrael Elementary School.

What does the Hamagrael PTA do? Here is just a sampling of events and fundraising that the PTA organizes and contributes to our school:

- Field trips
- Teacher Appreciation Week
- Financial support for music instruments/program
- Stipend for school gardens
- Scholastic Book Fair
- CAPER
- Halloween Party & Haunted House
- Field Day
- Fall Picnic
- Community service projects

- Adopt-a-Snowflake & food banks
- Afterschool Enrichment Program
- Yearbook
- Room parent coordination
- Math & Science Nights
- Healthy Kids Week
- Interactive Theater
- Traveling Museum
- Visiting Author Program

PTA meetings typically run about an hour and are held monthly in the Hamagrael library during the school year except in December, February and June. They are a great way to meet other parents, learn about upcoming events, and receive updates from the principal, teachers, and occasionally guest speakers. Meetings start at 7 PM and free babysitting is provided.
STUDENT/PARENT DIRECTORY

Setting up a play date? Birthday party? Carpool? Join the PTA and get access to the Hamagrael Student Directory! This valuable resource will be online starting in 2018-2019 and as with the former paper version only PTA members will have access to the directory. This is your sole source for class lists, room parent contacts and addresses, phone numbers, and e-mails for all Hamagrael families who wish to be included. Once again: the Student Directory is the ONLY source for this information – teachers and staff cannot provide it. Sign-up forms go home with students during the first few days of school in September.

HAMAGRAEL PTA OFFICERS

2018-2019

Bill Ketzer – Co-President
Helmut Phillip- Co-President
Colleen Driggs- Co-Treasurer
Erik Smith- Co-Treasurer
Janice Wetherbee- Co-Secretary
Lori Bosworth- Co-Secretary
WEBPAGE & FACEBOOK LINKS

Please bookmark the Hamagrael PTA webpage. You can find this handbook and other important forms and documents on our website.

www.bethlehemschools.org/hamagrael/pta/

The Hamagrael PTA Facebook page is a great resource for weekly reminders and general school-related discussion.

www.facebook.com/groups/hamagraelpta

VOLUNTEERING 101: THE BASICS

Can you spare a little time this year?
Throughout the year there are opportunities of all shapes and sizes to support the Hamagrael PTA by volunteering. Our PTA events are diverse enough to offer even the busiest working parent a chance to contribute. Some parents sign up for multiple events, some choose one event that occurs a few times over the school year, and others select one specific thing they can do. You can find a committee that involves the right amount of volunteering for you, either during school or after school hours.

How do I volunteer?
You will receive a form in both September and January asking for your help and to consider volunteering for that semester. Either use the link included on the form to sign up online or send in a completed paper form to the front office. As the event draws closer, the committee chair for that event will contact you with more information. Please also feel free to reach out to chairs proactively. If you have questions, it is likely others do as well.

How do I contact my committee chairs?
This packet contains a list of committee chairs, and that’s the best place to start. In the unlikely event you cannot reach your chair, please feel free to contact one of the PTA officers listed on page 4 and we will put you in touch with the proper party.
FAQs and HELPFUL TIPS

Should I still join the PTA if I can’t volunteer?
Yes! Joining the PTA does not obligate you to volunteer or attend monthly meetings and events. It does, however, make sure that you receive regular, timely and sometimes important PTA communications via email. **You will not receive PTA emails if you do not join the PTA, and you also will not have access to the 2018-2019 PTA Student/Parent Directory**, which for most parents is an extremely valuable resource for play dates, class parties, carpooling, etc. Most of all, joining is simply a fantastic opportunity to support your young learner’s experience at Hamagrael.

How do I become a classroom parent?
Room parents act as liaisons between the teacher and the parents to coordinate parties and meet other classroom needs in coordination with the teacher. Typically two volunteers are chosen per classroom to share this important role. At the beginning of the school year, a room parent form is sent home – if interested in being a room parent for your student’s class, simply fill it out and send it back. Depending on the interest level, names may be chosen lottery-style for some classes.

Classroom parties
Teachers determine if they would like parties in their classroom. Please always check with your teacher if you would like to send in a treat on your child’s birthday as different teachers have different rules for celebrations. Also, please always pay close attention to allergies in your child’s classroom. Any food brought into a class with allergies must be approved by the school nurse.

Field Trips
Field trips are funded by the district budget and may be supplemented by the PTA. In conjunction with the principal, teachers make field trip decisions and in the past have included fun, engaging experiences ranging anywhere from planetariums to farmer’s museums.

Halloween
Please note that children are NOT allowed to wear costumes to school on Halloween. At the teacher’s discretion, however, there may be a Halloween party in your child’s classroom with snacks, games and the like – but costumes are prohibited. Your child CAN however show off their costume at the PTA-sponsored evening Halloween party! There is a DJ, pizza and treats, art & crafts,
and story time in the library hosted by teacher readers. There is also an extremely popular haunted house, where an entire wing of the school is converted into a themed house of horrors! Lights stay on for the first 20 minutes for younger students and those who don’t want too big of a scare. For safety reasons, parents must also refrain from wearing masks to these events.

School Supply Kits
School supply kits are ordered in the fall, prior to the coming school year and are a great option for those who don’t relish the idea of spending an entire afternoon at Staples. Order forms are sent out at the end of the school year (kindergarten families should receive the form in their welcome packet). The kits arrive in time for the three visitation days scheduled prior to the first day of school. The boxes are lined up on the auditorium stage by class year. The boxes can be left on your student’s desk or unpacked in their cubbies if the desks are not assigned.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Chairperson</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afterschool Enrichment</td>
<td>Christy Doyle</td>
<td>518-605-5365</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cdoyle@albany.edu">cdoyle@albany.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art Show/Ice Cream Social</td>
<td>Janice Wetherbee</td>
<td>518-577-6545</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jwetherbee@gmail.com">jwetherbee@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Molly Phillip</td>
<td>518-894-1910</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mollyslingerland@hotmail.com">mollyslingerland@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Fair</td>
<td>Gianna Aiezza</td>
<td>518-339-1973</td>
<td><a href="mailto:giannaaie3@gmail.com">giannaaie3@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Heather Cohen</td>
<td>518-461-6192</td>
<td><a href="mailto:heatherc744@gmail.com">heatherc744@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bill Ketzer</td>
<td>646-315-1416</td>
<td><a href="mailto:labratsrock@gmail.com">labratsrock@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bus Driver Breakfast</td>
<td>Lori Bosworth</td>
<td>518-817-2115</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Lori.Bosworth@gmail.com">Lori.Bosworth@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Emily Field</td>
<td>518-461-1402</td>
<td><a href="mailto:emrfield@gmail.com">emrfield@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>CAPER</td>
<td>Marcene Lee</td>
<td>518-915-6072</td>
<td><a href="mailto:marcenelee@gmail.com">marcenelee@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jennie Mahony</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:jmahony23@gmail.com">jmahony23@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Katie Suhr</td>
<td>518-588-6633</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kmoshiersuhr@gmail.com">kmoshiersuhr@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Craft Fair</td>
<td>Marcene Lee</td>
<td>518-915-6072</td>
<td><a href="mailto:marcenelee@gmail.com">marcenelee@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kori Jones</td>
<td>518-396-6130</td>
<td><a href="mailto:koricvjones@gmail.com">koricvjones@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall Family Picnic</td>
<td>Erin Svare</td>
<td>518-491-6027</td>
<td><a href="mailto:esvare@gmail.com">esvare@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Molly Phillip</td>
<td>518-894-1910</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mollyslingerland@hotmail.com">mollyslingerland@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Math &amp; Science Nights</td>
<td>Sarah Genovese</td>
<td>518-478-0227</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sarah.genovese@gmail.com">sarah.genovese@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dan Lewis</td>
<td>518-321-4799</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lucentdan@gmail.com">lucentdan@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Skate Night</td>
<td>Robin Dailey</td>
<td>518-439-3949</td>
<td><a href="mailto:snyderdailey@gmail.com">snyderdailey@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jodie Orzechowski</td>
<td>518-248-9877</td>
<td><a href="mailto:brettandjodie@gmail.com">brettandjodie@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Day</td>
<td>Kathy O’Meara</td>
<td>518-489-1473</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kearnan.kathleen@gmail.com">kearnan.kathleen@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tanya Rhodes</td>
<td>518-222-7384</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tanyastim@gmail.com">tanyastim@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kori Jones</td>
<td>518-396-6130</td>
<td><a href="mailto:koricvjones@gmail.com">koricvjones@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Goods</td>
<td>Erin Svare</td>
<td>518-491-6027</td>
<td><a href="mailto:esvare@gmail.com">esvare@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifth Grade Pit Party &amp; Graduation</td>
<td>Erin LaDue</td>
<td>202-297-1868</td>
<td><a href="mailto:erinmacarthur@hotmail.com">erinmacarthur@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kelly Lehmann</td>
<td>315-264-6398</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kellylehmann8@gmail.com">kellylehmann8@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Contact Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraiser - Hannaford Box Tops</td>
<td>Julie Levin</td>
<td>518-944-9738</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mail.julielevin@gmail.com">mail.julielevin@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>for Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraiser - Silver Graphics</td>
<td>Melissa Leach</td>
<td>518-258-4501</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mleach@bcsd.neric.org">mleach@bcsd.neric.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraiser - Thanksgiving Pie Sale</td>
<td>Kate Gaffney</td>
<td>518-427-8170</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kategaffney@verizon.net">kategaffney@verizon.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gardening</td>
<td>Elaine Bell</td>
<td>518-859-3874</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bell.e.ms@gmail.com">bell.e.ms@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alicia Rothenberg</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:aro33112@gmail.com">aro33112@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Green Committee</td>
<td>Maureen Cunningham</td>
<td>518-469-4748</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mocunningham@yahoo.com">mocunningham@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Krista Applebee</td>
<td>518-439-8139</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kapplebee7@verizon.net">kapplebee7@verizon.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halloween Party - Haunted House</td>
<td>Gianna Aiezza</td>
<td>518-339-1973</td>
<td><a href="mailto:giannaai3@gmail.com">giannaai3@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Heather Cohen</td>
<td>518-461-6192</td>
<td><a href="mailto:heatherc744@gmail.com">heatherc744@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bill Ketzer</td>
<td>646-315-1416</td>
<td><a href="mailto:labratsrock@gmail.com">labratsrock@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Halloween Party - Party</td>
<td>Patricia Minns</td>
<td>518-424-2684</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Tricia.Meade@gmail.com">Tricia.Meade@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jess Lafata</td>
<td>518-669-4854</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jibautyinc@gmail.com">jibautyinc@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Julie Gilboy</td>
<td>607-215-5753</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gilly1972@aol.com">gilly1972@aol.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Halloween Party - Arts &amp; Crafts</td>
<td>Kim Kauffman</td>
<td>518-439-3309</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Kim.kauffman@gmail.com">Kim.kauffman@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maisie Weissman</td>
<td>518-439-1946</td>
<td><a href="mailto:maisieweissman@gmail.com">maisieweissman@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Healthy Kids</td>
<td>Jess Lafata</td>
<td>518-669-4854</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jibautyinc@gmail.com">jibautyinc@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kids Helping Kids</td>
<td>Erin Svare</td>
<td>518-491-6027</td>
<td><a href="mailto:esvare@gmail.com">esvare@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Krista Applebee</td>
<td>518-439-8139</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Amy Joyce</td>
<td>518-475-0568</td>
<td><a href="mailto:aejholbrook@yahoo.com">aejholbrook@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lip Sync</td>
<td>Holly Dellenbaugh</td>
<td>518-542-9026</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hdellenbaugh@gmail.com">hdellenbaugh@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jill Kobayashi</td>
<td>425-298-5455</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jfkobayashi@gmail.com">jfkobayashi@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Movie Night</td>
<td>Jaime Cornell</td>
<td>518-542-2015</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jcornell13@msn.com">jcornell13@msn.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>PTA Special Events</td>
<td>Bill Ketzer</td>
<td>646-315-1416</td>
<td><a href="mailto:labratsrock@gmail.com">labratsrock@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Helmut Philipp</td>
<td>518-858-3949</td>
<td><a href="mailto:helmut.philipp@gmail.com">helmut.philipp@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Room Parents</td>
<td>Gianna Aiezza</td>
<td>518-339-1973</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Giannaai3@gmail.com">Giannaai3@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>School Banking</td>
<td>Robin Dailey</td>
<td>518-439-3949</td>
<td><a href="mailto:snyderdailey@gmail.com">snyderdailey@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>School Pictures</td>
<td>Yayoi Miyajima</td>
<td>718-208-8486</td>
<td><a href="mailto:miyajima.yayoi@gmail.com">miyajima.yayoi@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jacky Jacob</td>
<td>845-893-9374</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jackcy@gmail.com">jackcy@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Haley Schager</td>
<td>518-380-0699</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hrm0501@yahoo.com">hrm0501@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>School Supply Kits</td>
<td>Nancy Ruth</td>
<td>518-858-1095</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Nancy.Capomaccio@Pepsico.com">Nancy.Capomaccio@Pepsico.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Science Fair</td>
<td>Sarah Genovese</td>
<td>518-478-0227</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sarah.genovese@gmail.com">sarah.genovese@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jaimy George</td>
<td>617-637-8832</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jaimybird@yahoo.com">jaimybird@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Spiritwear</td>
<td>Cara Bashant</td>
<td>518-439-6729</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ccarakh@aol.com">ccarakh@aol.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff Appreciation Brunch</td>
<td>Cara Bashant</td>
<td>518-439-6729</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ccarakh@aol.com">ccarakh@aol.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nancy Ruth</td>
<td>518-858-1095</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Nancy.Capomaccio@Pepsico.com">Nancy.Capomaccio@Pepsico.com</a></td>
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<td>Summer Camp Fair</td>
<td>Sabrina Wilmot</td>
<td>518-892-9455</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sabrina.wilmot@icloud.com">sabrina.wilmot@icloud.com</a></td>
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<td>Teacher Appreciation</td>
<td>Lori Bosworth</td>
<td>518-817-2115</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Lori.Bosworth@gmail.com">Lori.Bosworth@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Heather Cohen</td>
<td>518-461-6192</td>
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<td>518-439-4905</td>
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<td>Allison Reichman</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Maisie Weissman</td>
<td>518-439-1946</td>
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<td>Yearbook</td>
<td>Julie Levin</td>
<td>518-944-9738</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:gilly1972@aol.com">gilly1972@aol.com</a></td>
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# EVENTS/FUNDRAISERS BY DATE

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<td></td>
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<td>TBD Spiritwear</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Walk to School Day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15-17</td>
<td>Nature’s Classroom (5th Grade only)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>PTA Meeting</td>
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<td></td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Halloween Party/Haunted House</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
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<td>TBD Afterschool Enrichment</td>
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<td>TBD Reading for Ronald McDonald House</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>CAPER</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13-15</td>
<td>Fall Book Fair</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Movie Night (during Book Fair)</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>PTA Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Turkey Trot/5th Grade Thanksgiving Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Craft Fair</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>CAPER</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Staff Appreciation Luncheon</td>
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<td>TBD Adopt a Snowflake (Kids Helping Kids)</td>
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<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>CAPER</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8-10</td>
<td>Math &amp; Science Nights</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>PTA Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TBD Community Service Afternoon (Kids Helping Kids)</td>
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</table>
February  | TBD  | Skate Night  
|---------|-----|-------------  
    | 7   | CAPER       
| 14     | Lip Sync  
March    | 7    | CAPER       
| 5-7    | Spring Book Fair  
| 14     | PTA Meeting  
| 19     | Science Fair  
| 19     | Summer Camp Fair (during Science Fair)  
| 20     | School Pictures (Spring)  
| TBD    | Afterschool Enrichment  
April    | 4    | CAPER       
| 11     | PTA Meeting  
| TBD    | Silvergraphics Art Fundraiser  
May      | 7-11 | Teacher Appreciation Week  
| 7-11   | Healthy Kids Week  
| 8      | Bike to School Day (during Healthy Kids Week)  
| 16     | PTA Meeting  
| TBD    | Food Pantry (Kids Helping Kids)  
| 29     | Art Show  
June     | TBD  | Bus Driver Breakfast  
| 7      | Pit Party (5th Grade only)  
| 14     | Field Day  
| 24     | Moving Up Day (5th Grade only)  
| 25     | Last Day of School  

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EVENT/FUNDRAISER DESCRIPTIONS
(Listed in alphabetical order by event name)

ADOPT A SNOWFLAKE (KIDS HELPING KIDS COMMITTEE)

Student and volunteer attendance

What: A charity event to provide holiday gifts to families in need. The donations are given to families through Unity House in Troy. Students and volunteers assemble snowflakes with a description of a toy that will be donated to a child in need for the holidays. The snowflakes are hung in the main lobby of the school for any student to sign out with a permission slip. The students/families purchase the gift written on the snowflake and drop it at school to be donated to Unity House. Participation is voluntary. Volunteers are needed for snowflake assembly and sign out.

When: Pick up a snowflake late November/early December in the morning prior to school

Where: Lobby

AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT

Student and volunteer attendance only

What: The Enrichment Program runs each fall and spring for 5-6 weeks and is a series of programs that go beyond the required curriculum allowing students to explore new activities or interests. Areas of interest include science, art, theater, exercise, and more. Classes, which are held on weekdays after school at Hamagrael, each have an enrollment fee which pays for the instructors and administrative fees. Parent volunteers are needed to assist the instructors with attendance, class projects and more. Classes are often limited in size and fill up fast, so be on the lookout when the online signup goes live!

When: Fall and Spring

3:25-4:25pm

Where: Hamagrael classrooms

ART SHOW & ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Open to everyone

What: At the end of the school year, Ms. Fortin (art) and the PTA coordinate an art show. Each and every student picks a piece of artwork they created during the school year and the artwork is hung on the hallway walls. Families come to see the artwork during the art show. During the art show there is also free ice cream and toppings served by the teachers! Ms. Fortin also arranges a scavenger hunt for children to complete if they so choose. Volunteers are needed for hanging art work and picking up supplies for the ice cream sundaes.

When: June
5 PM – 7 PM

Where: Ice Cream in Lobby, Art Show in hallways

**BOOK FAIR**

Open to everyone

**What:** This PTA Fundraiser partners with Scholastic Books and is one of Hamagrael’s biggest fundraisers. The book fair is a day and evening event held over three days in both fall and spring. Children visit the book sale during the day with their class and can also come down during the school day to make purchases. The book fair is also open in the evenings for families to shop. Volunteers are needed for set up, working shifts throughout the fair and for clean up.

**When:** Early November and Early March

**Where:** Lobby

**BUS DRIVER BREAKFAST**

Volunteer attendance only

**What:** This is an end of the year breakfast to thank all the bus drivers for their service and dedication throughout the year. Volunteers are needed for picking up breakfast, during the event and clean up.

**When:** June

**Where:** Cafeteria

**C.A.P.E.R**

Open to all families

**What:** C.A.P.E.R. Stands for Children and Parents Enjoy Reading. The program is coordinated by Mrs. Held, the librarian. The goal is to foster reading and support their public speaking skills. A couch is brought into the auditorium and students read a story out loud. They are allowed to choose friends to hold the microphone for them and two student announcers welcome each student. Many students bring blankets to sit on and wear pajamas. Refreshments are served at intermission, there is a bring a book, get a book table and a book raffle. Students must sign up with Mrs. Held. Forms are available in the library and on the PTA website. Volunteers are needed for help during the monthly events.

**When:** Once a month November through April

6:30 PM – 8 PM

**Where:** Auditorium
COMMUNITY SERVICE AFTERNOON (KIDS HELPING KIDS COMMITTEE)

Students and Parents

What: This is a half hour event after school where students participate in various community service activities. Parents are welcome to attend. Students participate in the following activities:

- Decorating appreciation cards/Valentine’s Day cards for Soldiers/Veterans
- Assembling craft kits for children at Albany Medical Center
- Making snowflakes for the adopt-a-snowflake program
- Assembling lunches for the Homeless Action Van in Albany

Volunteers shop prior to the event, set up, help during the event, and clean up.

When: January

3:30 PM – 4 PM

Where: Cafeteria/Auditorium

CRAFT FAIR

Open to all families and the public

What: This is the PTA’s largest fundraiser. It is held on the first Saturday of December and is open to the community. The halls are lined with vendors selling a variety of crafts, jewelry, art, and handcrafted gifts. A large bucket raffle is also held. Volunteers are needed to help with various parts of the event including set up, help at the raffle, runners for the vendors and clean up.

When: First Saturday in December

10 AM – 4 PM

Where: Hamagrael, school-wide

FALL FAMILY PICNIC

Open to all families

What: Our “welcome back” celebration for Hamagrael families! This event is sponsored by the PTA and offers dinner and desserts, time to play with friends, a hula-hoop contest, a DJ and a raffle! What’s not to love? Families are asked to bring a side dish or a dessert to share – also consider bringing lawn chairs, blankets and cash for the raffle.

When: Fall (2nd or 3rd Sunday after school starts in September)

Where: Playground
FAMILY MATH AND SCIENCE NIGHTS
Open to all families

What: Math and science night is organized by grade level and is an opportunity for students and their parents to come in the evening to enjoy various science and math puzzles and activities. Volunteers are needed to help set up and during the event.

When: January
6:30 PM – 8 PM

Where: Cafeteria/Auditorium

FIELD DAY
Student and volunteer attendance only

What: The end of the year brings one of the PTA’s biggest volunteer events. Field Day is a day for the kids to celebrate with their classmates and teachers. The kids do not attend regular class that day. The morning starts out with an assembly by a performer. Then at 11am the kids head off for half hour rotations at different stations. They get to play games with Mr. B, enjoy a bounce house, get their faces painted, visit a popcorn station and a sno-cone station, and all students are provided with lunch (hot dogs!). Finally, the day is capped off with a dance party before parent pick up. Many volunteers are needed for this event and opportunities include class chaperone, runners, and volunteering at any one of the various stations.

When: Last Friday before school ends in June (full day, and half day shifts available)

Where: Outside weather permitting, inside in the event of rain

FIELD GOODS
Open to all families

What: Provides families the opportunity to pick up farm-fresh produce and additional goods at school on a weekly basis (Wednesdays). You can sign up for a Field Goods subscription or create your own bag each week depending on availability. Helpful when farmer’s markets are not in season and supports local farms. The PTA earns a small donation for each bag of food that is dropped off by Field Goods every week.

When: All Year

Where: Vestibule
FOOD PANTRY (KIDS HELPING KIDS COMMITTEE)

Open to all families

What: Help the Bethlehem Town Hall Food Pantry sort donations made via the US Postal Service Food Drive. The kids sort the donated canned goods and food items into bins. Snacks are provided. Volunteers are needed to help the kids sort the food.

When: May
   3:30 PM

Where: Bethlehem Town Hall

GARDENING

Open to all families

What: Assist with shrub and plant cleanup on school grounds, as well as mulching in the spring.

When: Approximately two days a year (1 fall: 1 spring event)

Where: Hamagrael gardens

WALK TO SCHOOL DAY AND BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY (GREEN COMMITTEE)

Open to all families

What: Students either walk or bike to school to encourage a healthy lifestyle. Meet up locations along Winne and Roweland are set up if you would like to join other families along the way. Make your way to school and visit the welcome table with fresh fruit and goodies to celebrate! We are the Albany County bike-to-school champions three years running and want to keep the wheel trophy at Hamagrael! Volunteers are needed to help at the school to hand out snacks and small prizes.

When: Walk to School Day in October / Bike to School Day in May

Where: Hamagrael entrance

HALLOWEEN Party and Arts & Crafts

Open to all families

What: Halloween is one of the largest events of the year. There are several opportunities to volunteer for the Party - set up, bake sale, baking for the bake sale, and arts & crafts in the gym. During the general party there is a DJ in the auditorium, arts & crafts in the gym, teachers reading spooky stories in the library. In addition, the 5th graders host a haunted house, which is coordinated by a separate committee. Students can come in costume, but for safety reasons we ask the parents do NOT come in costume.

When: Friday before Halloween in October
HALLOWEEN Haunted House

Open to all families

What: The Haunted House is an elaborate and very popular event hosted by the 5th graders, some of whom work in the haunted house in shifts. Volunteers are needed to help create the Haunted House in the months leading up to the event. Fifth grade parents create the Haunted House, but volunteers at all grade level are needed due to the size of the event. Volunteers are also needed for set up and clean up. Fifth grade parents chaperone in the Haunted House the night of the event.

When: Friday before Halloween in October

Where: Cafeteria/Auditorium

LIBRARY ASSISTANT

Volunteer attendance only

What: You can request to help Ms. Held, the librarian, during your student’s library class. Multiple volunteers can coordinate so you may help in the library every week, every other week, etc, whichever fits your schedule.

When: Throughout the school year

Where: Hamagrael Library

LIP SYNC

Sign up open to all families – performance at middle school is limited to participants and families

What: Student groups perform lip sync/dance routines for friends and family. All children are welcome! Groups organize in January and usually rehearse for few weeks before the event. Lots of volunteering opportunities here, including hosting a group, assisting with a group or helping out on the night of the event.

When: February

Where: Dress rehearsal – Hamagrael Cafeteria/Auditorium

Live event – Bethlehem Central Middle School Auditorium
MOVIE NIGHT

Open to all families

What: A movie is shown the second night of the Fall Book Fair. Popcorn is available for purchase. Bring a blanket to sit on, pajamas optional. Come see a popular movie and shop at the book fair!

When: Early November (second night of Fall Book Fair)

Where: Cafeteria/Auditorium

POWER PURCHASE PROGRAMS

Open to all families

What: Power Purchase Programs offer quick and easy ways to support your PTA, while you shop! Hamagrael currently participates in Box Tops for Education, Amazon Smile, Target Red Card, Price Chopper Tools for Schools and Hannaford Helps Schools Dollars. An informational flyer will be sent home with students in September.

When: Anytime

Hannaford only runs it’s fundraiser September - December

Box Top submission deadlines are 11/1/18 and 3/1/19

Where: Participating stores/products

READING FOR RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

Open to all families

What: Community Fundraiser. For one month, children track their reading minutes on the provided calendar and ask family and friends to sponsor them. At the end of the month, donations are gathered and returned to the Ronald McDonald House.

When: October

Where: At home

SCHOOL BANKING

Student and volunteer attendance only

What: Parents can set up student bank accounts through CAPCOM. Students with accounts can make deposits into their accounts each Thursday morning at the start of school. Volunteers are needed to make the student deposits on Thursday mornings. It is a one-hour commitment for volunteers as often as fits your schedule.

When: Oct – June
8:45 AM – 9:45 AM (shifts are 1 hour)

**Where:** Hamagrael Lobby

**SCHOOL PICTURES**

*Student and volunteer attendance only*

**What:** Assist with school picture day in the Fall and Spring. Handing out combs, helping students line up on the risers, etc.

**When:** September & March

**Where:** Cafeteria/Auditorium

**SCIENCE FAIR**

*Open to all families*

**What:** Students display science projects and present their projects to parent judges. Volunteers are needed the night of the event to help set up and clean up and to judge the projects.

**When:** March

6:30 PM

**Where:** Cafeteria/Auditorium

**SILVERGRAPHICS**

*Open to all families*

**What:** Fundraiser for the PTA. Children pick one of their pieces of artwork with Ms. Fortin and families/friends can order the artwork printed on merchandise by Silvergraphics.

**When:** April/May (items are delivered in time for Mother’s Day)

**Where:** Order forms are sent home showing student’s artwork and order forms can be returned to school or filled out online

**FAMILY SKATE NIGHT**

*Open to all families*

**What:** Held at the Bethlehem YMCA, the ice rink belongs to Hamagrael skaters for the night! There is a bake sale, pizza and skating! Come watch Mr. Ksanznak cut it up on the ice! Helmets are recommended for younger and learning skaters. Volunteers are needed to hand out pizza and bake sale items.

**When:** February
Where: Bethlehem YMCA

SPIRIT WEAR
Open to all families
What: Parents can order Hamagrael and BC Eagle (mascot) school spirit wear such as sweatshirts, t-shirts, etc.
When: September
Where: Order forms are sent home

STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCHEON
Volunteer attendance only
What: A luncheon is held to thank the staff/teachers for all their hard work. Volunteers can help by either gathering gift cards for the staff raffle and/or set up and clean up during the day.
When: Either December or January during Parent/Teacher Conferences.
Where: Cafeteria/Auditorium

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK
Student and volunteer attendance only
What: A week when students show their appreciation for teachers. Each day an optional gift is presented by students to their teachers. Such as stickers, thank you notes, flowers, etc. Volunteers are needed on flower sale day to sell flowers to the students in the Lobby.
When: May
Where: Lobby (flower sale)

THANKSGIVING PIE SALE
Open to all families
What: PTA fundraiser that sells Perfect Blend pies prior to Thanksgiving.
When: November (Tuesday before Thanksgiving)
            3:30 PM – 6 PM
Where: Hamagrael Lobby
TURKEY TROT

Open to all families

What: After school, prior to Thanksgiving, is the annual Turkey Trot. It is one of the best-attended parent events of the school year. Students run a course on the field (1/4 mile for the younger kids. Each grade runs further than the next. The 5th graders run a mile). Come out and see Principal K. in an eagle costume! Instead of an entry fee, please donate a canned good.

Where: Hamagrael Field

When: November

3:35 PM

YEARBOOK

Student and volunteer attendance only

What: Parents help create the Yearbook. Volunteering opportunities include taking photos for your child’s class, and the layout of class pages. Yearbook order forms are sent home in your child’s folder and can be ordered by paper form or online.

When: Year-long (at your leisure and at school events)

Where: In classrooms and at Hamagrael events