

Join us July 21 for our Mid-Summer Webinar; Get Your Organization Ready for Fall;
New Updates on P4SS Website



"Education is learning what you didn't even know you didn't know."
Daniel J. Boorstin

Save The Date

Pay4SchoolStuff.com Webinar

Tuesday, July 21 at 1pm ET



Everybody's Doing It. **Is Your School or Parent Group?**

- *PC. Laptop, Smartphone. On your TV.*
- *At home. At work. At School*
- *Amazon. Google. EBay. Pinterest. Twitter. Facebook. Instagram.*
- *Bills. Tweets. Texts. E-mails*

All of us carry out a good portion of our daily lives through the internet. At work, at home and for our kids at school, much of what we do every day is done electronically. Shouldn't your school or parent organization be online also? If you aren't managing your forms, payments, data, permissions, communications and information on one web-based platform, you are probably wasting too much of your group's leadership and your community parents' time.

Let Pay4SchoolStuff.com help you get your affairs in order and help everybody work faster, smarter, and easier... online. Signing up can be done in 10 minutes and you can be online and ready to go within 24 hours.

Call ([877-397-2937](tel:877-397-2937)), e-mail (info@pay4schoolstuff.com) or visit us online (<http://www.Pay4SchoolStuff.com>) **today**, and help everyone get wired into your organization in time for the new school year.



Wait... There's More

We're constantly hearing from users—new and old—about features they would love to see added to the website to make the platform even better. And we listen! And while we obviously cannot add every single suggestion, we do sit down and discuss each possible enhancement to see if the cost, time and addition makes the best sense.

As a result of spring discussions, we're in the process of having two major features ready for August use. Both of them are going to allow Account Administrators the ability to offer a whole new range of services for their parent communities.

Recurring Billing:

The Recurring Billing feature will give Account Administrators the option of offering recurring billing for different frequencies of payments for any individual item. As a result, parents could now be allowed to pay for classes, donations, or annual fund drives on an interval or recurring basis. And schools and districts will now have the ability to offer LUNCH PAYMENTS, since parents can now opt to have their credit cards billed monthly (or for other frequencies to regularly pay for lunches or a la carte items).

Mass Data Account Upload:

The Mass Data Account Upload option will allow Account Administrators to upload an Excel file of all parents in their school community in order to automatically set up parent accounts for each parent. Basic parent account data will be needed for this upload file and temporary passwords will be sent to all parents to allow them to quickly login to Pay4SchoolStuff WITHOUT HAVING TO MANUALLY SET UP AN ACCOUNT. They will have the option of changing their password from the temporary password they are provided. Parents with existing accounts will not be given new accounts under this process.

American Express Payment Option:

Pay4SchoolStuff.com now accepts American Express credit cards as an additional option, effective immediately.

And don't forget to check out all of the other great enhancements that were just added this past spring!



Check Out Our Recent Blog Posts

Jump Start Your 2015-2016 Board!

May 11, 2015

The nominations have been made, the ballots have been cast, and it's now time to get your 2015-2016 PTO and PTA board into shape!

While your board probably has a few returning members, especially those who were elected or appointed to officer positions, there's probably a few newcomers as well, and it's important that everyone is on the same page in order to get the school year kicked off to a great start.

Start By Reviewing The Past Year.

The only way to ensure success is to know what has – and hasn't – worked in the past, and go from there. If there were some great events or initiatives that worked previously, you'll probably want to stick with those and make minor adjustments as needed; after all, there's no need to go reinventing the wheel! Conversely, if there were some events that were duds, you'll probably want to nix them from the calendar and test out another event that might better suit your audience.

Take Comments/Questions/Concerns on Last Year's Initiatives.

Even if you were involved last year, you may not know exactly what the rest of the members – new or existing – thought of how things went. Be open and honest with your new board, and consider each point. There may be an event that worked incredibly well last year, but perhaps last year's treasurer knows that it was incredibly expensive to pull off, or maybe the planning chair knows that it was a logistical nightmare.

Don't discount anything that anyone has to say – a parent who is new, perhaps their child is in kindergarten and they've never had any involvement before, is coming in with a fresh set of eyes and no expectations or pre-conceived notions. That may be where some of your board's best ideas come from!

Ask For Volunteers.

Once you've got the board together, you'll need to begin the process of getting to work. Although members on the board may already hold positions (President, Treasurer, etc.), you should also ask them to head up sub-committees, or for each person to recruit at least one new member to the organization. One of the best ways to motivate your board is to jump right in and have everyone feel like they're an active, integral part right out of the gate.

You can use Pay4SchoolStuff.com to make this a cinch! From using it to manage the sign-ups from board members to accepting dues payments from the new recruits we make it incredibly easy to manage your entire organization all in one place. And you can also provide separate logins and reporting access to various committee chairs for different activities your PTA/PTO coordinates!

Start A Newsletter.

It may seem like a silly thing to do right now, before summer vacation has even started, nevermind before the kids are back to school, but starting a newsletter is a great way to keep your board informed of developments over the summer, and keep the rest of the members and the parents of the entire student body informed as to what they can expect in the next school year. You'll probably find that parents will be more willing to participate in events when expectations are clearly set forth and they've got plenty of advance notice, and this is a great way to accomplish that.

Summer Safety

June 29, 2015

School is *officially* over for the year with just about every school district wrapping up last week, which means it's on to SUMMER! There are tons of great things about summer – sunshine, warm temperatures, swimming in the ocean, frolicking through meadows, camp fires, catching fireflies – the light goes on and on. But with all of these fun activities and free time come some things which need to be undertaken with a bit of extra caution.



Sun Safety

Let's get back to basics, shall we? You probably know to pop on some sunblock before you head outdoors – 30 minutes prior to heading outside, to be exact – but do you know how often you should reapply?

First thing's first – don't try to get by the the sunblock you picked up at the beginning of last summer. Sunblock has an expiration date, and it's super important you abide by it – otherwise all you're doing is putting on some moisturizer. Do yourself and your family a favor and pick up some new sunblock to kick-off the season the right way.

Now, how often should you be reapplying?

At *minimum*, plan to reapply your sunblock every two hours. But ...

If you – or your little one – are running around and breaking a sweat – or even if you're just sitting around breaking a sweat (it's not the heat, it's the humidity – we know), your sunblock is basically just dripping off of you. Reapply every 45 minutes to an hour. And if you're in and out of the water, be sure you re-apply as soon as you get out – even if you're wearing “waterproof” sunblock. As it turns out, waterproof sunblock isn't actually waterproof. It can outlast regular sunblock just a smidge longer in the water, but it isn't impervious to splashes.

Water Safety

There's nothing better than jumping into the pool or splashing into the ocean on a super hot day and feeling instant relief from the heat. But the water – even the shallow end of a pool – can be incredibly dangerous. Here are some things to keep an eye on when you're having some aquatic fun.

Drowning

Drowning doesn't look like drowning. In movies and on TV they often depict someone who is drowning as flailing around, coughing, and screaming. Yes, that person is in distress and should absolutely be helped – but that isn't what drowning looks like. In fact, when someone's drowning it might *not* be obvious. People who have taken water into their lungs can't breathe – which means they can't yell and they can't move around very much... so they might look pretty calm, except for a scared expression on their face. And they could slip under the water without anyone noticing – so always, *always* keep an eye on the kids in the pool! Even the adults, for that matter.

One trick that lifeguards use is to constantly count the occupants of the pool – if there are six people in the pool and suddenly there's only 5, and you didn't see that 6th person get out – clear the pool and get ready to possibly jump into action.

Rip Currents/Rip Tides

If you're water fun is taking place at the beach, rather than a pool, be on the lookout for rip currents. A rip current – sometimes called a rip tide – occurs when there's a sandbar near the shore, which can be obscured by water. As the waves roll in along the beach, the current takes on a different pattern between the sandbars, pulling water out swiftly in an effort to recede,

and not entirely coming back to shore. Rip currents are *incredibly* strong, and even excellent swimmers can get caught up in them.

First – be on the lookout for a rip current. If you’re paying attention, you can actually see them. When the waves are behaving normally, they flow on to the beach in long lines – but when there’s a rip current there may be a break in the waves where the water looks almost as if it’s standing still. This is because the water is rushing out beneath the surface of the water, rather than rushing in. So if you see water that looks a bit suspicious – stay clear!

If you find that you’ve gotten yourself caught in a rip current you *must* do these two things:

1. REMAIN CALM! Rip currents are *strong* and fast (at their fastest, they move 8 feet per second, faster than any person could possibly swim), and fighting them will tire you out quickly. While the rip will pull you out and away from shore, they don’t pull people under water – so let it take you. It may take you 100 yards out from shore, but they have a definitive end and it isn’t very far off shore. So, remain calm and tread water or float on your back until you feel the current release you – then...
2. Swim parallel to the shore – do *not* swim back the way you came. If you need to get out of a rip current and you’re a strong swimmer, you don’t need to wait for the current to let you go. You can simply swim *across* it (that is, out of it either to the left or the right) – do not try to swim straight back toward shore. Rip currents are often pretty narrow – since they form in between sand bars – and as a result if you can get to the edge, you can get out of them. The key is to resist the urge to swim directly back to shore. Swim off to the sides, and once you’re out, swim diagonally back to shore – don’t try to swim parallel to where you just were, because the current may be wider at certain points and you could get pulled right back in.

We here at Pay4SchoolStuff.com hope that you all have a healthy, safe, and fun summer! We’ve got a lot more in store for you in the next few weeks to make sure 2015-2016 kicks off with a bang, so keep checking back!

Pay4SchoolStuff.com – Summer Camp Edition!

June 12, 2015 by [admin](#) [Leave a Comment](#)

Whether you’re running a day camp or sleep-away camp, or some combination of both, summer camps have a distinctly unique challenge in that most of what they do is outside and there isn’t much time for staff to run to the bank during business hours. This can make collecting forms and money from parents difficult. Not only is there going to be one or two (or twenty, depending on the structure of your camp!) people responsible for collecting and holding the forms/money, but they’re going to be doing so without any ability to get that money somewhere safe for a while. After all, they’re outside breathing in all that fresh air while trying to make sure that no one gets an eye poked out during archery lessons or eats paint during arts and crafts.

For sleep-away camps, the challenge is even greater. In an ideal world, parents have signed all of the necessary forms and paid all of the necessary funds prior to sending little Timmy off to camp, but if they missed a form or check, or if something comes up and a new form needs to be signed, the camp counselor can’t just put it in Timmy’s backpack and send it home with him at the end of the day – he isn’t going home!

One of the *greatest* (if we do say so ourselves) things about Pay4SchoolStuff.com is that it isn't *just* for school stuff! It's an incredibly diverse and useful tool that can be used by just about any organization that has to collect money and plan events or activities.



While it may be a bit late to use Pay4SchoolStuff.com for Session 1 camp registrations, it's never too late to get to take a look and see how we can assist you with Session 2 registrations, or even for use throughout the first weeks of camp.

If your group regularly plans field trips or activities that require campers (... and their parents) to pay additional money, or requires permissions slips and volunteers, Pay4SchoolStuff.com is your one-stop shop! You can use our platform to easily create groups for the campers (the same way teachers and PTOs use it to create classrooms) and use it to remind parents about the upcoming trip to the water park, or that their Session 2 fees are coming due. You can also have parents quickly and easily submit registration forms and permission slips, or even have them put in their volunteer forms to chaperone that sure-to-be-awesome trip to the water park.

For more information on how Pay4SchoolStuff.com can make a difference in running your Summer Camp operations, feel free to email us at info@Pay4SchoolStuff.com or visit us online to [request a demo!](#)



We're Hiring!

Join the Pay4SchoolStuff.com team.

Account Rep. Positions Available | July 2015 P4SS.com Newsletter

If you live in California, Oregon, Illinois, Texas, Virginia, Maryland, Massachusetts, Florida, or Delaware, and want to consider offering **Pay4SchoolStuff.com** to other public school and parent groups (and recreation clubs and scout packs!) give us a call at (877) 397-2937, ext. 101, to discuss how you might spread the word and also make money doing so.

P4SS.com Account Representatives receive materials, training, and a percentage of account revenues for every school and group that signs on. Local demo breakfasts and remote webinars can be planned to introduce you as the account rep. and the system to interested board and staff members.

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