



George Peabody Elementary School Community Auction

How to Help

The silent auction team has set an aggressive goal to raise \$15,000! **The great news is that a generous donor has offered to match the funds raised at the silent auction, up to \$10,000! We need your help to reach \$10,000 so that we can optimize this fantastic opportunity.** This represents a potential to raise **\$25,000!** We will need every family's support to reach this aggressive goal.

In this economic environment, we realize it's tough to raise money as many of the companies that donated in the past have gone out of business, and many of the donation amounts are less than they have been in the past. But, with some creativity, we can do it!

There are many ways you can support this effort and help us reach our goal:

1. **Attend our event! Saturday, March 13 6-10pm** in Heritage Hall at St. Mark's Lutheran Church (1111 O'Farrell Street at Gough). Invitations will be coming in February and RSVPs are due by Saturday, February 27.
2. **Invite your family and friends.** We welcome our broader school community so if there are family and friends you think might like to attend, please tell them to save the date.
3. **Solicit donations.** We have already distributed the donation request forms in the Wednesday envelope (available in English and Mandarin) but there are more in the office if you need them. Any donated item (big or small) is appreciated. Be creative about obtaining items to be auctioned. We can group smaller items together to make a nice gift basket or package deal. The more items we get donated, the better our chances of raising more money for Peabody. The next time you eat at or order from your favorite restaurant, ask for a gift certificate donation or food we can serve the night of the event. When you visit your hair salon, ask if they can donate a hair treatment or hair care products. Maybe you or someone you know works for a retailer, hotel or restaurant? Do you have airline miles that you'd be willing to donate? Or maybe you have a hidden talent like knitting, creating jewelry, carpentry, cooking/baking, or painting, just to name a few. Handmade items are unique and tend to raise a lot of money! Just think, if every family brought in one donation, we would have almost 200 items!
4. Here are a few notes to make it easier for you to get donations:
 - All donations are tax-deductible because the PTA is a 501 c(3) non-profit organization. We can also accept cash donations and sponsorship from foundations and corporations
 - Most businesses have some sort of "giving budget" set aside for these types of things
 - Most businesses need a few weeks lead time, so it's important to ask NOW!
 - Think of your favorite restaurant, activity, wine, vacation house or place to go, and ask the owner or manager for a donation. Also talk to your friends, family, and neighbors as well -

many of us know people that own companies, belong to clubs, or provide services that would be more than happy to donate an item - it's a great way to market or advertise!

Try to submit all donated items by Friday, February 12. Bring donated items to the office with the donation request form filled out. This will help us keep track of all items, acknowledge them in our program, newsletter, and web site, and write thank you letters to everyone who donated.

5. **Food donations the night of the event.** This evening will be filled with food and beverages, and we are asking if anyone has a connection to a restaurant or food store that is willing to donate to this event. Food donations are also tax deductible and it's a great way to promote a business. Please contact Veronica Holman at vledesma@yahoo.com for more information.
6. **Volunteering.** Are you interested in participating the night of the event? Please join us in making this a memorable and successful event!

Here are some highlights of items we've already secured for the auction:

- Dinner at Principal Vroegh's home
- Wine & Cheese tasting for 10 people at AG Ferrari
- Dinner for two at the St. Francis Hotel restaurant
- Classroom art projects are underway so these priceless works of art will be included

There is more that we've received, and we're also working on a few big donations. Stay tuned for more details in the next newsletter.

Thank you in advance for your help and support!

The Silent Auction Team