

PTA Newsletter

October 2009

A Note From the President

Whew! It's back-to-school and everyone's lives are back in the groove. I hope you had a fabulous summer! We are excited about this new school year. We are especially excited about all the fun PTA-sponsored events coming down the pike! But first...I want to thank ALL the amazing volunteers we are so fortunate to have here with PES PTA. Without you, what would we do?

Okay, "Why are PES PTA volunteers so amazing?" you ask. Well, in case you haven't heard, Poolesville Elementary School PTA had the honor of receiving "Outstanding Volunteer Appreciation" award. This award was for its dedication and outstanding volunteer contributions for 2008-2009. The total number of volunteer hours for PES PTA was 7,168. (Not a typo.) This award is truly an honor and a testament to the dedication of PES PTA volunteers. A special thanks goes to Lori Kocur, Volunteer Coordinator, for managing the volunteer program and ensuring that there is volunteer coverage when – and where – it is needed.

Speaking of special thanks, I'd like to personally thank Lisa Dominici for her tremendous help with my transition to President of the PTA this year! Lisa also tackled a brand new fundraising idea, selling fall mums, which garnered over \$1,100 for PES PTA. That is wonderful! Lisa is also investigating the procurement of new playground equipment for PES, which is a labor-intensive process as far as picking the site and finding the right set for the school's needs and the PTA's budget. As if she's not busy enough already, Lisa is gearing up with Leni Barry to host another fun-filled Fall Festival event which I know everyone is looking forward to!

I truly appreciate the PES PTA Executive Board's efforts, including Vice Presidents Lynda D'Amelio and Ranae Morningstar, Secretary Karen Mullikin, and Treasurer Kari Marshall.

I'd also like to thank Mary Green for managing the detail-oriented job of booking rooms and space for PTA events. Mary is always there to help. Much appreciated!

The PES PTA also helped with the flu clinic at PES in September. The staff was very appreciative of everyone's help on the team, including Eric Huber, Karen Kavanagh, Brian Kemp, Robbin Kemp, Leni Barry, Pat Clark, Rebecca Fisher and myself.

Thank you to Laura Garner for her wonderful efforts in coordinating meals for the staff for PES Open House AND Back-to-School night. Laura added some vegetarian fare to the menu to accommodate a staff request. I know the staff truly appreciates your efforts!

And enormous thanks to Eric Huber, who – day in and day out – rain, hail, sleet, or shine – meets and greets students every morning at the kiss 'n ride spot at school. Not only does he meet and greet, his main goal is to ensure that our students are safely going to-and-from where they need to be.

Hmmm, I wonder how many volunteer hours Eric Huber clocks-in over one school year. Care to guess?

Thank you to Susan Corfman for organizing a cultural arts performance in early October for Hispanic Heritage month. The performance was a Latin American music group.

Thanks go to Lori Kocur and Jennifer Kasten for coordinating and managing the volunteer training program. Much appreciated!

And where would we be without Annemarie Sartschev and her unfailing dedication to the gift wrap fundraiser AND book fair? Thank you, Thank you! We appreciate Carolyn Ringling's efforts in coordinating the Ice Cream Social that everyone enjoys during the book fair.

Thank you to Patti Geehreg for getting the kindergartners set up with the Read To Me/

Talk To Me program. This is a great way to get students reading and developing a sense of responsibility.

Thank you also to Rebecca Fisher for teaching the Hands on Science program. There is a lot of great stuff to learn and the kids really enjoy the program. Rebecca Fisher is also organizing the Friend Finder Student Directory, which is most helpful.

Thank you goes to Sarah Defnet for stepping up to the plate as Cluster Coordinator.

And where would we be without the newsletter? A recent poll has found that people are reading and tuning into what's going on with the PES PTA newsletter. Special thanks go out to Nancy Krueger for organizing the newsletter, getting it typeset, and off to the printer.

Tiger Reader is in full swing now, and we have Lynda D'Amelio to thank! Your help is truly appreciated. Tiger Tales newspaper is gearing up, thanks to Kathy Jankowski and Sharon Black.

Thanks to Karen Hepburn for recruiting PTA members and keeping that organized.

As you can see, we have a lot of exciting things in the works – the Fall Book Fair, Fall Festival, new playground equipment, Hands on Science, Gift Wrap fundraiser, Read To Me/Talk To Me, Tiger Reader, "Going Green" with the PTA newsletter, Halloween parade and class parties, Halloween Cake Raffle – and so much more! Details can be found in this newsletter but don't forget to check the PES web site for up-to-the-minute stuff.

Come talk about what's on your mind at the next PES PTA meeting at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, November 3 in the media room. In the meantime, if you have any comments or concerns, please feel free to drop me an email at lynnrolls@aol.com.

See you at PES!
Lynne Rolls

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Creative Kids Drama at PES!

The PES PTA has a fun new idea for an after-school offering. It's called Creative Kids Drama, and we're looking to offer

interactive classes for PES students. Creative Kids classes are...

- part of InterAct Story Theatre (DC-area organization for 30 years);
- literature-based drama classes (multicultural stories);
- appropriate for children kindergarten through 5th grade;
- small (10-15 children);
- sessions run 6 weeks ;
- taught by well-trained, professional actors;
- based on specific curriculum developed by their director, Lenore Kelner, a leading consultant and author on arts education.

PES PTA is hoping to host two classes, back-to back. The first class will be for kindergarten, first, and second graders. The second class will be for third, fourth and fifth graders. Class duration will be for one hour; session will be for six consecutive Tuesdays, starting January 19 and running through February 23. Tuition would be \$96.00 for the six weeks. Please email Lynne Rolls at lynerolls@aol.com if this is of interest, as we need at least eight students per class to ensure the session is booked.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Oct 16** NO SCHOOL
- Oct 19-23** Scholastic Book Fair
- Oct 23** Family Fall Festival
- Oct 26 –30** Red Ribbon Week
- Oct 30** Halloween
Parades & parties start at 2:00
- Nov 2** NO SCHOOL
- Nov 11* & 12** EARLY DISMISSAL
Parent/Teacher conferences
*Nov 11 Report card distribution
- Nov 25** EARLY DISMISSAL
- Nov 26 & 27** NO SCHOOL (Thanksgiving)

PTA meetings will be held
7–8:00 pm on the following Tuesdays:
Nov 3, Jan 5, Mar 2, May 4

The health room is in (desperate) need of new or gently used:

- Girls underwear, sizes 4, 6, 8, 10
- Boys underwear, sizes 4, 6, 8, 10
- Boys shorts, sizes 4, 6, 8, 10
- Boys pants, sizes 4, 6, 8, 10

If you have any items you'd like to donate, please drop them off with Mrs. Read in the health room.

Thank you!

If you do not currently receive e-mails about volunteer opportunities, please send an e-mail to Jennifer Kasten at murphykasten@hotmail.com so she can add your e-mail address to the PES volunteer e-mail address book.

Thanks from the Volunteer Coordinators,
Jennifer Kasten and
Lori Kocur

A message from Mr. Harris...

PES' General Music Teacher Mr. Bill Harris is planning for a PARENT MUSIC Curriculum Night session. These early evening presentations will be for you to come and experience a sequence of Music Room activities as experienced by and with your children to understand the Music curriculum of MCPS. Three sessions for K-1st grade, 2nd-3rd grade and 4th-5th grade parents are planned. This will allow you to use classroom percussion instruments, do basic movement activities, experience focused listening lessons and use a wider musical vocabulary for and with your child. Your children will be invited to attend with you but you as parents will be experiencing the learning activities through participation. You do not need to be a singer, have played any instrument or read music notation. The activities you'll do will help you to enhance and reinforce and hopefully enjoy your understanding of your child's Music Room experiences. Specific information will be coming later and are tentatively being planned for late February-early March dates.

Mr. Harris is looking forward to organizing and sharing a Parent Music session with you!

Mum Fundraiser Update

by Lisa Dominici

Thank you to all of the students and parents who participated in the Fall Mums Fundraiser. We sold around 400 mums and made a little over \$1100 for the PTA.

I'd like to thank Mrs. Jessica Bodmer, Mrs. Carol Eppard, and Mrs. Helen Trainor for all of their assistance on the day parents picked up their orders. It was great to have their help to make things run smoothly. Thank you, also, to fifth graders Luke Hanscom, Tucker Ross, Alexander Teets, and Dylan Frenlich for helping carry the mums in to the gym from the Behnkes truck. A special thank you to sixth grader, Andrew Kocur, who assisted many parents in taking their plants out to their cars and who also helped sweep the gym floor clean for Mr. Baughman.

There is one person who deserves the most gratitude for making this fundraiser a success. Mrs. Mary Kovacs spent close to two hours helping unload all 400+ mums from the Behnkes Nursery truck and carting them into the gym, and she managed to have a smile on her face the entire time. Thanks, Mary, for sticking with me, even when you didn't realize what you were getting yourself into.

A final thank you goes to Mrs. Chrissie Harney for getting our late orders picked up at Behnkes and delivering them back to the school.

I hope everyone is enjoying their mums!

Attendance Program

Starting on **Monday, October 5th** we began our perfect attendance program. Data will be collected and displayed on the bulletin board in the first grade hallway by the main office. Perfect attendance will be determined by the number of excused absences and/or tardies. If a student is sick, parents must call the school to report the absence and then they will be marked excused. If a student is tardy, parents must sign them in in the office and write down the reason for being late. A tardy will be excused if the student needed to go to a medical appointment. The TOP 2 classrooms will receive a Popsicle Party at the end of the month delivered by Stripes, our Tiger Mascot.

Red Ribbon Week

October 26—30

We will be discussing how to stay safe and healthy. We will remember to be responsible and drug-free! Please speak to your students about the importance of making safe and healthy choices. There will be more information coming home with students as we get closer to the date. Please be on the lookout for a note explaining how we will celebrate each day of the week!

Gift Wrap Fundraiser Update

As of Oct. 9, our Innisbrook Fundraiser is all 'Wrapped' up! Thanks to all families who participated and helped to raise over \$3,000 for the PTA! Watch for delivery notices in early November. Please call Annetta Sartschev at 301-349-4310 with any questions about Innisbrook Gift Wrap.

Thanks for supporting PES PTA fundraisers. Your help is getting us that much closer to brand new playground equipment for our children!

Thanks to all who signed up during Back-to-School Night to help with PTA Committees. To see a list of PTA committees go to the PES website at: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/poolesvillees/> and click on the PTA link. If you see a committee you would like to help with, contact the chairperson for that committee. Thanks to our media specialist, Mrs. Black, the website is kept up-to-date!

DESTINATION BOOK FAIR

is coming to PES!

Get ready to
READ AROUND THE WORLD
and visit us from Oct 19—23!

We are open

Monday—Thursday, 9:00 am—2:30 pm

Friday, 9:00 am—noon

with extra shopping hours

Wednesday, 3:00—6:00 pm

Thursday, 7:00—9:00 pm

BON VOYAGE and
see you at the Book Fair!

No Putdowns

On Wednesday, September 30th, we had a town meeting for all students to discuss our school focus on RESPECT. To promote respectful communication our whole school will be participating in the No Putdowns program. Putdowns are defined as:

negative or belittling words or actions that show disrespect;
being used both directly (face to face) and indirectly (to another person about someone else);
may be used because of fear, anger, ignorance, jealousy, need for power, frustration, lack of alternative communication skills, insecurity, habit, modeled behavior or humor;
taking many forms, both verbal and nonverbal.

Students will be learning five main skills:

- Think About Why
- Staying Cool
- Shield Myself
- Choose a response
- Building Up

You can reinforce the work of No Putdowns at home. Use the language of the program at home, observe the use of putdowns at stores, restaurants, on television and radio, tune into your own use of putdowns, and emphasize positive communication.

We appreciate your support and feedback as we begin this beneficial program.

Fifth graders, there's more...

Middle School Magnet Consortium (MSMC) programs

ALL fifth grade students are eligible to apply to any or all of the Middle School Magnet Consortium (MSMC) programs. The magnet focus areas are as follows:

Argyle Magnet School for Digital Design and Development: Advanced Computer Science, Advanced Mathematics, Digital Design and Gaming. Information Open House on Wednesday, Oct. 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Mario Loiederman Magnet School for the Creative and Performing Arts: Advanced Arts, Advanced Mathematics. Information Open House on Thursday, Oct. 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Parkland Magnet School for Aerospace Technology: Advanced Mathematics and Science, Engineering. Information Open House on Thursday, Nov. 5 at 7:00 p.m.

Students DO NOT submit applications, grades, or teacher recommendations. Students DO NOT have to be advanced in any academic area and DO NOT have to have achieved any certain grades. There are up to 80 seats at each school for students who reside outside the MSMC area. Assignments are made by a lottery process in which students rank their choices on a form and submit it by the December deadline. Information about the MSMC programs is available at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms

Please feel free to contact Liz Sutherland, the Gifted and Talented liaison, at Poolesville ES for additional information or questions at 301-972-7960.

Gifted and Talented Timely Tidbits!

Attention ALL families of Grade 3 Students!

Applications for the Elementary Centers for the Highly Gifted (HGC) were recently mailed directly to all parents of Grade 3 students in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). Traits of students who are successful in the Elementary Centers for the Highly Gifted (HGC) include academic performance well above grade-level in one or more areas, unusual creativity, exceptional abstract reasoning skills, continual curiosity and drive to learn, and unusual commitment, persistence, and independence. There will be two parent information meetings about the HGC beginning at 7:00 pm on October 12, 2009 at John F. Kennedy High School and October 27, 2009 at Quince Orchard High School. The same information will be presented at each meeting. **If you are interested in having your child considered for the HGC, you must complete and return the application by Nov. 9 to the Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services.** Students who submit applications by the deadline will be tested in their current school during January 2010. Testing dates will be mailed home. Additional copies of the HGC application are available on-line at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms.

Attention ALL families of Grade 5 students! Highly Gifted Center Program at Roberto Clemente Middle School

ALL fifth graders are eligible to apply to the Upcounty Center Programs for the Highly Gifted at Roberto Clemente Middle School. Two programs are offered with exciting opportunities and interesting and challenging experiences in math, science, and computer science, OR humanities and communication arts. A flyer was sent home with all fifth grade students on Monday, October 5. Please complete the form on the bottom of the flyer and return it to your child's homeroom teacher.

- Students and parents who are interested in learning more about the program are invited to attend an evening meeting at Roberto Clemente Middle School on October 14, from 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- The application deadline (postmarked and delivered) is Monday, November 9, 2009. Applications are available at Poolesville ES or online at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms.
- If you need assistance with the application, a workshop is scheduled at Wheaton High School on Monday, November 2 at 7:00 pm.
- All students applying to the program are required to complete a series of tests to assess creative and critical thinking abilities. Testing is scheduled for December 5, from 8:00-11:00 am at Roberto Clemente MS with an Inclement Weather Date of Dec. 12, 2009.

Earn Money for PES!

Contact Lisa Wolin at lisa.wolin@verizon.net with any questions about the following programs.

Customer Loyalty Card Programs

PES earns money under various customer loyalty programs at local stores such as Harris Teeter, Giant, Safeway, and Target. If you have a customer loyalty card from any of these stores, it is important to re-link your card to Poolesville Elementary so we can earn money just by shopping!

NOTE: You must re-link your cards each year! Thank you!

Harris Teeter Together in Education Program (we earned \$424 last year!)

Stop by the customer service counter at Harris Teeter

Link your VIC card to PES School ID 6328

OR

Go to www.harristeeter.com

Select Together in Education (under Community) and follow the link to re-link your card

Giant Food A+ BonusBucks Program (we earned \$214 last year!)

Call 1-877-275-2758 to register your card over the phone

OR

Go to www.giantfood.com/aplus

Use PES School ID 00693

Safeway

Go to www.escrip.com to register your card

Designate PES School ID 6553886

Please re-link by November 1

Target

Go to www.target.com

Select redcards in the top navigation

Scroll down to the Take Charge of Education link in the left hand navigation (under Rewards and Benefits)

Register your card to PES School ID 58174

Campbell's Labels, Box Tops for Education and more!

Campbell's Labels for Education

Earn free educational equipment for PES by collecting UPC codes and/or lids from qualifying Campbell's products (To view a list of products, visit http://www.labelsforeducation.com/pdf/eligible_products.pdf).

PES students can earn school store dollars by submitting labels/lids. Simply place your UPC codes and lids in a bag or baggie marked with the child's name and homeroom teacher and place them in the front office collection bin. Please note – just clip the UPC code – we don't need the entire label.

Box Tops for Education

PES earns money for every box top clipped from participating products. Look for Box Tops on your favorite products and turn them into the PES front office in an envelope marked "Box Tops" with your child's name and homeroom teacher. Please group Box Tops by 25 (25 per baggie). Note: Please keep "Box Tops" and "Campbell's Labels for Education" separate.

Staples

Staples will donate \$1 for every eligible cartridge we collect so...

turn in your used inkjet and laser cartridges to the Media Center!

Thank you for your participation in all of these programs!!

POOLESVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA MEMBERSHIP FORM

JOIN THE PTA

THE KEY TO SUCCESS... "WRITE FROM THE START"

The PES PTA takes this opportunity to welcome you to the school and the PTA. We all want the best for our children. Joining the Parent-Teacher Association can help achieve this goal. When you join the PTA, you are helping to promote and take part in the objectives of the PTA:

- To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, and community.
- To raise the standards of home life.
- To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.
- To bring into close relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth.
- To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as securing for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and spiritual education.

If you support these objectives, please help the Poolesville Elementary PTA in promoting them.
PARENTS/GRANDPARENTS/TEACHERS JOIN TODAY!

DUES: \$20 for family membership

\$10 for individual membership

Complete and return this form along with your check (**make checks payable to PES PTA**) to:

PES PTA attn: Karen Hepburn, P.O. Box 958, Poolesville, MD 20837.

Or place in an envelope marked PTA Membership and return to your child's teacher.

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$

Check #:

Name of Member for first Membership:

Name of Member for second Membership:

Address:

Telephone Number:

E-mail address:

Please indicate if you DON'T want your personal information published in the Friend Finder.

Student's Name(s)

Grade

Teacher