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# Ashburton PTA Insider

## PTA President's Update

Hello Ashburton,

It seems like so long ago that I sat down to write the last newsletter, but then I did begin it weeks before it was due, as opposed to this one! Despite the fact that we spent a great deal of time planning this summer, the month of October seems to have been busy, and has flown by too quickly. We are looking at the beginning of the second quarter already!



We had a great turnout for our October PTA meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup>, with training for Parent Volunteers and Room Parents. We hope that you all had your questions answered. If you have any questions along the way, or throughout the year, please let us know so we can answer them quickly. Our next PTA meeting will be on **November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30**. The topic is bullying with a presentation by Mrs. Gillespie, our awesome school counselor. We encourage you to bring your children to this meeting for a great presentation and open discussion.

Open house on October 12<sup>th</sup> was well attended, as was our Dine Out night at California Pizza Kitchen and our October PTA meeting. Parents and families came to see what goes on in the classrooms, to have dinner, and to learn about the responsibilities of volunteers at recess and lunch and room parents. We are now all educated and well fed! If any of you were not able to make the trainings and would like the parent handbook and/or room parent handbook, please let us know and we will email it to you, or send it home with your child. New Spiritwear was available for sale at the open house on the 12<sup>th</sup> and it flew out the door. We still have tees and blankets available and they would make great holiday gifts for your favorite Ashburton student or teacher. Also, keep a look out for our long sleeve tees and hoodies as it gets closer to the holiday season.

Sally Foster orders are in. We hope you realize that you can still order online and Ashburton will get credit. Thanks to Kathrin Phillips and Mark Mohan for all of the work they did to make this fundraiser a success, and to Rachel Yang for showing them the ropes. Amy DeCourt also gets our thanks for handling the Entertainment books. For those of you who might be wondering why they were sent home, the company's research shows that people are more likely to buy the book if it goes home and folks have time to look it over. I have bought an Entertainment book for many years now, or received one as a gift. I have already used enough coupons from our book to have paid for the purchase price! It lives in my car and is always there when I need it.

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October 2009

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### Happenings Around Ashburton:

- ☺ PTA Meeting—11/3  
6:30 pm, Bullying, children are welcome
- ☺ Fall Book Fair—11/9 to 11/13
- ☺ Parent Conferences/ Early Release—11/11 to 11/12
- ☺ Dine Out at Ledo's 11/11
- ☺ Camp Ashburton—11/20 6:30 to 8:30pm
- ☺ Early Release—11/25
- ☺ Thanksgiving—No School, 11/26 to 11/27
- ☺ PTA Meeting—12/1 7:00 pm

## President's Update (cont'd)

And we cannot forget our annual Fall Festival which took place on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. We are grateful to Ceci Villegas, Meggin Griffin, and Agustina Marino for all the time and energy they put into organizing this huge event. And to all the parent, middle school, and high school volunteers who donated their time and energies to help make the event a success. The haunted house was scary, grossology was gross, and the fortune teller told us that the school year will continue to be successful! This year they offered tickets for pre-sale, which helped cut down on the lines to get in. Hopefully next year, those who saw how quickly the pre-paid line moved will do the same, but next year when you send in your money, please be sure we know your child's teacher and **PRINT CLEARLY**. It was a great hit and fun was had by all. When you see our organizers in the hallways please thank them for taking on such a huge event for all of us. We obviously could not have had such a great event without them!

If you ever have any ideas or suggestions that are appropriate for the PTA, please contact one of the board members below. Communication and information about what is going on at school is useful to us all. The PTA has a listserv for members, that sends out numerous e-mails every week and there is also a Wiki site with information as well. If you have questions about the listserv contact Rachel Yang. If you have questions about the Wiki site contact Lien-Anh Van Wagener.

Join us for  
**DINE OUT NIGHT at  
Ledo's Pizza on 11/11**

This year's PTA board members can be contacted at the following email addresses or phone numbers:

Amy Cohen		
Kathy Rose		
Wendy Calhoun		
Ellie Damo		
Christine Furman		
Veronica Walgamotte		

Feel free to contact any of us with your input and suggestions. We are always open to suggestions and feedback and have used your thoughts, to modify, change, eliminate, and add to our events and activities at school this year. We hope that you all enjoy a great school year at Ashburton Elementary School.

With Warm Regards,

**Amy**



# The Scholastic Book Fair is Coming!

November 9 - 13, 2009

Monday 9:00am-4:00pm,

Tuesday 8:30am to 4:00pm,

Wednesday & Thursday 8:30am to 6:00pm

Friday 8:30am to 4:00pm

The Ashburton PTA invites you to The Scholastic Book Fair - a fun event that promotes reading and is an important fundraiser for our school. From November 9th through the 13th, the Media Center will be transformed into the perfect one-stop shopping spot for holiday and birthday gifts, classroom donations, bedtime stories, and anytime reading.



How can you support the book fair and encourage reading?

## 1. Purchase books

The book fair will feature hundreds of quality books suitable for every interest and reading level and offers exclusive editions of popular books at special low prices. See the accompanying flyer from Scholastic Books for a sample of the books available. The book fair profits allow us to add to our library and classroom libraries.

Please also consider donating a book to your child's classroom. There will be a display board containing "wish lists" of books your child's teacher would like to have in the classroom. Students can sign a sticker to put into the book recognizing them for their generous donations.

Students will visit the book fair with their classes on Monday or Tuesday and may purchase books then; or they can fill out a "wish list" to bring home so that you may shop with them either before or after school. Parents, of course, are welcome to shop anytime during the posted hours.

## 2. Volunteer to help

Lots of volunteers are needed to help make this a success. Please contact Jill Campuzano if you're able to help.

## 3. Donate \$1

One of our goals is to put more books into the hands of students and on the shelves of classroom libraries. We call it One for Books. Please donate just \$1 and sign the attached book slip with your name or your child's name. All signed book slips will be displayed at our book fair. All the money collected goes to purchasing more books for our school.

Scholastic will match monetary donations raised with a donation of up to one million books to three non-profit organizations dedicated to helping kids and families in need: **Kids in Distressed Situations, Inc.**, **National Center for Family Literacy**, and the **Marine Toys for Tots Foundation**. You may send your dollar and signed book slip back to school with your child or bring it in when you are shopping at the book fair yourself.

## Jump Rope for Heart Event at Ashburton

**Jump Rope for Heart Event for Grades 2nd-5th  
November 11 at 12:35 -3:05 in the Gym**

Come Join the Jump Rope for Heart Party at Ashburton!! We will have lots of Heart Healthy Activities for the students in grades 2nd-5th such as jumping rope both short and long, poly spot jumps, obstacle courses, music, raffles, etc. We are raising money for the American Heart Association so they can contribute money or just jump if they don't want to raise money. We are teaching our kids about Heart Health, the importance of Physical Activity and living healthy lives.

Please return the parent permission forms provided to students by November 10th. Since this is a  $\frac{1}{2}$  day for students, we need the form signed so they can stay after school because this is an after school event. If you're able to raise money, please return the donation envelopes and money by 12:35pm the day of the event - November 11th. We ask that children do not go door-to-door or ask strangers for donations. They can ask family or friends of family. Make checks payable to American Heart Assoc. Any contribution is greatly accepted, and YOUR ATTENDANCE is appreciated the most!!

You may also raise money online by creating a website for your child by visiting [www.americanheart.org/jump](http://www.americanheart.org/jump).

If you have any questions about our Jump Rope for Heart event, or if you are willing to VOLUNTEER, please contact Mr. Dartouzos (Mr. D.)! We are looking forward to lots of fun and community spirit!!

## The PTA is on Facebook and Twitter!

twitter



Are you on Facebook or Twitter? If yes, then become a "fan" of the Ashburton PTA on Facebook (search for "Ashburton PTA" on Facebook to find us) or "follow" us on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/AshburtonPTA>). We are using these social networking sites as just another way to push information out to parents. We welcome your feedback on how we can improve communications on and off-line.

facebook

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If you have content suggestions for future issues of the newsletter, contact Lien-Anh Van Wagener.