



THE PTA PANDA TIMES

**Next PTA Meeting: Tuesday,
Nov. 3 @ 6:30. All parents
and teachers welcome!**

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The Newsletter of the East Silver Spring Elementary School PTA

October 2009

A Message from the PTA President

Welcome back to another wonderful school year at ESS! I am honored to take on the role as your new PTA (Parent Teacher Association) President. Having a kindergartener and a first grader attending ESS, I can truly say that I value the close school community that ESS presents to its diverse school population.

So much is going on this year. We were pleased to welcome our first third grade class and construction continues to add to our structure. Our PTA has also gone through a transition and we have several new board members eager to make a difference.

This is an exciting time for us! We have the potential to make 2009-2010 a successful school year. As PTA President, **my top two priorities include continuing to foster this great ESS community** by putting together informative events and the **second is to increase our fundraising efforts**, so that we may continue to support our students, their programs and trips, provide quality afterschool programs, and support our teachers.

Our PTA expects to maintain the tradition of **empowering families to become advocates for children and we accomplish this by** providing a forum for parents, teachers, and the community to collaborate in supporting student learning and services to their families.

My belief is that it is never too late to get involved in your child's education. **No matter how little time/money you can donate, a little help goes a long way.**

I look forward to seeing all of you at our November 3rd PTA meeting!

Surayya

Help raise money for ESS in 5 simple steps:

Online...

1. With retailers like Target, Banana Republic, Lands' End, Oriental Trading – you can shop through the Box Tops for Education and earn 3, 6, even 12 percent for ESS. Sign up and visit the Marketplace today: **www.boxtops4education.com**.

2. Buy books and toys on www.amazon.com? Then, 2% of your purchase will be donated to ESS. Booking a trip through Travelocity (1% to ESS) or Expedia (1.25% to ESS)? Visit **www.onecause.com**. Create an account and select East Silver Spring Elementary School as your cause.

At the store...

3. Find, clip and save **BoxTops4Education** labels. Look on the top of your Cheerios box, Betty Crocker Frosting container, and Bisquick package. Find them on hundreds of products you buy every day. Simply return the BoxTops4Education labels to the drop-box in the school office.

4. Sign-up at Escript to register your Safeway card: **www.escrip.com**. You buy groceries every week, so put that money to work to help our school.

5. From October 9, 2009 – March 25, 2010, you can earn A+ Bonus Bucks for ESS. Simply register your Giant card at:

www.giantfood.com/our_stores/bonus_bucks/index.htm.

Tell your neighbors, colleagues and friends that they too can help support ESS – and they don't even need to change what they do every day. Just register your cards.

Got a fundraising idea for ESS? Send your suggestions to: Missy Burke at brunsburke@gmail.com.

Please join your ESS PTA

There are several committees still open to volunteers. Don't forget to attend our PTA meetings the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm. **Our next meeting is November 3rd. Babysitting will be provided.**

Who makes it all happen? Parents like YOU! Join the PTA and make a difference at ESS!

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SPARCS will resume next session

Due to the ongoing construction and the addition of the third grade at ESS we felt it would be best to forego a SPARC session this Fall so that everyone could adjust accordingly. We're in the process of planning Special Programs After Regular Classes (**SPARC**) for winter and spring 2010 semesters and hope to make them affordable for parents and both educational AND fun for the kids!

Ideas or suggestions from parents, kids and teachers are fully encouraged and welcomed. You may contact Tricia Greaves Staggs (SPARC Coordinator) at 301-339-3126 or at togstaggs@yahoo.com.

East Silver Spring Elementary to Host Book Fair

WHAT: ESS will host **Book Fair: Reading Around the World!**

Travel the world with fabulous books. When you buy a book at the Book Fair, the profits go right back to ESS to support our students and our school.

Students, families, and teachers are invited to the Book Fair for specially priced books and educational products, including new releases, award-winning titles, children's classics, interactive software, and current bestsellers and more.

WHEN: November 30 – December 4 from 8:30AM – 9:15AM and from 3:00PM 4:15PM.

Special Events: Teacher Preview, Books For Breakfast, Afternoon Coffee & Books, Grandparents Day and Family Reading Night.

HOW: How can you make book Fair Safari and success? By volunteering! We need volunteers to sell books, help with events, with installation and decoration and with take-down.

CONTACT: ESS Parent: Shellie Williams, cell (202) 236-6228, shelliewilliams1@gmail.com.

NAACP's commitment to 'Step Up' African-American students and their families

Hello everyone!

Over the years, the NAACP has been instrumental in paving the way for African-Americans and minorities. As your new/first NAACP Representative, I am devoted to the mission of the NAACP's Parent Council which is geared toward closing the achievement gap.

This year's NAACP Parent Council's goal is to 'Step Up' African-American student achievement and increase parent involvement. With the support and committed effort by MCPS administrators, we hope to provide African-American and minority students with the resources necessary to successfully navigate through school, enter and graduate college.

If there is any information that I can provide regarding what parents of African-American and minority students could do to support their children in education, please contact me at: SURAYYAJ@YAHOO.COM. I look forward to serving our ESS community.

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Day November 18

To show our gratitude for our hard-working teachers and ESS staff, we'd like to provide some homemade treats in the teachers' lounge and office throughout the year. Our first teacher/staff appreciation day will be Wednesday, November 18. We need to get 5-10 parents to bring around 2 dozen sweet or savory treats. Anything that could sit out safely for several hours would be great: cookies, muffins, flavored breads, homemade snacks, chocolate covered strawberries, homemade candy, marshmallow treats, caramel apples, homemade dips, or whatever you like to make! Contact ESS parent, Shelley Hutchins, with any questions or to sign up for November 18th: Call 301-585-2061 or email shelleydhutchins@gmail.com. Thanks!

PTA Surveys Your school PTA is only as good as the parent support that we receive. This is why it is imperative that we enlist your help. We need parents to tell us what the PTA can do to assist our ESS students and their families. Surveys will be provided in November. The ESS PTA welcomes all feedback, comments, and suggestions, so that we can continue to effectively support our students, teachers and school.

Questions? Comments? Contact newsletter editor, Laurie Breen, at lauriebreen@gmail.com.