

# KINGSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA, INC.

## 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Patriotic Program

December 8, 2009

**Dear Parents of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Graders,**

On December 18, 2009, the Kingsville Elementary PTA will be hosting a Kick-Off Assembly for the 2010 Patriotic Program, encouraging your 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> Grader to participate. For those of you who have never had a child participate in the Patriotic Program before this year, and for those parents who are unfamiliar with the Program, I would like to beg a few minutes of your valuable time and attention to describe this wonderful program to you in the hopes that you will strongly encourage your 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grader to participate this year.

### WHAT IS THE, "PATRIOTIC PROGRAM?"

The Patriotic Program is an annual enrichment activity sponsored by the Kingsville Elementary School PTA, and is designed to provide our children with information on American history and cultural literacy, as well as instill a strong sense of patriotism for our country. Our theme this year is, "The Bill of Rights - Our Guarantees of Freedom." Because of the difficulty level, the Patriotic Program is for our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders only. **Participation is strictly voluntary, unless your child's teacher decides to make it a required project for class.**

### SO WHAT DO THE CHILDREN DO??!

Good question!! The children who volunteer for the Patriotic Program attempt to learn, memorize, and recite passages, poems, and other items and important information on American history within a 2-month period from **January 4, 2010 - March 5, 2010**. The recitations are as follows:

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

America the Beautiful  
American's Creed  
1<sup>st</sup> 5 Amendments to the Constitution  
(the 1<sup>st</sup> 5 Bill of Rights, paraphrased)  
Paul Revere's Ride  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Star Spangled Banner  
23 Counties in Maryland (Place on Map)

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

American's Creed  
1<sup>st</sup> 10 Amendments to the Constitution  
(the Bill of Rights - paraphrased)  
Declaration of Independence - 1<sup>st</sup> line  
50 U.S. States (Place on map)  
Flag Etiquette  
Gettysburg Address  
Paul Revere's Ride  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Preamble to the U.S. Constitution  
44 U.S. Presidents, in order  
Star Spangled Banner

### REWARDS FOR OUR PATRIOTIC PROGRAM SUPERSTARS

The children who successfully complete the Patriotic Program are our, "Patriotic Superstars," and they enjoy rewards and honors for their hard work. For starters, we will be hosting a fun-filled Awards Assembly honoring our Patriotic Program Superstars on April 29, 2010, to which parents, grandparents and other students will be invited. At our Awards Assembly in April, 2006 AND 2008, our Superstars were honored to meet and hear personal accounts from some of our local veterans from various wars, see the National Honor Guard present colors (a pretty moving sight) and they also had the opportunity to meet local politicians and dignitaries. In April, 2007, Congressman Wayne Gilchrest came to the school and spoke with the children. Best of all, our Patriotic Superstars also received prizes as well as several written commendations from U.S. Senators and Maryland lawmakers. In 2005 and 2007, the Education Channel arrived and filmed our assembly, later airing parts of it on its television program, which we hope to repeat this year. And, as a special added bonus to our 5<sup>th</sup> grade Superstars, a free field trip is also planned for Spring, 2010. **ALL** of our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Superstars will be allowed to help decorate and ride on the float or march in the Kingsville 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2010 Parade (Our float won 1<sup>ST</sup> place this past July!)

## SO HOW CAN YOUR CHILD BE A PART OF THIS??!

*It is very important that we have permission from you for your child to participate, as privacy policies of the Baltimore County Public Schools limit our access to your child and limit our ability to post your child's name in the Assembly Program and on Award Certificates without your permission. Therefore, parent permission is required for your 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grader to participate in the Patriotic Program. A Sign-Up and Permission form is attached to this letter.*

### MATERIALS:

**WE ARE TRYING SOMETHING NEW THIS YEAR.** *In our efforts to conserve trees and reduce waste, we are encouraging children to access the Patriotic Program packet online. If your child does not have access to the internet, please note this on the form below and we will provide a paper packet to your child.* If your child needs a paper packet and would like to receive his or her packet containing all of the information about the Program and the recitations **BEFORE THE HOLIDAYS**, please complete the attached Sign-Up and Permission Form and return to your child's homeroom teacher no later than December 21, 2009. Otherwise, paper packets will be distributed to students upon request *after* the holidays as the completed Sign-Up and Permission Forms are received.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP MAKE YOUR CHILD'S EXPERIENCE A SUCCESS?

- 1. The VERY best way to help your 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grader succeed is to help him or her learn the recitations, and encourage him or her along the way.** My experience with recitations last year was that the children whose parents who helped their children memorize or encouraged them actively were the ones who finished and experienced that tremendous sense of accomplishment that children so very much enjoy. ***There were very few children who accomplished their goals without active parent encouragement - you are your child's biggest fan!***
- 2. The VERY NEXT best way to help your child is to help make sure the entire program is a success.** You can do this by signing up to volunteer just a *very small* portion of your time to hear recitations by the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Recitations are heard every morning before the bell rings, from 9:05 am to 9:20 am, and will be heard once (maybe twice) per week before lunchtime, from **January 4, 2010 THROUGH March 5, 2010**. If you are willing to volunteer a mere 15 minutes for even one morning or afternoon every other week or once a month, that would help immensely! *(The more parents volunteer just that little bit of time, the less frequently we all need to participate).*

**IF YOU ARE ABLE TO VOLUNTEER EVEN A SMALL AMOUNT OF TIME... please complete the attached Parent Volunteer Form and return it to your child's homeroom teacher.** I can honestly say that chairing the Patriotic Program is one of the best things I've done, because I had the opportunity to spend time and get to know all of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders in a way I never would have been able to. I have grown to love these kids, and I really treasure their affinity for me too! What a great way to get to know who your children are hanging with every day on the playground...

### DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

I will be happy to discuss the Program with you and answer any questions or address any concerns you may have. You may contact me at home or you may contact me via email using my contact information in the Student Directory. **In particular, if your child has an I.E.P. or 504 Plan and you are concerned about your child's ability to recite and participate, please speak with Mrs. Felts directly.**

I strongly urge you to not only permit but to truly encourage your 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grader to participate in this valuable Program. As a parent of a child who completed the program, I can tell you from personal experience how glad both I and my child are that she participated -- although it was sometimes hard work, she had so much fun and gained so much self-confidence from this accomplishment that we both agreed it was worth much more than the time and effort expended.

I hope to see your child as one of this year's Patriotic Superstars!!

Enthusiastically,

Lisa Eisemann  
PTA Patriotic Program Chairperson