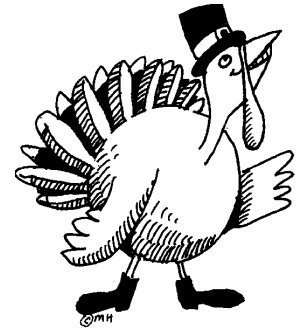


Partners ~ the Kingsville PTA Newsletter

November/December 2009



Kingsville Elementary School PTA
7300 Sunshine Avenue, Kingsville, MD 21087
www.kingsvillepta.org

Rachel Hills, PTA President
Jaime Arrick, PTA Vice President

Susan Felts, Principal
Cheryl Whittaker, Assistant Principal

PTA Theme: *every child. one voice.*®

Important Dates

Thursday, November 19.....Report cards distributed
Monday, November 23..... Elementary Conference Day, SCHOOLS CLOSED
Tuesday, November 24.....Picture Make-ups, 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Thursday and Friday, November 26 & 27.....Thanksgiving Holiday, SCHOOLS CLOSED
Thursday, December 3.....Barnes and Noble Night. 6-8:00 p.m.
Monday, December 7.....Interims distributed this week
Wednesday and Thursday, December 9 & 10.....Santa Shoppe
Monday, December 14.....PTA Business Meeting, KES library 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 17.....KES Winter Concert, Perry Hall High School, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 24-Friday, January 1st.....Holiday break, SCHOOLS CLOSED

President's Message



Recently the weather has really started to feel like fall to me. The weather is becoming crisp and cool and the leaves are changing. With Thanksgiving “right around the corner,” it is a good time to reflect on all the things that we are thankful for. In addition to my family, I am thankful for the teachers and staff at Kingsville who help our children learn and the dedicated parents who volunteer their time so willingly to the students at Kingsville. Thank you for all that you do to make Kingsville Elementary such a great place to be! Happy Thanksgiving!

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or suggestions about the PTA at KES. Together I know that we can help our children “Leap Into Learning!”

~ Rachel Hills, KES PTA President, 2009-2010, president@kingsvillepta.org

Partners Editorial Notes

The KES PTA Newsletter, *Partners*, is normally published monthly, distributed in the Thursday envelopes the third week of the month, and posted at www.kingsvillepta.org. For comments, or to submit an article for consideration, please contact the editor, Beth Waibel, at editor@kingsvillepta.org. Note: the editor reserves the right to edit content for space.

Sign up for our Email Newsletter

Over 100 people have done it so far, have you???

It's as easy as 1.2.3.

1. Visit the Kingsville Elementary School PTA website at www.kingsvillepta.org
2. Enter your email address in the "Join Our Mailing List" box.
3. Reply to the confirmation email that you will receive. You MUST respond to the email to join the mailing list!

Weekly emails are sent every Sunday morning to those families who choose to participate. The email informs you of what's happening at KES (not just the PTA) for the current week and what's planned for the upcoming week. Quick links take you directly to the PTA website, school website, and BCPS website.

Not getting the emails? Check your SPAM folder! Add webmaster@kingsvillepta.org to your contacts to ensure that the emails go to your inbox. Please contact Tammy Dawson at webmaster@kingsvillepta.org if you have any questions.

Special Education News for Everyone

Stop Fidgeting and Focus!



Movement Helps Kids Pay Attention. We all know what great things physical activity can do for the body, but did you know what it can do for the brain? "Exercise turns on the attention system, the so-called executive functions — sequencing, working memory, prioritizing, and sustaining attention," says John Ratey, M.D., author of the book *Spark: The Revolutionary New Science of Exercise and the Brain*. "On a practical level, it causes kids to be less impulsive, which makes them more primed to learn."

Homework help. Even short bursts of activity can help. The next time you sit down to do homework and your child is hyper or unfocused, try an activity burst. This can be as simple as 5-10 minutes on a mini-trampoline, a brisk walk around the block, jumping jacks, bouncing on an exercise ball, wrestling with you or the dog, pushups, etc. Another option: schedule homework time immediately after outdoor play or sports.

Help increase activity at school. Be an advocate for more activity during the school day. Support teachers' efforts to start class with activity, skip recess on only the worst weather days, and allow simple movement games during indoor recess. They will be rewarded with more focused students. If your child has an IEP, consider having planned and spontaneous physical breaks added to their day. Some simple ideas:

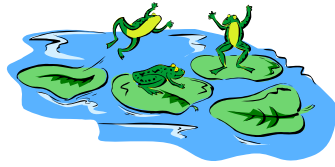
- Have the student deliver mail to the office or other locations
- Ask the student for help moving stacks of books etc. to different locations in the room
- Do a class stretch, simple yoga move, or jumping jacks before paperwork

For more movement ideas for the classroom, see westlakees.wcpss.net/classroommovemenideas.htm.

Try these attention-stimulating activities. Studies have found that activities that require close attention to body movements stimulate the attention system — especially important for kids with ADHD-like problems. Try karate or tae kwon do, ballet, gymnastics, archery, or horseback riding.

A note from your PTA Special Education liaison:

My goal is to support parents whose children receive or may need special education services. If you need help or resources, or if you have ideas for newsletter items or activities that would help Kingsville's special education community, please let me know! -Beth Waibel, special@kingsvillepta.org.



Leap into Learning,
Hop to it today, Support our children,
Join KES PTA!!

It's not too late to join.

Have you forgotten to turn in your membership form?
Has the hectic schedule of life gotten the best of you?

No worries!

It's not too late, but time is running out.

Membership forms should be in by Monday, Nov.30, 2009.

Joining KES PTA is the right thing to do for so many reasons.

We are close to our goal of increasing our membership by 4% over last year, and some classes are close to achieving 100% participation. The first three classes to reach 100% participation in the KES PTA membership drive (defined as each student bringing in at least 1 PTA membership) will win a pizza party (the first winning class) and an ice cream/popsicle treat (the 2nd and 3rd winning classes).

Don't delay.
Hop to it today.

Please be sure to check the KES PTA website,
www.kingsvillepta.org
for a complete list of the **local businesses** who support KES PTA and a list of the student participants.

Class Standings In KES PTA Membership Participation Contest

Teachers & Staff 94%

Miss DeNike 93%

Mrs. Frieman 83%

Mrs. Bise 79%

Mrs. Mattio 79%

Ms. Barnes 76%

Mrs. Sokolis 76%

Mrs. Frisone 75%

Ms. Pinnell 68%

Ms. Pasquale 64%

Mrs. Price 60%

Ms. Goral 50%

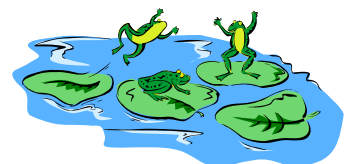
Ms. Roche 48%

Mrs. Belcastro 44%

Mrs. Glennon 44%

Mrs. Hyde 34%

Mrs. Ford 31%



Kingsville Elementary School PTA Directory

The directory was distributed to carriers on October 1st and an update was published in the October edition of this newsletter. Many thanks to **Mrs. Ghassemieh** for encouraging her students to create beautiful pieces of work that are included in the document, **Diane Edwards** for helping me with gathering room mom and school information, and to **Amy Mitcherling** for helping me collate the directory this year.



After many hours of working on the directory, the 2009/2010 edition is complete. Flyers were created and distributed; data was entered; art work scanned; documents generated, collated and distributed; and an update created. And the last thing to do was to hand over the knowledge and materials to my successor so that future editions of the directory can be generated – DONE! Many thanks to **Rebecca Conway** and **Amy Taylor** who have offered to co-chair this committee next year! (The KES PTA wants to thank **Tammy Dawson** for all the hours of hard work she put into this the last several years!)

**Thank you to everyone who throughout the years
helped make the directory a success!!**



The Traveling Trophy

The Traveling Trophy is awarded to the class with the most Box Tops and Campbell's Labels combined each month. Every month, a new class has a chance to win. Now, the Traveling Trophy is on the move! Congratulations to **Miss DeNike's class** for winning the Traveling Trophy for the month of October! Way to go! Will your class be next? Check out the bulletin board in the cafeteria to see where your class stands.

Two lucky students won an Ironbirds hat, water bottle, playing cards and magnet for the October Incentives Contest - Alex M. and Colin S.

Encourage Your Child to Be Honest in Difficult Situations

Research shows that by the time kids reach elementary school, most know the difference between honesty and lying. But that doesn't make truth-telling easy!

To encourage honesty in your child:

- Be a role model. Children are good "lie detectors." They notice when parents tell the truth--and when they don't.
- Reward trustworthiness. If your child is truthful in a difficult situation, compliment him!
- React calmly. When your child lies, don't label him a "liar." Express confidence that he will make better choices in the future.
- Discuss honesty. Why is it important to be honest? Note examples of honesty and dishonesty--and their effects.
- Create opportunities for telling the truth. Say, "You broke my vase," instead of, "Did you do this?" It's better to state what happened rather than to ask unnecessary questions.

Reprinted with permission from the December 2009 issue of *Parents make the difference*® (Elementary School Edition) newsletter. Source: Karen Stephens, "Lying, Fibs, and Tall-Tales: Teaching Children To Be Truthful," [mysmallwonders.com/resources/pdf/LYING01PELibrary.pdf](http://www.mysmallwonders.com/resources/pdf/LYING01PELibrary.pdf).

Follow Five Research-Based Tips for More Successful Discipline

Helping children learn appropriate behavior is a parenting task that sometimes seems overwhelming. But research shows there are five ways parents can be most successful in shaping children's positive behavior:



1. Give your child positive attention. Set aside time every day when you can give your child some individual attention. Read a book, play a board game or work together on a household project. The important thing is that the two of you are together, talking and listening to each other.
2. Listen to your child. Give him words to express his feelings. Kids who can say, "I'm angry" are less likely to hit.
3. Give choices whenever you can. Kids learn how to make good choices by making lots of choices. Let your child make choices--and then live with the results.
4. Notice when your child does something right. This doesn't mean praising your child every time he takes a breath! But when he does something positive, let him know you noticed. He'll be more likely to do it again tomorrow.
5. Be a good role model. You can't expect your child to control his temper if you scream at every car on the road. Your example is the single most powerful way that you teach your child about appropriate behavior.

Reprinted with permission from the December 2009 issue of *Parents make the difference!*[®] (Elementary School Edition) newsletter. Source: American Academy of Pediatrics, "Guidance for Effective Discipline," *Pediatrics* (American Academy of Pediatrics, www.aap.org).



Santa's Shoppe

at

Kingsville Elementary School

Is coming soon!!!!

When: December 9 – 10, 2009

Your child will be given time during one of the above days to shop for gifts for their family and friends. Item prices will range from about \$1.25 for small token items, up to several dollars for larger items. And there will be plenty of items priced in between to choose from.

Your child's teacher will inform them of which day and time they will be able to attend the shoppe.

The week before the sale, your child will receive an envelope that will allow you to help them plan their shopping list and to carry their shopping money.

The children really enjoy being able to surprise the special people in their lives with gifts purchased on their own.

Should you have any questions or wish to volunteer in the shoppe on the above days, please contact **Debi Kakaris or Amy Mitcherling at santashoppe@kingsvillepta.org.**

Volunteers must have attended the volunteer training and have been approved.