

# Partners ~ the Kingsville PTA Newsletter

October/November 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.*®

## Dates to Remember

Friday, October 23.....	Red Ribbon Day. Dress in red to say NO to drugs!
.....	.....2 <sup>nd</sup> grade Maryland Zoo field trip
Wednesday, October 28.....	Fundraiser pickup, school gym stage, 3–8 p.m.
Thursday, October 29.....	Author Becky Titelman visits KES
Thursday, November 5.....	First marking period ends
.....	.....5 <sup>th</sup> grade Eco Trekkers field trip
Friday, November 6.....	Assessment Day, SCHOOLS CLOSED
Monday, November 9.....	S.I.T Meeting, school office, 4:15 p.m.
.....	.....PTA Business Meeting, school library, 7 p.m.
Thursday, November 12.....	.....4 <sup>th</sup> grade Camp Puh'tok field trip
Friday, November 13.....	Crazy Friday—Raven's spirit day
Monday–Friday, November 16–20.....	American Education Week
Thursday, November 19.....	Report cards distributed
Monday, November 23.....	Conference Day, Elementary SCHOOLS CLOSED

## President's Message



As I was writing this month's message, I realized how quickly the school year has gone by so far! I can't believe that it is almost the end of the first quarter. Since Parent-Teacher conferences will be coming up soon, I have included an article in this issue of *Partners*, *Do You Know the ABCs of Parent-Teacher Conferences?*, that might be helpful in preparing for the conference. Also, please take some time to visit your child's classroom during American Education Week. You will get a sense of all of the hard work that goes on during the day and your child will really appreciate it!

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](mailto: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](http://www.kingsvillepta.org). For comments, or to submit an article for consideration, please contact the editor, Beth Waibel, at [editor@kingsvillepta.org](mailto:editor@kingsvillepta.org). Note: the editor reserves the right to edit content for space.

## Will Your Child Have the Opportunity to Win a College Scholarship from the KES PTA?

*We hope so—but we need your help now to make this happen!*



The Scholarship Committee will evaluate how monies designated in the PTA budget for scholarships are currently being handled and determine whether a new procedure should be developed. The committee will meet in October and give a recommendation to the Board at the November PTA meeting. **Hurry! Time is running out**, so contact Tammy Dawson at [tammyd328@yahoo.com](mailto:tammyd328@yahoo.com) if you would like to participate.

## Sign up for our Email Newsletter



It's as easy as 1.2.3.

1. Visit the Kingsville Elementary School PTA website at [www.kingsvillepta.org](http://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.

**Sign up for the email and be prepared for the upcoming week at KES.**

Not getting the emails? Check your SPAM folder! Add [webmaster@kingsvillepta.org](mailto:webmaster@kingsvillepta.org) to your contacts to ensure that the emails go to your inbox.

Please contact Tammy Dawson at [webmaster@kingsvillepta.org](mailto:webmaster@kingsvillepta.org) if you have any questions.

## Special Education News

### Join CHADD for ADHD Support

CHADD is a national non-profit organization providing education, advocacy, and support for individuals with ADHD. Several chapters in our area meet for parent support and informational speakers. For more information, visit [www.chadd-mc.org/chapters/baltimore/](http://www.chadd-mc.org/chapters/baltimore/). If you don't have internet access, call me and I'll get info to you.



### A note from your PTA Special Education liaison:

Did you know KES has a special education PTA liaison? The liaison's goal is to support parents whose children are receiving 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, [specialed@kingsvillepta.org](mailto:specialed@kingsvillepta.org).

## Do You Know the ABCs of Parent-Teacher Conferences?

Children learn their ABCs when they start school. You can also use the ABCs to get the most out of your parent-teacher conference.

Here's how:

**A Ask questions.** Before the conference, jot down a list of questions you want the teacher to answer. Bring the list with you to the conference. Here are the kinds of questions you may want to ask:

- What skills will my child be expected to master this year?
- What will my child learn this year?
- What are my child's strengths and weaknesses?
- How does my child get along with other children in the class?
- How can I best help my child be a successful learner?

**B Be honest.** You know things about your child that can help the teacher help him learn more. So share what you know. She'll want to know his likes and dislikes. She'll also want to know if there are any problems or concerns. If a grandparent has just died or a family member has lost a job, your child may be worrying about those things in school.

**C Cooperate.** A teacher may share a concern about your child during the conference. If that happens, work with the teacher to come up with a plan to address it. You and the teacher both want what's best for your child. Decide what you'll do at home and how she'll help your child at school. Set a date to meet and review how the plan is working.

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## 2009 STEP Program Results

The awards assembly for the 2009 STEP program was held on Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Felts awarded the students who successfully completed the program with a certificate and a water bottle. Also, the students received a coupon from Chick-fil-A. Thank you very much to this Perry Hall restaurant for their generous donation!

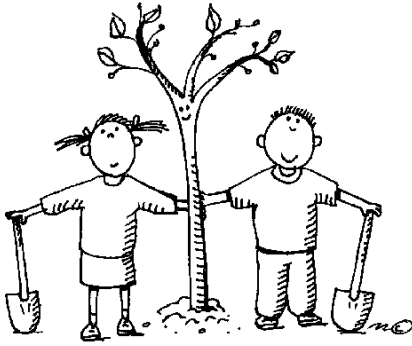


At the assembly, two names were randomly drawn from each class to receive a \$10 gift card to Target or Barnes & Noble. The lucky winners were: Sam H., Carmella B., Dean D., Sam W., Joseph H., Sophia T., Gabriella C., Justin B., Samantha D., Sam S., Emerson T., Logan D., John A., Jacob C., Jasmine D., Maureen H., Luke Z., Daniel M., Hannah J., Christa S., Tyler B., Amber L., Ben K., Josh C., Gillian H., and Blake W.

Congratulations to the following classes who had 100% participation: Mrs. Frisone and Ms. DeNike. These classes will be rewarded with a doughnut party.

## Keeping Our School Beautiful...and "Green"

The Beautification/Environmental Committee has recently received a refreshing influx of new volunteers. In striving to obtain our "GREEN SCHOOL" status, Kingsville Elementary students have been volunteering their time to work on the school grounds:



- Armed with shovels, plastic bags, and determination, **Mrs. Frieman's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class** recently arrived on the scene at our school's front garden to conquer the weeds trying to overtake it. Their weeding mission was a huge success! Upon completion of their mission, Mrs. Frieman's class received a brief lesson in decomposition and soil replenishment, and then emptied all of the plastic bags filled with weeds in the woods on the school grounds.

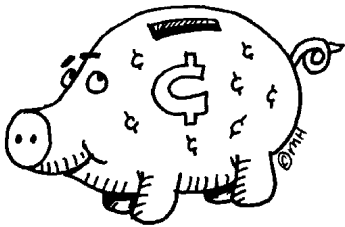
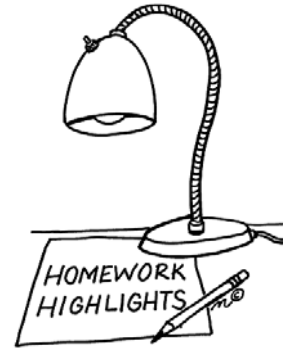
- The Outdoor Learning Environment is ready for Fall use! Thanks to the efforts of the ENTIRE **1st grade class**, the Outdoor Learning Environment has been weeded, cleared of fallen debris from trees, and freshly mulched. Guided by their teachers and parent volunteers, the 1st graders converged on the area with great enthusiasm. They learned the importance of returning fallen branches, weeds, and leaves to the nearby woods for decomposition, and how weeds could be minimized in the area by applying a layer of mulch, as opposed to spraying toxic weed-killing chemicals. They also learned that by working together, they really could move mountains...OF MULCH!

Many thanks to our hard-working school volunteers! Editor's note: Many thanks to **Janet Dillon** for all her hard work on this committee!

## Teach Your Child to Solve Math Word Problems in Four Steps

Sometimes, the reason kids can't find the answer to a math word problem is that they can't figure out the question. Have your child follow these steps:

1. Read the question. Suppose the word problem says "John has nine marbles. Joe has 11. If Joe gives John three marbles, how many marbles will John have?" Write down exactly what question the problem asks: "How many marbles will John have?"
2. Look for key information. Every word problem will include facts — John has nine marbles and Joe has 11. Joe gives John three marbles. Write these facts down. Cross out any unnecessary information.
3. Rewrite the question as a math problem. In this case, nine marbles plus three marbles equals how many marbles?
4. Solve the problem. Once the word problem is rewritten as a math problem, your child should be able to find the answer. "John has 12 marbles."



## Teach Responsibility, the Value of Money with an Allowance

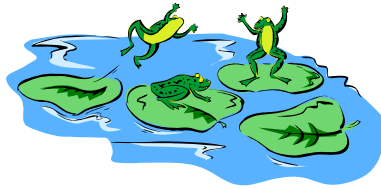
Allowances are a great way for children to learn responsibility. They give children a chance to learn the value of money. They can also teach children the importance of waiting and saving to buy something they want.

Since most parents end up buying things for their children anyway, it may make sense for you to give your child some money she can manage herself.

Many families begin giving their children an allowance in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade, since that is when children start learning about money. Here are some questions to ask before you start an allowance:

- How much allowance should you give? There's no best answer. Talk to friends. Ask people with children a little older than yours.
- What will she pay for? If the allowance is strictly for "fun" purchases, it will be less than if you want your child to be responsible for buying lunches at school.
- What can your family afford? It's important, even early, for children to learn that families have budgets.
- How much can your child manage? To be truthful, all children squander their allowances sometimes. They buy toys that break. That's part of the learning process. Let your child make decisions about purchases within reason.

Both articles above reprinted with permission from the November 2009 issue of *Parents make the difference!*<sup>®</sup> (Elementary School Edition) newsletter.



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

Have you been to school and seen the PTA Membership Participation Pond of Progress and all the frogs outside of each classroom and the office??

If you are a supporter of KES PTA (and we hope you are), then your child's frog will be outside of his/her classroom, and his/her teacher's frog is leaping across the Pond of Progress in the attempt to be the first to reach 100%.

It's not too late to join KES PTA!  
If you have already submitted your paperwork and money – THANK YOU.

Remember, the 1<sup>st</sup> class to reach 100% participation in this year's membership drive (defined as each student bringing in at least 1 PTA membership) will win a pizza party. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> classes to reach 100% participation will win an ice cream/popsicle treat. Help your class achieve the goal. **Our school goal is to increase membership by 4% over last year.** We are getting close, but we're not there yet. We can do it – with your help.

We are "hoppy" to report these "toadally" awesome numbers for participation so far:

Mrs. Sokolis – 59%   Mrs. Barnes – 71%   Mrs. Mattio – 68%   Mrs. Price – 55%   Mrs. Frisone – 65%  
Mrs. Goral – 50%   **Mrs. Frieman – 83%**   Mrs. Ford – 31%   Miss Roche – 48%   Miss Pinnell – 46%  
**Miss DeNike – 83%**   Mrs. Hyde – 34%   Ms. Pasquale – 64%   Mrs. Belcastro – 38%   Mrs. Bise – 68%  
Mrs. Glennon – 44%   **teachers and staff – 84%**   **The race is on!**

Individual memberships cost \$5 each. Parents, significant others, grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors, co-workers, etc. are all invited and welcome to join KES PTA. Business memberships (a new opportunity this year) cost \$15 each. Your business will be listed on the KES PTA website as a supporter of KES PTA. Be sure to check the KES PTA website, [www.kingsvillepta.org](http://www.kingsvillepta.org), for a list of all the business supporters of KES PTA.

**Your support really makes a difference.**

\*\*\*\*\* tear here and return today \*\*\*\*\*  
with your check made payable to KES PTA in an envelope marked "PTA Membership"

Student's name/Teacher's name \_\_\_\_\_

PTA Member's names and address (spouses, significant others, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Please use a separate paper if needed!!

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ email address \_\_\_\_\_

Number of individual memberships (\$5 each) \_\_\_\_\_

**For Business memberships (\$15 each):**

Name and address of Business \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person \_\_\_\_\_ email address \_\_\_\_\_

Type of business \_\_\_\_\_ website address \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize publication of my business information on the KES PTA website \_\_\_\_\_ (sign here)

# Fundraiser Pickup - October 28, 2009

The Kingsville Elementary School PTA would like to thank all of our students, parents, faculty, and friends for supporting our very successful Chesapeake Fundraising fundraiser. Thank you also to those of you who chose to just make a donation. We raised nearly \$7,000 for our PTA which goes directly toward fun and educational programs for our children!

The fundraiser pickup date will be on Wednesday, October 28, 2009, from 3–8 p.m. on the stage in the Kingsville school gym.

We would also like to thank and congratulate our top sellers:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Justin B. - \$50 Target Gift Card
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – George T. - \$25 Target Gift Card
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Ben K. - \$15 Target Gift Card

Top sellers in each grade (not including above), and winners of a \$10 Target Gift Card:

- Kindergarten – Peggy M.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade – Christina N.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – Kayla S.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Taylor S.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Jason S.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Dimitrios K.

The top two selling classes:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Mrs. Linda Mattio
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Mrs. Beth Bise