



Newsletter Highlights

- Spirit Wear
- PTA Membership
- Reflections

The Weeks Ahead

PTA Meeting

Wed., Oct. 4 – 9:00am

Book Fair Begins

Mon., Oct. 9

Ice Cream Social

Sat., Oct. 14 – 2:30pm – 4:30pm

President's Message

It's hard to believe we've been back in school a month already. The PTA has accomplished many things including training 200 volunteers. It's not too late. If you're still interested in being a school volunteer this year, contact Rachel Wenck.

The Sparks PTA website has been updated! Take a look and see some of the terrific things going on in our PTA. You can view upcoming events, download forms, and view the Shark Bytes newsletter and the PTA Meeting Minutes on the site. Please note that the Meeting Minutes are summarized for the newsletter but you may view the unabridged Meeting Minutes by visiting the website. Thanks to Bob Cave for his contributions this fall.

October is a busy month. We have the Ice Cream Social, our Book Fair, and our room parents are already planning Halloween festivities. Our next meeting is at 9:00 am on Oct. 4 in the cafeteria. Hope to see you there!
-Robbie Stout

Sparks Has Talent!

With over \$19,000 in contributions so far, Sparks' Direct Donation campaign continues to receive rave reviews. In addition to teacher, staff and parent support, close to 25 area businesses have supported our school by placing an ad in the student roster. Please be sure to support those businesses that have so generously supported us.

As you know, our goal for the campaign is \$28,000. If you have already sent in your donation, we thank you. If you haven't yet, please consider doing so by the end of this week. On October 3, we will hold another drawing for certificates to several area restaurants, including Liberatore's and Christopher Daniel. **EVERYONE WHO HAS CONTRIBUTED TO DATE (with the exception of previous winners) WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE DRAWING.**

Thank you for sharing your gifts to help nurture theirs.

-Ann Mooney & Kellie Huffman
Co-chairs, Direct Donation



_____ enjoys reading a good book. She also enjoys painting.

Ice Cream Social

The Ice Cream Social is Sat., October 14th from 2:30 - 4:30pm. Please send in your ticket order form by October 12th. We are still in need of parent and teacher volunteers. Contact Liz Neave - jonneave@comcast.net or Amy Nozemack - amynoz@msn.com if you are interested in volunteering.

PTA Membership

Sparks Elementary has a great PTA! Thank you to everyone that has sent in their envelope and dues money. To date 301 Parents/Relatives (that's 60%) and 29 Faculty/Staff (that's 56%) have formally joined the PTA. What a great way to start the year. But we can't stop there. We need one adult to represent each of our 500 students to reach 100% Parent/Relative membership level and we need all Sparks staff. Come on parents! Come on teachers! Fill out that little brown envelope, enclose \$5 per person and support your local, state and national PTA. Envelopes can be found at the volunteer sign in table or in the faculty lounge. When completed, send them in to school in your child's blue folder or put them in the Membership Mailbox. You can also visit the Membership sign up table at the Ice Cream Social. Joining PTA is a formality that matters. Your \$5 dues are essential to help PTA operate on a State and National Level – advocating for your children. Sparks keeps \$1.75 of every dues payment – it's small, but every penny counts. Even more, your membership allows you to vote on key budget and policy issues and teaches your children the importance of being an active part of our community. Contact Cathy Kurtz for more information cckurtz@aol.com 410-357-9864.

Giant Bonus Card

PLEASE REGISTER YOUR GIANT BONUS CARD! I just checked the website and we have ONLY 16 people signed up! I know we can do much better than that. Our goal is 200! The program starts Oct. 2 and we want to take full advantage of this program so register now. If you have signed up in the past, each and every year you need to re-designate our school. You can register a few different ways: Online at <http://www.giantfood.com/aplus>. All you need is your twelve-digit card number and the first three digits of your last name. Our school id is #01190. If you do not know your 12-Digit BonusCard number, you will need to call the BonusCard hotline at 1-877-366-2668 and they can register for you. Or you can email me (nancy.cassell@sprint.com) the info, and I will register for you. I challenge each of you to register by the end of the week. Also, find two or three friends, relatives, or neighbors that would like to support our school and register their card numbers. This can be a VERY lucrative program for our children. Thanks in advance for your participation. -Nancy Cassell

Library Gift Fund

Spark's Library Gift Fund Committee would like to thank the families of the children listed below for making a contribution to the fund. A number of books have been purchased for the benefit of Sparks Elementary Library honoring these students. Summer Birthdays were celebrated by the following students:

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September Birthday wishes go out to

If you have any questions, contact Jackie Logan at 410-357-5274 or loganj1@comcast.net.

Profile: Tammy Kincaid

Tammy Kincaid has been at Sparks Elementary School for over six years. She hails from Hampstead, Maryland and has one daughter and a pet dog. Here are some of her favorite things.

- Favorite Hobbies:** Golf, Gardening
- Favorite Food:** Tandycakes
- Favorite Color:** Blue
- Favorite Team:** Ravens
- Favorite Film:** Grease
- Favorite Children's Book:** Indian in the Cupboard
- Favorite Childhood Memory:** Going to Myrtle Beach with family each summer

Thanks, Volunteers!

A very big "Thank You" goes out to all our volunteers. I have received so many responses to our call for help and we had a tremendous turn out at the Volunteer Training sessions. Thank you so much for taking the time and effort to help out at Sparks. If you would like to help out at the school but you're not sure how, please give me a call (410-357-0087) or drop me an email (wenckfamily@gmail.com). I would be happy to talk to you about the various programs and activities that could use your help.

-Rachel Wenck, 2nd VP and Volunteer Coordinator

Spirit Wear

Look what's new in Sparks Spirit Wear this year! We are so excited to be offering all new apparel this year. A wide selection and bright fresh colors give you and your child a great way to show your school spirit and stay in style throughout the school year.

Every Friday at Sparks is Spirit Day. Children and staff are invited to show their school pride by wearing Sparks apparel. We have all new shorts and short sleeve t-shirts and sweatshirts and long sleeve t-shirts for those chilly fall mornings. This year we are also offering a cinch sack in both blue and pink.

The Spirit Wear committee will be selling Sparks apparel at the Ice Cream Social on October 14th. We will be sending home order forms periodically, however, order forms and color brochures are available in the school office or your child's classroom. If you have not had a chance to see the new Spirit Wear it is on the display in the school lobby. If you have any questions or would like to place an order you may contact Dana Pflugrad - 410-472-2231, dana@selectsa.com or Julie Posner - 410-472-3504, posnerfamily@comcast.net.

Reflections

Express Yourself through the arts. This year's theme is "My Favorite Place..." Entries must be submitted by Nov. 10. Please visit sparkspta.org for more details or contact Kelly Tannian (357-9244 or tannianhouse@comcast.net) for more information.