



Newsletter Highlights

- **Birthday Wishes**
- **Yearbook**
- **Teacher Profile: Mrs. Ballard**
- **Volunteer Hours Form**

The Weeks Ahead

Winter Break Begins at End of School Day

Fri., December 22

School Resumes

Wed., January 3

PTA Meeting

Wed., January 3 – 7:00pm

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday – Schools Closed

Mon., January 15

President's Message

It was so great to see so many at our PTA meeting on Dec.6. A thank you to our committee chairs who put together a terrific New Parent party, American Education Week, our movie night, and our Reflections program. Minutes from our meeting will be posted on the PTA website. The PTA wishes everyone here at Sparks a safe and Happy Holiday!

Profile: Karen Ballard

Mrs. Ballard (formerly known as Ms. Maine) teaches third grade.

Hometown: Cockeysville

Family: Husband Rusty and baby boy due Feb 15!

Pets: One dog named Cody

Hobbies: Swimming, walking the dog, reading

Favorite Food: Italian dishes, pasta

Favorite Color: Pink

Favorite Sports Team: Ravens

Favorite Film: Titanic

Favorite Children's Book: Where the Wild Things Are

Childhood Memory: Reading books with my Grandmom and my mom

Yearbook

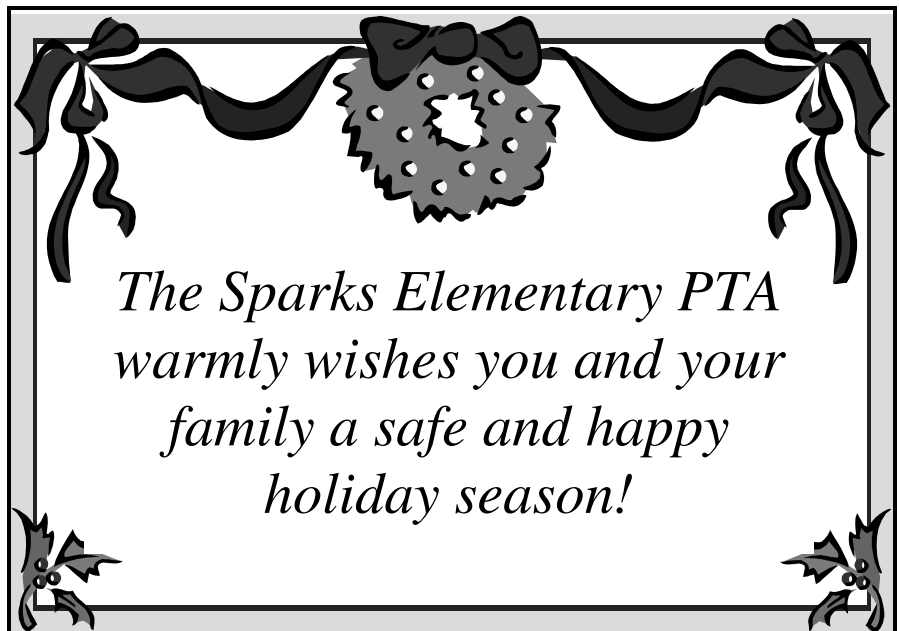
The Yearbook committee is always looking for pictures to capture all the kids during the school year. If you have been at the class parties, class trips, worked in the library, a school event, etc., and have some great pictures of the kids, please send them in an envelope marked "Yearbook". Please indicate which grade and the children if possible. Group shots and candids are great to make the yearbook complete and memorable. We still have a few 2005-2006 yearbooks left. The cost is only \$15. If you have any interest, give Joanie Schmalenberger a call at 410-472-1051 or send in a check made payable to Sparks PTA, in an envelope marked "Yearbook".

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 who recently celebrated birthdays.

December Birthdays:



IMPORTANT! VOLUNTEERS, PLEASE READ!!!

Baltimore County requires all volunteers to report their volunteer hours quarterly. Our goal this year is 10,000 hours. If you have volunteered your time to the school in any way you must report your hours. You may fill out the below tear-off, record your hours on your volunteer card, or email your hours to Rachel Wenck at wenckfamily@gmail.com.

Examples of hours that need to be reported

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Setting up for functions | Making copies |
| Working during functions | Chaperoning field trips |
| Attending PTA Meetings | Baking for an event |
| Helping in the classroom | Making phone calls |
| Helping during class parties | Work done for any PTA committee |

The county also requires all volunteers to have filled out the blue County Volunteer form before working with the children during school hours. This form must be filled out even if you are going on a field trip. If you need a copy of the form, you may obtain one from the school office. It will take about 5 minutes to fill out.

Volunteer Hours – Fall 2006

Your Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Number of Volunteer Hours : _____

Description of Hours Reported Above: _____

Questions or Comments? Contact Rachel Wenck at wenckfamily@gmail.com.