

May 4, 2007

Shark Bytes

www.sparkspta.org



Newsletter Highlights

- Committee Chairs Needed
- PTA Officer Nominations
- Year Book

Upcoming Events

Monday, May 14: PreK/K Conference Day—no preK, half-day, or full-day Kindergarten sessions
Tuesday, May 15
Spring Concert and PTA Executive Board Election, 7:00pm
Monday, May 28: Memorial Day—School Closed
Wednesday, June 13: 5th Grade Graduation

Year Book



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 candid are great to make the yearbook complete and memorable. If you have any questions, please give Joanie Schmalenberger a call at 410-472-1051.

Help Wanted!

Committee Chairpeople Needed for 2007-2008 School Year

Are you looking for ways to get more involved with the school next year? Do you have strong skills that just need the right application? Look no further - we need you right here! While next year seems far away with warm weather and thoughts of summer creeping into our minds, in order to get off to a good start many things need to be in place before we say goodbye. We're looking for chairs or co-chairs for several important committees next year listed below.

- PTA Membership
- Direct Donation
- School Roster
- PTA Bulletin Board
- Hospitality/Welcome Wagon
- Room Parent Coordinators (K-2, 3-5)
- Family Events
- Boxtops/Receipts
- Reading Program

As current chairpeople are seeking out their replacements, please consider grabbing a friend to help and putting your name on the list.

A full description of all PTA standing committees will be distributed soon to highlight the many volunteer opportunities available throughout the school year. Please be on the lookout for

it and contact Robbie Stout or Rachel Wenck if you are interested in lending a hand next year. We need lots good people with great ideas!

Recycling



Recycling The recycling drive is over but we are **STILL RECYCLING!**

Please continue to send in used ink cartridges and cell phones. We also still need your paper. If we don't meet a monthly minimum then they may take our recycling dumpster away and we won't get cash for our paper!

Sparks Has Talent!

With nearly \$24,000 raised so far, our Direct Donation campaign has been a big hit! Thanks to everyone who has contributed, including several grandparents who made donations at the school's Grandparents/Special Friends Day event in March.

Congratulations go to Geschwilm family, whose name was drawn recently from the hundreds of contributors, for winning a gift certificate to Christopher Daniel restaurant in Timonium.

Again, thanks for everything you've done to make this campaign a resounding success!

PTA Executive Board Nominations for the 2007-2008 School Year

The PTA Nominations Committee is proud to announce the slate of Officers for the next school year. The official election will take place prior to the Spring Concert on May 15 at 7:00pm.

President – My name is **Vandy Harman**. I was born and raised in Georgia where I received degrees from the University of Georgia and Georgia Southern University. A busy career in corporate communications and event planning brought me to the area several years ago where I met my husband Todd. When a hectic travel schedule became too demanding for a busy family, I elected to leave the workforce for bedtime stories, weekend sports, school volunteerism and mountains of laundry. I now have three boys at Sparks Elementary; Ben and Matt who are 10 year old twins and Chris who is a very energetic 8 year old. I've been involved with Sparks for several years in a variety of roles including Spirit Wear chairman, room mom, classroom volunteer, and most recently family events coordinator as 1st Vice President of the PTA. I count my blessings each day to be in a great community surrounded by terrific families and a school like Sparks Elementary for our children to attend. I enjoy being able to offer my time, skills and experience to our school and look forward to working with such talented board members in the 2007-2008 school year ahead.

1st Vice President - My name is **Elizabeth Neave**. I was born and raised in Connecticut. Prior to living here in Maryland, I lived in New York City and worked at Morgan Stanley for 8 years managing marketing and events for the International Equity Group. I also have a degree in Elementary Education from Ohio Wesleyan University. I have been married to my husband Jonathan for 10 years and have really enjoyed staying home with my two boys Spencer (8) and Charlie (7). I have been involved in Sparks Elementary School for the past 4 years. I have been on the school improvement team for two years, chaired the Ice Cream Social and have volunteered for numerous projects and events at the school. I feel very fortunate to be part of such a strong community and look forward to serving as a board member next year.

2nd Vice President - My name is **Lauren May** and I am excited to serve as 2nd Vice President-Volunteers for the 2007-2008 school year. My husband Chris and I are the parents to four daughters- Emily (Sparks Class of 2006), Caroline(4th), Catie(2nd) and Libby(kindergarten.) I have enjoyed serving on many committees and this year, served as Hospitality Chairperson. I wanted to serve the PTA in a larger capacity now that my youngest will be in school fulltime next year. I look forward to meeting those of you who I don't yet know. Thanks for your support of our great school.

Treasurer My name is **Arianna DiFrancesco**. I am from Rome, Italy. I have been in the States for 11 years. My husband Brad and I have been married for 9 years and we have 3 girls including Caterina (2nd). I am a scientist. I worked as a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard Medical School. I also did some Biology teaching at Montgomery College in Conroe, Texas. However, I did put my career aside for a few years to be with my girls and learn about the school system in the US and help them succeed. I have been serving as the PTA treasurer over the last two years. I also chair the Science Fair.

Financial Secretary My name is **Jim Elicker**. I was born and raised in York, PA. After graduating from Penn State, I spent 10 years as an Aerospace Engineer in the San Francisco bay area. A career change brought me back to the East Coast, where I am currently an actuary with Zurich Financial Services. My wife LuAnn, and I have a son, Andrew(2nd grade). I have enjoyed being involved in PTA finances for the past two years and look forward to continuing as Financial Secretary for 2007-2008 year.

Corresponding Secretary My name is **Carol Keefe**. I have two children at Sparks Elementary. Max will be in 4th grade and Paige will be in 2nd for the 2007-2008 school year. The Keefe family has lived in Sparks for 4 years. In addition to taking care of my children, I also take care of all the billing for the business my husband and I own. This will be my second year on the Sparks PTA Board.

Recording Secretary My name is **Heather Loyd**. I grew up in the South (Georgia and North Carolina), but made my way to Maryland via my husband Andrew whom I met at UNC-Chapel Hill. We have lived in Monkton for the last 5 years with our 2 active sons, Harold (6) and Edward(4). Currently, I work part-time as a landscape architect, but am an active volunteer at my youngest son's pre-school where I have initiated and organized 2 successful fundraisers. As my second child transitions to Sparks(K in 2008), I hope to devote more of my energies to our school. I currently enjoy volunteering at Harold's kindergarten class and loved helping at the Ice Cream Social. We enjoy all the new friends that we have met at Sparks through sports and the school. I appreciate the opportunity to serve as Recording Secretary for the PTA Board and look forward to our continued involvement at Sparks!