

September 14, 2007

Shark Bytes

www.sparkspta.org



Newsletter Highlights

- **Direct Donation**
- **Grocery Receipts Program**
- **Ice Cream Social**

Upcoming Events

Sept 19: PTA Committee Heads Meeting, 9:30AM

Sept 20: Room Parents Meeting, 3:00PM

Sept 28: New Parent Party

Oct 3: PTA Meeting, 7:00 PM

Oct 8-13: Book Fair

Oct 13: Ice Cream Social, 2:30 PM

Oct 31: Halloween Parade

President's Message

It was great to see everyone at Back to School Night. A big thanks to our teachers, administrators and PTA board members for their hard work.

The volunteer training sessions were packed with parents willing to offer their assistance in the school. We couldn't do it without you and we sincerely appreciate everyone taking the time to come in for the training. We're compiling lists of those that expressed interest in volunteering in specific areas and the committee heads will be following up soon.

Be sure to check the **Upcoming Events** section of the newsletter for all the fun fall activities coming up. I hope the rest of September brings a bit of calm to everyone as we settle into routines and welcome in the fresh air and beautiful fall colors.

Direct Donation

Sparks kicked off their Direct Donation Campaign, ***It's Easy as A-B-C!*** at Back-To-School-Night last Tuesday. What a fun and successful night! Those who attended had the pleasure to meet and greet some of our committee helpers. Thank you to Jacob Waechter as our sweet box of Sugar Babies, Morgan Oakley as the Christmas tree, Brooke Kovinsky as wrapping paper, Tammy Waechter (co-chair), as a big slice of Pepperoni pizza and Paula Kovinsky (co-chair) as a chocolate chip cookie.

As we gratefully accepted the donations that came in throughout the evening, each contributor received a chocolate letter and was given the opportunity to win some great prizes. Congratulations to Laurie Hudgins whose name was drawn for a wonderful coffee basket from Baltimore Coffee & Tea. Michele DiPasquale was the recipient of a large Christmas box filled with gift bags/boxes, wrapping paper, ribbon and ties donated by Lindy Bowman Company. Laura Delozier also won a bath and body basket by H2O, and Ann Mooney and her family will soon enjoy 8 wonderful dinner dishes from Let's Dish. We would like to extend many thanks to these establishments for their generous support of our school.

Our campaign continues to grow by the meter. To date, we have approximately 20 Sparks administrators, teachers and staff who have contributed to our fundraising campaign we're very

proud to say that we have 100% teacher PTA Membership as well.

To date we've received just over \$17,000 toward our \$25,000 goal. However, we still have many yards to go. Please consider making your donation of **\$50 for each child enrolled at Sparks** to help get us there (note: contributions payable to Sparks PTA). Also for your convenience, you may now make your donation using a credit card online at www.sparkspta.org.

We would like to extend our gratitude to our many volunteers and committee members: Kim Butz, Vandy Harman, Heather Loyd, Elaine Bierly, Kelly Tannian, Mary Maher, Nicole Schaefer, Kellie Huffman, Michele DiPasquale, and Carol Keefe. We would also like to thank Office Valet of Sparks, Baltimore Coffee & Tea, Let's Dish, and the Lindy Bowman Co. for their generous support of this fundraising effort. We are many people working together for one great community - SPARKS. Thanks to all for your generosity and for making this campaign a success.

NOTE: we received one Direct Donation form that contained credit card information and a donation amount, but did not include a name. We need to find this donor and get some information in order to process their donation. If you think this may be you, please contact one of our co-chairs.

Paula Kovinsky & Tammy Waechter
Direct Donation Co-Chairs

New Parent Dinner

Sparks would like to welcome all new families to our wonderful school and community. A 'Save the Date' card (Sept 28th) for our annual New Parent Dinner Party was placed in your New Parent Orientation folder. Come meet and mingle with Sparks teachers, staff, administrators and other new parents in a relaxed environment. Be on the lookout for your invitation. This is an event you don't want to miss.

Please contact Paula Kovinsky at choc.chipcookie@comcast.net or Tammy Waechter at waechter@comcast.net with questions.

Committee Heads Meeting

There will be a brief meeting for all PTA Committee Heads on Wednesday, September 19th at 9:30AM in the cafeteria. Please bring your committee binders. We will be communicating program budgets, distributing volunteer lists, discussing important procedures and answering questions regarding your programs.

Ice Cream Social

The Ice Cream Social will be held October 13th from 2:30-4:30pm. Please send your forms back to school as soon as possible. Also, we still need volunteers for the event. Call Damita Baldwin at 410-357-0353 or e-mail Damitajb@aol.com if you can help. Thanks!

Reflections

Do you want your kids to express their thoughts, feelings, creativity and have FUN? Every child has a voice through the arts, so tell your kids to let us know what they're thinking by using this year's theme, "**I Can Make a Difference By...**" Your child can create an original piece of art that incorporates this theme in the following categories: photography, visual arts, literature, musical composition, dance choreography or film-video. All participants receive an

entry gift, a ribbon for recognition and a pizza party at the end of the year. Winners will receive medals and go forward to compete in the Baltimore County competition. Every child that signs up for the program is a WINNER! The deadline for entry is November 9th so request your information packet today!

Please email Kelly Tannian at Tannianhouse@comcast.net if you're interested in an information/rules packet at or call: 410-357-9244. More information will be sent home soon.

Birthday Wishes



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 had summer birthdays:



Room Parent Meeting

There will be an important meeting for all room parents on Thursday, September 20th at 3:00PM in the library. If you have been selected as a room parent by your child's teacher, please plan to attend. Following the general meeting you will break into groups to meet with teachers and other room parents for your grade to discuss specific plans in the classrooms. If you have any questions, contact the following coordinators:

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|-----|------------------------------------|
| K-2 | Damita Baldwin
Teresa Greenspan |
| 3-5 | Tammy Hess
Kendra Issett |

Shopping for Dollars

Graul's Market will be starting their annual "Cash for Kids" program. Please save and send in your yellow Graul's register receipts from September 24, 2007 through March 23, 2008. Giant A+ BonusBucks begins October 5th. This is a lucrative program for our school, so please sign up to support our school. Even if you signed up last year, you must re-designate our school for this year. Log on to giantfood.com/aplus to register (Sparks school number is 01190). Also, please keep clipping and sending in Box Tops for education. Any class that collects 800 box tops will receive an ice cream party! Thank You!

Volunteer News

Thanks to everyone who attended volunteer training! Sparks has trained a record number of volunteers for this school year. If you were unable to attend either session and you would still like to volunteer, please contact me. Remember, it is very important to sign in and out using the computer or the volunteer slips. Please keep track of all of your hours. If you would like to email them to me, please do. I can be reached at mayhenhouse@comcast.net. Thanks! -Lauren May

