

October 26, 2007

Shark Bytes

www.sparkspta.org



Important Dates

October

31st- 2:15pm, Halloween Parade

November

1st- First Marking Period Ends

2nd- Assessment Day- School Closed

7th- 7:00pm, PTA Meeting

9th- Cultural Assembly

9th- Reflections Entry Deadline

9th- Kid Movie Night (K-2)

12th-16th- American Education Week

12th-14th- Parents visitation

15th- Report Card Distribution

15th-16th- Grandparents Day

19th- Conference Day- School Closed

22nd-23rd- Thanksgiving Break

Classroom Visitation

The week of November 12th is American Education Week. Sparks Elementary will open its doors to welcome parents, grandparents, and other community friends to visit children's classrooms and see first-hand a quality education in progress. Visitation days are:

Parents:

Mon. 11/12: K-1

Tues. 11/13: 2-3

Wed. 11/14: 4-5

Grandparents/Special Friends:

Thurs. 11/15: K-2

Fri. 11/16: 3-5

Grandparents Day

Grandparents/Special Friends Day is quickly approaching and planning is well underway. We will need a lot of help on November 16th & 17th. Please look for information coming home on this event, and contact Kathy Patti at katherinepatti@aol.com if you are interested in helping and have not been contacted.

Box Tops & Receipts



All of our programs are currently underway. Many of you have done a fantastic job with

clipping those Box Tops! Our Giant designations are growing and we have already collected some Graul's receipts. Here are the four ways you can help:

1. Clip and send in Box Tops
 2. Save and send in Graul's receipts
 3. Designate Sparks with your Giant Bonus card
 4. Register and shop online through the Box Tops Marketplace
- Visit www.sparkspta.org to register for either of the last 2 programs. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Direct Donation

"It's Easy as A-B-C!" has reached the \$20,000 mark! Hitting this milestone at the Ice Cream Social has put Sparks well on its way toward its \$25,000 goal. Since the launch in September, Sparks PTA has worked diligently toward its objective of generating \$25,000 from families, teachers, and private support to avoid the endless fundraisers such as selling magazines, gift wrap, and chocolates. Congratulations go to our Ice Cream Social prize winners: the Getz family and Patricia Middleton. Their names were drawn from hundreds of contributors and they won restaurant gift certificates to the Manor Tavern and Christopher Daniels Restaurant. Remember, it's EASY and it's never too late. If you haven't already contributed, please fill out the contribution pamphlet sent home in September and send it in to school in your child's

blue folder. Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles and Special Friends are also encouraged to take part in our campaign during Grandparents/Special Friends Day in November. More information including a printable contribution form is available on sparkspta.org. Everyone's support is truly appreciated.

Paula Kovinsky and Tammy Waechter

K-2 Movie Night

Parents, the Sparks PTA along with several volunteers would like to give you the opportunity to enjoy a night out while your kids have fun at the Sparks Elementary Movie Night on Friday, November 9th, 6-8:30pm. Feature presentation is Surf's Up! This event is for grades K - 2 only. Return your registration form ASAP. More information and the registration form can be found at sparkspta.org. Middle school students may volunteer and earn service hours for the movie nights. For more information contact Liz Neave at 410-357-5796 or email jonneave@comcast.net.

Halloween Parade



The Halloween Parade is set for 2:15pm on October 31st. The students should bring their costumes to school in a bag. They will change in their classrooms. Costumes should be appropriate for Elementary School students and should follow these guidelines:

- No weapons or look-alike weapons of any kind
- No scary masks
- No blood

Thanks for your support in helping us have a safe and fun celebration.

PTA Membership

Thank you to everyone who has become a member of our PTA. All of the membership cards have been given to the teachers to send home. If you have not received yours please contact me by email at kimberleybutz4@msn.com. If you haven't joined the PTA yet it's not too late. Contact me so we can get you signed up. Thank You!

Reflections

EASY Directions for Reflections! Do you want to enter the contest? This is what you have to do:

1. Get Rules packet, on the web (sparkspta.org) or sign up in office.
 2. Ask yourself the theme: **"I can make a difference by..."**
 3. Pick a category you would like to use to create your entry: Photography, Literature, Musical Composition, Dance/Choreography, Film/Video, or Visual Arts
 4. Have your parent read the rules for your category.
 5. Ask a parent for the tools you need (or a teacher can help you).
 6. Use your thoughts from the theme to create your entry. Have FUN!
 7. Fill out your entry form, put it in the plastic sleeve provided and attach it to the entry. Do not put your name on the front!
 8. Bring it to school by **Nov. 9th**. Once you hand in your entry, you get to pick a PRIZE.
- All entries will be judged. Winners get medals, but EVERYONE gets a ribbon and gets to go to our pizza party!

Yearbook



Calling all shutterbugs! The yearbook needs pictures for the 07-08 school year! When you are at the school for special events such as class parties, Halloween, field trips, etc... please bring your camera and snap away. Send prints in to school in an envelope or bag marked "Yearbook". We still have 06-07 yearbooks available. The cost is only \$15.00 for a color yearbook. For info call Joanie Schmalenberger.

PTA Meeting

Please come, Nov. 7th at 7:00pm. Among other topics, the agenda includes Mrs. Kearney sharing information regarding Baltimore County's standardized testing practices and strategies.

Volunteer Info.

Thanks to everyone who has attended the volunteer training and to those of you who are busy helping the teachers and staff in the school. There has been a little holdup with the computer sign-in system. I am working to get that up and running ASAP. It will make all of our lives easier. Please do not forget to log your hours spent in committees, working events, field trips, etc. Please email your hours to me and put "volunteer hours" on the subject line. That makes it easier for me. Thanks so much. Lauren May
mayhenhouse@comcast.net

New Parent Party

On Friday September 28th, Sparks held their Annual New Parent Dinner Party at the Nozemack Residence. Thank you to John and Amy Nozemack for opening their lovely home to our Sparks families. Much appreciation goes out to: Kelly Tannian, Vandy Harman, Liz Neave, Doreen Gerovasilis, Ginger Kremer, Marcia & Mark Bosley, Lori Hudgins-Goff, Michele & Victor DiPasquale, Hollie Inglisia, Kellie Huffman, Mike Riley, Tim Mooney, Natalie Behrens & Dean Schwatka.

Thank you to all committee chairs that contributed beer, wine and soda. Thank you to our local businesses that donated to our special event: Troyer's Liquors, Bradley's Wine & Spirits, Price's Liquor & Deli, Broad Street Liquor & Deli, Libertores Restaurant, The Humidor Cigar Shop, Let's Dish, Michael's Café, and Baltimore Coffee & Tea. Congratulations to our families who were lucky prize winners that evening: Mr. & Mrs. Knolle, Mr. & Mrs. Sayan, Mr. & Mrs. Wheatley. Paula Kovinsky and Tammy Waechter

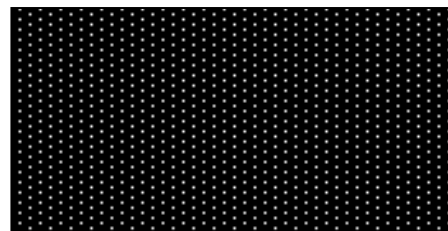
Ice Cream Social

The Ice Cream Social was a huge success and we would like to thank everyone who volunteered some of their weekend to help. Many thanks to our teachers, faculty members and parents who scooped ice cream, manned the games and baked cookies. We couldn't have done it without you! Also thanks to Graul's Market for donating all of the ice cream and McDonald's for providing all of the paper products and some toppings. Our other sponsors included Cold Stone Creamery, Carvel, Food Lion, Walmart, Target, Giant, Sam's Club, Watson's Garden Center, Susan Herd of Jane Cosmetics, Kingsdene Nursery and Wegmans. Thanks to all of these businesses for supporting our PTA. Blair Ensor and Damita Baldwin



Library Gift Fund

Sparks' 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 September and October birthdays. There was also one special donation made by a private donor in honor of Lucia Provenza's 90th birthday. Thank you!



5th Grade Farewell

Many thanks for the overwhelming support for the Fifth Grade Farewell. If you have volunteered to help out please expect more information very soon. We are looking forward to a lot of terrific activities at the end of this school year. With appreciation,
Arelene Ceribelli and Lisa Turner