



Important Dates

March 5- 9:30 am

PTA Meeting

March 18

Technology Fair

April 15

Science Fair

April 19

Spring Fair

President's Message

It's tough to think spring with the recent bouts of ice and snow, but it's already March and according to my children there are less than 70 days of school left! With that in mind, I wanted to take a moment to thank the PTA board, the executive committees and all the wonderful Sparks volunteers for everything you've done to help make this a great year for Sparks. With over 1200 volunteer hours through February, it's no wonder that Sparks continues to be the shining star of Baltimore County.

As we start to wrap up our PTA Membership and Direct Donation program for the year, I would encourage those that have not yet signed up or sent in their donation to please take a moment to do so. We are just a few hundred dollars away from the \$25,000 mark. It really doesn't matter how much you contribute, if you can't meet the recommended donation. Anything you can spare helps get us that much closer to our goal, enabling us to provide financial support for the various materials the school needs and the programs they offer.

It's also customary this time of year for the 2008-2009 search committee to start thinking about new PTA officers for next year, so please

consider your talents and what you might like to do. We are always in need of enthusiastic parents to step up and take charge, and there's simply no better way to get to know Sparks families than to be involved in the PTA. So, be on the lookout for announcements about open board positions and other program needs coming home soon.

I hope you all have a wonderful Spring Break at the end of the month, and I'll look forward to seeing old friends and new faces on the playing fields and at upcoming events this spring.

-Vandy Harman

HZRC Request

Hereford Recreation Council

Looking for Fish Ponds



The kids that attended the Hereford Rec. Council Fishing Camp last summer had a great time. This summer the Rec.

council would like to give campers some different places to fish. If you have a pond in the Hereford Zone and wouldn't mind letting the camp use it for a few hours this summer, please contact Kay Johnson at 410-472-4995. Please note the program is also insured. Campers, look for sign up forms coming out soon.

'08-'09 PTA Positions

Sparks PTA Needs You!

It's that time of year again for the current PTA board to start thinking about new officers for next year. If you're interested in playing a bigger role in the school or would just like to know more about the PTA and what the officers do, please plan on attending the next PTA meeting on March 5th at 9:30AM in the Sparks Cafeteria. Current PTA officers will be available to explain their various responsibilities and answer any questions you may have. We are looking for fresh, new leaders to continue to guide Sparks Elementary forward. There's simply no better way to know what's going in the school and to get involved in decisions that affect our children than by serving on the PTA board. Please come and hear what it's all about!

Happy Birthday!

Spark's Library Gift Fund Committee would like to thank the families of the children listed below for making a contribution to the fund. New books have been purchased for the benefit of Sparks Elementary Library honoring these students who recently celebrated their birthdays. Thank you and happy birthday!

The Sparks Spring Fair is April 19!



Please double-check your calendars as the date for the Spring Fair was listed incorrectly in the school calendar that went out in September. The correct date is Saturday, April 19th. Be on the lookout for flyers and volunteer sign ups for this event. We hope to see everyone there.

Science Fair

"Let Science Pull You In!" This year's Science Fair will be held on Tuesday, April 15th. All students are encouraged to participate. This year's theme is "Let Science Pull You In". We always have a great turn out and a great time!

Please make sure to read the guidelines carefully as BCPS does NOT permit students to grow any cultures, mold, or bacteria. Additionally, students may not use any type of vertebrates as test subjects. Use of any type of weapon in the investigation is also prohibited.

Volunteer Hours

Sparks Elementary earns credit and financial funding through Baltimore County for the number of volunteer hours people have served in the school throughout the year. It is very important that you log in and out of the school using the computer located in the lobby. Not only does this automatically tally the hours that you are in the building volunteering, but it also enables the school to know exactly who is in the building in case an emergency situation should arise. Please note, NO ONE should be in the building during the school day unless they are signed into the system. Also, if you have served hours this year that are not recorded in the system, it is not too late to report them. Please send in your unreported volunteer hours via email to Lauren May at mayhenhouse@comcast.net. They should be broken out by month, event/reason and hours served. Please help us accurately report the volunteer hours for the school by adhering to these guidelines.

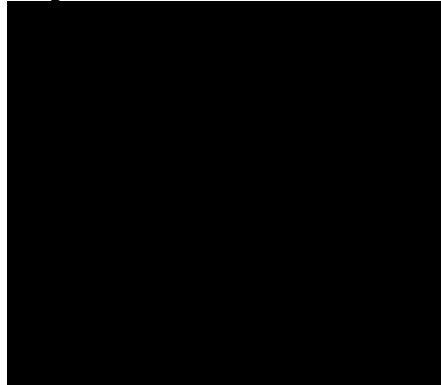
Reflections

2006-2007 Reflections Program "I can make a difference by..."

We sent all of our winners from Sparks on to Baltimore County Council PTA judging to compete with other schools. This is a very special honor, as there were over 1,000 participants in the Reflections program this year. And the excitement continues as the entries

that won Awards of Excellence will be forwarded on to Maryland State PTA judging. Both Awards of Excellence and Awards of Merit (Honorable Mentions) recipients will be recognized at the county ceremony on Sunday, March 9, 2008. The celebration will take place at New Town High School at 2:00pm. Invitations will be mailed to the winners. Also, we will be having a celebration party for ALL of our Sparks students that participated this year. We are very proud of all of our talented and creative students. Any questions please call Kelly Tannian 410-357-9244.

Congratulations Winners!



From the Office

When sending in notes to school please include the date, teacher's name, student's first and last name and a legible parent signature. Thank you for your cooperation. -Mrs. Lucas

Box Tops Update

Our students have collected over 10,000 box tops since the beginning of the school year! WOW! That translates to over \$1,000. This money goes into the PTA annual budget to help us meet our goal. Every little bit means a lot! We are gearing up for some ice cream parties. Mrs. Radajczak's and Mrs. Cave's classes lead the way with 743 and 671 box tops collected respectively. All classes with a collection total of 800 box tops will win an ice cream party, compliments of the PTA. Box Tops 4 Education is a year-round program, so keep clipping!
Giant Shoppers- You have earned our school over \$900 so far this year!

The Giant Food program continues until April 3rd. Keep sending in those YELLOW Graul's Markets receipts. We need to collect \$25,000 worth of receipts in order to earn money. Please help us by sending in all of your receipts! The Graul's Markets receipts program will continue until March 23, 2008. You can send in receipts after that date as long as they are YELLOW. We will accept Graul's receipts until April 8th. Thank you for all of your support!

5th Grade Photos

To families of 5th graders: if you haven't sent the photos in for the farewell slideshow please do so as soon as possible. Three photos are requested: a baby picture, K or 1st grade picture, and a recent photo. Please send these prints in an envelope marked Joanie Schmalenberger- 5thGrade Farewell. These photos will be returned in the form of a laminated project. Be sure to write the child's name and teacher on the back of each photo. Also, if anyone has candid shots, group shots, event photos, or other school photos from your 5th grader's time at Sparks, please send them to Joanie either in an envelope or by email. schmalenberger@comcast.net

Technology Fair

Please come, Tuesday, March 18th, 7-9pm. Join us for a night of incredible projects, fun, and food! Some of the evening's highlights include:

- Informative presentations
 - Parlato Collage Auction
 - Custom made door prizes and information on "Original Works" creations by your child.
 - Members of the Crystal Palace soccer team signing autographs
- Proceeds will benefit the effort to raise funds for a travelling computer lab for Sparks! If your company is interested in setting up a table at this event, or if you would like to make a donation, contact Mrs. Cave: kcave@bcps.org. Funds raised go directly to Sparks Technology fund, a Sparks Elementary School committee.