

May 30, 2008

Shark Bytes

www.sparkspta.org



Important Dates

June 9

5th Grade Farewell

June 10

School Closes 3 Hours Early

June 11 – Last Day of School!

School Closes 3 Hours Early

President's Message

It seems it was just last week that we were gearing up for Back to School Night in September, and now we're on the downhill stretch of May getting ready to say goodbye for the summer. Boy, the year has really flown!

My sincere thanks goes out to the PTA officers, committee heads and all the wonderful Sparks families and volunteers that helped ensure a smooth operation this year. It's been such a pleasure to work with all of you. As we prepare to pass the torch on to our new officers for the 08-09 school year, I hope you will join me in lending your talents and support to them in the coming year. We wish them all the best in their new positions. We're still looking for a number of volunteers to help out with many PTA programs, so if you're interested in possibly being a committee chair or would just like to serve as a member on one of the committees next year, please let us know. Parent volunteerism is what makes Sparks Elementary stand out among the other schools in our area and we are always seeking new families to get involved.

Have a safe and relaxing summer vacation and I will look forward to seeing you again in the fall.

Sincerely,
Vandy Harman

Volunteers

Many thanks to all of the parents, grandparents and friends who served as volunteers for this school year. We have recorded over 4,000 volunteer hours this year! That is amazing. It's no wonder our school is such a wonderful place. It's not too late to send me your volunteer hours. Please include time spent on field trips, making calls, baking, helping at the spring fair, etc. You can email your hours to me at mayhenhouse@comcast.net. Do not include hours recorded by signing into the school computer. You can email me the hours until June 11 and they will be counted toward this school year. Kelly Rodier, mom of Kendall (5th) and Amanda (1st) will take over as the 2nd VP for next school year. Keep track of all of those summer planning hours and email them to Kelly beginning June 12 at tastefullykelly@verizon.net. A big congratulations and thank you goes out to Joanie Schmalenberger who was recently recognized for contributing over 100 volunteer hours! Finally, thanks to Mrs. Gloria Matthews, a first grade teacher, and her helpers for providing our volunteers with such a nice Volunteer Tea this past Friday. It was wonderful. We especially enjoyed the entertainment provided by our students.

Have a GREAT summer! -Lauren May

Roster Help Needed

Interested in helping out with the Sparks Roster for 2008-2009? I am looking for a few volunteers to join my committee. If you are interested or have any questions, please call Nancy Cassell 410 961 8600.

Hula for Hopkins

Thank you to all of the families that attended "Hula for Hopkins" and helped support the Johns Hopkins Children's Center. The kids had a great time dancing with "Detour Dave" and eating the cookies and brownies many of the volunteers donated. Sparks helped raise over \$2,000.00 for the Children's Center. THANK YOU!

Thanks you to all of the volunteers that helped make all of the family events a success this year. It has been a pleasure working with all of you.
-Liz Neave

Girls on the Run

Girls on the Run will be back again at the beginning of the new school year! This wonderful program is open to girls entering 3rd through 5th Grades. It's designed to promote a girl's self-esteem and confidence, create a healthy body image, encourage community involvement, and improve physical fitness. The girls will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school from 3:30 to 5:00pm starting on 9/16/08 and ending on 12/4/08. The program culminates in the girls' participating in a community 5K walk/race on Sunday 12/7/08. This affords the girls such an overwhelming sense of accomplishment. Ms. Hoffman and Mrs. Tarlton will be coaching the girls! Registration forms will be sent home at the end of May. The program accommodates up to 20 girls and registration is on a first come, first serve basis. Please contact Chris Carpenter at (410) 357-8214 if you have any questions.

Spring Fair

We had an outstanding turn out this year for our annual Spring Fair. We could have not done it with out the help of so many people. First, thank you to our wonderful committee: Laurie Hudgins, Kelly Tannian, Tracey Blair, Jeannine Conover, Ginger Kremer, Tammy Waechter, Paula Kovinsky, Sharon Williams, Lisa Chiodi, Deane Schwatka, Anna Sienkiewicz, and Joanie Schmalenbeger. Thank you to our PTA, Jim Elicker, Arianna diFrancesco, Liz Neave, and Vandy Harman. The help from the following people and businesses are also greatly appreciated: Missy Fanshaw, Hereford Middle and High School volunteers, Sparks families, our custodians, Adelaide, Elsie and Boo, bake sale bakers, Ki Price, Hereford Rec, our Sparks family Volunteers, and Office Valet. And THANK YOU to our Sponsors: Ali's Closet, Baltimore County Police Department, Baltimore Orioles, Baltimore Coffee & Tea, Bradley's Wine & Spirits, Chesapeake Jaguar, Dippin' Dots, Ojas Wellness, Bill Kidds, Brentwood Automotive, Crown & Thistle Tea Room, Graul's Market, Slade's Inn, The Humidour Cigar Shoppe, Expectations Salon, Doug Poole - Riley & Associates, Goddard School, Casa Mia's, Wagon Wheel, Hereford Ambulance Company, Monarch Med Spa, Let's Dish, Hereford Pharmacy, Jay's Great Moments, Kingsdene Nurseries, The Manor Tavern, Mariam Nails, Mount Carmel Animal Hospital, Sam's Barber & Styling Inc., Sandra Paetow Photography, Wave Dancer, Wild Birds Unlimited, Sandra Sommerville-Pemier Jewelry, Under Armour, Vito's Cafe, Chick-fil-A, Rita's Ice, Target, The Lindy Bowman Company, Hereford Middle & High School Volunteers, Auto Spa, Hereford Rec Council, Hereford Volunteer Fire Department, and Dentist for Kids. And last but not least, thank you to Laurie Hudgin s-Goff for her 4 year committment as Chair-person. She will be greatly missed! Thank you Laurie! All of her hard work and organization will make a easy transition for anyone to take over next year, so please, if you are

interested, please let us know, we are still searching for a Chair person for the '09 Spring Fair.
The Spring Fair Committee

Yearbook Ads

Forms and sizing for Personal Block Ads and Line ads have been sent home as well as the flyer to order your 2007-2008 Yearbook. The cost for Ads is listed below. The cost for the Yearbook is \$17. Additional flyers are available in the office. See the PTA Bulletin board for sample of Personalized Block Ads or call Joanie Schmalenberger, 410-472-1051 for more information.

All ads should be turned in correctly sized. Your ads can be sent on disk or camera ready/hard copy (ready to scan), or emailed to: schmalenberger@comcast.net. PLEASE make sure your ad fits! All single line ads will be typed on the same page by the Yearbook Committee. The deadline for submitting ads is June 5!

Personal Ad Pricing

Eighth page – 3 ½ x 2 -\$20.00
Quarter page – 3 ½ x 4 ½ - \$35.00
Half page – 7 x 4 ½ -\$70.00
Full page – 7 x 9 ½ -\$140.00
Single Line ad -\$3.00
Business Ads are also available.
PLEASE VISIT SPARKSPTA.ORG TO PRINT THE ORDER FORM

On a related note, it is not too late to send in photos for the yearbook. If you have any photos that you snapped during school-related activities (events, field trips, parties...) please send in to school in an envelope or bag marked "Yearbook: Joanie Schmalenberger". Thanks- Joanie Schmalenberger 410-472-1051.

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 had April and May birthdays. There was also one special donation made by

MariJo Bushan in honor of Dr. Eli Velder's 50th anniversary of teaching at Goucher College. Thank you!
April Birthday Contributions:
Charles N, Robbie P, & Ben S
May Birthday Contributions:
Deanna B, Samantha C, Tyler H, Briana J, Braeden L, Nathan M, Caitlyn O, & Maximilian O.

Recycling

Paper Recycling

We will continue to recycle paper this summer so drive around by the dumpster and drop it off in the ABITIBI paper recycling bin!

Plastic Recycling- Help Needed!

Jaye Dansicker has done an outstanding job helping us to recycle plastics for the last two years. Unfortunately for us her daughter is moving to middle school. We need someone to volunteer to come in 2 times per week to empty our plastic recycling and take it to the recycling center in Cockeysville.

Blue Bird Trail

Summer Bluebird Trail Monitoring

Get outside with your family and enjoy the birds! If you are interested in helping to monitor the bluebird trail over the summer, please volunteer! Each family will have one week and they will need to walk and monitor the trail one time during that week. Training will be provided after school on May 28th and June 4th. You only need to attend one of the training meetings. We will meet in room 115 at 3:40 pm. If you are interested, please email Pokey Fair at efair@bcps.org and list 3-4 weeks that you are available. Your family will be assigned one of the weeks that you are available. Don't wait- last year there were not enough weeks for all the family's who wanted to help!

HMS Needs You!

Hereford Middle PTA needs parent volunteers in many various capacities. Visit www.herefordmiddlepta.org for more information.