

Sharkbytes

ALWAYS MOVING FORWARD

Mark your Calendar!

November

- REFLECTIONS ENTRIES DUE **TODAY!!**
- FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT **SOLD OUT!!**
Nov 14/Fri 6:15 pm–8:00 pm
- AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK
Week of November 17–21
- GRANDPARENTS DAY
Nov 21/Fri 9:00 am–12:00 pm

December

- PTA MEETING/HOLIDAY TEA
Dec 4/Thurs 9:30 am
- WINTER CONCERT
Dec 9/Tues 7:00 pm

January

- PTA MEETING
Jan 7/Wed 7:00 pm

February

- PTA MEETING
Feb 4/Wed 7:00 pm
- HULA FOR HOPKINS
Feb 20/Fri
- SCIENCE FAIR
Feb 26/Thurs

March

- PTA MEETING
Mar 5/Wed 9:30 am
- ICE SKATING PARTY
Mar 27/Fri

To contact the Sparks PTA

✉ 601 Belfast Road, Sparks MD 21152

☎ 410.357.0046

@ kimgraybill@comcast.net

American Education Week

We hope you are planning to join the PTA, Sparks administration and teachers in celebrating American Education week next week. It is a great opportunity to see our terrific Sparks teachers in action.

Monday, November 17	K/1
Tuesday, November 18	2/3
Wednesday, November 19	4/5

Activities are scheduled each day from 9:00 through 11:30. Please note, that parents will not be allowed to accompany their child to lunch, so please plan accordingly. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher or your class room parent.

PTA Movie Night

Due to an overwhelming response, this event is sold out. Confirmation letters were sent home to the families that signed up to attend. Please contact Tracey Blair at tracey744@yahoo.com with any questions.

Notes from the Classroom...

I would like to thank the PTA for purchasing 24 white boards for my classroom. These boards, dry erase pens and erasers are great because they allow all students to participate in lessons across the curriculum. We use them in math to respond to a variety of math problems. We use them for phonics and spelling during our reading class. I can find multiple uses for white boards throughout our day in order to engage every learner.

Grade 1 | Mrs. Mayo

Grandparent's Day



Grandparent's Day is fast approaching!

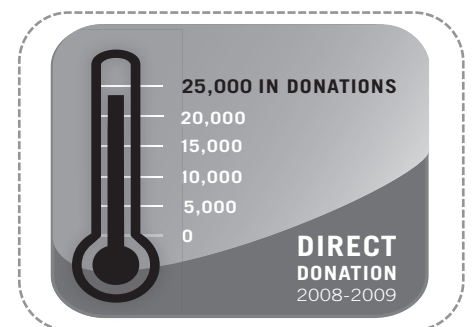
On Friday, November 21st Sparks Elementary will welcome grandparents and special friends. Invitations have gone home with the students. If you need invitations or have any questions, please feel free to contact Kathy Patti at katherinepatti@aol.com.

Direct Donation Update

Roster Roundup We are so grateful to be able to announce that Sparks family-owned or operated businesses have donated \$1,750 worth of advertising for the Sparks Student and Business Roster. Please take a look at the ads in the back of the Roster and consider those businesses when you're looking to spend your hard-earned money. They support Sparks Elementary and as much as you do!

Direct Donation/PTA Membership Unplugged

Thanks to the profound generosity of Sparks families and friends, we're closing in on our goals! Totals to date are as follows:



Direct Donation Income (Net): \$23,148

PTA Membership

Number of Members to date: 419

Percentage of Membership Goal: 81%

yearbooks available

We have extra yearbooks available to purchase. For more information, contact Joanie Schmalenberger at schmalenberger@comcast.net.

Photos Needed!

The Sparks Elementary Yearbook needs photos of class events, activities and field trips. Digital images can be sent to Joanie S. at schmalenberger@comcast.net (.jpgs are preferred). Prints can be sent in via the blue folder, in an envelope marked "Yearbook." **Please be sure to let us know the names and grade of the students in each photo.**

Spark's Library Gift Fund

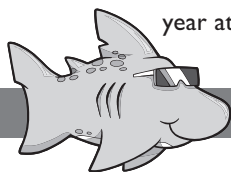


Spark's Library Gift Fund Committee would like to thank the families of the children listed below for making a contribution to the fund. A number of books have been purchased for the benefit of Sparks Elementary Library honoring these student who celebrated fall birthdays. A special donation was also made by Mr. & Mrs. Tom Bushman in memory of Peggy Bakley, a former elementary school teacher. **Thank you!**

- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| Josie B. | Mackenzie M. |
| Laiza B. | Rohit M. |
| Samuel B. | Kevin R. |
| James C. | Emma S. |
| Olivia D. | Jack S. |
| Dorsey E. | Andrea V. |
| Sarah K. | Daniel W. |
| Max K. | Hannah W. |

Angel Board

There is still time to send in photos for the Angel Board, a display that honors grandparents and special friends who have passed away. Please send in photos by Nov. 14. For information, contact Gigi Crawford at gigicrawford@comcast.net.



Welcome New Sparks Students

Amaya E., 4th Grade, Ms. Secula

Grayson S. - 1st Grade, Ms. Laude
Chris and Deborah Short
2641 Shepperd Road
Monkton, MD 21111
410.472.2106
theshortfamily@live.com

Please add these names to your roster.

Spirit Wear Update

Spirit Wear will be on sale each day during American Education Week so come prepared to shop! We will also be selling "Sparks Grandparent" t-shirts throughout the week. This is a great time to start your holiday shopping. The next order deadline is December 1, so that items will arrive in time for the holidays. Check out the latest Spirit Wear and download forms at sparkspta.org.

The Ice Cream Social was a Huge Success!

The turnout was so tremendous for our Sparks Ice Cream social that we almost ran out of ice cream ... and toppings, too! We were down to our last two tubs of ice cream and dedicated dads were sent on emergency runs to local grocery stores for toppings.

The best news is that due to this unexpected response, the Sparks PTA ended up with a surplus (more income than expenses) for the event. These extra funds will be used to purchase items on the teachers' wish lists. Thank you to everyone for making this event both fun and meaningful for Sparks!

Sparks Sings at Hunt Valley

All Sparks' 5th grade students are invited to perform holiday songs for the Tree Lighting Ceremony at Hunt Valley Mall on Friday, November 28th. We will meet near the tree at 5:30 pm and sing from 5:45 to 6 pm. Plans are underway for a pizza party afterwards at Wegmans following the singing. This is always a wonderful evening and this will be our 5th year at Hunt Valley!

Sparks is a Green School... Sparks RECYCLES!

Recycling at Sparks includes paper and plastic as well as ink cartridges and cell phones. We earn \$\$\$ for the school for every ink cartridge and cell phone recycled here. **Collection bins are located in the lobby outside of the art room.**

green stat



For every one ton of plastic that is recycled, we save the equivalent of two people's energy use for one year OR the amount of water used by one person in two month's time AND almost 2,000 pounds of oil!

source: <http://www.environment-green.com>

Box Tops and Grocery Receipts

As of October 31st, we have collected over 3,000 box tops! Each Box Top coupon is worth 10¢ for our school. You can clip Box Tops coupons from many of your favorite products. For a complete list of products featuring Box Tops coupons, please go to boxtops4education.com. Thanks and keep clipping!

We also have 65 designated shoppers for the Giant A+ bonus bucks. Thank you to all the families who are supporting Sparks by participating in these programs. To learn more, go to sparkspta.org.

tales of the AMAZON!!

“ Tales of the Amazon was amazing! When the storyteller told the two stories, he acted out the scene and it was like he was the character in the story. He also said he went to mime school. And, he was a very good mime. One of the amazing things he did was blowing up an imaginary balloon out of thin air. It was a really cool assembly. ”

Eva H.

Grade 3 | Mrs. Ballard