

Sharkbytes

ALWAYS MOVING FORWARD

Mark your Calendar!

October

- HALLOWEEN PARADE
Oct 30/Fri 2:00

November

- PTA MEETING
Nov 4/Wed 7:00 pm
- FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT
Nov 13/Fri
- AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK
Week of November 16-20
- GRANDPARENTS DAY
Nov 20/Fri

December

- PTA MEETING/HOLIDAY TEA
Dec 2/Thurs 9:30 am
- WINTER CONCERT
Dec 15/Tues 7:00 pm
- WINTER BREAK
Dec 24-Jan 3

January

- SCHOOL RE-OPENS
Jan 4/Mon
- PTA MEETING
Jan 6/Wed 9:30 am
- ICE SKATING PARTY
Jan 22/Fri 5:15-7:15 pm

To contact the Sparks PTA

✉ 601 Belfast Road, Sparks MD 21152

☎ 410.357.0046

@ kimgraybill@comcast.net

Another great Ice Cream Social!

Another year of record attendance at the Ice Cream Social! What an amazing night and a terrific cooperative effort between local businesses and Sparks Elementary. Many thanks to our generous vendor partners... Grauls, Wegmans, Giant, Sams Club, FoodLion, Walmart, Office Valet, McDonalds, Carvel, Hunt Valley Catering, Kingsdene Nursery, and Martina's Cafe. A special thank you also goes out to our faculty scoopers and many parent and student volunteers. A wonderful team effort and a fun family event, who could ask for more? Thanks again! **The Sparks PTA**

The STEM Fair is coming!

The Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fair is scheduled for Tuesday, February 23rd. **Participation in the STEM fair is open to all students.** All fifth grade students will be required to complete a STEM fair project. And, this year, all GT fourth graders will also be required to complete a STEM fair project as part of the GT component in the science curriculum. More information will be available as we get closer to the date. **Now is the time to begin thinking about a possible question for your STEM fair project!**

Yellow Grauls Supermarket Receipts Mean GREEN for Our School

Please send your yellow Grauls receipts in to school with your child. Grauls Supermarket will donate \$250.00 to Sparks for every \$25,000.00 in receipts collected. Every little bit counts so don't forget to save and send in your Grauls receipts!



You Can Make a Difference for Our School with Box Tops!

Box Tops for Education is one of the easiest ways to raise money for our school at NO additional cost to you!

Clip — Clip Box Tops coupons from hundreds of participating General Mills products and send them to school with your child.

Shop — Shop at your favorite online stores through the Box Tops Marketplace (btfe.com/marketplace) and up to 8% of each qualifying purchase is donated to our school.

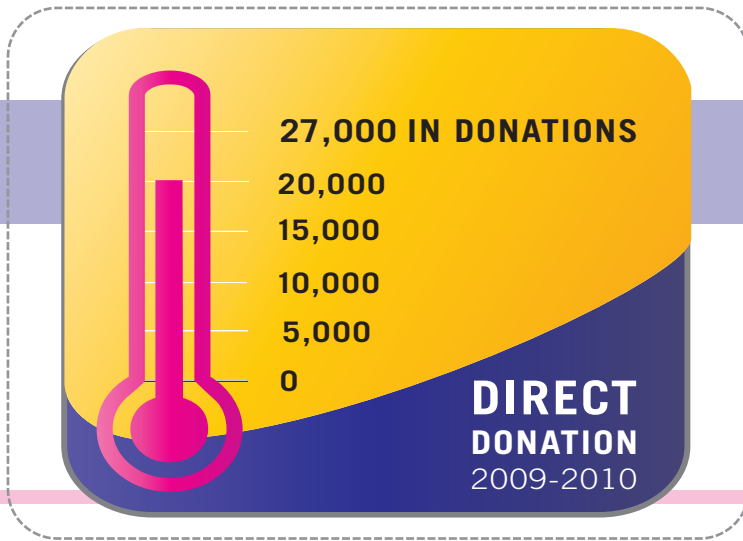
Books — Purchase books online at Barnes & Noble through the Box Tops Reading Room and Sparks will receive 6% of your new book purchases.

FALL COLLECTION CONTEST

From October through November, classrooms will be competing to collect the most Box Tops. All students in the winning classroom will receive a special fall goodie bag full of treats and treasures. **So get clipping and send in those Box Tops!**

Spring Fair kicks off in January

Just a reminder that the first Spring Fair Meeting will take place in January. We need lots of helping hands to make this event a success. Please contact Dawn Lasure drlasure@comcast.net if you are interested in finding out more or want to volunteer for this event.



You Support Sparks!

75% OF OUR \$27K GOAL REACHED SO FAR

42% OF SPARKS FAMILIES HAVE PARTICIPATED

Thanks to all those who have given to our Direct Donation campaign!

We are so grateful for every contribution! Together, we are funding important parts of our children's education.

A special thanks goes out to those who gave above and beyond the requested amount. Your generosity will make a difference at Sparks!

We welcome donations from our families as well as local businesses. Take a look at our School Wish List on the next page!

It's not too late to donate and be recognized!

The Adkins, The Alrashiridis, The Armigers, The Assadis, The Bakers (Zaher), The Baldwins, The Bealers, The Bedwells, The Behans, The Bilellos, The Bierlys, The Blairs, The Borrors, The Bravermans, The Brennans, The Browns, The Browns, The Browns, The Bubiers, The Cavolos, The Chalmerses, The Chaney, The Cassells, The Chmars, The Cioflis, The Cokers, The Colemans, The Collins, The Conovers, The Corteses, The Creagers, The Crowleys, The Days, The DeLibros, The DeSantises, The Diases, The DiPasquales, The Donos, The Dowells, The Ebacher-Rinis, The Eberts, The Ehman, The Elickers, The Elzeins, The Ensors, The Fair/Goffigans, The Federicis, The Flowers

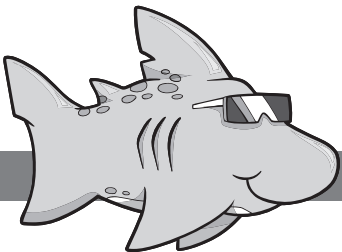
The Gencos, The Georges, The Gerovasilises, The Giancolas, The Gizas, The Goetz, The Graybills, The Greens, The Grenzers, The Griffins, The Grows, The Grunwells, The Guarreras, The Guos, The Haases, The Hagans, The Hainaults, The Halfpaps, The Hamidis, The Hanleys, The Harmans, The Harmons, The Heilbronn, The Hendersons, The Hickmans, The Hilfertys, The Hirparas, The Hoovers, The Houghs, The Howards, The Hudsons, The Huffmans, The Hustons, The Hirds, The Inglisas, The Jahromis, The Karases, The Karvounises, The Keefes, The Kinseys, The Klinks, The Knolles, The Kochs, The Kohlensteins, The Krotees, The Krucenskis, The Kurniawans, The Kurtzs

The Lahms, The Lamdins, The Langlees, The LaVinas, The Lasures, The Lees, The Lee/Ohs, The Lentz, The Limes, The Lippes, The Livingstons, The Locharys, The Loughs, The Magers, The Mahers, The Mahoneys, The Martins, The Marchinecks, The Matthews, The Mays, The Middletons, The Mohelskis, The Mooneys, The Nadens, The Naravels, The Nawrockis, The Neaves, The Needles, The Nemphoses, The Nozemacks, The Oateses, The O'Connors, The O'Neils, The Ossakows

The Palchevskiys, The Parks, The Parkers, The Parkers, The Pearce, The Petroskis, The Pflugrads, The Piombinos, The Plunkerts, The Punte, The Pursleys, The Reddings, The Riemers, The Rileys, The Rodiers, The Roebucks, The Rosses, The Rowlands, The Rubinos, The Rusins, The Russells

The Sacklehs, The Samans, The Santoses, The Savoies, The Schwabs, The Shamuses, The Secors, The Simons, The Shifletts, The Smiths, The Staabs, The Starlings, The Straws, The Stouts, The Streets, The Sulses, The Szymanskis, The Talbotts, The Tanios, The Taylors, The Thomas-Oakleys, The Townsleys, The Turners, The Turners, The Vitranos, The von Schnells, The Webbs, The Webers, The Williams, The Weigels, The Weisses, The Wellners, The Westerlunds, The Williams', The Wittichs, The Woods, The Woods, The Yocums, The Zinns

In our next issue... Direct Donation updates and a thanks to local businesses, too!



THANKS FOR KEEPING ME MOVING FORWARD!

Spark's Library Gift Fund



Spark's Library Gift Fund Committee would like to thank the families of the children listed below for their generosity in making a contribution to the fund. New books have been purchased for the benefit of Sparks Elementary Library honoring these students. We thank you!

Honored students celebrating late Spring/Summer birthdays:

Leslie D.	Karli O.
Cooper D.	Patrick R.
Abby K.	Cole S.
Kyle L.	Maria S.
Anna L.	Jake T.
Elle L.	Nicholas S.

Honored students celebrating September birthdays:

Lucy G.	Olivia F. N.
Max K.	Matthew S.
Collin J. L.	Nichole S.
Piper L.	Emma T.
Ella M.	Ben W.

School Wish List for 2009-2010

- a sidewalk connecting the second set of trailers to main building
- a PA system for outside trailers
- a document camera
- a countertop easel
- classroom library books
- a large magnetic white board
- birdhouses made of recycled material (trex)
- computer speakers
- a class set of Magnadoodles
- a class set of clipboards
- new art tables

If you can help, please contact Kim Graybill at kimgraybill@comcast.net

Please send in your hours!

The best way to submit your volunteer hours is via the PTA website.

New Parent Party Thank You!

This year's New Parent Party, held on Friday, September 25th was graciously hosted by Lynn and Michael Traynor.

Thank you so much for opening up your beautiful home to us. We were fortunate to have such a beautiful evening for new parents, staff and PTA board to mingle and get to know one another. This evening wouldn't have been possible without our new co-chairs Anna Sienkiewicz and Gigi Crawford. You two did an amazing job. They wanted to thank Paula Kovinsky and Tammy Waechter for making this an easy transition for them.

This event wouldn't have been the success it was without the help of the wonderful committee who helped pull the evening together as well as the generous donations from our parents and local businesses. With that, we would like to thank the following: Jeannine Conover, Ginger Kremer and Brooke Dowell for organizing and donating to the Cheese and Appetizer Station, the Dessert Table and beverages. Kelly Tannian of K.A.T. Photography and Design for the beautiful invitations she designed and donated for the event and Heather Loyd for the beautiful flower arrangements she put together for the evening. The following family and friends donated fantastic appetizers, desserts and beverages: Mary Louise Jefferson, Anne Blair, Michelle DiPasquale, Bobby Suls, Stacey Lochary, Lauren May, Wendy Gatto, Courtney Knolle, Andrea Verdecchia, Briget Koch, Ashley Shaver, Meghan Parker, Kelly Rodier, Iraida Nunez, Kellie Huffman, Natalie Behrens, Briget Koch, Julie Posner, Lisa O'neil, Lynn Rowland, Michelle Secor, Sara Mana, Tien Lanley, Dawn Karas, Diana Weiss, Audrey Dickerson and Beth Bowden. Thank you to Max Conover and Aimee Klink for parking, Dana Pflugrad, Diana Weiss, Sheila Borrer, Holly Inglisa, Kelly Rodier, Liz Neave and Erin Merrick for making sure the wonderful food was always overflowing. Thank you to Kim Graybill and Tracey Blair for welcoming our guests for the evening.

We certainly can't forget those who helped with set up and clean up, so thank you to Doug Lasure, Michelle and Victor DiPasquale, Beth Bowden, Matt Sienkiewicz, Mike Blair, Heather Loyd, Stephanie Ross and Michael and Lynn Traynor.

Finally, we would like to thank the following businesses for their generous donations: Belvedere Farm, Cakes and More by Nathalie Behrens, Giant Food, Grauls Market in Hereford, Liberatore's Restaurant in Timonium, Step by Step Children's Learning Center, Tastefully Simply by Kelly Rodier, The Milton Inn, Troyer's Liquors, Brooks-Huff Tire & Auto Centers, Evan's Funeral Home, Office Valet, North County Design Center, Cranbrook Liquors, Price's.

This party has been a tradition for many, many years and it's wonderful to see the time and dedication that goes into making it a memorable evening. Thanks again!

The Sparks PTA

Register for the Giant Foods A+ Bonus Bucks Program

Help Sparks earn A+ Bonus Bucks by registering your Giant Food Bonus Card at www.giantfood.com/aplus. Every time you use your Giant Bonus Card a percentage of your purchase is donated to Sparks at no additional cost to you. **The Sparks Elementary School ID is 01190.** You may designate up to three schools to support. Please note, you have to re-register each year in order to participate.

MD expands Booster Seat Law

Beginning on June 30th, children in Maryland will be required to be in a child safety seat up to their 8th birthday, unless they weigh more than 65 lbs. or are 4'9" or taller. To read more, go to www.usa.safekids.org and look up "Maryland" in keyword search panel.

