



Sharkbytes

ALWAYS MOVING FORWARD

Mark your Calendar!

November

- AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK
Week of November 16–20
- GRANDPARENTS DAY
Nov 20 / Fri
- SPARKS STARS PERFORM
Nov 27 / Fri, Hunt Valley Towne Cnt.

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

February

- PTA MEETING
Feb 3 / Wed 9:30 am
- HULA FOR HOPKINS
Feb 19 / Fri 7:15–8:30 pm
- STEM FAIR
Feb 23 / Tues

To contact the Sparks PTA

✉ 601 Belfast Road, Sparks MD 21152

☎ 410.357.0046

@ kimgraybill@comcast.net

Help keep Sparks PTA strong!

We are in need of five PTA members to join the Nominating Committee for the 2010-2011 Executive Board. This committee will identify and recruit the most qualified people for next year's PTA Executive Board. The committee should include experienced on-going leadership as well as newer members, so anyone is welcome to join. If you are interested or have any questions, please email Tracey Blair at tracey744@yahoo.com by November 30th. This committee will start meeting in January.

A day to celebrate Grandparents and Special Friends

Celebrating the Generations will be Friday, November 20th from 8:30 am–12:00 pm. If you haven't received your invitations, please contact Stacey Krotee 410-472-1144 or at sklovesgod@netscape.net.

Track Early, Track Often

Remember to log your volunteer hours via the PTA website, www.sparkspta.org/volunteerhours.html. You may also email Susan Stephenson (scubed@netzero.net) or Aimee Klink (aimeeklink@netscape.net) directly with your totals. We do so much work, let's take credit for it!

PTA Reflections

The PTA Reflections Program received 90 BEAUTIFUL entries. This program continues to grow! Thank you to all the talented students who submitted entries. Winners will be announced the beginning of December.

Sparks Stars Holiday Season is getting underway!

Please take note of the following rehearsal schedule for the Sparks Stars.

- Wednesday, November 18th from 3:30–4:30 in the Music Room
- After lunch on Thursday, November 19th
- Saturday, November 21st at 9:30 am at the Maryland Masonic Home. The concert takes place at 10:15 am... followed by donuts! Pick-up time is 11:30 am.

Please join us for a Sparks tradition!!

The Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Hunt Valley Towne Centre will take place on Friday, November 27th. All interested 5th graders are welcome to participate. Come out and cheer on our holiday singers!

Health Fair 2010

Sparks Elementary will be hosting a Health Fair on April 30th (during the day) for our students. Barbara Purdie and I are the chairs of this event and we need a committee to help plan the event and decide on a theme! We will also be looking for volunteers to help out during the Health Fair and guest speakers from the community. If you can contribute in any of these capacities, please contact me. **Thank you!**

– Kate Russell, RN, MSN
k Russell2@bcps.org • 410.887.7878

Hula for Hopkins is gratefully accepting donations of "hula-y" decorations and props—especially hula hoops or inflatable palm trees which are deeply discounted at this time of year! You might just be surprised by who will Hula for Hopkins!



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. New books have been purchased for the benefit of Sparks Elementary Library honoring these students. These students have recently celebrated their birthdays in September or October. Two students were honored with books as early Christmas gifts. **Thank you!**

Leland A.	Robbie M.
Hayley B.	Megan R.
Cecilia C.	Carly R.
Cara D.	Kevin R.
Ashley S. E.	Emma S.
Ata E.	Andrea V.
Nathan G.	

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
- 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

Sparks Recycles!

To model environmental stewardship to our students and to earn money for our school, Sparks recycles the following items. Collection bins are located in the lobby.

- Ink Cartridges
- Cell phones
- Kashi cereal boxes and bar packages
- Mars/Wrigley candy wrappers
- Bear Naked packages
- Capri Sun & Honest Kids drink pouches

Yearbooks Available

The 2008-2009 Yearbooks have been distributed and we hope you are enjoying them!

We still have some 2008-2009 Yearbooks available. The cost is \$17.00. If you would like to purchase one, contact Joanie Schmalenberger at schmalenberger@comcast.net.

Of course, the 2009-2010 Yearbook is underway! If you have pictures from class trips or school events, please send them into the email list above or send prints in an envelope marked "Yearbook." **Thank you!**

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!**

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.

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.

Yellow Grauls Supermarket Receipts Mean GREEN for Our School

Please send your yellow Grauls receipts in to school with your child. Every little bit counts so don't forget to save and send in your Grauls receipts!

Hula for Hopkins

This fun, family-friendly dance party, will be held in the Sharketeria on February 19th. All proceeds support Johns Hopkins Children's Hospital! As always, we'll need some help. If you're interested in volunteerism or Service Learning and would like to pitch in, contact Aimee Klink at aimeeklink@netscape.net.



Box Tops Add up Fast!

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 gets 6% of your new book purchases.

FALL COLLECTION CONTEST

Through the end of this month, classrooms are competing to collect the most Box Tops. Students in the winning classroom will receive a fall goodie bag full of treats and treasures. **Get clipping and send in those Box Tops!**

