



Oak Hill Elementary PTO News & Views

"Many Hands Make A Difference"

September 2009



President's Column



By Aaron M Apruzzese
Oak Hill PTO President

With Labor Day fast approaching, the summer will have officially ended and our children already will have been in school for nearly two weeks. I hope your family's time away from school was marked with memorable activities – vacations, family gatherings, picnics, the beach, and such. My family packed as much as we could with two weeks in California, trips to Connecticut and Ocean City, baseball camp, and swimming lessons. After these "lazy days", my children actually are looking forward to a return to the normalcy of the school year and reconnecting with their classmates.

Whether you are a returning family or just embarking on your journey with Oak Hill Elementary, I would like to welcome you, on behalf of the Oak Hill Parent Teacher Organization Executive Board, to the 2009-2010 school year. With a new year comes a new Executive Board and some introductions are in order. I am Aaron Apruzzese and I am your new PTO President. I have replaced Kris McNally in this role from last year's Board. Janette Hunt has transitioned from her previous role of Secretary to become our current 1st Vice President, replacing Tricia Bateman. We give many thanks to both Kris and Tricia for their immense efforts and dedication toward the Oak Hill PTO. This year, Maureen Liakos continues as our 2nd Vice President as does Rebecca Clingan as our Treasurer. Joining us as our new Secretary is Laura Knox. Additionally, while not a Board position but quite integral to the success of the PTO, the Volunteer Coordinator position remains entrusted to Laura Lynn. Please welcome our new Board. We are dedicated to serving the needs of our school community.

The purpose of the Oak Hill PTO is to promote a partnership between home and school. Your PTO is a forum by which parents and teachers can collaborate to focus on the needs of the children, parents, and teachers of Oak Hill Elementary and our Oak Hill community at large. The PTO objectives are to promote our children's education by facilitating communications between the home and school, by creating opportunities that encourage participation of the Oak Hill community, and by offering meaningful enrichment programs that provide extracurricular educational experiences. Our PTO also evaluates and promotes programs and events that further the improvement of Oak Hill Elementary and supports local, state, and federal educational organizations that work to better our public education system.

Last year, the PTO provided several extracurricular programs and school improvement projects. Music and art classes and chess club were some of the afterschool activities. The Fall and Spring Beautification programs provided the flowers and plantings found in front of the school and around the grounds. The new sign at the entrance of the school driveway as well as the new soccer goals are just some of the previous year's contributions of your PTO.

This year, we will continue to build upon the successes of our PTO predecessors by celebrating the diversity and unique qualities of the individuals that comprise our vibrant Oak Hill community. We will work to expand our membership by ensuring that a portion of our volunteer activities are offered at times accommodating to our working parents who would like to actively participate. However, your participation, whether through volunteer hours, monetary donations, or attendance of fundraising functions is vital to building a strong PTO at our school.

Throughout the 2009-2010 school year, Oak Hill Elementary will continue to become increasingly environmentally responsible by reducing resource waste. The PTO will mirror these efforts by relying more heavily upon our website and emails to communicate. Please support us by regularly reviewing the website for new announcements and information and by responding to email forms, questionnaires, and surveys.

To all of you, we thank you for the opportunity to serve you. Our efforts this year will provide continuous improvement to our school, fostering an educationally superior environment, and ultimately, better overall students. As we are united to build a stronger Oak Hill community this year, let us appreciate and respect that there are many solutions to any given challenge. Our unyielding resolve to better our students will allow us to remain united in purpose when those moments inevitably arise. All that we ask is that you do your part to support our commitment, our children, and our school.



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, to all of the volunteers who have already been hard at work this year:

- ◆ Jennifer Shanahan and Kathy Key for making our school grounds beautiful. Our school shines!
- ◆ All of the parents and students who helped prepare and deliver the 500 Back To School Folders; Andra Davis, Janette Hunt, Laura Knox, Laura Lynn, Sara Metcalfe, Kelly Soliman, Sara Toomey & Lori Stokes.
- ◆ All of the parents, students and families who helped make the Ice Cream Social a Success. A special thanks to Aaron and Tina Apruzzese, Janette Hunt, Kathy Key, Maureen Liakos, Laura Lynn, Lori Stokes, Sara Toomey & families.
- ◆ Kris McNally & Tricia Bateman, along with the help of many OHES parents and students, for delivering all of the SCHOOL SUPPLIES KITS to the classrooms.
- ◆ Babet Regalado, Jennifer Wilson, Sharon Folts, Kim Hughes, and all of the parents who contributed to the Back to School Teacher Luncheon.
- ◆ The entire PTO Board for all of their time and energy preparing for our upcoming school year.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- September 9th: Volunteer Form Deadline for anyone interested in being a Room Parent.
- September 15th: New Volunteer Orientation @ 9:30am in the cafeteria.
- September 22nd: Committee Chair/Co-Chair and Room Parent Training at 9am in the cafeteria.

We appreciate all that you do!
The Volunteer Coordinators,
Laura Lynn & Tina Apruzzese

Save the date for this year's

Black & White

Silent and Live Auction

Saturday, November 14th, 8009 6-11 p.m.
Severna Park Elks Club

Live Auction with Grade Level Art
Silent Auction with Hundreds of Items
Priceless Teacher and Staff Donations
Incredible Food & Decor, Open Bar
Music, Dancing, Raffles, Fun!!!

Last year's event was so much fun, raising over \$11,000 for our school.
We need your help to make this year's event even bigger and better.

Look for more info soon. Questions? Please email
Katie Bartel (katiebartel@gmail.com), Laura Knox (lkniaz@juno.com),
or Janette Hunt (nettnett4@verizon.net)



Black Eyed Susan Book Program 2009-2010



Fourth and fifth grade students are welcome to participate in this year's Black Eyed Susan Reading program. Choose one or all of the following books to read.

Brendan Buckley's Universe and Everything in It by Sundee Frasier

Diamond Willow by Helen Frost

Igraine the Brave by Cornelia Funke

Samuel Blink and the Forbidden Forest by Matt Haig

Swindle by Gordon Korman

Savvy by Ingrid Law

Paint the Wind by Pam Munoz Ryan

Dragon's Egg by Sarah Thomson

A Crooked Kind of Perfect by Linda Urban

Fearless by Elvira Woodruff



With guidance, students will discuss the books that they have read and earn recognition for their achievement on the Black Eyed Susan board in the media center. Any student who reads 3 of the books can vote for their favorite in April 2010. The book with the most votes statewide wins the coveted Maryland Black Eyed Susan Award. This is a fun and rewarding experience for all 4th and 5th grade participants.

Any questions can be forwarded to Co-chairs Kris McNally krhmcnally@comcast.net or Karen Wiley jfw1701d@aol.com.



Check out the Birthday Book Club!

For a suggested \$10 Donation, your child gets to:

Pick out a special book from the Birthday Book Club Collection • Personalize a nameplate for the book
Be the first to check out their book & keep it for an extra week • Add a book leaf to the Oak Tree in the Media Center • Make a lasting contribution to the Oak Hill Media Center

How it Works:

We will be celebrating Birthday Book Club the third Tuesday of each month*
Sept 15 (Aug & Sept), Oct 20, Nov 17, Dec 8*, Jan 19, Feb 16, Mar 23*, Apr 13, May 18, Jun 8 (June & July)

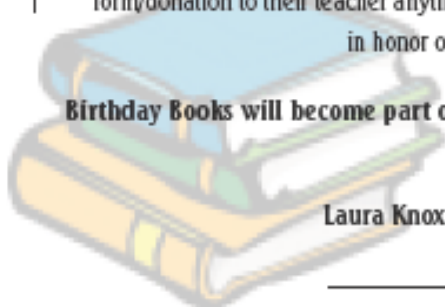
* celebrated on a different Tuesday because of a conflict

A flyer with a form will be coming home soon through the backpacks. Have your child return this form along with check/cash to the Media Center between 8:20-8:40 a.m. on the Birthday Book Club day corresponding to their birthday. Or, send in the form/donation to their teacher anytime and we'll register them for the appropriate month. Birthday Books can be donated in honor of students' birthdays, staff birthdays or other special events.

Birthday Books will become part of the permanent collection in the Oak Hill Elementary School's Media Center!

For any questions or comments, please contact:

Laura Knox (Lkniaz@juno.com) or Katie Bartel (katiebartel@gmail.com)



After



Enrichment

The PTO is offering many wonderful after-school enrichment opportunities this fall. Watch your children's backpacks for flyers about the following potential clubs: **Artworks Art Club**, **Building Emotional Intelligence** (yoga & meditation), **Cheerleading Clinic**, **Drama Club**, **Lego Fun Club**, **Paper Crafts Club**, **Planet Protectors**, **Spanish Academy** and **Taekwondo** classes. We're finalizing details for each of these great programs! If you have questions, please contact Laura Knox at 410-518-6070 or LKniaz@juno.com.



Parents for Pastries Dates

September 29 th	ECI/Pre-K
October 27 th	Kindergarten
December 1 st	1 st Grade
February 23 rd	2 nd Grade
March 19 th	3 rd Grade
April 27 th	4 th Grade
May 25 th	5 th Grade

Fall Fundraiser Starts September 14

Oak Hill's Fall Fundraiser starts on Monday, September 14. Once again this year we will be teaming up with Innisbrook, offering a fabulous selection of wrapping paper, gifts and chocolate. This was a very successful fundraiser for the school last year, raising over \$9,000. Fifty percent of all profit goes directly to the school and new this year participants can use the EZ Order system to enter orders. All participants will receive a prize, and out-of-town family and friends can support the fundraiser by shopping the Innisbrook Online Store. Once the fundraiser starts, there will be three weeks to take orders until the fundraiser closes on October 2. Look for the Innisbrook table at Back-to-School night, Sept. 9, to see sample wrapping paper and gifts and to ask any questions.



Newsletter Notes

In an effort to be more environmentally responsible, this issue of the PTO newsletter will be the last available in print. The next issue will be available on the PTO website at <http://www.teacherweb.com/MD/oakhillelementary/PTO/h0.stm> and will also be made available on the school's home page along with the school newsletter at <http://www.aacps.org/aacps/oakhiles/index.asp>.

Articles for future issues may be submitted to Dana Newman at mdlnewman@comcast.net. Reminders of the deadline for each issue will be sent out via the PTO Manager by the second week of each month.



SPOTLIGHT ON THE TALENT SHOW

With the way time flies, the third annual Talent Show will be upon us sooner than we know. I have no idea what happened to the summer! I am a firm believer that this show is one of the highlights of our children's year. The time and effort they put into their acts is obvious on stage and contributes the pride we have in Oak Hill Elementary. I have relied on several wonderful volunteer parents for the past two years to help me with the organization of this wonderful event who have now moved on to Middle School volunteering. That's why my early plea for help is being sent out now!

The following are the dates already set for this year's Talent Show:

- Show us your" Act Dates Two days being determined in January 2010
- Talent Show Rehearsal Date Thursday, February 18, 2010
- Talent Show Date Friday, February 19, 2010
- Talent Show Snow Date Friday. February 26, 2010

This entire show is set up on spreadsheets with the responsibilities spelled out in elaborate detail. Since we have two years under our belt and the historical data has been documented, it is easy! Help is need with the following positions:

- ◆ Food and Beverage Sales Coordinator Coordinates Pizza, Beverages and Bake Sale items
- ◆ Photography Person Takes pictures during the show
- ◆ Program Ad Coordinator Ads for the program are the biggest money generator
- ◆ Graphic Designer for Program Production Sets up the design of the Talent Show Program
- ◆ Help the evening of the Show with act flow, seating, selling food during intermission, Etc.
- ◆ Ticket Sales Coordinator Helps with ticket presales and tickets the evening of event



If you can help with any of these positions, please contact me at 443-618-6007 or lancekasten@verizon.net. I am really looking forward to seeing our children perform in 2010!

Lance Kasten, Talent Show Chairperson

Grounds Beautification

I would like to welcome everyone back to school! I am hoping to get many volunteers for this coming year to help with the grounds maintenance. So ,don't forget when you sign up for volunteering, to put a check for the grounds beautification committee. We have been able to get the gardens back into shape, but need **your** help in keeping them beautiful for the school year. The more hands the better. So, if any of you have some free time and would like to join us during the week please contact me at the following email:

jjshanahan@comcast.net.

Jennifer Shanahan



Oak Hill Happenings

September

7th	School Closed--Labor Day
9th	Back to School Night
14th	Innisbrook Fall Fundraiser Begins
15th	Volunteer Orientation-9:30 AM Birthday Book Club-8:20 AM
22nd	Committee Chair and Room Orientation-9:00 AM Naglieri Testing for 2nd Grade
28th	School Closed--Yom Kippur
29th	Pastries for Parents (Pre-K/ECI)

October

2nd	Innisbrook Fall Fundraiser Due
12th	Individual Student Pictures
13th	CAC Meeting-6:30 PM PTO Meeting-7:00 PM
15th	Flu Mist
16th	School Closed
20th	Birthday Book Club
27th	Pastries for Parents (Kindergarten)
30th	2 Hour Early Dismissal- End of Marking Period

Oak Hill's Internal Walls Installation and Technology Upgrade Update

Welcome to a new school year Oak Hill families! Some of you who are parents of our newest students may not know we had a major renovation this past summer. Have you had a chance to take a look at the new K/1st grade wing? If not, please take time to do so! I have only heard positive feedback thus far. I hope all of the kindergarten and grade one teachers are pleased!

Oak Hill is fortunate and appreciative to have been among the first of the 33 open space schools in the county to be selected for renovation after many years of waiting for the Internal Walls budget line item to receive funding. I want to mention that this was a very cost effective project. With just 3.1 million dollars plus some state matching funds, Oak Hill and FOUR other schools in Anne Arundel County (Bodkin, Central, Crofton Woods, and Hilltop received internal walls. As of last spring, the plan was to complete the other four quads during the summer of 2010. We're excited and look forward to the completion of this project.

If you like what you see, please take a moment to thank some of the many people that made this renovation project possible. I'm sure I will be leaving someone out but some of the key people include:

Our principal, Mrs. Deneen Houghton

Chief Operating Officer of AACPS, Alex Szachnowicz

Superintendent Maxwell

Members of the AACPS School Board

Members of the Anne Arundel County Council (particularly our Chairperson Cathy Vitale)

County Executive Leopold

The Greater Severna Park Council

E-mail addresses for many of these individuals can be found on www.AACPS.org and www.aacounty.org

Thanks also to all the Oak Hill families who supported this initiative and donated their time and effort towards the attainment of this goal!

Sharon McGalliard

Chair, CAC Walls Subcommittee

PTO Executive Board

President

1st Vice President

2nd Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Aaron Apruzzese

Janette Hunt

Maureen Liakos

Laura Knox

Rebecca Clingan