



# Oak Hill Elementary PTO News & Views

"Many Hands Make A Difference"

November 2009



## President's Column



01 November 2009

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The smell of damp fallen leaves, the chill in the air, and remnants of Halloween's sugary treats tells us autumn has finally taken hold. October is now behind us and many of our children's fall activities are coming to a close. I cannot believe that the first quarter of school is nearly complete as time seems to be passing so quickly.

Meanwhile, your PTO has continued its hard work with the support of many dedicated volunteers. The afterschool programs have been well attended, so much so that the Lego group had to add additional sessions to accommodate the interest. The Innisbrook fall fundraiser numbers are in and it was a huge success. We profited approximately \$7,000.00 that will ultimately provide new technology, software, books, and other enrichments for the classrooms. Special thanks go to our students and parents for their participation.

### October's Volunteer Organizers

Innisbrook  
Fall Family Dinner

Anne Ryan  
Nila Coates  
Kristi Coleman

The Fall Family Dinner had an amazingly high last-minute turnout causing additional food to be purchased midway through the event. We thank all of the attendees for their patience in waiting for dinner and the volunteers for their resourcefulness in eventually getting everyone fed. With such an unexpected attendance, the Board will be enacting guidelines for organizers to avoid this kind of problem in the future. Since the Dinner, intended to be a break-even event, netted nearly \$650, the Board will use that money for a future free event for our families. I must note though that this is the type of problem that we want - an overwhelming interest in the activities means that our membership is engaged. Please keep up your support.

On October 13<sup>th</sup>, we held our latest PTO meeting and had excellent attendance. Mrs. Houghton unveiled the new mission statement for our school: Oak Hill's mission is to foster a respectful, stimulating, positive, and safe environment in partnership with parents and the community to assist students in becoming independent life-long learners and productive members of society. She also announced the school slogan of WATERS - Working All Together Everyone Reaches Success which parallels the AACPS theme of Sailing into Success. Ms. Warnock was our guest speaker to inform us of the status of Oak Hill's Green School Project. Our school is behind its peers in reaching this milestone. She outlined the county standards and conveyed that to reach those goals all of our support would be required. The Board has pledged the PTO's commitment to achieve Ms. Warnock's plan.

I indicated at the meeting that my effort to begin monthly surveys of the membership was lagging. I am now happy to announce that our first survey concerning PTO activity satisfaction is up and running. Please take the time to make your voice heard by clicking on the following link: [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=06Jr\\_2foUUHjy8G\\_2bWEozNxVQ\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=06Jr_2foUUHjy8G_2bWEozNxVQ_3d_3d).

Finally, the Black and White Dinner and Auction is right around the corner. This affair offers a diverse sample of local cuisine, an open bar stocked with favorite adult beverages, a DJ spinning your requests, and a dance floor for you and your partner to unwind. Prizes and auctions will add to the flavor of the night. What better way for you to get to know the parents of your children's friends than to share an evening of food, fun, and laughter. For those who can't find a babysitter, KinderCare will be available to fill the gap. So put the kid to bed and join us for some fun with the grown-ups.

Sincerely,

Aaron M. Apruzzese  
Oak Hill PTO President

## Oak Hill November Happenings



2	Second Marking Period Begins
10	PTO Meeting 7 PM
14	Black & White Dinner & Auction
15-21	American Education Week
17	Innisbrook Orders Arrive
	Parent Visitation Day, 9-11 AM
	Report Cards sent home
	Birthday Book Club
18	Individual Picture Make-Up Day
20	Pre-K students off, Pre-K Conferences November 20, 23, and 24
23	Teacher Appreciation Dinner
23-24	School Closed, Parent / Teacher Conferences, K-5th
25-27	School Closed – Thanksgiving



**Last Chance to RSVP and Join in on the Fun!**

## **Black & White**

Silent and Live Auction

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

Live Auction with Master Artist-Inspired Grade Level Art

Silent Auction with Hundreds of Items

Priceless Teacher, Staff and PTO Donations

Incredible Local Sampling of Food, Splendid Decor,  
8 hour Open Bar, Music, Dancing, Raffles, Fun!!!

Babysitting available through KinderCare on Jumpers Hole

Discount for Couples and Seniors

Credit cards accepted for tickets & for the Auction itself

For any Questions or if you want to help or donate, please email Katie Bartel  
(katiebartel@gmail.com), Laura Knox (lkniatz@juno.com)  
or Janette Hunt (nettnett79@verizon.net)

# Oak Hill PTO's Birthday Book Club

**Celebrating a Big Day? 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

**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

**How it Works:**

We will be celebrating Birthday Book Club the third Tuesday of each month\*  
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

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.

**Donate a Book in Honor of A Teacher or Staff Member:**

Ms. Milito (4th) 11/14 • Ms. Allen-Bell (ECI) 11/11 • Ms. Crawford (Resource) 11/25  
Mr. John Galvin (Custodian) 11/28 • Ms. Lull (Office) 11/29 • Ms. Mellin (Resource) 11/30

**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 (lknkz@juno.com) or Katie Bartel (katiebartel@gmail.com)

**YES! I'd love to celebrate my big day with a great book!**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

This book is donated in honor of my child, whose birthday is on: \_\_\_\_\_ (\$10 donation)

This book is donated in honor \_\_\_\_\_, an Oak Hill staff person (\$5 donation)

Please make checks payable to Oak Hill Elementary School PTO

## BOOK IT TO BOOK CLUB

Morning book club begins Monday, November 2nd! As the kids work their way up through the ranks to Admiral, they will experience many new adventures in the books they read. And the more adventures they encounter, the closer they get to earning gift certificates for the spring book fair! This is an excellent opportunity to encourage our children to become passionate and skilled readers. And also, an excellent opportunity for parents to get involved! Kindergarten students will have book club in the afternoon.

Please encourage your child to come to the media center during their appointed time:

Kindergarten = Tuesday (Bombard and Kingsland) 2:15

Thursday (Wade and Phillips) 2:15

1st Grade = Tuesday & Thursday 8:20 - 8:45

2nd Grade = Monday & Wednesday 8:20 - 8:45

3rd - 5th Grade = Friday 8:20 - 8:45



This has been a very popular morning program. However, it will not succeed without more dedicated parent volunteers! Volunteers are needed everyday, once a week or even once a month!

For questions, more information, or to volunteer please contact:

Sara Metcalfe at 410-793-5059 or by email at [sara.b.metcalfe@gmail.com](mailto:sara.b.metcalfe@gmail.com)

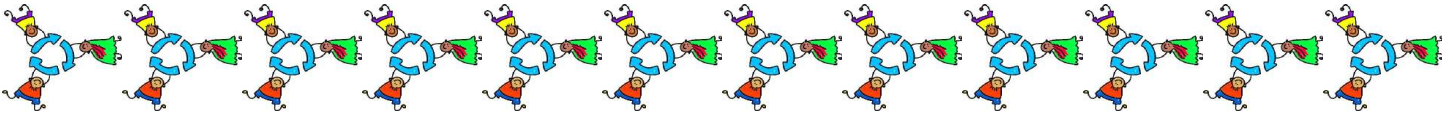
**First grade parents are invited to attend  
Pastries for Parents on:**

**Tuesday, December 1, 2009**

**7:45-8:15 a.m.**



**We will have pastries, juice, coffee and tea  
for you to enjoy with your child  
in the media center.**



## THINKING GREEN AT OAK HILL

### **Carpool, Walk or Ride Your Bike to School Week!**

November 2-6 is Carpool, Walk, or Ride Your Bike to School Week! Think creatively and with the planet in mind... can you carpool with a neighbor, walk or ride your bike to school? This is a great way to show our kids that there are other forms of transportation we can use to get from place to place. Participate in our week long effort to carpool, walk or bike to school and feel good about saving the planet too!

### **Oak Hill is Idle Free!**

Oak Hill is trying to be an idle free zone! Please consider turning off your car when you are waiting for the carpool line to begin moving.

### **Did you know:**

- ♻️ Vehicle exhaust is the leading source of toxic air pollution?
- ♻️ Excessive exposure to vehicle exhaust increases the risk of certain heart and lung diseases and lung cancer?
- ♻️ Children's asthma symptoms can increase as a result of breathing excessive vehicle exhaust?
- ♻️ Drivers who shut off their engines, rather than idling even for 30 seconds, benefit from both fuel savings and improved air quality?

### **Recycling Bin**

Don't forget you can help raise funds for Oak Hill by dropping off your paper products in our green and yellow bin for recycling. It is conveniently located in the parking lot. Simply drop it when you come to school!

School news  
at your fingertips



## Oak Hill News

If you aren't receiving school and class news and other valuable information through PTO Manager — it's not too late. Send your name, address, phone number and most importantly your email address to Laura Lynn at [lynnfamily2@verizon.net](mailto:lynnfamily2@verizon.net). This is the best and quickest way to be kept in the loop about all the happenings at Oak Hill.



**OAK HILL ELEMENTARY  
BLACK EYED SUSAN  
BOOK CLUB  
2009-2010**



**Who:** All interested 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students

**What:** Students are encouraged to read as many books that interest them and participate in a morning book discussion. There are ten book nominees, and if they read at least 3 of the books, they get to vote for the official Black Eyed Susan Award.

**When:** Fridays 8:20 – 8:45 beginning November 13<sup>th</sup> and continuing through April 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Where:** Media Center

**Why:** The Black Eyed Susan Program is a statewide children's choice award program that encourages reading.

A flier was sent home with your child from Mrs. McGinn. A limited number of copies of each book are available in the Oak Hill Media Center, but you may also wish to go to the public library or book store to get a copy of the books. For more information contact: Ms. Barbara McGinn [bmcginn@aacps.org](mailto:bmcginn@aacps.org) or parent volunteers- Kris McNally [krhmcnally@comcast.net](mailto:krhmcnally@comcast.net) or Karen Wiley [jfw1701d@aol.com](mailto:jfw1701d@aol.com)

## 2009-2010 Black Eyed Susan Nominees

AUTHOR	TITLE
Sundee T. Frazier	Brendan Buckley's Universe and Everything In It
Helen Frost	Diamond Willow
Cornelia Funke	Igraine the Brave
Matt Haig	Samuel Blink and the Forbidden Forest
Gordon Korman	Swindle
Ingrid Law	Savvy
Pam Munoz Ryan	Paint the Wind
Sarah Thomson	Dragon's Egg
Linda Urban	A Crooked Kind of Perfect
Elvira Woodruff	Fearless



GREAT CAUSE



GREAT PLACE



GREAT FOOD

## Support Oak Hill Elementary School

### Parent Teacher Organization Presents PTO Family Fundraising Night

- When:** November 17, 2009 from 4:00 PM – 9:00 PM
- Where:** 552 E Ritchie Highway  
Park Plaza  
Severna Park, MD 21146
- How It Works:** Mention Oak Hill During Dine In or Carry Out Orders and a Portion of the Sales will Support the School.
- Frequency:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of Every Month Through May 2010

**Show Your School Spirit  
Invite Your Family & Friends  
Don't Forget to Mention Oak Hill When You Order**



## Express Yourself Through Art

There are two exciting art contests coming up soon in the area and an opportunity to apply to a performing and visual arts magnet school. For more information on the programs listed in this article, you can click on the link below and scroll to see application documents and contest requirements.

- 🎨 Visual Art Magnet School at Wiley H. Bates Middle School, November 19th deadline
- 🎨 First annual Arundel Mills Gingerbread Contest on December 12 and 13.
- 🎨 Maryland Public Schools Poster Contest - Take 15 for Physical Activity, deadline November 13.

Check out the PTO website under Announcements for online applications and contest details or click the link: <http://teacherweb.com/MD/OakHillElementary/PTO/h0.aspx> for more information.



## Oak Hill Teacher Appreciation

Join us in showing appreciation for our Oak Hill Teachers and Staff!

The Teacher and Staff Appreciation Committee will be hosting a dinner on November 23 for the teachers and staff at Oak Hill. If you would like to contribute drinks or desserts it would be greatly appreciated. Monetary donations are also welcome. We will send an email through PTO Manager closer to the event requesting donations.

Babet Regalado and Jennifer Wilson-Matkins  
Co-chairs of Teacher and Staff Appreciation Committee



*Ms. Houghton dons a monkey suit for the students as part of the fall Innisbrook fundraiser program.*

## Thank You for Our



## Fall Fundraiser Success

Thank you for supporting Oak Hill's Innisbrook Fundraiser! More than \$7,000 was raised for the school, a tremendous job well done by everyone, considering the current tough economic climate. The items will be arriving to school the third week of November with specific information coming home prior to that week so that parents can arrange to pick up their children from school if they know the order they will be getting is a sizable one. Great job everyone!

Anne Ryan  
Fall Fundraiser Chair

The Innisbrook fall fundraiser was a huge success! The monies raised will ultimately go towards new technology software, books, enrichment activities and much more. A special thank you goes out to students, parents, and Oak Hill staff for participating and supporting Oak Hill Elementary School's PTO. We would also like to thank Anne Ryan for all of her efforts in chairing this fundraising effort!

Janette Hunt  
PTO 1st Vice President

### PTO Executive Board

President  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer

Aaron Apruzzese  
Janette Hunt  
Maureen Liakos  
Laura Knox  
Rebecca Clingan