



Ashburton PTA Insider

PTA President's Update

Hello Ashburton Families and Staff,

It is JUNE! WOW!!! The last month of the 2008-2009 school year and summer is around the corner. We are counting the days, and the final chapter of this school year will be written. Teachers, staff, and students will begin their summer breaks, with changes in schedules and activities. We hope everyone has a safe and happy summer with lots of time to create new memories with your families and friends and to just RELAX.



During the summer, the PTA will still be busy planning events for next year. We already have several Dine Out Nights scheduled (July 14 and Sept 2 at Ledo's) and our first Skate Night at Cabin John Ice Rink will take place on Saturday, September 26th. In addition we will begin planning larger events such as the Fall Festival, International Night, and Spring Fling.

As we look to replace our graduating chairpersons, please consider stepping up to volunteer for a position where the time requirement and event may be of interest to you. Once we have an idea of which positions are open, we will post that on the listserv and recruit new volunteers for next year. We also realize there are some parents of fourth graders who are willing to continue on for one more year, but would like to have parents of younger students step up and work with them next year, so they can be able to take over that committee or event after they graduate. We really are trying to look to the future so that people can feel comfortable taking on these positions. If you know of an event or a committee you would like to work on, please feel free to contact a board member yourself. We are always looking for volunteers to join in and help, either as a chairperson, or assistant.

We will also be evaluating the after school programs and determine which ones will be returning due to popular demand, and which ones might be replaced or added. We know Yoga Tales, Mad Science, Young Rembrandts, Chess, FLES, and Adventure Theatre were all popular, so we will be working to bring them back next year. Please be aware most of the sports programs are not organized through the PTA. If you have any suggestions about after school clubs or activities, please let us know so we can do our research to see what might work at Ashburton. Remember, once we schedule an activity and open registration, we need a minimum number of students to make the class feasible for the school and the group coming in to teach it.

Please look for calendar updates over the summer and at the beginning of the school year, and mark your calendars for events and activities that are of interest to you and your children. I cannot tell you how many emails I receive about dates and such, and the information is already out there. Updated info is also available on <http://ashburton.wetpaint.com/>.

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May 2009

Happenings Around Ashburton:

- ☺ PTA Meeting—6/2
- ☺ 5th Grade Party—6/5
- ☺ Field Day—6/8 (3-5) and 6/9 (PEP-2)
- ☺ Dine Out @ California Tortilla and Baskin Robbins—6/9
- ☺ 5th Grade Promotion Ceremony 9:15 am/pool party—6/12
- ☺ Dine Out @ Ledo's—7/14
- ☺ Skate Night @ Cabin John Ice Rink—9/26
- ☺ Dine Out @ Ledo's—9/2

President's Update (cont'd)

Remember that our PTA meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 in the Media Center. Babysitting is generally available. Please be mindful of the fact that some months, due to the school schedule or the topic of the meeting, the day or time may be changed. We will put this information on the calendar and send it out on the listserv as well. We have had several suggestions for topics and presentations for meetings already, so if you have any suggestions, please contact me so we can add them to the schedule. We have one meeting each month. Meetings are preceded by a board meeting, for the board members to discuss business items. These meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend, but only board members can participate and vote. PTA membership meetings are one hour. We have a format that is followed. We present old business, budget updates, any board/chair reports, Principal's Update, and new business, and then generally a half hour presentation. These presentation topics have been requested by parents to gather more information. The presentations also provide an opportunity for parents to ask questions and/or offer suggestions. Our September meeting will likely be on a Friday, as it was this year, with our Back to School Picnic and February meeting is our Family Science Night meeting.

Join us for
**DINE OUT NIGHT at
California Tortilla/Baskin
Robbins on 6/9**

Our Robek's "Dine Out" weekend was a huge success as was our May Dine Out at Hamburger Hamlet. Please join us for our next Dine Out at California Tortilla and Baskin Robbins in Cabin John Shopping Center on June 9th. If you have any ideas for restaurants you would like us to check into for possible Dine Out Nights in the future, please contact Amy Cohen or Tracy Kalik. Please be mindful that we look for restaurants that are reasonably close to Ashburton and that can accommodate the large numbers of families and staff who usually attend.

In addition to our newly formatted Spring Fling, there were also several other events in May and coming up in early June. There was an Instrumental Music Concert, the 5th Grade Chorus Concert, Career Day, the Volunteer Breakfast, the Transition Workshop, Field Days, a variety of field trips to the Museum of Natural History, Adventure Theatre to see *Strega Nona*, Fort McHenry, the College Park Airport and Aviation Museum, St. Mary's City, and Philadelphia, the Author's Conference with Kevin O'Malley, three performances by the Adventure Theatre group of *Jamie and the Giant Peach*, and a Cultural Arts assembly with Hugh Neff and his Iditarod dog, Wild Bill. We hope all of these activities were enjoyed by all who participated. I also wanted to let you know after several field trips and outings in the community, Ashburton has received phone calls from people who are in no way associated with our school, complimenting students and staff on how well the students carried themselves when attending an event outside of the school. This was an unexpected and pleasant surprise. Way to go Ashburton Stars!

Our last Camp Ashburton of the year was held on Friday May 29th. It seems like Camp Ashburton has been enjoyed by all who have chosen to attend. A survey will be sent out on the listserv soon about Camp Ashburton. After talking with Rosie Siegel, our chairperson, and other board members, the greatest challenge for the Camp Ashburton nights this year was a significant lack of parents who have offered to volunteer. Prior to each event, Rosie has spent a great deal of time not only planning the event, but trying to find volunteers to help. We will look at the results of the survey and see if this situation is resolved. If we do not have enough volunteers who can commit to being present at all of these Camp Ashburton nights, there is a strong possibility that they will no longer be held. They cannot take place without enough volunteers to help out and be sure things go smoothly and all attendees are safe. So please, if your child enjoys going, think about volunteering to help. We especially need fathers to help out here. This is the way to ensure Camp Ashburton continues next year and does not disappear!

Communication and information about what is going on at school is useful to us all. The PTA has a listserv for members, that sends out numerous e-mails every week and there is also a Wiki site with information as well. If you have questions about the listserv contact Rachel Yang. If you have questions about the Wiki site contact Lien-Anh VanWagener.

We hope that you have all enjoyed a great school year at Ashburton Elementary School. I want to thank everyone who volunteered this year, in any capacity, for their time and support to help make this year so successful. I am truly grateful! I wish everyone a safe and restful summer.

With Warm Regards,

Amy

Thank you to the 2008/09 PTA Board and Volunteers!

A big thanks to this year's PTA Board Members and the countless other volunteers who made this school year a huge success!

This year's PTA board members can be contacted at the following e-mail addresses or phone numbers:

Amy Cohen		
Tracy Kalik		
Kathy Rose		
Ellie Damo		
Kathy Cooper		
Amy Galloway		
Veronica Walgamotte		

Next year's PTA board members, who take office on July 1st, can be contacted at the following e-mail addresses or phone numbers:

Amy Cohen		
Tracy Kalik		
Kathy Rose		
Ellie Damo		
Christine Furman		
Veronica Walgamotte		



Thank You for Your Support! Together, We Make A Difference at Ashburton!

2009 Regional Elementary School Summer School Program

The six Regional Elementary Summer School sites are as follows: Bethesda ES, College Gardens ES, Galway ES, Little Bennett ES, Dr. Sally K. Ride ES, and Rock View ES. Classes will begin on July 6, 2009 and end on July 31, 2009. Brochures and registration forms were sent home with students at the end of April. Additional forms are available in the Ashburton office or on the Summer School Web page. Registration began on May 1 and will continue through June 24.

Grade Levels Offered:

Classes are offered for students currently enrolled in grades kindergarten through grade five. The program is not available to pre-school students.

Subjects Offered:

Classes will be offered in Reading, Mathematics, Art, Computers, and ESOL. Students enrolled in the program will attend two class periods daily. Therefore, parents will select a combination of any two subjects being offered with the exception of those enrolling in the ESOL program. Students registering for ESOL will attend two ESOL classes daily.

Transportation:

Transportation is not provided; therefore, parents will be responsible for dropping the children off and picking them up at the conclusion of the program each day.

Tuition for Two Courses:

Montgomery County Residents—\$335.00

ESOL Tuition—\$140.00

Students may qualify for reduced tuition. To apply, complete and attach MCPS Form 325-4: *Application for Partial or Full Waiver of Summer School Tuition* and supporting documents. This form is available on the summer school Web site or in the main office at Ashburton.

Contact Information

Questions regarding the MCPS Regional Summer School Program can be directed to the Summer School Office at 301-279-3202.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/extendedhours/summerschool/elementary.shtm>



**Visit us Online for
Ashburton PTA Info!**

ashburton.wetpaint.com

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If you have content suggestions for future issues of the newsletter, contact Lien-Anh Van Wagener.