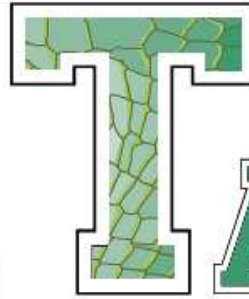




GREEN SPRINGS



March 2007

GATOR TAILS

PTO NEWSLETTER



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

March is now upon us and we have seen another Bingo Night and a Skate Party go by. Bingo was fun! Kids and parents alike were jazzed up to win some great prizes. The skate party was a blast too, complete with fog and prizes for the kids. Thank you to Suzette Garrelts and Jenny Wegner for organizing these functions for us. If you had to miss out on these events, don't worry! We still have Fun Fair and our Ice Cream Social to look forward to this semester.

Our after school clubs were a huge success! We offered everything from a game club to the food club. Kathleen Shryock coordinated the clubs and we appreciate her efforts as well as all the parents who have volunteered their time to enrich our student's lives. We couldn't have these clubs without you!

The Read-a-Thon is coming to an end and so far we have had excellent response. Winners of our Borders gift cards will be announced soon. Our final fundraiser is the trash bag sale. Be on the lookout for information regarding this event. The funds raised by the PTO from these events pays for student field trips, classroom supplies, our free family events, and any other financial support the school may need.

Sadly, the PTO Board will have some of its members retiring next year. But, on a positive note, this means you now have an opportunity to get involved! We are looking for people who may be interested in filling their positions. Information will be coming out soon, or feel free to contact a board member if you have any questions. A board directory can be found in this newsletter.

Our next meeting will be March 11th at 7:30 in the Library at Green Springs. We hope to see you there!

Stephanie French - PTO President

After School Clubs

A heaping helping of Gator gratitude is extended to all volunteers who joined forces to host our After School Clubs. During the 2007-2008 school year, more than 100 Green Springs students participated in one of five PTO-sponsored clubs. From creating art projects to experimenting with science to strategizing with friends in a friendly game, our clubs offered students an opportunity to practice new activities that were both entertaining and educational.

A special thanks goes out to our club coordinators who offered their time, talent, and resources to plan exciting experiments, wondrous works of art, and delectable recipes.

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR 2007/2008 CLUB VOLUNTEERS:

5th and 6th Grade Drill / Dance Team

Kayla Hauser
Sherry Hauser

Young Scientists Club

Kregan Liang – Coordinator
Helen Lim
Angie Pedersen
Roberta Roelfs

Crafty Kids Art Club

Angie Glenn – Coordinator
Greg Gangel
Yvonne Miguel
Jennifer Voelker

No Bake Cooking Club / Healthy Choices

Cheryl McMorris – Coordinator
Jamie Knettle
Varsha Patel
Kathleen Shryock

Game Club

Ginny Beene
Sherry Hauser
Debbie Horn

Thank you also to members of the Olathe East High School Kay Club who enthusiastically volunteered to help with the Game Club and to Dr. Brenda Traughber and Colleen Lattimer who assisted with the planning and scheduling of this year's activities.

The PTO values and appreciates everyone who helped make After School Clubs a success.



President

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Vice-Presidents Events

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Member at Large (Environment & Safety)

Lisa Neyens
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Member at Large (Hospitality)

Nikki Scrivner – 782-0528
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PTO Meetings

Don't forget to join us for our monthly PTO meetings. Parents are ALWAYS welcome and it really makes the ideas so much greater when you are there. You can hear what we have planned, help us find new and exciting things to do for our students and school, and possibly even win a \$25 gift card.

Thanks to Roxanne Degner, Karen Kelly, and Elizabeth Scholtz for joining us in February.



Dining to Donate

Congratulations to:

Mrs. Key's class. They won the Wendy's Frosty party for having the most participants in our December AND February Wendy's Nights.

Mrs. Plumly's class. They won the Papa John's Pizza Party for raising the most money for our Papa John's Pizza Night in January.

Thanks to all of you who have helped raise money for Green Springs by eating out on these special evenings.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our February and March Dining to Donate nights. They are:

Wendy's March	3-4-08
Papa John's March	3-11-08
Wendy's April	4-1-08
Papa John's April	4-8-08

PTO Treasurer's Report

It's been a while since I last updated all of you.....

Movie Night: Hope many of you were able to enjoy the November PTO sponsored movie night. There was quite a turn out to watch the hit movie Ratatouille. Green Spring's students, parents, and younger siblings enjoyed watching the movie while munching on popcorn and drinking sodas.

Bingo: This too is a PTO sponsored event and the prizes were great. If you missed both of our Bingo parties this year, hopefully you can join us next year! It's always a good time.

Skating Parties: We have actually had two since the last time I reported. Our November skating party brought in \$125.00 for the school and our January skating party brought in \$75.00.

Outgoing funds: Other than what we spend on Movie and Bingo night, we only have a couple of other expenses to mention. The first is the winter lawn treatment for \$218.95 and the second is the 75% yearbook deposit for \$2634.77. This should be recouped from yearbook sales.

Yearbook

Thanks to the parents who have been working hard to create a great yearbook for us this year. We can't wait to see it!

- Shanna Carr
- Dawn Foos
- Angie Glenn
- Tricia Hart
- Sherry Houser
- Karen Kelly
- Marylou Schoep

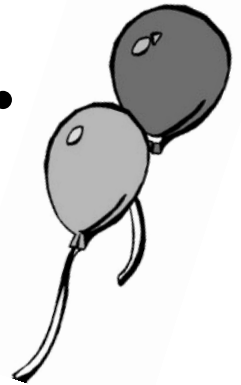
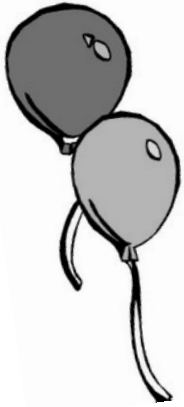


Fun Fair

March 28th

6:00-8:30

It will be a fun night of inflatables, face painting, temporary tattoos, and games galore. Come join us for food and fun!



We need volunteers for Cake Walk and Pop Toss. Please contact Suzette Garrelts at suz_garrelts@sbcglobal.net or 913-393-1116 if you are available to volunteer an hour of your time.

If your last name begins with A-M we ask that you bring a baked good for the cake walk.

If your last name begins with N-Z we ask that you donate a 2 liter bottle of pop.

Look for more information coming in your child's folder soon.

Thank you!

The parent-teacher conference meals were very successful due to all of our volunteers! The PTO, with the help of donations, provided the teachers with a taco bar for the Thursday conferences and bagels and orange juice for the Friday conferences. These meals would not have been possible without food donations made by our parent volunteers. We would also like to thank Einstein Brothers for donating all of the bagels! I would like to give special thanks to Tracy Devinney for being the head volunteer and making phone calls!

PTO EDITORIAL

“It takes a village to raise a child.” This phrase, often attributed to African legend, has recently been popularized in the political arena. Regardless of your feelings about this concept, most parents in the Olathe School District would agree that it is important for children to be enriched by a variety of experiences. At Green Springs, a top-notch staff of educators and administrators meets many of these needs. But our school also boasts a history of extraordinary parental involvement. In the past, the “village” has stepped up to provide additional educational and social opportunities for our children, many of these through PTO-sponsored events.

Unfortunately, recent years have seen a decrease in parental involvement, and there are fewer folks who are on the sidelines willing to help. While monetary support is critical to finance our events and is much appreciated, it also takes people to make things happen. This year, our children will enjoy a variety of events: skating parties, field trips, free Bingo nights, a free movie night, access to an array of after school clubs, an ice cream social, a fun fair carnival, bowling, and recent Halloween festivities. We sometimes take these activities for granted, but without volunteer coordinators who work behind the scenes, these types of events would cease to exist.

At the end of our current school year, many of our PTO Board Members will be retiring. Most have completed a two-year term on the board and are ready to pass the torch to a new set of parents with fresh ideas. Our PTO is composed of a diverse group of moms and dads. Some are homemakers, and others work outside the home. Some only have children at Green Springs while others have younger children still at home. The sole requirement for our board members is a willingness to give some time to provide all of our children with activities that add to their elementary school experience.

Today’s fast paced society makes it difficult to consider taking on additional responsibilities, but consider your level of commitment to your favorite television show. Many of us take the time to watch an hour of *Grey’s Anatomy* or *CSI* each and every week. In fact, we make it a priority. How often do we make it a priority to give just one hour a week to our children’s school?

We need to ask ourselves what our expectations are regarding future PTO-sponsored events at Green Springs? If they are high and you would like to see these types of activities continue, then you need to consider being a participating member of our school community, either through a PTO board position or in another volunteer capacity.

By supporting our school, our “village”, we can make things happen. We can continue a tradition of parental involvement, and we can continue to provide our students with enriching PTO-sponsored events. In addition, by getting involved, we will be investing in the next generation by showing our children the importance of giving back to our school and our community.

-Kathleen Shryock

Movie Night and PTO Meeting - April 4th -

Be on the look out for a flyer advertising a special movie night and PTO meeting.

You will be able to preorder pizza and a pop for dinner. Dinner will be at 6pm and then the kids and a parent can watch a movie. We are asking for the other parent to join us for a special meeting regarding the restructuring of PTO for next year.

We would like to share the changes that are coming and would like to hear what you think. These changes are to improve Green Springs PTO and therefore, improve the school. Another subject we will be discussing is volunteerism at Green Springs. We truly appreciate everything our parent volunteers do. Please join as we look to the future of Green Springs.

Please note that the meeting will not be for the whole length of the movie. Also, we are trying to get some high school volunteers to watch the kids as well.

Green Springs First Ever Trash Bag Sale

April 4th –April 24th

We will be selling indoor and outdoor plastic trash bags in three different sizes. Plus, we will also be selling Lowe’s paper recycling (lawn clippings) bags.

This will be our final fundraiser for the year.

Be on the look out in March for information regarding the sale.