



The Pulse of Potomac

Potomac Elementary School PTA Newsletter

September 2006



President's Report

by Diana Conway

Welcome to the new school year at Potomac! Hopefully your family has been collecting school supplies, filling out school and PTA forms, and anticipating a year full of new experiences and learning. We look forward to having the PTA enhance and maximize each child's experience.

Potomac parents have a vital role to play through our PTA. There are literally hundreds of opportunities to participate, and to meet new parents. You can work on a project at home, join committees, start a new committee for an unmet need, help in the front office or library, work on the book fair or science fair, run an after-school club, or help choose the programs that our PTA brings to enrich the students' education, and so much more.

By being involved at school you confirm to your children that school is worth your time and effort--- and theirs too. We need your energy, hands, ideas and feedback. You can always contact any of the PTA board members by email (listed on page 2), or by dropping a note into our mailboxes in the copier room. In addition, our brand-new website has a growing body of useful information and links. Go to www.pespta.org. I urge you to join the PTA, participate in our events and committees, and support your children and teachers with your time and talents.

Another way to impact our school and community is to participate in the upcoming Primary Elections. Potomac ES is closed on September 12 to serve as a voting site. ALL NINE County Council seats are at issue, as are the County Executive, the governorship, and several Board of Education seats. These are the people who decide how to run our schools and communities, and how to allocate the resources for everything from snowplowing and paving, to school construction and subdivisions, to tax rates. *Please research the issues and remember to vote on September 12.*

I look forward to seeing you at PTA functions throughout the year, hearing your voices and watching our school community thrive!

September 27th – Early Release Day

Mark your calendars - our first early release day will be September 27th. Students will be released at 12:50 PM.



From the Principal's Desk

by Linda Goldberg

I have enjoyed meeting and visiting with many of you at Open House and on the first days of school. We have had a busy summer preparing for school, and are glad to have the students back. The students are adjusting well to the routines of the school year, and they are motivated and ready to learn.

We had a complete Technology Modernization this summer, and all of the classrooms have at least three updated computers, printers, etc. We received 114 computers from the county, and the PTA Capital Campaign raised funds for 18 additional computers. We are excited about the new software and capabilities with technology, and Mitch Schorr, our Media Specialist, will be presenting information about our "tech mod" and great websites for students at the PTA meeting in October.

The summer was very busy. Over 100 students attended our Summer Learning Camp at Seven Locks Elementary School. I want to thank Mrs. Gordon, principal at Seven Locks for hosting the camp. Our students had some great learning opportunities. I also want to thank Dr. Joan Benz., Churchill High School principal for her support of our program.

(continued on page 2)

SCHOOL CALENDAR



September

- 4 NO SCHOOL – Labor Day Holiday
- 8 Fall Picture Day
- 12 NO SCHOOL – Primary Election Day
- 13 Back to School Night, 7:00 PM
- 18 Volunteer Orientation, 9:30 AM
- 22 Principal's Coffee, K - 1st Grades, 9:30 AM
- 27 Early Release Day, K - 12
- 28 Principal's Coffee, 2nd – 3rd Grades, 9:30 AM
- 29 PTA Board Meeting, 9:15 AM

October

- 2 NO SCHOOL – Yom Kippur
- 3 PTA Meeting, Technology at PES, 7:30
- 4 Principal's Coffee, 4th – 5th Grades
- 5 Fall Fun Fair, 5 – 8 PM
- 7 Club Potomac, 6 -8 PM
- 9 Open House
- 20 NO SCHOOL - MSTA Conference
- 24 1st Marking Period Ends
- 31 Halloween Parade/Walk for the Homeless 2:00 PM

(Principal's Report, Continued from page 1)

Our cluster is clearly focused on the total K to 12 educational program.

We want to extend a special thank you to the PTA for our staff Back-to-School lunch, especially to Jeri Gelb, who has volunteered to chair the teacher appreciation activities for the year. Lunch was just delicious, and we felt so appreciated. We want to thank the PTA Board for all of their work in getting ready for the school year. And thanks to our PTA President, Diana Conway, and her children for beautifying the school by planting the lovely flowers!

The staff and I look forward to meeting you at Back-to-School Night on Wednesday, September 13, at 7:00p.m. You will have an opportunity to learn about the curriculum for your child's grade level, and to hear about the plans of the PTA, the school, and the county as we work together to provide a wonderful education for your children. You will have additional opportunities to learn about the curriculum at the grade level coffees and at the October Churchill Cluster Parent Academy. Before you know it, you will be attending parent conferences in November. We have a dynamic staff with many talented teachers, and they are eager to work with you to make this the best year ever for your children.



Carpool Pickup Procedures

All parents should have received a blue car pool number with the PTA mailing or during registration. All car riding and carpooling students will be dismissed to the multi-purpose room at the end of the day. Display your car pool number in the windshield of your car. As you arrive in the parent pick-up lane (the same lane as the AM parent drop-off lane), student patrols and staff will bring your children to meet you at the curbside. Teach your children their carpool number, as they will be called by number from the multi-purpose room. In case a child forgets his/her number, staff will always have a list of numbers and corresponding names.

Please note: Parents should never leave their cars in the pick-up lane unattended.
If you need a car pool number, please call the office.



MCPS Connect-ED

Potomac Elementary School uses MCPS Connect-ED, a computerized telephone calling system to notify parents and staff about important events and issues of concern to our community, including school closings. MCPS Connect-ED allows principals to telephone parents and staff quickly by sending a recorded message to the home phone of families and staff members. Should you have questions about this service or wish to opt out of this service, please call the school office.

Limiting Interruptions During the School Day

In order to maximize instructional time and to limit the number of classroom interruptions throughout the school day, we are requesting that all changes to a child's afternoon dismissal routine be made by 3:00p.m. Messages regarding dismissal changes will be taken by the secretaries in the main office and will be communicated to teachers.

Back-To-School Night Wednesday, September 13, 2006

- 6:45 Join the PTA & Socialize (Gym)
- 7:00 PTA Meeting, (Gym)
- 7:15 Linda Goldberg, Principal
Welcome, Staff Introductions
- 7:30 Session 1: AM Teacher
- 8:00 Session 2: PM Teacher



Specialists and resource teachers will be available in the media center or in their classrooms. This evening is for parents, and we encourage you to come without your children.

2006-07 PTA BOARD MEMBERS

President	Diana Conway	dconway@erols.com
Exec. VP	Meredith Asbury	mbapta@verizon.net
VP Fundraising	Semi Nasser	semin@comcast.net
VP Programs	Tamyla Abraham	tamyla4@msn.com
Rec. Secretary	Tim Burch	tim.j.burch@verizon.net
Corr. Secretary	Kathleen Rumfola	krumfola@comcast.net
Treasurer	Pam Settlege	psettlege@LNC.com
MCCPTA Rep.	Julie Dobson	jdobson@telebright.com
MCCPTA Rep.	Nancy Dunn	nancydunn@yahoo.com



Photographs Wanted!

If you take a nice digital photo at any of our many, many fantastic events this year, please forward them to Diane Berinstein at dhberinstein@yahoo.com. We'd love to use more photos in the Pulse this year!

CLUB POTOMAC Starts October 7th

Club Potomac, this is a fun filled night with dancing, sports, games, crafts, pizza and more one Saturday night each month. Registration forms are available outside the front office. Check out the PTA web site for more information, or call Lori Swell (301) 983 5483 or Jill Brodkowitz (301) 299 8857.



Get on the Book Train



Book Train is our library fundraiser, allowing you to contribute the cost of a new book for our library and have it dedicated in honor of your child's birthday, or other special occasion. It's a great way to expand and refresh our library, and the kids love finding their nameplates in the library books!

Watch your child's backpack for more details!

FALL FAIR COORDINATOR NEEDED!

Our very successful and profitable Fall Fun Fair needs someone to organize and coordinate volunteers!!

Plenty of information and organization remains from last year, but we need a coordinator—please step forward and make this event a huge success!!! Contact Semi Nasser, semin@comcast.net for more information.



Last Call to get in the PTA Directory

We can't include you in the PTA Directory if you do not complete the information on the Directory Form. Forms are available outside the Front Office, and information can be emailed to Jeanne Srour at srou10301@comcast.net.

Directories will be made available to paid PTA members later this fall.

Original Art Fundraiser Coming this Fall!

Thanks to Emily Haden and our Art Teacher, Ms. Haden, your child will be bringing home original works of art that can be made into a variety of beautiful gifts—from note cards to potholders, aprons and mugs, in time for holiday gifts!



Interested in Getting Involved with Issues Related to Our Curriculum?

The MCCPTA Curriculum Committee will hold its first meeting on Monday, September 11, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria of the Carver Center, located on Hungerford Drive in Rockville. At this meeting we will review the MCPS Curriculum Process and talk about our advocacy priorities for the coming year.

We still need more people for the committee, particularly in the areas of Physical Education and Foreign Languages. Any interested parent PTA member may participate.

Contact Ted Willard at twillard@aaas.org for more information.

New & Improved Web Sites for PES, Our PTA and MCCPTA

Potomac Elementary School has an improved web site and our PTA has its own fantastic new web site! Check these sites out for information on school activities, calendar dates, teacher profiles, meeting dates and more! For the school check out:

<http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/potomaces/>

For the PTA: <http://www.pespta.org>

And for MCCPTA information such as the Curriculum Committees, Student Art Exhibits, and MCCPTA Training check out <http://www.mccpta.net>

Of course, for the most up-to-date information and late breaking news, be sure to sign up for Mustang E-mail!



GET ON MUSTANG E-MAIL!

Simply send an e-mail message with your child's name and grade to:

mustange-mail-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

This is not a list serve, you'll only receive school related notices, no chats, commentary, or mass replies.



PTA CALENDAR

PTA meetings, including Board Meetings are open to all PTA members, and we encourage your attendance and involvement, so mark your calendars early!

Wed., September 13th, 7:00 PM - Back to School Night

Tues., October 3rd, 7:30 PM

Thurs., November 16th, 7:00 PM - Family Poetry Night

Tuesday, December 5th, 7:30 PM

Wed., January 10th, 7:00 PM - Family Math Night

Tues. February 6th, 7:30 PM - Form Nominating Committee

Tues., March 6th, 7:30 PM - Propose Slate of PTA Officers for 2007-08

Tues., May 1st, 7:30 PM - PTA Elections

Executive Board Meetings all on Fridays:

September 8th, 1:00 p.m.

September 29th, 9:15 a.m.

November 10th, 9:15 a.m.

December 1st, 1:00 p.m.

January 5th, 9:15 a.m.

February 2nd, 1:00 p.m.

March 2nd, 9:15 a.m.

April 27th, 1:00 p.m.

June 1st, 9:15 a.m.

One can acquire everything in solitude, except character.
Stendhal



A Look At The Year Ahead

There is never a shortage of activities going on in our school, and your participation is vital. Here is a look at some of the fundraising and program events being planned for the year ahead. If you would like to get involved with an activity, please contact the event chairs listed below or Semi Nasserri, VP Fundraising, at semin@comcast.net, or Tamyla Abraham, VP Programs, at tamyla4@msn.com for more information. Note there are still some activities that are in need of leadership!

September

- ☆ Sally Foster Gift Wrap – Virginia Horton
- ☆ Original Art – Emily Lane
- ☆ Directory – Holly Hand, Jeanne Grillo Srour, Laurian Fasano

October

- ☆ Fall Fun Fair –
- ☆ Book Fair – Chris Berkowitz

January

- ☆ Chinese New Year – Jenny Tao
- ☆ Ice Skating Social – Ann Liu

February

- ☆ Bingo Night – Julie Fox
- ☆ Math Night – Paco Cosio, Steven Marks
- ☆ International Night/Geography Night – Jeanne Grillo Srour, Sunghee Kim

March

- ☆ Science Fair – Nancy Silva

April

- ☆ Earth Day – Kirsten Quigley

May

- ☆ Fun Fair – Kristi Stein
- ☆ Field Day – Marcie Robinson, Jen Marks

Other Ongoing Fundraisers

- ☆ Logo Clothing – Nancy Silva
- ☆ Restaurant Nights – Stacy Holstein
- ☆ Book Train – Lori Moshyedi
- ☆ Box Tops for Education – Maren Hendricks
- ☆ Giant/Safeway Program –
- ☆ Department Store Fundraiser –
- ☆ Club Potomac – Jill Brodkowitz/Lori Swell

Other Ongoing Programs

- ☆ Babysitting Club – Sigal Sidi
- ☆ Career List – Leslie Anderson
- ☆ Community Service – Holly Lotwin
- ☆ FLES – Lucy Hurd
- ☆ Mad Science – Susan Zankman
- ☆ New Family Committee – Shellena Alland (needs co-chair)
- ☆ Piano – Jeanne Grillo Srour
- ☆ Potomac Book Club – Sunghee Kim
- ☆ PTA Membership – Nancy Dunn
- ☆ Red Ribbon Week – Mindy Rubanencko
- ☆ Spelling Bee – Susan Fink
- ☆ Teacher/Staff Appreciation – Gerri Gelb, Kathy Chaulk, Ann Liu
- ☆ Thursday Folders – Leslie Greenberg, Carin Butchko, Holly Hand
- ☆ Turn off TV Week – Kathy Zonghetti
- ☆ TV News Studio – Monika Samtani
- ☆ Year Book – Semi Nasserri (needs co-chair)
- ☆ Before & After School Clubs -
- ☆ Bus Safety Week -
- ☆ Library/Media Center –
- ☆ Plants and Landscaping –
- ☆ Potomac Idol –
- ☆ Student Newspaper Club –
- ☆ Volunteer POC –



Volunteer Orientation

Monday, September 18th at 9:30 AM

A key meeting for anyone volunteering in the classroom, school office or with other PTA functions, as well as a great way to learn about all the ways to be involved around school!

MCCPTA Training Event –all PTA Members are welcome to attend this training session on Saturday, October 7th at the Carver Center on Hungerford Drive in Rockville. Call Cathy Lilja at the MCCPTA office 301 208 0111 to register or for more information.

Session II 11:00 – 12:15	Session III 12:30 – 1:45
Cultural Arts	Test Data (analysis and advocacy)
School Improvement Plan (SIP) Process	ES PTA Fundraising
Advocacy	HS Presidents' Issues
Outreach	MS Presidents' Issues
Running Effective Meetings	Bylaws
Newsletters	Reflections
Facilities/CIP	Volunteer Programs

Welcome Back!

The Pulse of Potomac
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Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them.
- James Baldwin