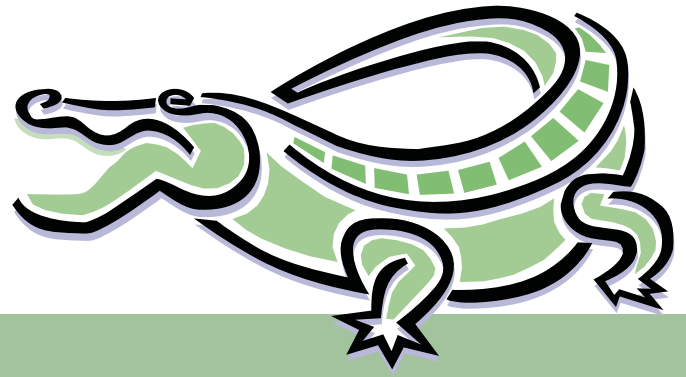


Youth Benefit Elementary School PTA

GatorBite



everychild. one voice.®



Mark Your Calendar

December

- 2** Reflections Awards Ceremony
- 4** Spirit Day Wear your Gator Gear or Green to school
- 10** Barnes and Noble Night

January

- 8** Spirit Day Wear your Gator Gear or Green to school
- 13** PTA Meeting
Topic: Everyday Math

February

- 5** Spirit Day Wear your Gator Gear or Green to school
- 27** Ice World 4:45-7:45pm

Happy Holidays Gator Parents and Teachers!

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank the families and individuals who have joined the YBES PTA! So far 654 parents and many teachers and staff members have joined the PTA this year. If you have not yet joined the PTA this year for whatever reason, please complete the form below.

You may ask yourself why is it important to join the PTA? Without the parents ('P') and the teachers ('T') as members of the PTA, our children would be without so many valuable resources and programs. How does your \$6.00 membership fee benefit your children and their teachers? As you read through this informative newsletter you will see all the wonderful PTA supported activities that have occurred or will occur that make YBES so unique. For example, the children have attended a cool Blues assembly, and several of the grades are taking field trips in December. Did you know field trip costs are minimal because PTA pays for all bus transportation? The Parent Enrichment program has sponsored fun events for our children. We have supplied lunches for our teachers during parent conferences and acknowledged our bus drivers with a gift of appreciation for getting

our children safely to and from school each day. Hopefully you had a chance to visit during American Education week and saw some of the latest new technology throughout the classrooms. Ask your child if they have had a chance to use the "eGegg.™" The "eGeggs™" are called Promethean ActiVotes and they are a great addition to the classroom. The ActiVotes are hand held devices that allow the teacher to assess the children's understanding of concepts taught in a really fun way. This is just one example of what was purchased to enhance your child's education through a PTA donation of \$10,000 made this past summer.

I have mentioned only a few things that the PTA provides for our school community. Youth's Benefit Elementary School is a great school with exceptional parent involvement. However, we could be even better if we had **more** PTA members. Please consider showing your support and join the PTA for only \$6.00.

Have a fun and safe holiday and enjoy the time with your family!

Michelle McCullough
Y.B.E.S. PTA President

Contact the PTA

- Michele McCullough fallston5@comcast.net
President
- Katie Harmon kharmon@comcast.net
Co. Vice President
- Kim Miller themillers514@comcast.net
Co. Vice President
- Rita Howarth bayboaters@comcast.net
Treasurer
- Jaci Logan 4logans@verizon.net
Corresponding Secretary
- Rebecca Richardson herrabee@msn.com
Recording Secretary

I WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER

Please Print ~ Make Check Payable to: YBES PTA

\$6.00 for one parent Name: _____

\$12.00 for both parents Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Please fill in all YBES Children's information:

Student Name: _____ Teacher _____ Grade _____

Student Name: _____ Teacher _____ Grade _____

Student Name: _____ Teacher _____ Grade _____

Student Directories

The directories are at the printer. Look for yours to be coming home soon.

Gator Gear

Looking for Gator Gear? Order forms can be found on the school website or contact Sandy Boyd at sandyboyd@comcast.net or Heidi Buckler at [dvdckr@comcast.net](mailto:dvdbckr@comcast.net)

2009-2010 Yearbooks

Look for information to come home in January to order your 2009- 2010 yearbooks. Don't miss out as you have to pre-order to receive the yearbook.

Attention PTA Committee Chairs

Don't forget to fill out our Exit Forms after the event. We need your input for future events!

Lawrence Pringle

The YBES PTA is thrilled to help present Lawrence Pringle. He will address all students K-5 in an assembly on January 26th. Mr. Pringle provides professional insight into the writing process. Lawrence Pringle is one of the country's foremost writers of science books for young readers!

Looking Ahead

Mark your Calendars and sharpen your skates for Ice World!!!
February 27th Ice World 4:45-7:45pm
Discount for *all* PTA Members!! Will be renting both rinks this year and staggering times for quicker skate rental and check in!



Teacher Wish Lists

Just in time for the holidays Teacher Wishlists are now posted on the school website and in both offices to make your holiday shopping easier. Thank you Beth Scheir for pulling it all together.

Rewards

We earned \$3,319 from Target, Giant and Safeway receipts. Thank you so much and please continue to shop and register your cards if you have not! All money goes right back into programs for our children!! Please do not forget to register your Giant Card! Go to www.giantfood.com/aplus. Enter your card number along with our school ID #01036.

**SAVE
THE DATE**

Youth's Benefit Elementary PTA

Barnes & Noble BOOKFAIR

Thursday, December 10, 2009

Barnes & Noble Bel Air

5pm to 8pm

- _ Come listen to our choir and orchestra perform holiday music
- _ **Al E. Gator** will be available for pictures from 6:00-7:30 pm
- _ Don't miss Storytime with our YBES teachers

This is the perfect event to jump start your holiday smiles and fill your hearts with holiday magic!! We hope to see many YBES families and friends!

† Parents, family and friends are welcome to shop throughout the day - just mention YBES, so we are sure to get credit for a portion of your purchase!

†

Barnes & Noble BOOKFAIR

supporting
Youth's Benefit
Elementary PTA

Voucher Valid: December 10-
December 16, 2009

Barnes & Noble Bel Air

Family Event: December 10, 2009
5pm to 8pm

Bookfair I.D. 592279

Please present this voucher prior to making your purchase. A percentage of the net sale will be donated to your school/organization.*

*The purchase of gift cards, Barnes & Noble memberships, textbooks and other select items are not included in bookfair totals. Our discount purchasing program may not be applied to bookfair purchases.



EventUPDATES

Fall Bingo

Tickets sold out at the Fall Bingo. It was a huge success. Thank you Janine Perez and Cynthia Rhineheart for all your hard work.

Scholastic Book Fair

A HUGE thank you to everyone for another successful Bookfair! Total purchases during the fair was \$28,581. Wow...now that's a lot of books!!

Thanks to all for their patience while Scholastic straightened out their billing error with credit card charges. Please let Mary Hubner know if issue has not been resolved to your satisfaction.

A special thank you to Mary Hubner, Gail Lukasik and Joelle Rodano for a job VERY well done!! Your hard work and dedication are truly appreciated! All three will be moving on to middle school next

and we need a new chairperson! There are currently four people ready to be on the new committee, which will make the chairperson's job that much simpler! The chairperson's primary responsibility is to be the liaison between Scholastic and YBES, and to oversee the committee to make sure everything goes smoothly. Please consider taking on this role. We need your help!

PTA Reflections 2009

The Award Ceremony was held on Wednesday, December 2nd where awards were given in each category for both primary and intermediate buildings. The winners are now entered on the county level. Check the GatorAid and Bulletin Boards for a complete list of winners. Special thanks to Lynn Faulkner for all her help in running this program.

SPECIAL THANKS

Mulch, mulch & more mulch!

A huge thank you to Girl Scout Troop # 1567! The troop of YBES Girl Scouts had family and friends and members of the Towson University's Sigma Alpha Epsilon come help beautify the school one Sunday afternoon this fall. They raked 120 bags of leaves and spread 16 yards of mulch to help get the school ready for School Conferences and American Education week. Thank you Troop 1567 Girls Scouts, Friends, Family and Fraternity!!!

Membership

Thank you Beth Solak for all of your hard work on our Membership drive. Please consider joining if you haven't already. Our membership drive is still ongoing.

Student Directory

Special thanks goes out to Katie Harmon, Heather Johnson, Bobbie Jo Witherspoon, and Ray and Terri Aldao for putting the directory together. This valuable resource would not be possible without the generous donation of Brian Worthington and PS Graphics, Inc.

American Education Week

Thank you to all those parents who provided delicious baked goods for American Education Week. We couldn't do it without you!

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

Annual dues and fundraisers go to bringing great things big and small to YBES. To date, these are some of the things the PTA has funded this year.

- Kindergarten Playdate
- Publications for all grade levels including *Weekly Reader*, *Time for Kids*, *National Geographic Kids & Your Big Backyard*
- Teacher lunches on Parent Conference Day
- Bus Driver Appreciation gifts
- New Gator Welcome Celebration
- Curtis Blues Assembly for all grades
 - Transportation for the 3rd Grade Field Trip to Baltimore Museum of Industry
 - Snacks for National Education Week
 - Transportation for the 5th Grade Field Trip to Baltimore Aquarium
 - 5th Grade Parent Enrichment project 'Re-enactment for the Mayflower'
- Kindergarten Parent Enrichment project 'Harvest around the World'
- The Reflections Program
- Kindergarten Parent Enrichment Puppet Show 'Mother Goose and her Fabulous Puppet Friends'
- Laurence Pringle Assembly to all grade levels

We need your help!

If you would like more information about any of these programs, please contact Kim Miller or Katie Harmon. We would love to discuss them with you!!!

- **Book Fair Chair:** This person would be in charge of organizing and coordinating the annual YBES Fall Book Fair. This is a major fund raiser for the PTA and is also an eagerly looked forward to event by staff and students alike. Duties begin in September with coordination with Scholastic and then proceed with the actual book fair event into October. If you are interested, we can connect you with our current Chair who can help lead you through the process step by step.
- **Assembly Coordinator:** This person works closely with the Administration to schedule several culturally enriching assemblies throughout the year using the PTA budget. If interested, our current Chairperson is more than willing to meet with you in order to review all the duties and procedures.
- **Spring Bazaar Games:** This volunteer will work with the Spring Bazaar committee in the spring to oversee the games presented at Spring Bazaar. Most games are tried and true and the Spring Bazaar committee is an experienced group that will help set you up for success!
- **Summer Challenge Chair:** This is a program the PTA would like to develop. We would like to find someone who would be interested in working with the PTA and Staff to create a summer learning program to keep children engaged

in learning over the summer. We have lots of ideas ranging from a summer reading list to a menu of educational tasks families can do together over the summer. We are looking for someone to help pull it all together and get it ready for Summer Fun!

- **Dad Committee Chair:** Looking for a few good men! The PTA would desperately like to find a dad or a group of dads interested in starting a "Dad/Student Event" at our school. It could be anything from a quick donut/juice breakfast one morning or a group outing to the Ironbirds. The sky is the limit!!! The PTA would really like to encourage the vital role dads play in our students lives and celebrate that with a fun event!
- Anyone interested in donating their time and skills to provide PTA tax return or audit?

If you think you can help please contact a PTA board member for more information.

BOX TOPS

Thanks to all who clipped those Box Tops. We've raised over \$3,000 so far this year.

New contest runs from January 11 - February 19 .
Bring in your box tops!



Mary Hubner

We would like to take this opportunity to recognize in the "Spotlight" an extraordinary PTA member. Mary Hubner, the current Book Fair Chair, has been a vital part of the PTA at YBES for the past 10 years. It began when her current 10th grader, Sam, started kindergarten and has continued while she has shepherded through her son Paul, now in 8th grade, and will finish this year as her daughter Michelle moves on to Middle School next year.

Mary has continuously supported the PTA. Prior to her involvement with the Book Fair she worked with Hospitality and has always been a willing participant in the Parent Enrichment Program. A wonderful gift Mary leaves behind is her life size "Al E Gator" that stands sentry at the Intermediate entranceway that Mary and her family painstakingly crafted for the school. Mary does all this while also being a very active Girl Scout leader and HOA board member.

Mary's largest legacy will be the Scholastic Book Fair. A time honored tradition each year; Mary has made it one of the PTA's largest fundraisers and source of free books for the school, as well as a greatly anticipated student event. For 2 weeks every year, Mary turns her dining room into Scholastic headquarters. Ed, her husband, graciously spends his Sunday mornings counting money for deposit. "I know when I get the brown bag every Monday from Ed with the stacks of money and coins, it's always correct down to the penny" says PTA Treasurer, Rita Howarth.

Mary will be greatly missed at YBES, not only for all her hard work and dedication to the PTA and children of Youth's Benefit, but also for her sweet smile, kindness and grace under pressure. It is definitely the end of an era with Mary and Michelle's graduation to 6th Grade and the PTA would like to take this opportunity to thank Mary for all her years of dedication and service to the school and our community. Best Wishes to Mary and her Family and many heartfelt thanks.

If anyone is interested in taking on Mary's position as Book Fair Chair, she will be glad to help get you going. Contact a PTA Executive Committee Member and we will put you in touch with Mary.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

