

# SQUIRREL TALES

## Hickory Elementary PTA



September 2008  
Issue 1



### President's News

I recognize we talked about many of the PTA features at Back to School Night, but I wanted to repeat the message and convey to any parents who were unable to attend that night. Our parents' survey from last year told us that they didn't know much about our PTA so this year we will focus on communicating to everyone what is going on and what we continue to do for our children.

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The PTA is the Parent Teacher Association and it allows **YOU** to get involved with your child's education. The PTA at the local level is automatically linked to the State and National PTA which creates a powerful voice for our children. Our PTA provides parents, teachers and community members the opportunity to work together on behalf of our children and their education. There's a simple way for you to help your child succeed: join the PTA!!

The #1 reason to join the PTA is to benefit your child! In doing so, you will also be helping Hickory Elementary. There are many advantages when involved with the PTA:

- Being connected to the school - you know what is happening in the school
- Access to resources - the PTA offers a variety of programs for parents and students (visit [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org))
- Networking - it allows you to meet other parents and teachers to share ideas and concerns
- Time to speak - the PTA allows you the opportunity to make suggestions

Anyone can join the PTA - moms, dads, grandparents, relatives, etc.

The more people involved, the better for our children and Hickory Elementary. We were able to achieve the highest PTA membership last year - 512 members! This year our goal is a 10% increase! We can do it!

Joining the PTA does not mean that you have to give a lot of time and it does not mean you have to attend a lot of meetings. The PTA means that you are a part of your child's education and helping them succeed! The PTA can make a difference in our school!

Just keep in mind - our PTA gives directly back to our students. *Some* of the things we do for our children:

- |                         |                                    |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| * School Assemblies     | * Nutty Bucks                      |
| * Buses for Field Trips | * Reflections                      |
| * Red Ribbon Week       | * Student Recognition              |
| * Student Planners      | * Green School                     |
| * Reading Incentives    | * 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Activities |

We want to continue to give back as much as possible so please support our PTA by becoming a member, attending events, eating out for Family Fun Nights, cut Box Tops and volunteer when you can!

I can be reached at 410-879-0887 or [KSZEwing@AOL.com](mailto:KSZEwing@AOL.com) should you have any questions or concerns.

Looking Forward to Meeting You!  
Kelly Ewing  
PTA President

As of Sept. 15, our membership is at **432** members. We have another 130 to go to reach our membership goal! It's not too late to join! A membership form is at the end of the newsletter!

## Become a Hickory Market Day Customer



Market Day is a unique fundraiser offering a wide selection of over 180 high quality foods at competitive prices, many of which are not available in your grocery store. Their products range from butcher shop meats and poultry to easy family meals, delicious appetizers and gourmet desserts. Many of the items are not only great tasting but also low in fat and calories for healthy eating. Hickory Elementary offers Market Day not only to raise much needed funds, but also as a

service to our families, since customers love the quality and convenience of the food, and come to rely on Market Day as a grocery purchase every month. All proceeds from Market Day go directly back to the school to purchase needed supplies for our children.

Order forms will be distributed at the beginning of every month. Questions please email Toni Meares at [tonimeares@hotmail.com](mailto:tonimeares@hotmail.com) or Michelle Blake at [mblake@mycomcast.com](mailto:mblake@mycomcast.com)

## Kids Love to Yell B-I-N-G-O - Date Has Changed!!

**\*\* NEW DATE \*\***

**\*\* FRIDAY - NOVEMBER 7, 2008\*\***



This is one of the most popular children events at HES! Bring the family out for a night of fun! Doors open at 6:30 - Games start at 7:00! Concessions, raffles and bingo markers will be available. GREAT prizes for all bingo winners and a DOOR PRIZE for **EVERY** CHILD that attends! Come out and support our school!

Watch out for additional information in your child's school folder. Tickets will

be available for sale prior to the bingo night.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer at this event, please contact Vera Burkhead at 410-803-9197 or [jvcib@comcast.net](mailto:jvcib@comcast.net)! If you have already signed up to volunteer, you will be contacted.

Hope to See You **November 7th!!!!**

## Upcoming Events

- ❖ 10/9 HCPS Closed - Yom Kippur
- ❖ 10/14 HES PTA General Meeting - 7:00 pm - Topic & Speaker Being Determined
- ❖ 10/16 HCPS Elementary Early Dismissal - 2 ½ hours early
- ❖ 10/17 HCPS Closed - MD State Teachers Convention
- ❖ 10/20 Family Night - Enotria in Forest Hill 4 - 9:00 pm
- ❖ 10/22 Market Day Sale Pick Up evening - 7:15 - 8:15 pm
- ❖ 10/24 Hickory Spirit Day - Wear Royal Blue or your HES shirt
- ❖ 10/27 Fall Fundraiser Pick up - 4:00 - 7:00 pm
- ❖ 10/31 HCPS Closed - Teacher Staff Development Day

**View upcoming events on:**

[schoolnotes.com/21014/hickorypta.html](http://schoolnotes.com/21014/hickorypta.html)

**If you registered last year, update your profile!**

## Show your school Spirit with HES Spiritwear!

Thank you to everyone who showed their school spirit and ordered their HES Spirit Wear! You should receive your Spirit Wear around the third week of October so look for it to come home with your child. I am looking forward to seeing all the kids wearing the new items as well as their old favorites! If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 410-879-8741. Thanks again for your support! Jen Rampolla.

Jen Rampolla can be reached at [rampolla5@clearviewcatv.net](mailto:rampolla5@clearviewcatv.net) if you have any questions.

## Holiday Winter Fest - Will Be Here Before We Know It!!

It is never too early to think about the up coming holidays. The Holiday Winter Fest gives your children a chance to shop at school for gifts for all occasions. The prices range from \$.25 to \$5.00 and will have gifts for the whole family even the pets. The kids have so much fun on this day - they love getting their brown bags to shop!!!

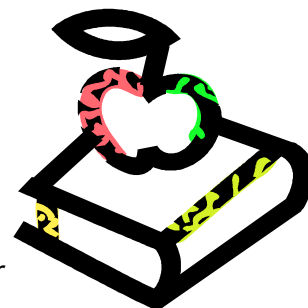
We are looking for people who like to make crafts or donate new items for this event. We will need a lot of items in *different price ranges*. Items can be bought at Oriental Trading, Dollar Store, Michael's Crafts, etc.

We will also need volunteers to help out on that day. Any questions you can email me at ([maryr07@clearviewcatv.net](mailto:maryr07@clearviewcatv.net)) or ([mrmatt12@comcast.net](mailto:mrmatt12@comcast.net)). If you have already signed up to help this day, you will be contacted.

## Kids' Art

Hello everyone and Welcome to all new incoming students and families. I wanted to share with information about KIDS ART. This is when your child will create their "masterpiece" during class and have it turned into a one-of-a kind creation like - a mug, a magnet, note cards, or a key chain. This activity boosts the self esteem for many and is a source of pride for many more. And did you know that this is yet another source of revenue for our school? So, please be as enthused as I am, when your child comes home with their creation and order form.

Thank you,  
Erin Flynn  
Kids Art Chair



## Fall Fund Raiser

Thank you to all of the families that supported our fall fundraisers! Your orders will be available to pick up on **Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup>** from 4 - 7 P.M. in the gym. I will need volunteers to help this day. If you are available, please contact Kim Gibbons. 410-638-8729 or [kim@castleroadconst.com](mailto:kim@castleroadconst.com).

If you would like to make a cash donation, please send in your child's folder and mark Fall Fund Raiser. This donation is 100% tax deductible.

## Ice Cream Social

Our first event this year was our Ice Cream Social. The social was held on Friday, September 5 in the cafeteria. We had almost 600 people attend the fun time. We actually got to the point when we couldn't allow anymore tickets because of the number of people that showed up the first hour! Our teachers and staffed helped scoop bowls of ice cream for everyone. The toppings were yummy too!

Friendly's Ice Cream helped with the social and Jim Dandy showed up to take

pictures with the children. Then our favorite school mascot, Sylvester, showed up and hung out with everyone while they ate ice cream.

There were two winners for the guessing games. Both one a \$10 gift certificate towards Spirit Wear and the candy. Morgan Kornke (Ms. Freeman, K) Won a year's supply of ice cream from Friendly's Restaurant.



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## Reflections Program In Jeopardy!

We are currently in need of a co-chairperson for the PTA Reflections Program. Reflections is an arts recognition and achievement program for all students. Students voluntarily create original works of art based on a pre-selected theme. This year's theme is "Wow!" Students create works of art in one of the following areas: literature, musical composition, photography, visual arts, dance choreography or film/video production. The time frame for this program is now through December.

We will also need people to judge each of the areas of competition. Winners at our school level move on to the county level. County winners move on to the state level and state winners to the national level. Please consider volunteering for this program. The program is in jeopardy without another co-chairperson. Please contact Kelly Ewing or Patty Griffin if you are interested in helping or if you have additional questions.



## What Fun - HES' First Family Night at Friendly's

Our first Family Night was held at Friendly's on Monday, September 15 and it was a great turnout. Staff, students and families enjoyed dinner and yummy ice cream! Jim Dandy visited tables as people were eating and Friendly's welcomed HES on their sign on Main Street. It is always fun to see staff and friends outside of school. The staff at Friendly's did a great job getting families in and out so everyone had an opportunity to enjoy Family Night.

Family Nights Scheduled for this school year:

Oct 20 - Enotria	Feb 9 - Chuck E Cheese
Nov 10 - Panera Bread	Apr 20 - Freddie's
Dec 8 - Place TBD	May 11 - Green Turtle
Jan 12 - Applebees	

## So Many Ways to Shop and Help Hickory!



### BOX TOPS

The Box Tops program is a very easy way to earn cash for our school! Last year was our best year for our Box Tops effort and we are looking forward to another successful year.

#### Clip Box Tops from your Favorite Products!

Look for the 10¢ Box Tops coupon on hundreds of your favorite products. You can find Box Tops on brands such as Cheerios®, Betty Crocker®, Pillsbury®, Ziploc®, Kleenex®, Hefty® and more! **Spread the word and ask family and friends to help!** It takes only a minute and will make a big difference. Just cut the Box Tops from any purchases and send them in with your child's name. Collect 50 Box Tops and the student's name gets entered into a raffle for a gift card.

Now you know how to clip, but what about online shopping? Just start your shopping trip at the Box Tops website, [www.boxtopsforeducation.com](http://www.boxtopsforeducation.com), click on marketplace and select the store you wish to shop. It is only 2 extra clicks. There are hundreds of vendors including Etoys, Kodak Gallery and JC Penney so get shopping! Hickory will earn up to 8% of every purchase you make. This can mean thousands for our school and it's SO EASY! Questions? Email Laura Sherinsky at [lsherinsky@verizon.net](mailto:lsherinsky@verizon.net)

### UPROMISE

#### Hickory Elementary is still participating in the Upromise Schools Program.

Upromise is a nationally-recognized FREE service that's helped millions of members pay for college just by doing all the things they do anyway. Membership is free. And as a Upromise member, you can earn rewards for shopping online, buying participating grocery and drugstore items, eating out at 8,000 national and local restaurants, and more. Upromise partners, including well-known companies like Citi®, McDonald's®, LandsEnd.com, Bloomingdale's.com and hundreds more, reward members with 1-25% college savings.

In addition to saving for college, you can also raise money for our school. For example, our school can earn up to \$30 in Bonuses whenever you and your family and friends participate in select Upromise activities for the first time. This money is over and above the college savings going to your account.

#### Want to help our school? Here's how.

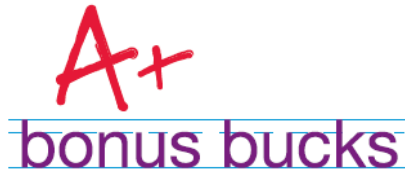
If you're already a Upromise member, simply log in and link your account to our school. If you're not a member, you can join FREE at [upromise.com/schools](http://upromise.com/schools).

### REDNER'S WAREHOUSE MARKETS

New this year, Hickory is participating in the 1% Save-A-Tape program with Redner's. We will earn 1% of the total amount of all grocery receipts we turn in. How can you help? Easy.

1. Shop at Redner's.
2. Present your store/Upromise/1% Save-A-Tape card to the cashier.
3. Send your receipts to school in an envelope marked 'PTA Redner's receipts'.

You must use the store card as it prints 'Save-A-Tape Total points' (or similar) at the bottom of the receipt. Only these receipts are eligible for the reimbursement. This is an easy, painless way for Hickory to raise funds. So, let's get shopping!



Dear Parents:

Welcome to the start of a new school year and another year of A+ BonusBucks<sup>SM</sup>.

Starting October 3, 2008 through April 2, 2009, Hickory Elementary  
(School Name)

will have the opportunity to earn cash through **Giant A+ BonusBucks<sup>SM</sup> Program.**

All you have to do is fill out the Registration Card below and:

Send it to school in your child's backpack

**OR**

Drop it off at any Giant store

**OR**

Log on to [www.giantfood.com/aplus](http://www.giantfood.com/aplus) to register online

**OR**

Dial 1-877-366-2668 to register your card over the phone

After you register your card, each shopping trip at Giant using your BonusCard earns CASH for our school! Each month, the amount of CASH awarded will be updated on the Giant website. Our school will receive a check at the end of the program. The money can be used for any of our school's educational needs.

Remember, even if you registered your card last year, you must re-register this year for our school to receive credit. Attending to this simple process makes a HUGE difference to our school. We need your support.

Please be sure to register your card to benefit Hickory Elementary using ID # 00949 on the Registration Card below.

Also, don't forget to encourage your friends and relatives to do the same. It could mean the world to our children.



Visit [www.giantfood.com/aplus](http://www.giantfood.com/aplus) or complete this card and mail or drop at the customer service desk to register your card for this school year and select the schools to receive your A+ Bonus Bucks.

You can earn A+ Bonus Bucks from October 3, 2008 - April 2, 2009.

1. Clearly fill in your 12-digit card number below:

2. Clearly fill in the first three letters of your last name:

3. Fill in the School ID number for your chosen School(s).

You may choose up to three schools:

If you choose more than one school your A+ Bonus Bucks will be evenly distributed among those three schools.

Fill in the school ID codes of ALL schools each time you add/change your registration.

You can only select schools that have registered for the program.



# Thank You



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