



The Washington News

Washington GT Magnet Elementary School ★ 1000 Fayetteville Street ★ Raleigh, NC 27601 ★ 919-856-7960

April 2009 Edition

From your PTA Leadership

Welcome back from Spring Break! We were all disappointed about the two make-up days at the start of break, but hopefully your time off was still enjoyable.

This issue of the newsletter is a bit shorter, but still full of important information.

Be sure to read about Spring Celebration coming soon: Friday, May 1st.

This annual event has become an exciting way to welcome spring. For many years our 3rd-5th grade chorus has performed at this event. Last year, for the first time, we had two of our school clubs perform as well: Jump Rope Club and Ballroom Dancing Club. It truly was a Spring *Celebration*. This year's event promises to be just as entertaining, as all three groups will perform again. Please mark your calendars and make plans

to join us in the courtyard Friday, May 1st: May Day!

The May issue of our newsletter will be the last one for the 2008-2009 school year. Look for it at the beginning of next month. The next big school-wide event is coming soon: Field Day. Since all grades participate (K-5), many volunteers are needed.

Watch for details and volunteer if you can!

Thank you for supporting our school. Happy Spring!

Lynn Edmonds, PTA President
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Newsletter Information

Would you like to see your information printed in the March 4th edition of the newsletter? Just send your articles/pictures by **April 27th** to Ann Overton at aoverton@aoassociates.net. Editing for space or content may occur. Thanks for contributing!

Inside this issue:

Upcoming Events	2
Ready-to-Learn Info	3
BoxTops Marketplace	4
Drink Pouch Fundraiser	4
Reading Programs	5
Character Ed	6
Courtyard Cleanup	6
Cultural Arts at WES	6
Calendar & Contacts	7



Upcoming Events



NEW COURTYARD MURAL CELEBRATION

During the past two quarters the "Astounding Artists", and "Art in Nature" electives collaborated with Parail, a collective of visiting artists, on a very unique project for Washington's courtyard. Elective students used urban art-making techniques to create new permanent murals for our courtyard. Students acquired new drawing, lettering, painting, and collage techniques while working on these panels.

*We will be celebrating this collaboration and unveiling the new artwork on
Thursday April 16th from 5:15 - 6:15 pm.*

Students will be recognized for their achievements, and parents will have an opportunity to meet the visiting artists responsible for leading the project. The celebration will also include; refreshments, live painting, a free expression area, live music, and break-dancing demonstrations.

The **Raleigh Visual Art Exchange** graciously sponsored this artist collaboration and culminating activity. Please come out and support this event with your child!

Contact Ms. Drum for more information at sdrum@wcpss.net

This week is

BUS DRIVER APPRECIATION WEEK! **April 14th through April 17th**



April 14-17th is bus driver appreciation week. Let's join together to celebrate the bus drivers, taxi drivers and crossing guards that work so hard to keep our children safe. The PTA will be handing out breakfast each day this week to thank all the hard working people who help get our children to and from school safely.

How can you help? Please make sure to take a moment this week to thank your bus driver and crossing guard for all they do for our children. On Friday of this week, we would like to ask your children to make their driver a thank you card, bring flowers or whatever your child would like to do to make your driver feel special. Any questions you have may be directed to Vicki Hood at 762-9882 or Laura Kay 342-5490. Thanks for your help!

SPRING CELEBRATION: FRIDAY MAY 1ST!

Mark your calendars now for our Spring Celebration on Friday, May 1st. This is an annual event full of wonderful performances by our students! Performing this year:

- 3rd-5th grade chorus
- Ballroom Dance Club
- Jump Rope Club

Food will be available for sale beginning at 5:00pm. Fancy Dogs Concessions, the same vendor from last year, will offer items such as hot dogs, hamburgers, chips and drinks at VERY AFFORDABLE prices. The hot dogs and hamburgers are only \$2.00! They will graciously donate 20% of their profits to our PTA. (Vegetarian options will be provided at 5:00, but there are limited quantities, so get there early.)

Please come out for this FUN evening. Performances will start at 5:30. This event also serves as the last general membership meeting of the PTA for the 08-09 school year. The Nominating Committee will present the nominees for the 2009-2010 PTA Board. There will be a few performances BEFORE the PTA meeting; don't miss those! Contact Lynn Edmonds with any questions: lsept@nc.rr.com or 859-5260

KINDERGARTEN CAMP

Call to Sign up Now!

Session One: April 27-30 from 1pm - 3pm (Full)

Session Two: May 11-14 from 10am-12 noon

To register call Sabrina Winstead at 508-0819

Other sessions will be available in the region, call for dates.

Topics will include:

Monday - All About Me

Tuesday - Shape Circus

Wednesday - Monster Math

Thursday - Alphabet Island, School Tour, Graduation



Children's Clothing Donations

We are accepting donations of children's clothing. We are especially in need of new girls and boys underwear, and little girl's pants size 4T, 5T, 6T. Shoes are also always welcomed. Items may be dropped off in the Ready to Learn Center.

Class Schedule - Come Join Us!!!

Central Region Classes at Washington Elementary School

Monday

- 9:00am - **Social Tots**
- 10:00am - **Alpha Wizards** Creative Play (ages 3-5)

Wednesday

- 9:30am - **Wiggle Wizards** Music & Movement (Toddlers 1-3)
- 10:15am - **Mom's as Mentors** - call for information and registration
- 10:30am - **Wiggle Wizards** Music & Movement (Toddlers 1-3)
- 11:15am - **Mom's as Mentors** - call for information and registration
- **** April's Mom's as Mentors Topic - Emotional Coaching part 2**

Friday

- 11:00am - **Tiny Toes - Infant Development Class (Only on the 2nd Friday of each month)**
- 11:00am - **Tiny Toes - Infant Play/Socialization (Once a month, call for dates)**

• Other classes are available in the Central Region at Bugg Elementary, Poe Elementary, and Cedar Moor Apartments. Please call 508-0819 for information and registration.

When kids come to class please check-out our new pre-school computer programs during social tots or free play time.

Call Sabrina Winstead at 508-0819 or Beth Honeycutt 212-0506 for more information.

We are excited to be working with your children!

Shop online and earn CASH for our school!

You like to shop online! Our school needs classroom supplies on a regular basis. We can earn **cash** for our school simply by purchasing these items through the Box Tops for Education website at www.btfе.com.

Here's how it works:

1. Sign up to support our school

Sign up at www.btfе.com



2. Shop online

Start each shopping trip at www.btfе.com/marketplace and click the link to the online store of your choice...and shop as you normally do. By starting at www.btfе.com, Box Tops can track earnings and automatically credit our school's account.

3. Our school earns cash

A percentage of every qualifying purchase is automatically donated back to our school!

Shop over 70 favorite stores such as: JCPenney, Target, Gap, Old Navy, Pottery Barn, Wal-Mart, Barnes & Noble, Circuit City, Office Depot, Office Max, Oriental Trading Company, Staples, Best Buy, Land's End, Limited Too, and Kohl's just to name a few!

Go on-line today and check it out!

Ask me, Becky Wiles, for help or more information, twiles@nc.rr.com or 650-1534.



SPRING SPORTS ARE COMING... SAVE THOSE DRINK POUCHES!

Outdoor sports are already in progress, and many of us find juice pouches a convenient part of a team snack to rehydrate our players. If your team uses juice pouches, collect them, clean them up, and send them in to help the Earth and your PTA!

Here's how...

Cut off the top just below the seal.

Rinse the inside with hot water.

Allow to air dry or wipe dry with a towel.

When dry, flatten them and place them in a Ziploc bag marked "Drink Pouch Brigade." Then send them in to your teacher just as you do Box Tops and Campbell's labels.

ALL POUCHES SENT FROM HOME MUST BE CLEAN AND IN A SEALED BAG.

To learn more about the Drink Pouch Brigade and Terracycle, visit their website at www.terracycle.net.

THANK YOU!



BOOKS & BEYOND (K-1)



A lot of K-1 kids have "caught the reading bug!" All of the students in Mrs. Wilkinson's, Mrs. Hayes', Mrs. Baildon's, and Mrs. Jackson's classes have found their places on the Media Center bulletin board. And Miss Witkowski's class is right on their heels. Approximately two dozen students have turned in ten or more reading logs, and their pictures have been posted on the Media Center wall. We have two super readers, Sydney Nguyen in Mrs. Wilkinson's class and Andreea Cornea in Mrs. Hayes' class, who have turned in 100 logs! Way to go! We are extremely proud of all our readers and would love to see every student receive a participation prize at the conclusion of this year's program in May (final date to be announced). We know you're reading, so write it down and turn it in!

Remember, students can record any book read *by* or *to* them anywhere and anytime. This includes at home with parents, grandparents, or siblings, at school with their teachers, media staff, reading buddies, or in book club, and

anywhere else they like to read or be read to. If your child is reading chapter books like *Junie B. Jones*, *Jigsaw Jones*, or *Magic Tree House*, s/he may choose to count each chapter as a book. Children's periodicals such as *Highlights* and *Ranger Rick* count, too.

Check out your child's progress the next time you're in the Media Center. You can identify your child's class by its "reading bug."

Ash- red bug	Hayes- spider
Baildon- ladybug	Rowell- butterfly
Brown- ant	Wilkinson (Beattie)- bee
Jackson- grasshopper	Witkowski- dragonfly

NEED A NEW READING LOG? Students have an opportunity to pick up a new reading log each time their class visits the Media Center. Logs can also be printed from the Media Center page of the school website at washingtontes.wcpss.net. Just click on the last book on the top shelf (Books and Beyond, Book Adventure Info) then follow the instructions to print your log.

BOOK ADVENTURE (2nd - 5th)



On Friday, April 3rd, students who met the comprehension point goals for third quarter had the opportunity to shop the Book Adventure Point Store. This year, 87 students in grades two through five were eligible to shop. Here's the breakdown on which classes are leading the pack with the most points earned.

2 nd grade	Mr. Strickland	48,905 pts
3 rd grade	Mrs. Dunkle	40,075 pts
4 th grade	Mr. Ash	20,020 pts
5 th grade	Mrs. Hemric	25,055 pts

Students can check their progress online at any time. Just go to www.bookadventure.org and log in, then click Reports on the menu at the left. Quiz scores are listed in order by the dates they were taken. Simply total the points you've earned since September 23rd to see if you have enough to meet the current goal.

The end of year incentive will once again be a movie and popcorn. This incentive is a celebration of a year of reading with Book Adventure. Therefore, this incentive *may not be earned with 4th quarter totals alone*. Students must achieve the cumulative point goals for the year in order to earn a ticket to the 4th quarter movie. Second and third graders will need 1600 points and fourth and fifth graders will need 2400 points. If you'd like to attend the movie but are a little behind on points for the year, there's still time to catch up. Just keep reading and taking Book Adventure tests! Hope to see you there!


Looking for an interesting book you can quiz on? Go to the **Book Adventure** website and click the Book List. Enter the types of books that interest you, and the site will give you a list of books you may enjoy. Then go to the Washington website and click on **Destiny** (the circulation system for our Media Center) to see if we've got a particular book in our collection. Or, if you've seen a book that interests you in the Media Center, you can enter the title on the **Book Adventure** website to see if there's a quiz. Happy Reading!!



SPOTLIGHT ON CHARACTER

Here's how some of our Washington Wizards showed March's character trait, PERSEVERANCE...

- *K- David works hard on his spelling and handwriting in both English and Spanish even though his mom is not able to help him
- *1st- Mallika works hard to learn her swimming strokes
- *2nd- HySaun keeps working on tough school work like contractions and fractions
- *3rd- Michelle tried again when she did not pass her ice skating level
- *4th- Sohil keeps trying to do the monkey bars at school
- *5th- Nicholas completed all the requirements for the Boy Scout Arrow of Light



THE CHARACTER
TRAIT FOR THE MONTH
OF APRIL IS ...
GOOD JUDGMENT.

USING GOOD JUDGMENT
MEANS MAKING GOOD
CHOICES. SHOW US HOW
YOU SHOW IT!

When learning a new skill, it's always good to have PERSEVERANCE, because improvement comes with practice. We heard from many students who showed PERSEVERANCE learning new skills in gymnastics, swimming, football, tennis, karate, dance, and chess. Students also showed PERSEVERANCE in practicing musical instruments like the recorder, guitar, and violin and with schoolwork like reading and multiplication tables. We were inspired by examples of kids who failed but got right back up to try again as well as kids who work consistently to improve themselves and their performance in school. WAY TO GO WIZARDS! STICK TO IT, AND YOU'LL GO FAR! Character Rewards forms for PERSEVERANCE will be accepted through Monday, April 13th.

Other News & Notes

Cultural Arts at WES

The cultural arts committee would like to thank the Washington community for funding a fantastic year of programming for our children. To date, our entire school enjoyed a fabulous storyteller, Diane Macklin; our 4th grade students enhanced their poetry skills thanks to Mrs. Suzanne Newton, an award winning poet; our 5th grade students created a beautiful wire beaded legacy gift with help from the "Wire Boy" Mr. Jonathan Daniel; our K - 2nd grade students enjoyed Ms. Anita Burroughs-Price and her golden harp...straight from the NC Symphony; and the Bay Street Brassworks quintet performed an entertaining and educational program for all students.

"Toying with Science" coming to Washington!

Our last event of the year will be on Friday, April 17. Mr. Garry Krinsky will be performing his "Toying with Science" program at 1:00pm for grades 3-5 and 2:00pm for K-2. In this program, Mr. Krinsky will explore scientific principles of gravity, leverage, fulcrums and simple machines in a fast-paced, dynamic program. This will be a fun-filled afternoon for all! Please come out and join us at either the 1:00 or 2:00 program!!



Courtyard News

The courtyard is really beginning to look great these last few weeks. The buds are starting to blossom and the ground covers are turning green. We had a few workdays and were able to knock out a large portion of the mulch pile. Please keep in mind all the upcoming Spring events to take place outside. We all want the courtyard to look its best! Ms. Dorothy Roche will be purchasing flowers and plants to improve the flower pots and flag pole garden. Keep a look out for upcoming workdays!

Lost and Found

Please take a moment to go through the Lost and Found in the cafeteria. With the nice weather, the children easily leave their jackets and hoodies in classrooms and on the playground.



WashingTon Events Calendar

APRIL

Th 16 Courtyard Mural Celebration
 T 14 — F 17 Bus Driver Appreciation

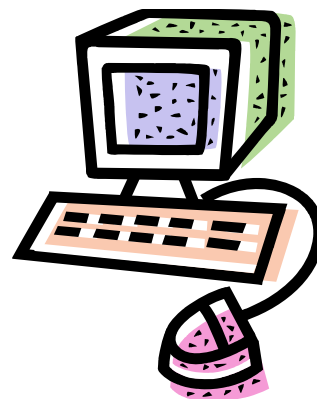
MAY

F 1 Spring Celebration
 Th 7 4th Qtr Electives end
 T 12 Field Day (Grades 3-5)
 W 13 Field Day (Grades K-2)
 M 18 — F 22 EOGs (Grades 3-5)
 M 25 Memorial Day Holiday

WASHINGTON WEBSITE

www.washingtones.wcpss.net/PTA help us keep you informed find details on programs and events as well as:

- ★ Options to contact PTA committees (contact pg)
- ★ Email updates on WPTA & school happenings (sign up for yahoo mail)
- ★ Online Newsletter (click on the Newsboy)



For More Information, Contact...

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6th VP-Programs	(Position Open)		
7th VP-School Support	Dorothy Roche	854-9806	dwroche@bellsouth.net
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Faculty Rep/Elective Information	Jan Kidwell	856-7960	jkidwell@wcpss.net