

# APS PTA News

Volume 1, Issue 1

August 2011

## Keep Reading!

Outside at Ashford Park School  
Read-a-Thon ends September 9th

The 2011 Pledge for Play is quickly coming to an end. The deadline to submit the 2011 Pledge for Play packet is September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### Step 1: Complete Your Pledge Packet

Write your child's name and their teacher's name on the log. Make sure you entered all the book titles. Parents, be sure to initial each entry!

### Step 2: Collect Your Pledges

Total the pledges. Collect the pledge donations. Put the cash and check donations in your packet.

### Step 3: Submit Your Pledge Packet

Drop the pledge packet in the big green Read-A-Thon box in the school foyer!



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## Support the PTA Dollar-a-Day Campaign!

Tired of selling gift wrap and magazine subscriptions to help supply our classrooms? Then sign up for our Dollar a Day Campaign!

- For a \$1 per school day donation (which comes to \$180), you can help ensure our school stays current with materials, technology, and operational supplies – for the ENTIRE school year with no further fundraising.
- 100% of funds raised go through the PTA to directly support classrooms and school operations – no vendor takes a cut!
- Payments can be made by credit card and are completely tax-deductible!
- You can still enlist family and friends to contribute to your campaign donation if they want to be supportive.
- Don't worry, we'll still have the Fall Festival and Book Fairs to encourage community support and fund special programs!

We need strong participation for this to be successful – or we'll have to reconsider traditional fundraisers and sales throughout the year. Ask a PTA officer today how you can join the campaign!

The PTA now takes credit cards for donations.

# Volunteers Needed!!

*The following PTA committees are in need of volunteers. Please look at the descriptions below.*

## **Outdoor Classroom: CHAIR NEEDED**

Assist faculty with Outdoor Classroom projects. Organize and recruit volunteers for Clean-Up Days and outdoor improvements. Partner with Green Committee on Earth Day and similar events.

## **Family & Community Engagement: CHAIR NEEDED**

Promote APS in the community. Attend neighborhood and civic events to keep community informed about us and help align our vision and goals. Updates to PTA website, Facebook, Twitter. Provide individual tours as required. Coordinate Open House/Kindergarten Preview and Realtor Breakfast, including presentations, handouts, refreshments and tours.

## **Safety: CHAIR NEEDED**

Work with Principal and staff to promote and communicate safety programs and procedures to families. Hold informational meetings and contribute to monthly newsletter, website and other communication vehicles as needed. Prepare carpool stickers and instructions prior to start of school. Recruit and organize volunteers to work morning carpool.

## **Media Center Support: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Volunteer in the Media Center: shelving books, inputting data in the system, etc. Contact Mary Alice NeSmith at [maryalicesmith@yahoo.com](mailto:maryalicesmith@yahoo.com)

## **Grounds: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Organize and recruit volunteers for Clean-Up Days and outdoor improvements. Assist teachers with Outdoor Classroom development projects. Partner with Green Committee on Earth Day and similar events. Co-chairs Stephanie Mattison at [flystephanie@mac.com](mailto:flystephanie@mac.com) or Carl Myers at [csmyers@gmail.com](mailto:csmyers@gmail.com)

## **Latin American Engagement: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Provide translation services for flyers, monthly newsletter, website, and other communication vehicles as needed. Be a welcoming presence to Spanish speakers at PTA events and school functions, and translate as needed. Promote and increase PTA membership of Latino families and be a resource for their questions and concerns. Chair: Claudia Jones  
[Claudiaovalle36@gmail.com](mailto:Claudiaovalle36@gmail.com)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPIRIT WEAR DAY

FRIDAY AUGUST 26

Students wearing an APS logo shirt may also wear blue jeans. Field Day shirts are not considered Spirit Wear.

LABOR DAY BREAK

SEPTEMBER 5

Students do not report to school.

GRANDPARENTS LUNCHEON

SEPTEMBER 14, LUNCHTIME

PTA GENERAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 15, 6:30 PM

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

SEPTEMBER 22, 3:00-5:00 PM



## HOW CAN I HELP?

The school is in constant need of items that aren't supplied by the DCSS budget – things like paper shredders, stepstools, recycling bins, mops and brooms, new socks and underwear for students who have accidents, band aids and ice packs for the Clinic, and bathroom cleaning supplies.

What can parents do to help?

### ASK YOUR TEACHER FOR THEIR WISH LIST

Most teachers post wish lists on their doors. You can purchase these items or solicit neighbors and businesses to donate them. Networks like FreeCycle and neighborhood e-groups are great resources for gently used items at no cost.

### PARTICIPATE IN SPIRIT NIGHTS AT LOCAL EATERIES

Our Business Liaisons Committee has lined up APS Spirit Nights/Weeks at family-friendly restaurants in our neighborhood who will give back a percentage of sales to APS. There's a different one each month! Check the PTA Calendar for details at [www.ashfordparkpta.org](http://www.ashfordparkpta.org).

### ENROLL IN TRUE BLUE SCHOOLS

When you enroll in the TrueBlue Schools program, Georgia Natural Gas will donate up to \$100 a year to APS! Any GNG residential natural gas users can participate – parents, teachers, friends - and the more people who sign up and select APS, the more money we receive. Once you sign up, our donations are automatic and ongoing, so there's nothing else for you to do. Sign up at [www.trueblueschools.com/program\\_details.asp](http://www.trueblueschools.com/program_details.asp).

### CLIP BOX TOPS AND CAMPBELL'S LABELS

Clip the 10¢ Box Tops coupons from hundreds of products and send them in to your child's teacher. We can earn up to \$20,000 each year through the original Box Tops program. Take advantage of the bonus opportunities each month in local stores and at [www.boxtops4education](http://www.boxtops4education). Also collect 1 or 5 point product UPCs or drink caps from Campbell's Labels for Education™ participating products; and send them into your child's teacher.

### DONATE TO THE PTA CLASSROOM SUPPORT FUND

We also take straight donations! We are a 401(c) 3 non-profit organization, and we are happy to provide donation receipts.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Why can't I walk my child to class in the mornings?

A: Children focus more quickly and perform their morning work better if they enter class on their own. For younger students, this also encourages self-confidence and builds trust with their teachers. We also have extremely limited parking for our teachers and staff, and appreciate parents either walking children to school or driving through carpool instead of parking.

Q: Can I eat lunch with my child?

A: Certainly! Simply sign in as a Visitor in the office and get a Visitor sticker to wear. You do not need to make a reservation. We encourage visitors to say their goodbyes in the cafeteria after lunch and allow students to walk independently back to class.

Q: Where does the PTA money from fundraisers go?

A: The money goes directly into the classrooms. Our school gets less than \$15,000 a year from DCSS to cover everyday costs such as copying supplies, test materials, technology upgrades, administrative consumables (Thursday packets, staplers, hole punchers, tape, markers, Nurse's Clinic supplies, etc.), and basics like toilet paper and cleaning products. Without support, these funds would not cover the actual costs of running a school. The PTA purchases things like the Thursday Packets, standardized test booklets, Honors Day certificates and medals, AR tests, library and classroom books and audiovisuals, and Outdoor Classroom supplies to bridge the gap between the DCSS budget and the reality of the costs of high-performing classrooms. We also bring in several assembly programs each year in science and the arts, and sometimes subsidize field trip costs. We publish updates to our budget throughout the year, and encourage you to raise questions to any of our Board members. Their contact information is posted at [www.ashfordparkpta.org](http://www.ashfordparkpta.org).

## Visit the School Store

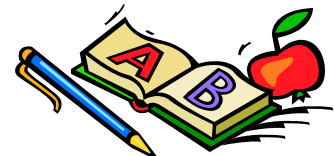
The school store is open on the following Tuesday mornings from 7:00 am – 7:45am in the cafeteria.

**September 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>**

**October 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>**

**November 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>**

**December 6<sup>th</sup>**



# A BIG THANKS TO SEVERAL OF OUR APS VOLUNTEERS

**Tim Harvey** for cleaning and repainting the curbs in the carpool line. And also for a fantastic job making sure our students arrive and depart from school safely and efficiently.

**Renee Kunkler Realty** for all of the carpool signs

**K&H Homes Inc. and ???** who donated printing and supplies for the beginning of the year.

**Jersey Mikes at Cambridge Square** for providing a delicious lunch for the teacher pre-planning.

## ***Thank you for getting APS ready for the 1st Day of School!!!!***

*Ashford Park Grounds Cleanup Volunteers,*

*Thank you very much for all your hard work this past cleanup. The turnout was the best we have had in a very long time. We accomplished a ton of work towards making the School grounds look extra special for the start of the school year. The Grounds Committee is committed to working towards a comprehensive maintenance schedule that will keep the school grounds looking its best year round. This would not be possible without the hard work of dedicated volunteers. Please keep a look out for future cleanup days and as always ask your friends and neighbors to join us.*

*Thank you very much,*

*Grounds Cleanup Committee*

*We would also like to thank all the volunteers from Clairmont Baptist Church that came to do interior painting and pressure washed all of our learning cottages. How lucky APS is to have neighbors like Clairmont Baptist!!!!*

*And finally, we would like to thank our Custodial Staff - Mr. Hubert Moore, Mr. Milan Kala & Mr. Iber Principe for all their hard work over the summer months to prepare Ashford Park for our new school year. Thank you for all you do every day!!!!*

Printing of this newsletter generously donated by:



## Volunteer for Morning Carpool!!

Volunteering for carpool is a great way to help out! It only requires a small amount of your time. From 7:15am – 7:45am, volunteers greet each car as it arrives to school and ensures that students into the building safely and efficiently.

To volunteer, please visit this link to sign up:

[www.SignUpGenius.com/go/carpool80/1347832](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/carpool80/1347832)