

SPARKS PTA NEWS

Letter from Nancy Escribano, PTA President

Welcome back from summer break and to the 2010 School Year! At one point it seemed as if summer was far away and now we just completed our first week of school. Amazing!

Our PTA theme this year is **Building for Success**. Each parent and educator involved with Sparks PTA is the foundation in our building. By joining the PTA the benefits are enormous. Not only are you helping provide programs and learning opportunities to our children here at Sparks, but a portion of your dues is used on a state and national level helping make sure our students and family needs are being heard and met. Did you know that Texas PTA helped propose, lobby and pass the "No cell phones in school zones" law? How about the booster seat law? Isn't that awesome to not only see your dues in action here at home, but also on a larger scale as well? Did you know members are entitled to many discounts? Visit www.txpta.org for more information. Talk about getting a bang for your buck! If you did not get a chance to join at Meet the Teacher Night, contact our Membership Chair Kara Cleaver at membership@mysparkspta.org.

There are many different opportunities for you to be involved this year. I encourage you to join a committee—there are many to choose from that will fit your unique skills and time requirements. This is a great opportunity to share in your child's learning experience and to meet other parents. Make sure to indicate your volunteer interests in our online [PTO Manager system](#). As your schedule and availability changes, you are able to logon and modify your interests. This is the only way to be included in our award-winning Sparks PTA directory. Don't get left out. REGISTER TODAY!

We will do our best to keep you updated by sending important messages and reminders to you throughout the school year. Make sure you visit our website www.mysparkspta.org which was re-designed over the summer! We hope you find it helpful and informative. If I can help you in any way, please let me know. I look forward to yet another "sparkling" year working together!

Sincerely,

Nancy Escribano
Sparks PTA President 2010- 2011
president@mysparkspta.org

PTA Building Bricks

We're having a building campaign and you're invited! We need your help to make **Building For Success** a SUCCESS! We're "selling bricks" for membership to build the school in your honor. With every \$10 paid membership, your child's name will be printed on a paper brick and added to our structure in the cafeteria. Sound like fun? Read on.

PTA's vision is to make every child's potential a reality. We do this in many ways throughout the year: educational programs, carnival, book fair, guided reading books, math and science materials, teacher appreciation, safety...the list goes on. The cornerstone for our success is the membership and we invite you to join us on our journey to reach 100% participation. After all, we're here for you!

To track our journey, you will find a large "shadow print" of the school hanging in the cafeteria. This is just the beginning of what the year holds in store, the experiences our children will have, and the growth they will experience. We'll get this journey started as our PTA families, teachers, and administration buy bricks in our building campaign (JOIN PTA). As each family joins the PTA, their child's name will go on a paper brick and we will build our vibrant school image (for teachers and administration, their own names will be added to the bricks). The faster we join PTA, the quicker our image will be complete and our children will see how their role impacts the overall structure, our school.

Sparks is a great place to be. We have an amazing group of families, fantastic teachers, and wonderful administration. Our academics are incredible and our PTA membership always ranks very high in the state. As a group, we are involved and proud of our school—as we should be! Let's keep the ball rolling. **BUY A BRICK TODAY, JOIN PTA!**

Kara Cleaver
VP, Membership
membership@mysparkspta.org

AUGUST 2010



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www.mysparkspta.org

The Sparks PTA website has been redesigned to make it easier for you to find the information you need. Go to it for the latest information regarding our school calendar, events, volunteer information, electronic Thursday folders and more! We welcome your questions, comments, and suggestions. Contact us at info@mysparkspta.org.

Sparks About Town: Publicity

Happy 2010-2011 school year! I am Dawn Rice, this year's Publicity Chair. It is my goal to keep the Sparks community well connected. Following the example of years past, I plan to publish a well organized and useful directory. I will also keep the greater Frisco community updated with articles about our PTA events and successes.

We would like to publish the directory as soon as possible. In order to do this we need each of you to commit to a PTA membership and register in the [PTO Manager System](#), supplying correct contact information. By supporting the Sparks PTA for just \$10 you will receive a complimentary directory. Our directory also offers affordable advertising that is sure to reach our PTA families. To learn more, contact me at publicity@mysparkspta.org.

Sparks Spirit Store

Need more Sparks Wear?

Visit Sparks Spirit Store
 Friday, Sept. 10th 7:30- 8:30 AM
 during the morning assembly.
spirit@mysparkspta.org

PTA Programs ROCK!

Hello Sparks families! My name is Tracey Marshall and this is my second year as V.P. of Programs for Sparks Elementary. There are already several exciting programs scheduled for the students and families of Sparks. Hope to see you all around Sparks this year!



September 16th – Presentation on bullying and how it affects your child. 6:45pm

September 17th – The Morris Brothers present Bully Busters. James Caldwell, author of the Fisd bullying policy will be on hand afterwards to answer questions from our parents and staff. Kinder – 2nd grade at 8:30am. 3rd – 5th grade at 9:30am.

October 14th – 5th grade musical presented by Mrs. Jones. 6:45pm

October 28th – Wheels of Freestyle in conjunction with Red Ribbon Week. Kinder – 2nd grade at 9:00am. 3rd – 5th grade at 10:00am.

November 18th – Family Game night (door prizes!!!). 6:45pm



January 20th – Frisco police Officer Tony Rike to speak on internet safety. 6:45pm

February 17th – 3rd grade musical presented by Mrs. Jones. 6:45pm



April 21st – 1st grade musical presented by Mrs. Jones. 6:45pm

May 19th – Summer Fun & Fitness Program (door prizes!!!). 6:45pm



TBD – High Touch High Tech interactive science programs for each grade level.

Tracey Marshall
 VP Programs
programs@mysparkspta.org

Boosterthon Getting Ready to Blast Off!

My name is Sherri Makrigeorgis and I'm excited to be serving on the PTA Board for Fundraising. Sparks will once again participate in a Boosterthon Fun Run - a healthy alternative to traditional product sales, raising much-needed funds for our school and many others across America. The program promotes three specific values during the nine day fun-filled program: Fitness, Leadership, and Character.

This year's theme is **Leader LAUNCH** - stressing that leaders are...



- L**earners
- A**ctive
- U**plifting
- N**ot bullies
- C**ourageous
- H**elpers

In the upcoming weeks, you will receive information regarding the Fun Run. Until then, please mark your calendar for Thursday, October 7th and be prepared to have loads of fun! If you have any questions, please contact Sherri at fundraising@mysparkspta.org.

Hospitality

Thank you to our PTA Board members who donated items for the Teacher's Back to School Breakfast. The staff was very appreciative!

On the first day of school we held a Tears and Cheers Coffee for the Kinder parents who needed hugs or high-fives. Be on the look out for information on our fall teacher luncheon to be hosted by K-2nd in October!

We love our teachers and staff!

Andrea Wentz & Kimilee Pelham
 Hospitality Co-chairs
hospitality@mysparkspta.org

Book Fair: Reading Saves the Day!

Plans are underway for our Fall Book Fair, themed "Here's To Our Heroes! Reading Saves the Day!"

The fair will be held October 12th-15th, but preparations begin in late September. Over the next few weeks we will be looking for volunteers to help us with decorations, refreshments, signage, information packets, set up and tear down, personal shoppers (for our little ones), cash register operators and securing sponsors. A successful book fair takes as many as 70-80 volunteers!

If you are interested in being a part of this fun event, please go online to register yourself as a Book Fair Volunteer at www.mysparkspta.ptomanager.com. If you have any questions, please contact Cathy Krejci, Book Fair Chairperson, at bookfair@mysparkspta.org.



Calling All Volunteers!

VALUABLE

Another exciting year is ahead of us! I am Abigail Mogote and am excited to serve as your Volunteer Coordinator this school year. If you are new to our family, Welcome! We are glad you are here, and I am confident to say you will feel right at home.

OUTSTANDING

LOYAL

UNIQUE

NICE

TERRIFIC

EFFICIENT

ENTHUSIASTIC

READY

We are currently seeking Room Parents for the upcoming school year. Room Parent responsibilities include communicating information, planning parties and coordinating work-room duties. There are many other ways to be involved too. Fundraising, health screening, hospitality, library or work room helper, and take home projects, only to name a few. In a couple of weeks room parents will hold a work room orientation for those needing help getting started.

When you register in the [PTO Manager system](#), please indicate your volunteer interest. There is a role here for everyone, so don't be afraid to get involved! I look forward to working with you this year.

SENSATIONAL!

Abigail Mogote,
Volunteer Coordinator
volunteer@mysparkspta.org

SAGE

What is SAGE?

SAGE stands for Special and Gifted Education. We work with the diverse learning student population, instructional support staff and of course the families. A student does not have to be receiving Special Education, Gifted and Talented or 504 to benefit from SAGE and our programs/trainings or parent connection groups.

[Click here](#) for more information on SAGE and how we can help diverse learners – and their parents!

An [enrollment form](#) is available for those parents who would like to sign up to volunteer, or to just be included in the SAGE database for district-wide announcements of speakers, school and community events relating to diverse learners.

Sonya Gallardo
SAGE Coordinator
sage@mysparkspta.org

Community Partners

I hope you had an enjoyable summer AND remembered to keep cutting out those labels during the summer. I am Lisa Allison, the new Community Partners Chairman, and I'm looking forward to counting and mailing ALL those labels the students will be bringing in this year.

- Sparks Elementary collects
- Box Tops
 - Campbell's labels
 - Tyson Project A+ labels



More Labels = More Money and FREE items for our school!

Every time your student sends in at least 10 labels, they get recognized in the Monday assemblies. Send labels in a Ziploc type bag with their name, teacher's name and grade. For a list of products with Box Top labels or Campbell's labels, visit:
www.boxtops4education.com/earn/clip/Brands.aspx
www.labelsforeducation.com/earn/participating-products.aspx

Please let me know if you have any questions!
Lisa Allison
Community Partners Chair
community@mysparkspta.org

Happy Days!

I am [Karen Parulo](#), the Courtesy and Communication chairperson. I get to recognize the teachers' and staffs' birthdays, births or life events. Please let me know if there is an upcoming important event in your teacher's life.

News Flash!

I am [Kathy Neill](#), the Newsletter Editor. To receive the electronic version of the Sparks PTA News, make sure you are signed up in our [PTO Manager system](#). Newsletters will be archived at mysparkspta.org.

PTA Reflections

Each year, the Sparks PTA sponsors the National PTA Reflections Program which challenges students to create art inspired by a specific theme. This year's theme is:



The students participate in the Reflections Program by submitting entries of their individual artistic creation, from six different arts areas (dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography, and visual arts).

A Great Learning Experience In Many Ways

When children express themselves through words, pictures, music, dance, and other art forms, they grow intellectually and socially. They learn to analyze their thoughts, feelings, and ideas; learn to look at things, people, and experiences in a fresh and exciting way; and become more interested in the ideas and works of others.

The PTA Reflections Program is designed to enhance a quality arts education by providing an opportunity for students to explore their artistic talents and receive positive recognition for their efforts.

Get your child's creative juices flowing for how the can represent this year's theme **"TOGETHER WE CAN"**! Forms and deadlines (late October) for the Reflection Program will be available soon after school starts!

Please contact Debbie Schnell with any questions you may have.

Debbie Schnell
Reflections Committee Chair
reflections@mysparkspta.org