



The Sleepy Hollow Legend



Sleepy Hollow Elementary School Parent Teachers Association (PTA)

September 2009

Kicking Off Another Great Year!

Welcome to a new school year — and our first issue of the SHES PTA newsletter for 2009-2010! The newsletter comes out at the start of each month (so look for an October issue in just a couple of weeks!) and keeps SHES families up-to-date on great PTA activities and events!

We hope you will plan to join us at the **October 6 PTA meeting**, which features the school's "Meet the Specialists" night. This is a great opportunity to find out more about the PTA and what we are doing, as well as meet all the great SHES Specialists that help enrich our children's school experience. We hope to see you there!

"Why join and support the PTA?"

What is the PTA? Like thousands of schools across the country, Sleepy Hollow Elementary School (SHES) hosts a local Parent Teacher Association (PTA) which reflects the goals of the state and national PTAs, but is unique to and run by volunteer parents and educators at SHES.

A Board of Directors composed of parents elected from the SHES PTA membership, along with SHES educators, directs our activities based on needs and wants expressed by the membership and school representatives. Members run our various committees as chairs and general volunteers. The Board and committees work hard to assure the SHES PTA is run well and responsibly. Here are a few examples of the programs we provide: field trips, a fitness day and special parent/child events, after-school programs, social events, cultural arts assemblies, a science fair and arts program, a school directory and school spirit activities, class parties, and appreciation for the staff and teachers who guide and care for our children.

What can parents do to support the PTA? When you join the SHES PTA your dues primarily support your local PTA, but also include membership in the state and national PTAs. The PTA depends on the generosity of the SHES community, through dues and donations, to provide a wealth of programs for the school.

You may choose to support the PTA by purchasing items through our fall fundraising campaign, as outlined in the Great American Opportunities packet which was sent home on September 11. **Should you prefer not to purchase items yet still wish to support the PTA's fundraising efforts, we will be very happy to receive a direct donation.** Put the following in your child's backpack, to be given to the teacher: a check made out to SHES PTA, placed in a sealed envelope labeled PTA. You may have already made a donation through the PTA membership form. Thank you! However you do it, we hope you will consider supporting the PTA. Please refer to our website, www.shespta.org, for forms and further information. Thank you, in advance, for supporting your PTA! --Jane Cheek, PTA Membership Chair

Help Local Businesses and our School!

Help your favorite local restaurant, retailer, service company or other business grow, and help our school at the same time, by helping get advertisements for our **School Directory**.

Simply drop off our ad information package to a few of your favorite local businesses, and mention what a great opportunity advertising to our school population can be for their business! We also need of a few volunteers with some time during a few weekdays to visit local businesses concerning placing an ad in our 2009-2010 School Directory. We provide the ad packages, a list of businesses that need to be contacted, and anything else you need. If you are interested, want to find out more, or just want to pass on a list of favorite merchants, please contact: **Nicole Ouellette** 703-533-3313 nicole_ouellette@yahoo.com

Kindergarten Parents

Welcome! Hopefully your families have settled in nicely to Sleepy Hollow Elementary School and have adjusted to new routines. I'm Maxine Silverman, Kindergarten Liaison, as well as Treasurer of the PTA Board. My daughter, Sophie, is in Ms. Van Hooser's class and my son, Jonathan, is in Ms. Graubard's 4th grade class. My role is to make things easier for you and answer any questions you may have throughout



Mark Your Calendar!

Sept 28	Gift Wrap sale ends
Sept 30	Dolphin Academy Registration Deadline
Oct 5	Picture Day
Oct 6	PTA Meeting: Meet the Specialists, 7:30 pm
Oct 12	Columbus Day Holiday (No School)

the year. Feel free to contact me any time. You can reach me at (703)354-7887 or maxinebs@gmail.com. See you at Back to School Night on Monday, September 28!

It's Time for REFLECTIONS!!

Once again, the Sleepy Hollow PTA will be sponsoring the Reflections Program this fall. This is part of a National PTA program that allows and encourages students to participate in the arts through various types of media. This includes written works, photography, visual arts, dance choreography, film production and musical composition. This presents a great opportunity for children to try something new and receive positive recognition for their efforts. The theme for this year's Reflections Program is **"Beauty Is"**. Look for information regarding rules and official entry forms later this month.

For additional information, please contact Amy Del Valle at (703) 562-6081, or by e-mail to "ADelValle@FDIC.gov".

Now Introducing... "Dolphin Academy"

The Sleepy Hollow Elementary School PTA is pleased to announce the Dolphin Academy, an after school enrichment program that offers a wide variety of fun and educational classes (Tae Kwon Do, Dance Theater, Flag Football, Yoga, and much, much more!).

Classes are available to all SHES students on a first-come, first-served basis, and are designed to support school work, enrich interests and talents, and, most importantly, encourage fun! If classes are overenrolled, participants will be selected by a lottery process. If there is a big demand for a certain class, we will do our best to accommodate interested students and open a new class.

Classes will be held before and after school (8-9am and 4:15-5:15pm, Mondays 1:45-2:45pm, unless otherwise noted). Scholarships are available, so please contact us if you are interested in a scholarship to help pay for your Dolphin Academy class/es. Session dates are as follows:



Volunteer Corner

Whether you have a little or a lot of time available, the Sleepy Hollow PTA needs you! We have volunteer opportunities in every size — a few hours, a few days, or more!

? ? **Reflections.** Contact Amy Del Valle at 703-562-6081 or by email to ADelValle@FDIC.gov, if you are interested in helping out with this program.

For more information on volunteer opportunities, contact PTA Volunteer Coordinator **Brenda Poole** (contact info below).

Fall: October 13, 2009 to December 18, 2009 (forms sent home: September 18; registration deadline: September 30, 2009)

Winter: January 11, 2010 to March 26, 2010 (forms sent home: December 2; registration deadline: December 16, 2009)

Spring: April 5, 2010 to June 11, 2010 (forms sent home February 24; registration deadline: March 10, 2010)

For more information — including policies and procedures, class schedule, costs, course descriptions and guidelines for enrollment — please visit the PTA's website at www.shespta.org. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Jill Beres, Chairperson at (703) 536-7055 / jillandtimberes@verizon.net, or Debbie Ratliff, Co-Chair at 703-532-2852/Debbie.ratliff@gmail.com. Splash into Fun!

School Directory in the Works!

The 2009-2010 School Directory is already in the works! Sign-up sheets already have been sent home — be sure to complete and return yours if your family wants to be listed in the directory. The directory is often used for play dates, party invitations, and other social functions you may want your child to be included in — we hope all our school families will choose to be listed in the directory and return your forms promptly! We hope to have the Directory finished and distributed by mid-October this year.

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