



the dolphin splash

Echo Lake Elementary School PTA
PublicRelations@elespta.com
February 2010

Highlights of what you'll find on the Echo Lake Elementary School PTA website @ www.elespta.com

Heart 2 Heart Breakfast

> elespta.com > [Home Page](#)

Don't forget! Heart 2 Heart Breakfasts will be taking place from February 3rd – 10th at 7:20am in the Cafeteria.

On the menu: doughnuts, fruit, muffins, granola bars, yogurt, and OJ. Please park behind the school when attending this event.

We Love to Read!

> elespta.com > [Home Page](#)

Echo Lake's annual Valentine's Day Book Exchange will be held on February 12th. Books will be collected from February 1st – 11th. Please send in a new or gently used book on your child's reading level. The books will be collected in your child's classroom and we'll also have a collection bin at the Heart to Heart Breakfasts.

We Appreciate Our Teachers

> elespta.com > [Calendar](#)

Did you know that each month the PTA organizes a Teacher Appreciation Luncheon? Thanks so much to all the parents who have helped with coordinating and donating to the lunches we've already completed. The teachers absolutely love this monthly treat, and we really enjoy showing them how much we appreciate all that they do for our children! On February 4th our 2nd Grade parents will provide a Mexican themed luncheon. Dates and themes will be available soon for the March, April, and May luncheons, provided by our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade parents respectively.

Dolphin Chatter

Various messages from your PTA Board

Spirit Nights at Papa John's from Feb. 3-5 and Johnny Rockets on March 24.

> elespta.com > [Community Partners](#)

We're still accepting your photos for the Memory Book!

> elespta.com > [Programs](#) > [Memory Book](#)

The next PTA meeting is on Tuesday, February 16th at 6:30pm, featuring our kindergartners.

> elespta.com > [Calendar](#)

Grade Level News, by the Flippers

Check out the School News link on elespta.com to see the latest articles about the curriculum being taught in each grade, as written by our talented 5th Grade Flippers Club!

A Thrill A Minute

> elespta.com > [Programs](#) > [Talent Show](#)

Echo Lake's Talent Show - A Thrill A Minute! - will be held on **Monday, April 26th at 6:30pm**. Information about auditions will be coming home in the Dolphin folders on February 11. Students in all grades are eligible to try out for this bi-annual Echo Lake event. Stay tuned to the Splash and elespta.com for more details, including audition dates. For questions about this event, contact talentshow@elespta.com

Attention 5th Grade Parents

> elespta.com > [Programs](#) > [5th Grade Celebration](#)

Attention 5th Grade Parents! We need your help and input making this year's 5th Grade Celebration a success. Our next **planning meeting** is on **Thursday, February 18th at 7:00pm** in the Cafeteria. There is lots of work to be done and we need all the help we can get – please plan on attending. Even if you can't attend the event, you can still help with preparations. If you'd like to contribute your time to the 5th Grade Celebration but can't make the planning meeting, please send an email to 5thGradeParty@elespta.com.

A Thank You from the Troops

> elespta.com > [Programs](#)

In November, Echo Lake families donated more than 40 cases of candy and student-created cards to Richmond area community members serving in the military. Echo Lake has received several "thank you" letters from our troops who were thrilled to receive the donations. One troop said that the treats put "smiles on our faces" and another mentioned that the cards, in particular, were a huge hit with the soldiers. Another letter stressed how important it was to have received the gifts so close to Christmas while so many soldiers are missing their families. To read more of the letters we've received, visit the elespta.com home page.

Hello from the Music Room

Sandi McCrickard, Music Teacher
527-4672 ssmccric@henrico.k12.va.us

Music now has a link on the Echo Lake School website! All information about upcoming programs is noted there.

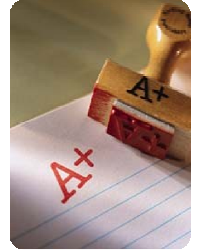
Parents - if you sing, dance or play an instrument and would like to share your talent with your child's class, please call the school and leave me a message. I will contact you to make arrangements.

Principal's Message

Jodie L. Brinkmann, Principal 527-4672 jlbrinkmann@henrico.k12.va.us

Dear Parents:

As I write this letter I am beaming with pride! I'd like to share with you a very special honor that has been awarded to Echo Lake Elementary. This year, we have been selected to receive the **Governor's Award for Educational Excellence**. This prestigious award is the highest honor under the Virginia Index of Performance incentive program created by the Board of Education in 2007 to advance Governor Kaine's "competence to excellence" agenda, which promotes advanced learning and achievement. To qualify for this award, Echo Lake has met all federal and state benchmarks in a variety of areas over the last two years.



It is a privilege to work in a school that strives for such a high level of excellence. The saying "It Takes a Village to Raise a Child" is so true in today's ever changing world! We have the most dedicated staff here to serve our community and they work tirelessly to provide the safest and best learning environment for all students.

Teachers at Echo Lake strive to help children expand their knowledge and "show what they know" through a variety of creative ways, focusing on higher-level thinking and creative problem solving strategies at all grade levels. Standards of Learning test scores reflect this commitment to develop good problem solvers, and the number of students achieving pass-advanced status on SOL tests at Echo Lake has increased significantly. From the fundamentals of reading instruction that takes place in the primary years, to the advanced math skills necessary to take on rigorous math classes in middle school, our teachers are phenomenal at developing students who are ready to take on the challenges of the 21st Century. Pass advanced rates and enrollment in higher-level middle school math classes, along with a variety of targeted areas such as nutrition and wellness, are all indicators that led to our selection for this award.

Many thanks to you, parents, for sending us students who care about learning and strive to do their best each day. We appreciate the time and effort that you put into helping your children come to school prepared to learn each day. We feel fortunate to work with such a wonderful community that prioritizes teaching and learning. Community support, hard-working students, and a truly amazing teaching staff have all combined to make Echo Lake a shining example of Educational Excellence!

Thank you students, parents, teachers, staff, and community for all you do to make Echo Lake such a wonderful place to work and play! We look forward to a continued success in the upcoming years!

Most Sincerely,

Jodie L. Brinkmann
Principal

Parents - Don't forget to label your child's coat and check the Lost & Found for missing items.

SCA News

> elespta.com > School News

Kristina Rilee, Cortney Ahlberg - Advisors

The SCA is busily working on two fundraisers:

We will be collecting **Band-Aids for children at the Pediatric Department at VCU Medical Center**. A band-aid makes everything feel better! Send in your boxes of decorative, cheerful Band-aids (be sure they are latex free and standard sized) from **February 8-12**...the brighter the better! We can all help put smiles on faces that need them the most!

Our next fundraiser is for one of our own Dolphins! On **March 12th** Echo Lake will be hosting a "**Dancing with the Stars**" fundraiser for school counselor **Julie Williams' son Kirk**. A tragic mountain biking accident in November left Kirk an incomplete quadriplegic. The Echo Lake Family would like to invite students and their families to a dance to raise money for Kirk's medical needs. There will be many exciting events throughout the night so please save the date for this important opportunity to help someone who has done so much to help all of us!

Show your dolphin spirit! Upcoming Spirit Days are:

February 12th - Twin Day

February 26th - Hat Day

March 12th - Pop Star Day (dress like your favorite pop star)