



# the dolphin splash

Echo Lake Elementary School PTA  
PublicRelations@elespta.com  
January 2012

Highlights of what you'll find on the Echo Lake Elementary School PTA website @ [www.elespta.com](http://www.elespta.com)

## Family Math Night

It's not your Grandparents' math! Next Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, students are encouraged to bring their parents and grandparents to the first ever Echo Lake Family Math Night.

Families will play exciting math games and learn what math is all about at Echo Lake. There will be pizza and other surprises too.

The fun night runs from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. Pizza must be preordered. For more info, click here: [Family Math Night Flier](#)



## Thanks for the Memories...

### Help Capture & Share Memories!

As the year progresses, more and more fun and exciting things are going on around Echo Lake. If you happen to be at an event or just at the school, bring your camera along and snap some photos. We would love to have them for the Memory Book. The more photos we have the better!

Go to [images.jostens.com](http://images.jostens.com) and enter Login ID: 400113548 and Password: yearbook12.

We would love to start getting photos now so we have a great selection for the first phase of the book. We appreciate all your submissions!

### Have you ordered your Memory Book yet?

If not, order it soon. Simply visit [www.jostens.com](http://www.jostens.com) to order online or send in the PTA One-Stop Form with a check payable to ELES PTA. Yearbooks are \$26.

## Who's Got Talent???

It is time for the Echo Lake Talent Show!

Start practicing your talent - auditions are open to all students, in all grades, and will be held in March. Details about auditions and rehearsals will come home soon.

If you would like to join the Talent Show committee or have any questions, send an email to

[TalentShow@elespta.com](mailto:TalentShow@elespta.com)

We can't wait to see the talents of the Echo Lake Dolphins!

## Heart to Heart

The annual Heart to Heart Breakfast enables children to invite those close to their hearts to come and enjoy breakfast with them. The menu includes donuts, yogurt, cereal bars, fresh fruit and juice.

Breakfast is served in the cafeteria beginning at 7:20am and ending at 7:50am. The cost is \$3 per person.

You can RSVP using this flier [Heart to Heart Breakfast Flier](#)

- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade -- Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade -- Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade -- Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade -- Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>
- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade -- Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>
- Kindergarten -- Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>



## Notes from the Music Room

Things are really grooving in the music room this time of year with 4th graders getting ready for recorders, 1st and 2nd grades preparing for programs, and 5th Grade All County Chorus! Please check below for your child's grade level performance dates.

Information will come home as we get closer to each program about when to arrive and what to wear. Also information can be found on my blog, [http://teachers.henrico.k12.va.us/echo\\_lake/franklin\\_e/](http://teachers.henrico.k12.va.us/echo_lake/franklin_e/) And my website, <http://blogs.henrico.k12.va.us/ecfranklin/>

**February:** 1st Grade Classes perform during the PTA meeting

First graders are already working on songs about healthy choices to be performed in the February PTA meeting on Tuesday, February 21st.

**March:** 2nd Grade Classes perform during the PTA meeting

Second graders will soon be working on a program to be performed at the March PTA meeting on Tuesday, March 20th.

**April:** 4th Grade Recorder Concert

The 4th Graders are preparing to get their recorders and will begin working towards their performance on Tuesday, April 17th. The program will be a "Name That Tune" game show theme and will be a lot of fun! There will be two performances of this program: One at 8:30 am for the school and one at 6:30 pm for the April PTA meeting. Family and Friends are welcome to attend either program.

Erin Franklin  
Music Teacher  
[ecfranklin@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:ecfranklin@henrico.k12.va.us)



## Counselor's Corner

Happy New Year!

As always, there is a lot going on at the Lake! I am working in K-1st right now. For specifics, be on the lookout in your child's newsletter or on the counselor's blog.

Check out January's Home School Connection for some quick & simple tips to start the New Year off right. It can be found online on the PTA website.

Middle School Scheduling is about to begin in February. The Holman Curriculum Fair is February 2nd from 6:30 - 8:30 PM. The information shared at the fairs will help you make informed decisions for course selection.

Keep warm!

Julie E. Williams ~Echo Lake School Counselor  
***What you do today will make a difference!***

## Warning!

Please don't park in the fire lanes at school at anytime! This means NOT leaving your vehicle unattended before, during, or after school in the drop off lane or bus loop. The county is beginning to issue tickets to offenders.

## Save the Date

January 24<sup>th</sup> - Family Math Night

January 30<sup>th</sup> - Student Holiday

February 9<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> - Heart to Heart  
Breakfasts

\* February 15th - Silver Diner Spirit Night

February 20<sup>th</sup> - Student Holiday

\* March 14th - Jason's Deli Spirit Night

## Principal's Message

Welcome back and Happy New Year! We were so excited to see all of our children return energized and excited to continue their learning. As we near the end of the first semester, we would like to thank each of you for your support so far this year. We are so proud of the hard work and dedication that our students and families show each day.

As you know, we take the safety of our students, staff and families very seriously. We recently had our interim safety audit. Due to the hard work and dedication of our teachers and staff, we again were commended on our safety practices. They often remind us that what you do in a practice drill is what you will do in an emergency.

**We will be hosting a Principal's coffee about Internet Safety on February 28<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 in the library.** During this time Mrs. Weidele and Mrs. Vick will share information about internet safety for children. More information about this meeting will be coming home soon. If you have questions about the safety audit or any other matters regarding Echo Lake please don't hesitate to contact me at [jlbrinkmann@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:jlbrinkmann@henrico.k12.va.us)

Listed below are some questions we are often asked about safety at Echo Lake.

**What is the safety audit?** A team of 6 individuals from the community including a fire marshal, retired school administrators, a Henrico County Police officer, and central office personnel who review all schools safety practices, crisis manuals and procedures. This audit takes place every 3 years. As part of the audit process schools are given commendations and recommendations to improve their safety procedures. The audit team monitors this through an annual interim audit.

**What were Echo Lake's Commendations?** Again we were recognized for our Watch DOGS program and our Dolphin Reading Buddies program. We were recognized for our accountability procedures during all safety drills. We were commended on our Dolphin Code as well as communication systems with parents (connect Ed, PTA Newsletters and school website). Echo Lake also received commendations for our positive relationship with the police and fire departments. As you know we work very closely with these departments in planning for our safety drills as well as our overall procedures in the school. Commendations were also received for our practices in the clinic and with our staff training programs.

**Are there any changes in safety procedures?** Each year we work as a school division to improve our procedures. We do not have any changes but we do have some additions that parents should be aware of. The first is a reunification plan in the event of an early dismissal due to an emergency. The second is a reminder about parking at the school and morning drop off procedures.

**Family Re-unification Plan:** The Echo Lake family re-unification plan is only in the event of a dismissal due to an emergency (not early dismissal because of inclement weather). In an emergency situation it is important for us to account for all children, especially if we need to relocate to a different building. We would begin releasing students as soon as we are authorized to release students. In order to pick a child up we ask that you be patient and prepared for the following:

- You must be on the authorized pick up list
- You must provide photo identification (even if we know you we will have to see this!)
- You will be asked to report to a designated table arranged by grade level
- If you have children in multiple grades, please report to the grade level of the youngest child first.

### Morning Drop off and Parking Reminders

- Students drop off begins at 7:20 in the morning. There is a new sign to remind parents that drop off begins at 7:20 AM.
- Please be aware that the area in front of the building is a fire lane. There is no parking in this area at any time (day, night or weekends). We don't want anyone to get a ticket from the Henrico County Police for parking in front of school buildings because this is a fire lane.
- We continue to encourage all students to ride the bus to school. For those of you who live close and do not have an assigned bus we ask that you please adhere to the morning arrival routine.
- All students need to unload on the passenger side of the car as soon as you stop at the yellow line. We will ask you to do this in all types of weather, so please dress accordingly.
- If you chose to park, please do so in designated parking spots and walk your child across the parking lot.

Thank you for partnering with us to keep all children safe. If you have any questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 527-4672 or [jlbrinkmann@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:jlbrinkmann@henrico.k12.va.us).

Sincerely,  
Jodie L. Brinkmann  
Principal