



the dolphin splash

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

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

Echo Lake Spirit Nights

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

Echo Lake Spirit Nights continue to earn money for our school while you and your family enjoy some good eats!

Papa John's: January 12-14 and February 3-5
Print form from elespta.com website

Johnny Rockets: *new!* Coming March 24th

Checkmate!

> elespta.com > [Programs](#) > [Chess Team](#)

The 3rd Annual Echo Lake Chess Tournament was held on Saturday, December 5th. With about 80 students from Norfolk to Charlottesville, this event was a tremendous success. Congratulations to Echo Lake's K-3 team for their 2nd place finish, and to **Miles A.** for his individual 1st place trophy! The 4th and 5th graders faced some stiff competition, including two former Echo Lake chess players now attending Three Chopt Elementary, and still managed a respectable 4th place finish. Congratulations players!

Want to give chess a try? FREE instruction is available to Echo Lake students from Kindergarten through 5th grade, from beginner to advanced skill level.

Beginners meet Wednesdays from 6:30-8pm in the cafeteria.

Advanced classes are Tuesdays Jan. 12, Feb. 9, and Mar. 9 from 6:30-8:00pm in the library.

For more info, go to the Chess Team page on elespta.com or email chess@elespta.com.

Dolphin Chatter

Various messages from your PTA Board

Keep submitting your photos for the Memory Book!

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

It's never too late to donate to the Dolphin Fund!

> elespta.com > [Fundraising](#)

Want to help shape next year's PTA? We need volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee, a three-person team responsible for finding candidates to serve on the PTA Board for the 2010-2011 school year.

> elespta.com > [Home](#)

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

> elespta.com > [Calendar](#)

We Love Books!

> elespta.com > [Home](#)

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.

What a Thrill

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

Echo Lake's bi-annual Talent Show - A Thrill A Minute - will be held on Tuesday, April 27th at 6:30pm. Stay tuned to the Splash and elespta.com for more details, including audition dates. Students in all grades are eligible to try out for this fun night of Dolphin Talent Display! For questions about this event, contact talentshow@elespta.com

No Strings Attached!

> elespta.com > [Programs](#) > [Violin](#)

Ever wonder who is playing the violin you hear in the halls after school on Thursday and Friday afternoons? It's Echo Lake's newest musicians and their teacher, Treesa Gold, the founding members of the Echo Lake String Orchestra!

This PTA-sponsored afterschool program is now accepting new students for the spring semester and will be holding a **parent information meeting on Wednesday, January 20th at 7:00pm in the Library** for all interested parents and students. Come and learn how playing the violin can help improve academic performance, teach discipline, develop a love for music and be FUN! For more information contact Sarah Cash at violin@elespta.com.

5th Grade Party

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

The PTA celebrates the 5th grade Class of 2010! The theme is set – shhhh...it's a surprise – and planning sessions are scheduled. Be sure to mark your calendar and attend these meetings to make this celebration a huge success:

- Monday, January 25, 7pm, Library
- Thursday, February 18, 7pm, Cafeteria
- Tuesday, February 23, 7pm, Library

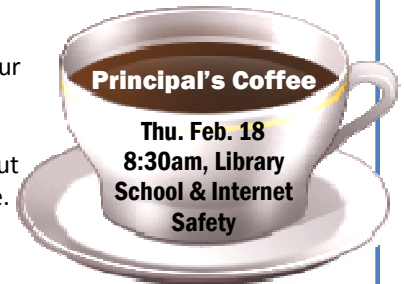
If you have any questions about this event, please email 5thGradeParty@elespta.com.

Principal's Message

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

We're off to another exciting year at Echo Lake Elementary and the children seem happy to be back in school. The boys and girls amaze me each day with their bright smiles and inquisitive nature. I've never seen children express such an interest in learning and love for reading! We are proud of their hard work and commend them on an outstanding first semester.

In December, we had our three-year comprehensive safety audit. We've included highlights below, but please see more complete details on elespta.com. We hope you will join us during our upcoming Principal's Coffee as Mrs. Weidele and Mrs. Crouch share Internet safety tips for parents as well as what the children learn during Internet safety lessons taught here at school. More information will be coming home soon about this meeting. If you have any questions about the safety audit or any other matters regarding Echo Lake Elementary School, please contact me.



Safety Audit Highlights: Each day our faculty and staff work tirelessly to ensure that all children and adults that walk through our doors are entering a safe environment. All the hard work has paid off, as we received many commendations during our recent Comprehensive Safety Audit, conducted by a team including a fire marshal, police officer, retired school principals, and Central Office personnel. The Safety Audit team was extremely impressed with our safety practices, and specifically the following:

- The development and support of the Watch DOGS program.
- Our accountability process during drills.
- The implementation of our new school-wide rules (Dolphin Code).
- Our dismissal process.
- Communication practices with parents regarding safety related issues (Connect Ed, PTA newsletters, and website).
- and more – see further details on elespta.com

We also welcomed the team's recommendations to help us better our practices:

- Notify C&M of the possibility of students walking through the back area of school grounds to/from the new subdivision.
- Continue to pursue advanced CPR training for the entire staff.
- Develop a partnership with the local fire station to assist with the safety planning process.
- Utilize plain language in drills instead of codes.
- and more – see further details on elespta.com

We are proud that safety is a top priority at Echo Lake! Children learn best when they feel safe & secure in their environment.

Counselor's Corner

Julie Williams, School Counselor
527-4672 jewillia@henrico.k12.va.us

Thank you for all your positive thoughts, prayers, and energy directed towards the west where my son, Kirk, is. The cards and your kind words continue to lift us. The children's cards were priceless and have given us lots of laughter, which of course is good for the soul!

Echo Lake is lucky to have my friend Mary Ann Dellinger, a retired counselor, as our substitute school counselor.

Middle school scheduling and visits from Hungary Creek and Holman Middle School representatives will be just around the corner. There will soon be curriculum fairs where many of your questions will be answered and you'll be able to see some awesome things our middle schools have to offer.

At the turn of the new year it always feels to me like a clean slate, just like the beginning of the school year in September. Your children are off to a good start! I will enjoy hearing of their successes as the school year continues.

What you do today will make a difference!

Grade Level News, by the Flippers

> elespta.com > School News
Diane Myers, Beverly Brown, Heather Reid - Advisors

The 5th Grade Flippers kick off 2010 by giving us a rundown on what's happening in every grade at Echo Lake! There's also some cool "Guess Who" trivia in the articles. Do you know which teacher stood on the Prime Meridian?

Go to the School News page of elespta.com to check out the great work done by our talented 5th grade Flippers!

