



# the dolphin splash

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

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

## Celebrate Good Times!

> [elespta.com](http://elespta.com) > Programs > 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Celebration

**Pictures Needed!** Please send your pictures for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade DVD to us by Friday, May 14. These need to be pictures of school activities, events or field trips from kindergarten through 5th grade. We are looking for group pictures of the students. We want the DVD to represent all the students in this class. You can email your photos to Debbie or Cosette at [Drosemartin@verizon.net](mailto:Drosemartin@verizon.net) or [cleonard2@msn.com](mailto:cleonard2@msn.com). You can also send a CD/DVD or printed pictures to us in the envelope that was sent home with your child.

We have two more planning meetings coming up before the big event - **Tuesday, May 25** and **Monday, June 7** in the library. If you signed up to help out with this event you will be getting a call or email from Sandy Rooney asking you to help with the event and where we will need you. It is going to be a wonderful time for our wonderful 5<sup>th</sup> graders!!

We will also be asking for donations from each 5<sup>th</sup> grade class to help with the refreshments for that day. A parent letter will be coming home soon explaining what we need.

If you have questions concerning the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Celebration, please contact Debbie at [Drosemartin@verizon.net](mailto:Drosemartin@verizon.net) or at 747-0456. Thanks for all your help!

## PTA Executive Board 2010/2011

> [elespta.com](http://elespta.com) > Board Members

We would like to thank the outgoing members of the PTA Board for their dedication and service during the past year. Your contributions to making Echo Lake such a wonderful school for our students and staff are priceless.

Congratulations and welcome to the newly elected PTA Executive Board members for 2010/2011:

**President** – Tammy Davis

**1<sup>st</sup> VP, Programs** – Pam Dillon

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Fundraising** – Stephanie McNamara

**3<sup>rd</sup> VP, Volunteers** – Sarah Schlussel

**4<sup>th</sup> VP, Public Relations** – Kristen Dunlop

**Treasurer** – Sarah Burgess

**Secretary** – Erica Stowell

## Last Splash

[www.elespta.com](http://www.elespta.com)

This is the last Dolphin Splash for the 2009/2010 school year. Keep checking [www.elespta.com](http://www.elespta.com) for the latest happenings with the Echo Lake PTA and our great school. Have a great summer!

## 2010 Reflections Theme Announced

> [elespta.com](http://elespta.com) > Programs > Reflections

Get your cameras, pencils and paintbrushes ready and get your creative juices flowing. The 2010-2011 Reflections theme is "Together We Can."

Start preparing now. The official deadline will be announced at the beginning of the school year, but typically it is sometime in mid-October.

How can you express "Together We Can?" Write a story or poem. Compose a song. Draw or paint a picture. Take a picture. There are lots of ways to participate, so start working on your project now!

## Wanted: New Violin Students

> [elespta.com](http://elespta.com) > Programs > Violin

Please join Treesa Gold, our violin instructor, at an informational meeting on Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the cafeteria to hear all about the wonderful violin program offered after school at Echo Lake. Lessons are for ALL grades, K through 5. Semi-private and group lessons are offered weekly. Come register for our new summer classes as well as the fall session. Please contact Treesa Gold, at [TreesaGold@gmail.com](mailto:TreesaGold@gmail.com) or **785-764-0042** or Sarah Cash at [violin@elespta.com](mailto:violin@elespta.com) if you have additional questions.

## Important Dates

> [elespta.com](http://elespta.com) > Calendar

Tue.	5/18	PTA Meeting & Living Museum* – 6:30pm
Fri.	5/21	Family Picnic – 5:30pm
Mon.	5/31	Memorial Day / School Holiday
Fri.	6/18	Last Day of School, Half-Day for Students
Thu.	9/2	Open House
Tue.	9/7	First Day of School

Additional dates on back page in Mrs. Brinkmann's letter

\*History comes alive as our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders recreate the sights and sounds of important historical figures from our country and region, immediately following the PTA Meeting.

## Principal's Message

Jodie L. Brinkmann, Principal 527-4672 [jlbrinkmann@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:jlbrinkmann@henrico.k12.va.us)

April showers have brought beautiful May flowers here at Echo Lake Elementary School. Our children are enjoying learning and have blossomed in so many ways this year. We are very proud of our school and community for earning the **Governor's Award of Excellence** and have been celebrating that success! We are so fortunate to have such dedicated teachers here at Echo Lake. Please help me in saying thank you to your child's special teacher during **"Teacher Appreciation Week" May 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>**. They are a dynamic team to work with each day!

I also want to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers who help us each day in so many ways. The PTA has been so supportive in providing additional resources to make our children's academic programs the best they can be. We could not have accomplished so many great things this year without your support. Echo Lake will celebrate **"Volunteer Appreciation Week" May 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>**. When you come by the school you will see wonderful treats from the staff and your child will be bringing a token of our appreciation too! Here is a little poem to help express our gratitude and appreciation.

V aluable is the work you do.  
 O utstanding is how you always come through.  
 Loyal, sincere and full of good cheer,  
 U ntiring in your efforts throughout the year.  
 N otable are the contributions you make.  
 T rustworthy in every project you take.  
 E ager to reach your every goal.  
 E ffective in the way you fulfill your role.  
 R eady with a smile like a shining star,  
 S pecial and wonderful—that's what you are.  
 --Author unknown

Please note these important dates for End of the Year Activities:

- Fri. May 14th, Field Day
- Fri. June 11<sup>th</sup> 8:30am, Kindergarten Celebration – Gym
- Mon. June 14<sup>th</sup> 8:30am, 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Grade Awards Reception – Gym
- Wed. June 16<sup>th</sup> 8:30am, DARE Assembly/5<sup>th</sup> Grade Awards
- Thu. June 17<sup>th</sup> 8:30am, "Movin' On" Celebration – Outside
- Thu. June 17<sup>th</sup> 2:00-4:00pm, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Celebration – Gym
- Fri. June 18<sup>th</sup> – Half-day for students / Last day of school

We are looking forward to a great ending to this wonderful school year. Please let me know if there is anything that I can do to assist your family. [jlbrinkmann@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:jlbrinkmann@henrico.k12.va.us)

## Counselor's Corner

Julie Williams, Counselor [jewillia@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:jewillia@henrico.k12.va.us)

The May edition of the Home & School Connection is posted online at [www.elespta.com](http://www.elespta.com). There are many great tips for summertime fun and learning to keep our youngsters learning and growing outside of school.

## Happy Trails...

> Peggy Marone, Kindergarten Teacher

As we near the end of the 2009-2010 school year, I want to express my sincere thanks for your support and the wonderful experiences I have enjoyed here at Echo Lake. After teaching Kindergarten, First, and Second grades for the past 31 years, I will be retiring from full-time teaching at the end of this school year. I have loved working with your children and have appreciated getting to know and work with so many of you. I look forward to substituting and volunteering at Echo Lake and plan to be involved in the PTA and school functions that will still be available to me. It has been a great 11 years! -Peggy Marone

## The Final Flip

> [elespta.com](http://elespta.com) > School News

The 5<sup>th</sup> Flippers wrap up their year of updating us on all the fun and exciting things our little Dolphins are learning in each grade. Go to the School News link on [elespta.com](http://elespta.com) to check out their articles. Thanks for a great year Flippers!

> Chris Crouch, Librarian

After over 34 years of being an elementary school librarian I think it is time for me to see what else I can do! In June I will retire from Echo Lake with 24 years of service in Henrico County. In my career I have been very lucky to open two school libraries, organize and run almost 100 book fairs, and read thousands of books to children. I have mentored new librarians, served on many committees both at the building level and district level. I have seen libraries change from writing your name on a checkout card to the 21st century computerized check out. However the goal has remained the same: I have always aspired to help children become lifelong readers and users of information. I could not have asked for a more fun career. -Chris Crouch