



the dolphin splash

Echo Lake Elementary School PTA
PublicRelations@elespta.com
October 2011

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

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 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 before the price goes up. Simply visit www.jostens.com to order online or send in the PTA One-Stop Form with a check payable to ELES PTA. Yearbooks are \$23. The price increases to \$26 on December 1st, so act now!!!

Our Volunteers Rock!!!

We have had a great response from volunteers so far this school year. To those of you who have been able to volunteer in the craziness of school starting - THANK YOU!

Just two reminders... If you have not filled out the county volunteer form for a background check, please contact me and I'll make sure you get a form. Secondly, please remember not to park in the fire lane right in front of the school no matter how quick your trip into the school may be.

Thanks again for making my job easier!

Stephanie McNamara
VP, Volunteers
Volunteers@elespta.com

Reflections Deadline is Monday

"Reflections" is a program sponsored by the National PTA every year. This program encourages students to express their artistic talents by writing, dancing, composing and creating visual art. The theme for 2011-2012 is "Diversity Means..."

Please go to <http://www.vapta.org/statecommittees/arts-in-education-homepage.html> and click on "Reflections Forms and Rules" for complete details.

Shopping Party City Pays Off

Shop this month at any Richmond area Party City and you'll help raise money for the PTA.

Through October 31st, the Echo Lake PTA earns 5% of all purchases supporters make at Party City.

Please keep your receipts and turn them in at school by November 23rd.

School Spirit Nights

- * November 16th - Home Team Grill
- * December 8th - Chick-Fil-A
- * January 16th - Cheeburger Cheeburger
- * February 15th - Silver Diner
- * March 14th - Jason's Deli

Notes from the Music Room

I've only been at Echo Lake for a few weeks now, but what a wonderful few weeks it's been! I'm enjoying getting to know all the students, and I've promised them that I'd know all their names by the end of October. Fingers crossed that I make my deadline!

I did want to let all the families know about my website and blog. Both of these sites will have information about performances, our "Out of This World" composer of the month, and what's generally happening in music classes. I hope you'll check them both out.

http://teachers.henrico.k12.va.us/echo_lake/franklin_e/
<http://blogs.henrico.k12.va.us/ecfranklin/>

Erin Franklin
 Music Teacher
ecfranklin@henrico.k12.va.us

Library News

The Book Fair is just around the corner!

Please mark your calendars for **November 7, 8th and 9th** to visit the library and the Bedford Falls Book Fair. **You will find picture books, beginning readers, nonfiction books, novels and classics that your children will love! Consider doing some holiday shopping for your teacher, as teacher wish lists will be available.** All proceeds benefit the library program, Echo Lake students and teachers. Details of the book fair will be published soon.

Have you checked in with library on the web?

You are invited to visit
<http://blogs.henrico.k12.va.us/khvick/>
 and connect to the library catalog, view Accelerated Reader titles and more. Hope to see you on the web!

Kathy Vick
 Librarian
khvick@henrico.k12.va.us

Counselor's Corner

What a great start to the new school year!
 It was wonderful to see so many familiar and new faces at back to school night!

Attention Parents of 5th grade students!
 Information for the IB program at Moody Middle School is coming soon. Applications were sent home on Oct. 17th.

Check out the Home School Connection for October!

Julie Williams
 Counselor

Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth

Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth (CTY) searches, identifies, assesses, and recognizes students with exceptional mathematical and/or verbal reasoning abilities throughout the United States.

Students in grades two through eight can participate in the Talent Search by scoring at the 95th percentile or higher on nationally normed, standardized tests, or at the top levels on state tests.

For detailed information about applying for the Talent Search and testing dates, visit the Johns Hopkins University website at www.cty.jhu.edu. For applications and brochures, email a request to ctyinfo@jhu.edu.

Save the Date

November 8th - Student Holiday

November 21st - Report Cards come home

November 23rd - Half Day of School

November 24th-25th - Thanksgiving Break



Principal's Message

We have had a wonderful opening to the 2011-2012 school year despite the hurricane, earthquake, and other memorable events! The children are learning so much each day and really enjoyed our Pinwheels for Peace celebration on Sept. 21st showing our school and community how we can unite to accomplish great things and to see what a bright future we have in through our children's eyes. It is truly going to be a school year that is "out of this world" with amazing learning experiences!

I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you some important information about our emergency and crisis preparedness procedures for the 2011-2012 school year. I am sharing this information with you to reaffirm that our number one priority is always student safety. I want to reassure you that the staff has been thoroughly trained in crisis management and we are prepared to handle any emergency situation. I do feel compelled to mention that the detailed information and codes for these emergencies are confidential, so I am only able to share basic information that does not compromise our students' wellness and safety. My goal is to share this information with you so you are aware that we are thoroughly prepared to handle any emergency situation that may arise. We have crisis guides for school emergencies posted in each classroom. The teachers have been trained to handle these emergency situations.

Detailed crisis management plans are in place for the following situations:

- Weather Emergency
 - Tornado
 - Hurricane
- Fire
- Intruder/Dangerous Objects
- Stranger
- Injured Child
- Suspicious Substance

In an effort to be sure all students, teachers, and volunteers are accounted for during an emergency situation we will continue our accountability procedures. **To help us gather accurate information as quickly as possible, if you are volunteering in school and a situation occurs when you need to evacuate the building, please exit the building and then proceed to the end of the school near the gym/loading dock area to be accounted for by Mrs. April Ball, our secretary.**

We also have crisis management toolkits strategically placed around the school ready at a moment's notice to assist us in a crisis situation. If there was an emergency that we had to move our students out of Echo Lake Elementary, we have partnerships established with the following community locations to assist us in an evacuation:

Echo Lake's Partner School: Hungary Creek Middle School
4909 Francistown Road

Off-site Emergency Location: Glen Allen Church of Christ
11064 Staples Mill Road

Continuing this year, I will also use the **Connect-ED** communication system to notify all parents/guardians quickly if there is an emergency situation occurring at the school. This mass communication system can call all families very quickly to alert them and give them critical information regarding an incident. This communication system will also be used to share good news and to give reminders about upcoming events to families throughout the school year.

Please note that the safety of our school family is crucial and I want our parents and the community to know that we are prepared to handle various emergency situations. If you have any questions about our school safety and crisis plans please call the school at 527-4672. Thank you for your vigilant efforts to assist us in keeping all of "our" children safe. If I may be of assistance to you or your family, please contact me, at jlbrinkmann@henrico.k12.va.us or at 527-4672.

Sincerely,

Jodie L. Brinkmann
Principal