



# the dolphin splash

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

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

## Heart 2 Heart Breakfast

> [elespta.com](http://elespta.com) > [Home Page](#)

As a reminder, the Heart 2 Heart Breakfasts were rescheduled to begin March 10<sup>th</sup>. On the menu: doughnuts, fruit, muffins, granola bars, yogurt, and OJ. Please park behind the school when attending this event.

## Dancing with the Stars Fundraiser

> [elespta.com](http://elespta.com) > [Home Page](#)

The Dancing with the Stars Fundraiser benefitting Kirk Williams (son of School Counselor Julie Williams), takes place on **Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**. Tickets are \$5 per person, maximum \$20 per family. Join us for this fun and meaningful night! All family members are welcome!

## After-School Enrichment

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

The spring session of after-school enrichment begins on April 15th. We will offer classes in Tennis and Pastel Drawings (for grades 3-5), and Young Scientists and an all new Stepping Class (for grades K-2). Registration night is **Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm**. For complete class descriptions, see the flyers coming home soon or visit the PTA website.

## Last Call

> [elespta.com](http://elespta.com) > [Dolphinwear](#)

Our last Dolphinwear order of the year is coming up. Be on the lookout for order forms to be sent home soon. Please remember that our tie-dye shirts tend to run small, so you may want to use your discretion when ordering this item... *Shopping Tip:* This would be a great time to order something for friends or family starting at Echo Lake next year!

## Dolphin Chatter

*Various messages from your PTA Board*

Spirit Night at Johnny Rockets on March 24.  
Papa John's Dollars for Dough April 13-15.

> [elespta.com](http://elespta.com) > [Community Partners](#)

Believe it or not, the end of the year is not far away!  
Please submit your photos for the memory book now!

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

The next PTA meeting is on Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm, featuring our super 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders!

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

## Teacher Appreciation Lunch

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

The next Teacher Appreciation luncheon will take place on **Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>**, hosted by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Parents. Parents will be contacted soon to contribute.

## Congratulations Chess Team!

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

Congratulations to the Echo Lake chess players who competed on February 20th at the Hampton Scholastic Chess Tournament. Together as a team, our students won 1<sup>st</sup> Place out of 7 teams in the K-5 division! Our six competing students were Yuktha P., Akhil B., Miles A., Nikhil B., Remy B., and Lydia A. These six students will travel to Virginia Tech University to compete at the Virginia State Scholastic Chess Tournament to be held on March 12-14. Good Luck Echo Lake Chess Team!

## Reflections Winners Announced

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

The hard work of all of our Reflections participants was recognized at the February PTA meeting. Congratulations to this year's winners: Lauren C., Connor S., Jocelyn M., Mary Kate L., Cole T., Collin M., and Lauren B. For a complete list of winners by category, please see the PTA website. Next year's theme will be announced this spring, so be on the lookout.

## Spring Book Fair Coming Soon

> [elespta.com](http://elespta.com) > [Home Page](#)

The Spring Book Fair will be held **Tuesday and Wednesday April 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>**. Preview days will take place on the Friday and Monday prior. The Book Fair will also be open before and after the April 20<sup>th</sup> PTA meeting. Volunteers are needed to work during school hours. Please contact [BookFair@elespta.com](mailto:BookFair@elespta.com) if you are able to help.

## Audition Time - A Thrill A Minute

> [elespta.com](http://elespta.com) > [Home Page](#)

Auditions for Echo Lake's Talent Show - A Thrill A Minute! - will be held on **Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>**. Everyone is encouraged to come out and cheer on our talented dolphins at the Talent Show on **Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**. Invite your friends and neighbors too! For questions about this event, contact [talentshow@elespta.com](mailto:talentshow@elespta.com)

## Principal's Message

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

Happy Spring! The snow was fun but I'm glad it's done! It won't be long until we are enjoying warm spring days and preparing for an exciting Spring Break. Our children are growing, learning, and developing into exemplary students that enjoy the challenge of learning the most they can each day. Students are exploring new hobbies and interests with our after school enrichment programs. Thank you to Mrs. Scott and Mrs. Kirkpatrick, and to all the parent volunteers who make these programs possible. I am so proud of our children for their hard work throughout this year.

We have been diligently preparing our fourth and fifth graders for the SOL writing test in March. The children have enjoyed writing about humorous life experiences, their favorite teacher, and other creative writing adventures. Mrs. Otey and I recently had the opportunity to read the children's writing prompts and comment on their hard work. We then met with each class to encourage them to keep up the great work, as we are all striving to be better writers. I shared the "Principal's Skiing Adventure" with the fourth graders and they worked on their written expression skills from my sample story. Mrs. Otey also taught fun lessons on organizing student writing and adding details to enhance their story telling through written expression. We really enjoyed working with each class and perhaps you might want to ask your child what new things they learned from these lessons. Thank you to the parents that have been working at the 4th grade writing lab in the hallway. The children love the one-on-one conferencing and suggestions on how to become an even better writer!

As we prepare for spring, I just wanted to remind you of a few guidelines if you drop your child off at school in the mornings. To ensure a safe and timely arrival for your child, please adhere to following:

1. In order to assure adequate supervision and safety, children may not be dropped off before 7:20 a.m.
2. Children that are able to open and close the car door independently should begin to unload on the sidewalk beginning at the car pool line sidewalk. This means that approximately 10 vehicles can unload simultaneously.
3. Please do not drop children off in the parking lot and let them cross alone in front of the cars in the parent drop-off line.  
Suggestions:
  - A. Park in the parking lot and walk your child to the main entrance area.
  - B. Remain in the parent drop-off line to unload your child with school personnel supervision.
4. Please do not drive around the cones at the end of each aisle in parking lot. They are placed there to prevent cars from interfering with students walking to the main entrance of the school. For the safety of our children, we cannot let cars into this area except for handicap parking.
5. To assist the line in moving more quickly so children are not tardy to school and you are not late for work, please say your good-byes quickly so that all children can start their day off on a positive note.

As always, if there is anything I can do to assist you or your family, please don't hesitate to call upon me.

## Save the Books!

*Chris Crouch, Librarian* [cacrouch@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:cacrouch@henrico.k12.va.us)  
*Kate Baird, Library Asst.* 527-4672

The library is sad to say that we've been seeing quite a few damaged books. Moms and Dads, please help your children find safe places for their library books, both at home and in backpacks. We've had many books damaged by liquids and foods in backpacks. At a replacement cost of \$16 per book this can get very expensive.

If your child has a book that becomes damaged while checked out to them, please have them bring it to the library as soon as possible. Sometimes we can fix the book if we know about its problem quickly.

Thank you for your help!

## Grade Level News, by the Flippers

> [elespta.com](http://elespta.com) > School News  
*Diane Myers, Beverly Brown, Heather Reid - Advisors*

Do you know what the buzz is in Kindergarten? Or how 1<sup>st</sup> Grade can "Mix It" up? Have you heard about all the parts of speech they're working on in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade? The Flippers do! Check out the answers to these questions and catch up on the happenings in each grade by reading the articles written by our talented 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Flippers. Go to the School News link on [elespta.com](http://elespta.com).

## Counselor's Corner

*Julie Williams, School Counselor*  
527-4672 [jewillia@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:jewillia@henrico.k12.va.us)

Check out the March edition of the Home & School Connection, now posted online at [www.elespta.com](http://www.elespta.com)!