



# the dolphin splash

Echo Lake Elementary School PTA  
PublicRelations@elespta.com  
October 2009

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

## The Lake is Greener

After a successful first year with the new ELES PTA website, the PTA has chosen to utilize the website and email as the main communication method for the 2009-10 school year. This decision complements many green initiatives at Echo Lake.

We've collected nearly 600 email addresses in support of our green communication initiative...thank you! If you have not provided your email address to the PTA, or if yours has changed since you last gave it to us, go to [www.elespta.com](http://www.elespta.com), proceed to the "Dolphin Splash" page, and submit your information. This will add you to our PTA email distribution list and ensure you receive timely information regarding PTA and school opportunities.

In addition to email, the PTA will provide each Echo Lake family with a paper copy of "The Dolphin Splash," a monthly newsletter containing brief articles about current events and important information that can be found on the PTA website. We hope "The Dolphin Splash" not only keeps you informed, but also encourages you to visit [www.elespta.com](http://www.elespta.com) frequently so you can stay connected with all that the PTA does for Echo Lake students, teachers and staff.

## Meet the PTA Board

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

The Echo Lake PTA consists of parent volunteers committed to helping make our school the best it can be.

The PTA is led by seven Executive Board Members and thirty committee heads. Click on the **Board Members** link on [elespta.com](http://elespta.com) to find the names and email addresses for each Board Member and Committee Head.

## Beauty is . . .

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

Students... do you express your creativity through dance, music, story, or poetry? Do you dream of having your drawings displayed in a special exhibit? Do you enjoy taking photographs or videotaping your friends? Join thousands of others participating in Reflections, a national PTA-sponsored program that encourages students to express themselves artistically. This year's theme: "Beauty is..."

Deadline for entries is **Monday, October 26, 5:00pm**. See more details on [elespta.com](http://elespta.com) > Programs > Reflections.

## Save the Date

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

Mon.	10/12	All Day	Student Holiday
Wed.	10/14	5:00-8:00p	Spirit Night @ Moe's
Tue.	10/20	6:30p	PTA Meeting
Fri.	10/23	4:30p-8:00p	Fall Carnival

Visit the **Calendar** link on [elespta.com](http://elespta.com) for more key dates. Check back often for the most up-to-date information.

**Contribute to the dolphin fund today!**

## A Picture's Worth a Thousand Words

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

Get your pictures in the Memory Book!  
Submit photos online at <http://images.jostens.com>.  
Login ID: 400002038 Password: dolphin

We also take printed photos and photos on a CD. Send them to your child's teacher in an envelope marked "Memory Book Photos." Submit your photos TODAY!

Don't forget to order your Memory Book - the price is only \$20 right now, but will go up soon.

## Show Your Spirit

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

Dolphinwear is THE way to show off your Echo Lake spirit! Didn't order any Dolphinwear? No Problem! Another order will be placed in November, so look for order forms to come home soon. Dolphinwear makes great holiday gifts for kids and grownups... a great gift idea for your child's teacher!

## Free Money!

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

Some of your routine activities can earn money for the PTA and our school through the generous contributions of community partners. Here's a sample:

- Collect Box Tops For Education & Campbell's Soup Labels
- Register your Kroger Plus Card, Food Lion MVP Card, and Target Visa Card
- Attend Spirit Nights at local restaurants – next one is **Wed. 10/14 at Moe's** - 10% goes back to ELES!

Don't forget - send in receipts from Party City (Oct. 1-31) and Echo Lake gets 5% back!

## Principal's Message

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

We have had a wonderful opening to the 2009-2010 school year! It is amazing to see how much we have grown and how the teachers are incorporating 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills into all aspects of the instructional day. It is going to be a great year!

I wanted to take this opportunity once again to share with you some important information about our emergency and crisis preparedness procedures for the 2009-2010 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. **There has not been a crisis at Echo Lake Elementary** thus far this year, however I wanted to share this information with you so you are aware that we are thoroughly prepared to handle any emergency situation that may arise.

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

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

Additional details regarding our emergency and crisis preparedness can be found on the school website at <http://www.henrico.k12.va.us/ES/EchoLake/> as well as on the PTA website.

**Volunteering in the school?** 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 Ms. Mary McDearmon, our secretary.

**Off-Site Evacuation:** 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

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](mailto:jlbrinkmann@henrico.k12.va.us) or at 527-4672.

## Counselor's Corner

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

Welcome Back! Here's to a great fall!  
Don't miss important Guidance Information...

- IB Applications for rising 6th graders will be handed out to those interested students October 7th.
- A great resource is the October issue of the "Home & School Connection" found on the PTA Website.
- Full Circle Grief Center offers FREE support services for children, adolescent, and parents/caregivers.  
804-241-9662 or [Susie@fullcirclegriefcenter.org](mailto:Susie@fullcirclegriefcenter.org)

*What you do today will make a difference!*

## Library Lingo

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

Echo Lake Library is off to a fantastic start! We had students checking out books the first day of school and we've never stopped! Kindergarten students will begin checking out books the second week of October.

All students have flexible access to check out books as they need them. Accelerated Reader (AR) is ready for students to set goals and strive to achieve them by reading books and taking tests that check their comprehension.

**Book Fair is coming! Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> 3p - 6p    Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> 8a - 3p**

Thank you to Andrea Rollins for setting up our PTA library volunteer program!