

HARMONY  
ELEMENTARY  
PTA

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Oct. 2009 Issue 1



PTA Membership Update

Thank you to all the parents, teachers and other faculty who have already joined PTA.

Membership shows commitment to our children, school and our community.

What does \$5.00 get you today? Maybe your lunch, popcorn at the movies (but not your ticket!), one cup of coffee from Starbucks, but it DOES buy a PTA membership!

What do YOU get in return... discounts to establishments like Fernbank and the Atlanta Zoo, the Hawks and the Thrashers and Barnes & Noble.com. And, look what your CHILD gets - the Fall Festival, programs like Reflections and Family Learning nights, BINGO and Spirit Nights.

If you are already a member, please follow this link:

<http://www.harmonywildcats.org/pta>

(and click on the Membership tab for a list of participating businesses and organizations).



FALL IS IN THE AIR!

It's time for the pumpkin patch and homemade pie, sweaters and boots and a clear blue sky!

The new school year is in full swing and fall is in the air at Harmony! All our volunteers and members of the PTA are hard at work planning programs, events and special projects that will benefit our students and their families. The orchestrating of our largest event, The Fall Festival, is well underway. An enthusiastic team is planning a day full of fun with incredible inflatables, awesome animals, fabulous food, and, of course, all the super services offered by our local vendors. The annual car show will be back, as well as several great performances for the whole family to enjoy! So, save the date of November 7, 2009 from 11-3 p.m. to celebrate with family and friends!

\*\*\*See page 6 for more information and to find out how you can sign up to volunteer.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

OCTOBER 19 <sup>th</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup> AND 26 <sup>th</sup> -28 <sup>th</sup>	*** ITBS testing 3 <sup>RD</sup> , 5 <sup>TH</sup> grades only
OCTOBER 20 <sup>TH</sup>	10:00 am - 1:00 pm - 1 <sup>ST</sup> grade field trip (Jensen, Mazurek, Ward)
OCTOBER 21 <sup>st</sup>	10:00 am - 1:00 pm - 1 <sup>st</sup> grade field trip (Evans, Hempen)
OCTOBER 19 <sup>th</sup>	Red Ribbon Week Begins
OCTOBER 22 <sup>nd</sup>	PTA - General Meeting - 6:30 5:00 - 9:00 pm is Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night!
OCTOBER 29 <sup>TH</sup>	FOCUS Play 6:30 - 8:30 pm
OCTOBER 30 <sup>TH</sup>	Drum Performance (all grades) 9:00 - 9:30
NOVEMBER 5 <sup>th</sup> - 13 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am - 4:00 pm Book Fair
NOVEMBER 5 <sup>TH</sup>	Room Parent Meeting (Fall Festival Basket Wrapping - cafeteria) 9:30-10:30 am 4:00-9:00 pm Stevie B's Spirit Night!
NOVEMBER 7 <sup>TH</sup>	<b>FALL FESTIVAL</b> 11 - 3 p.m
NOVEMBER 11 <sup>TH</sup> - 12 <sup>TH</sup>	Early release days @ 12:45 p.m
NOVEMBER 13 <sup>TH</sup> AND 14 <sup>TH</sup>	Tanner Photography 4:00 - 8:00 pm on Friday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm on Saturday
NOVEMBER 17 <sup>TH</sup>	6:30 - 8:30 pm is Skate Country's Spirit Night!
NOVEMBER 23 <sup>rd</sup> - 24 <sup>TH</sup>	Student Thanksgiving dinners
NOVEMBER 25 <sup>TH</sup> - 27 <sup>TH</sup>	Thanksgiving Break Happy Turkey Day!
DECEMBER 3 <sup>RD</sup>	12:00 - 9:00 pm is Shane's Rib Shack Spirit Night!
DECEMBER 4 <sup>TH</sup>	Room Parent Meeting RE: Teacher Holiday Luncheon
DECEMBER 10 <sup>TH</sup>	4:30 - 7:30 PM Art Show



**HARMONY'S  
FALL ISSUE  
Spotlights  
Mr. Brock,**

for his wonderful commitment to the Harmony art program. Zane has been teaching for 27 years and this is his 3<sup>rd</sup> year at Harmony. He is also a lead teacher for the county and helps mentor new teachers. He truly believes that "if students enjoy what they are doing, they are learning at an optimum learning level without even realizing it." He definitely uses his classroom as a stage to engage his students in the visual arts by performing, entertaining, etc. His true love is Art History, he can spend days in museums, and he will usually know at least one fact about the majority of pieces there! His concentration in grad school was metalsmithing and he still enjoys creating sculptures, as well as woodworking. Zane is also very gifted in Music, as his father played guitar. Since he grew up with it, he started playing at a very young age.

His parents made him take piano as a child and he likes to say "even though he had formal training, it didn't hurt his playing!" He has been in several bands since the age of 14. He has roughly 25 guitars, along with other stringed instruments like the banjo, fiddle and the mandolin. He is currently the keyboardist in 2 bands and uses his woodworking talents for repairing and restoring his musical instruments.

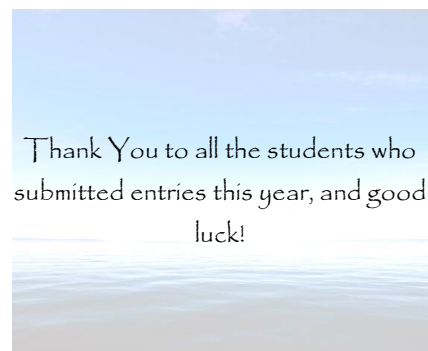
Zane's biggest love and best gift is his family! He is married to Pam, who also teaches, and they have two daughters. Mallory shares Zane's love for the arts and is a music

teacher. While Anzlee, a student at West Georgia, is also following in her families footsteps majoring in education. Through all his experience, he still feels there is always room for improvement and continues to strive to do what is best for children!

*Submitted by:  
Wife Pam, and  
Daughter Mallory*

## REFLECTIONS

PTA believes that all children deserve a quality arts education and encourages students to pursue artistic expression through participation in the annual Reflections Program. In its more than 30 yr. history, the program has encouraged millions of students across the nation, as well as in American schools overseas, to explore their artistic talents. Participation in music, the visual arts and even dance is linked to better performance in math, science, and creative thinking. The arts also nurture social skills and increase a child's motivation to learn. Finally, artistic exploration promotes the ability to pay attention for longer periods of time. This year's theme was "Beauty is . . ." and participants were able to enter their work in one of the following categories : photography, visual arts, literature or music.



Thank You to all the students who submitted entries this year, and good luck!



## HARMONY HEROES

In every issue we will highlight individuals who are volunteering their time to make the school wonderful for our children! There are always countless others who may not be named here, but are so very much appreciated!

### FUNDRAISER MONEY COUNTERS:

Robin Borah, Tomasyn Breazeale, Diane Crestman, Kim Jones, Dawn Kerley, Sonya Parker and Mariah Tidwell

### THANKS TO....

Christine McCulloch for working on membership!

Sandi Councillor for maintaining our outdoor equipment!

Michelle Wild for guiding our Reflections program!

Vicki Glenn and Lauri Parker for our outstanding 2009-2010 Spirit Wear!

Stacy Jones, Deanna Davis and Leigh Ann Haller for our amazing Spirit Nights!

Lecia Dillard for volunteering to do PTA copying!

And, to ALL parents who offered to be a room parent for a class at Harmony!

**Thanks to these hardworking  
HEROES for making a  
difference!**

# MEET YOUR 2009-2010 HARMONY ELEMENTARY PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD



Nancy Edwards, Tomasyn Breazeale, Sonya Parker, Kimberly Jones, Lauri Parker,  
Co-President Co-President Secretary Co-Vice President Treasurer

\*Not Pictured; Vicki Glenn, Co-Vice President

**Nancy:** I am happy to serve the school as Co-president, as I know the importance of parent involvement in our children's education. In addition to volunteering with the PTA, I work as a part-time assistant professor at the University of Georgia where I have the privilege of teaching Reading Education to preservice teachers. On a personal note, I have two children, a three year old son, David, and my daughter Emily who is in fourth grade at Harmony. I look forward to working with all of the Harmony families this year as we strive towards a common goal of providing the best educational experience possible for all our students.

**Tomasyn:** I was born in Atlanta and graduated from Norcross High School in 1988. I married my husband Adam in 1995 and we moved to Buford. We have two children, Grace, 11 and AJ, who is nine. Grace is now at Jones Middle School, but attended Harmony from Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We actually moved in 2005, but made sure to stay in the Harmony school district because we loved it so much. I work a mostly "full-time" job as a controller for my husband's family business (which fortunately allows me to have flexible hours)! I am excited to be part of the PTA and look forward to working with many of you this year!

**Sonya:** I was raised in Carnesville, GA and graduated from Franklin County High School in 1988. I graduated from Young Harris College in 1990 and then transferred to the University of Georgia, where I graduated in 1992 with a degree in Information Technology. After college, I went to work for the Georgia Department of Transportation. I met my husband, Ken, while I was at Young Harris and we will celebrate fifteen years of marriage this October. I have two children, Sarah, who is in fifth grade, and Jack a third grader. They have both attended Harmony since Kindergarten. I am currently working as a legal assistant at my husband's law firm. I am very excited to work with the Harmony PTA this year!

**Kimberly:** I am a Vermonter, born and raised in the Green Mountain State. Upon receiving my degree in Hospitality Management from Johnson & Wales University in Rhode Island, I moved to Florida where I was employed by the Walt Disney World Company. This started my career of 20 years in the hotel/resort industry as Conference Service Manager, Event Planner and Sales Manager. I moved to Georgia from DC in

2000 after being recruited by a headhunter to join the Chateau Elan Winery & Resort as Corporate Group Sales Manager. I met my husband, Brant, here and hence my moving from state to state ceased. I am now retired and have a kindergartner, Elena, and an 18-month old, Meghan. In addition to the PTA, I am also involved with the Women's Ministry Team at our church, and Elena's soccer team, the Gazelles!

**Lauri:** My father was in the military, so growing up we travelled quite a bit - Virginia, Pennsylvania, Alaska, and Germany, before finally settling in GA; where I graduated high school and met my husband Jon. We moved to FL in '91, where I attended the University of Central Florida (Go Knights)! I graduated in 1995 with a BS in business with an emphasis in Human Resources. I then began working for Harris Corporation as one of their college recruiters, and also handled employee morale events, including our division's annual Family Picnic and Open House. We moved back to GA, in the fall of '98- my daughter, Sam, was born in May of '99 and my son, Jack, in December of 2001. He is now in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Sam is in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and both have attended Harmony since Kindergarten. I began volunteering with the PTA 3 years ago as the Earning for Learning (Box Tops for education) Chair and started as treasurer last year. While I plan to continue with both roles this year, I have also teamed up with our co-VP, Vicki Glenn as Spirit-Wear co-chair. In addition to the PTA, I am a full-time mom, as well as the office manager/bookkeeper for my husband's business - Pro-Ex Home Solutions.



## FALL FUNDRAISER RESULTS

We wanted to give you all an update on where we stand on our fundraising efforts. Based on this year's budget, approved earlier in the year, we needed about \$26,000.00 total sales. (which at the 40% cut given to the PTA, would have given us \$10,400.00 in profits). Meaning, each child would have had to turn in \$40.00 worth of sales (or \$16.00 in profit per child). We ended up with approximately \$22,000.00 worth of sales which generates roughly \$9,000.00 in funds for the PTA. And although, we did not reach our goal, we came very close in this bad economy, so good for you! We sincerely appreciate all your efforts!

Remember, you can also place online orders with Jaxco, (the fundraiser rep) all year under the Harmony account and the PTA can continue to benefit from those sales. We have also received some direct donations, of which the PTA is able to keep 100%, so hopefully we will still get to do everything we have planned for the rest of the year. \*\*\*Direct donations are tax deductible!\*\*\*

We want to give a BIG "Thank you" to all of you who were able to help support the fall fundraiser. You and your child's efforts have allowed us to approve many teacher requests already this year (including support for cultural arts programs, such as the 5<sup>th</sup> grade play "And Then They Came for Me" and the drum program scheduled for all the grades to attend).

We are also able to continue to support our Family Learning Night, Community of Readers program, and Red Ribbon week. In addition, from the proceeds we hope to collect from our Fall Festival Basket Raffle, we are going to purchase new drums for Ms. Russell's Music Department, which will definitely benefit every child at the school!

Please know, we always welcome any suggestions, questions or comments you may have about our fundraising efforts and the support we strive to provide to the school, and more importantly, the students. The PTA board members email addresses are listed on the Harmony PTA website and we will be happy to talk to you any time!

Sincerely,  
Your Harmony PTA Executive Board

### *A note from the Board:*

We are fortunate to belong to a school community in which families, teachers and administrators are able to work together to create a positive learning environment for our children. It takes a combined group effort to create the best learning experiences for our children, and we appreciate all you are doing to help.

The administrators and teachers at Harmony know that parent involvement is crucial to a child's success in school. The PTA knows this as well and we work hard behind the scenes to provide wonderful activities for the Harmony families, as they all depend directly on the help we receive from parents. Although the jobs may not always be glamorous, (counting fundraiser money, cleaning up after a teacher appreciation luncheon, copying fliers, or coordinating a spirit night), the end result is always that we have made our school a better place!

The PTA is currently hard at work on some exciting events for your children. We have a great group of volunteer parents putting together an amazing Fall Festival that is sure to hold its own to previous years'. We have incredible baskets to raffle at the festival that are direct results of our *volunteer room-moms*. There are other volunteers that are busy finding great deals and donations for bingo prizes, or scheduling a wonderful cultural arts program for *all* students to attend. And, we have students attending sessions in the Science Lab, which is not possible without parent volunteers.

We really appreciate EVERY parent who has helped get this far into the school year – and we look forward to working with each and every one of you this year. The feeling of fulfillment we get from working to make this public school the best it can be is what continually drives the PTA and board and all its members. We don't offer our time because we have so much to give . . . we do it because we know we are making a difference and we invite you to do the same!

The National Highway Traffic Safety Admin. (NHTSA), the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS), and Safe Kids of Georgia recommend that child passengers should remain in booster seats until age 8, OR when they reach a height of 4 feet-9 inches tall. Then they can buckle up with safety belts just like the grown ups they are riding with!

### Study Skills Help and Tips

\* *Students with better study methods and strategies score higher on their exams.*

- ✓ Everyone is different so different methods work for different people.
- ✓ Review material right after class when the material is still fresh.
- ✓ DO NOT try to study everything the night before the test. Space it out to several times a week, but focus on one topic at a time. This way the material will stay in your long-term memory.
- ✓ Find a comfortable and quiet place with good lighting – avoid your own bed though!
- ✓ Study the most important information first, focusing on general concepts, then learn the details.
- ✓ Take notes and develop a summary
- ✓ Take short breaks frequently because your memory retains what you study at the beginning and end of a session more than the information in the middle!
- ✓ DO NOT try to memorize the material, make sure you really understand what you are studying!
- ✓ Test yourself to see what your weak and strong areas might be.

***Good luck!!!!***



## **Box Tops 4 Education is Back!**

Last school year, we raised over \$900.00 through the General Mills Box Tops 4 Education program, money our

PTA used towards educational enrichment programs for our students. Our goal for the 2009/2010 school year is **\$1200.00**. To reach this goal we will need your help! Sign up on the Box Tops Website to support our Wild Cats. It's quick & easy & best of all you'll earn **5 BONUS Box Tops** for Harmony!

1. Go to [www.btf.com/2009](http://www.btf.com/2009)
2. Fill out a simple form.
3. Watch for a *confirmation email* from Box Tops.
4. Open the confirmation email & click on the link, **that's it!**

Signing up is safe and secure. General Mills values the privacy of its customers & Box Tops supporters and **NEVER** sells or shares your information! Please take 5 minutes and sign up today!

Right now there are **2** easy ways for Harmony Families to participate in the Box Tops program. Both at *no additional cost to you!*

**Clip** – Box Tops from 100's of participation General Mills products **Shop** – Your favorite online stores through the Box Tops Marketplace go to [www.btf.com/marketplace](http://www.btf.com/marketplace) (over 70 stores to shop!)



The *Labels for Education* program is a great way to get FREE merchandise for our school. Participating in the program is easy — simply save proofs of purchase (UPC's) from participating Campbell products and send them to our school. (Collection bin located across from Mr. Brock's Art room)



**FACT:** It takes a gallon of oil to make one new laser cartridge. Don't throw away your empty printer cartridges. **Recycle them & raise \$\$ for Harmony at the same time!** Simply send them to school with your child.



**Publix Partners** → Harmony is a proud part of the **Publix Partners Program!** Simply scan your Publix Partners card before paying for your purchase at any Publix grocery store, & Publix donates a portion of your sale to Harmony! If you or anyone else you know is a Publix customer, please contact Lauri Parker @ [jonlauri@bellsouth.net](mailto:jonlauri@bellsouth.net) for your Publix Partners card (get extra for friends!)

**Target Red Card** → Visit [www.Target.com/tcoe](http://www.Target.com/tcoe) or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate Harmony, then, use your REDcard (Target credit card) whenever you shop. Target will donate a % of your purchases to our school.

### Special Thanks To...

**Patsy Smith Roberts,**

An outstanding author who shared her experiences from her travels in Africa with all of our Harmony students. Her narratives are especially informative and her illustrations are as beautiful as they are realistic. We thank her for her dedication to children and her contribution to Harmony's Community of Readers 2009!

# Harmony's Annual Fall Festival

Come one, come all . . .

You're sure to have a ball!

**WHEN:** SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>

11:00 – 3:00 PM

**\*\*\*RAIN OR SHINE (NO ALTERNATE DATE)**

**WHERE:** HARMONY ELEMENTARY REAR GROUNDS

**ENTRY:** FREE!

We still need volunteers for this fabulous day of fun! You should have all received a sign up sheet in your child's Friday folder from the room parent/s. There are several ways to help this year, and since we are not assigning a specific time to each grade or class, we hope that you will all participate so that our teachers and staff can enjoy the day as well. There are 4 allotted one-hour slots for each of the following areas – inflatables assistance, concession service, vendor market, basket raffle, cake walk, and the spirit wear table. We are also asking for baked goods to be included in the cake walk, as well as, help setting up at 9:00 and help with the clean up after 3:00 p.m. If you have not already volunteered through your child's classroom sign up, and are able to assist in any way, *PLEASE* contact Kimberly Jones: [kparnijones@yahoo.com](mailto:kparnijones@yahoo.com).

We are excited to have some of the favorite entertainment back again, such as the Car, Truck and Bike Show (coordinated by Mr. Gene Kerley), concessions by Chick-Fil-A (Mall of Georgia location) and the inflatable's area, including the Deluxe Castle with Slide, the Tunnel Obstacle, Big USA Combo, a 3-in-1 Sports Game and even a Toddler for Bounce for the 'lil ones (provided by Kool Bounce Party). We'd like to introduce a new attraction to this year's event; a live animal show by Party Animals Atlanta. It is hosted by Mr. Jim Nark, a certified zoologist who allows hands-on experience for children with exotic creatures including mammals, reptiles, amphibians and arachnids!

Of course, we will have the vendor market, consisting of a variety of local business' services and products, there will be an additional face painter (Ms. Joy Roman of Atlanta) located in an area away from the vendor booths' so as to eliminate the anticipated long lines, the beloved fair hair will be back, popcorn and cotton candy machines, the class themed Basket raffle and the traditional Cake Walk. Finally, there will be several performances in the gym (schedules will be posted throughout the festival grounds), including tae-kwon-do, dance and gymnastics, the girls basketball team and a variety of other wonderful demonstrations.

In addition to Chick-Fil-A, we will also have Papa John's pizza, Harmony hot-dogs and plenty of cold drinks all for purchase. You can come early and stay all day, or get there when you can. But we all hope you can make it and celebrate the school, community, and to support the PTA and the vendors who are all participating in the school year's largest event. We would love to see each and every one of you there, so mark your calendars and let's make this the best Harmony Fall Festival ever!