

HARMONY
ELEMENTARY
PTA

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Feb. 2010 Issue 3



PTA Membership Update

Thank you to all the parents, teachers and staff who have played such an important role in the success of our PTA this year.

Hey Harmony Parents ~

It is not too early to think about how you might be able to help out next year! We are always looking for help with all our different committees. Your efforts can make a real difference in your child's school experience and your support is crucial to the success of the PTA. We are still looking for people to help out in many areas next year, but some big ones we will need help with early on are the **fundraising committee and the fall festival committee**. If you are interested in helping in these areas, or if you would like more information on other ways you can help, please contact our PTA president, Nancy Edwards by email @ nancyuga@bellsouth.net. She will be happy to tell you about all the ways you can help!!!



WINTER IS HERE
WITH SLEET AND
SNOW...

Bundle up wherever you go!
Not too much longer and
spring will peek through;
but until then we have plenty
to do!

We began the New Year with snow and ice and blustery winds! It's proven to be a real winter and doesn't appear to be letting up just yet. Our 100th day of school, on January 26th, proved to be the perfect half-way mark for what has proven to be a great school year for Harmony and the PTA. With the growing success of programs like our Spirit Nights and Bingo, the PTA is faring well with volunteers and parents who continue to be supportive and super helpful! As we all look forward to a better year for our own families and our community, let's keep in mind that success in a child's life starts with a great education, good role models and a strong support system. Together, we can make 2010 a wonderful year!

Calendar of Events 2010

FEBRUARY 12 TH	Happy Valentine's Day! *class celebrations
FEBRUARY 13 TH	Gymnastix Parents Night Out 6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.
FEBRUARY 18 TH	PTA - General Mtg. - 6:00 pm Nominations (2010-2011)
FEBRUARY 25 th	Dairy Queen Spirit Night 4:00 pm.-9:00 p.m.
FEBRUARY 26 th	Six Flags Read to Success forms due
MARCH 2 nd	Dr. Seuss's Birthday
MARCH 3 rd	Grade 5- State Writing Test
MARCH 4 th	Character Day - dress up as your favorite book character
MARCH 11 th /12 th And 15 th - 19 th	Book Fair 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
MARCH 12 th	Student Holiday/Teacher Workday
MARCH 14 th	Daylight Savings Begins!
MARCH 15 th -19 th And 22 nd - 26 th	3 rd grade Writing Test
MARCH 23 rd	School Bus Puppet Show 9:30 - 10:30 am (K-2 nd)
MARCH 24 th	Special Olympics 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
MARCH 25 TH	Aladdin Chorus Performance
MARCH 25 TH	PTA - General Mtg. - 6:00 Elections (2010-2011)
MARCH 25 TH	Papa John's Spirit Night 11:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.
MARCH 29 th	Skate Country Spirit Night 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
MARCH 29 th	Aladdin Chorus Performance
MARCH 30 th	5 th Grade Parent Orientation Night (6:30 pm)
APRIL 2 nd	Student/Teacher Holiday
APRIL 5 th - 9 th	SPRING BREAK
APRIL 14 th - 16 th	CRCT (1 st and 2 nd grades)
APRIL 19 th - 23 rd	CRCT (3 rd , 4 th , and 5 th grades)
APRIL 22 nd	Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
APRIL 27 th	Special Olympics 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
APRIL 28 th	FIELD DAY K/1 st
APRIL 29 th	FIELD DAY 2 nd /3 rd
APRIL 30 th	FIELD DAY 4 th /5 th



Harmony's WINTER issue
Spotlights Our New Physical Education
Teacher:

Mr. Eric Guyotte

for his enthusiastic entrance into the Harmony Elementary "Team"! We welcome him and we hope he finds a long career here to share with the kids and families of our community.

*Bio as written by Mr. Guyotte -
an introduction to himself ~*

I was raised in a military family with 2 older brothers and an identical twin. I currently live in Winder with my wife, Kelly and our dog, Riley. Kelly is currently in her 5th year as an Art teacher at Mill Creek High School.

I graduated with an undergraduate degree in Exercise and Sports Science in 2003 from UGA. I completed my Master's degree in Physical Education and Sports Studies at UGA in the summer of 2009. Sports had always played an active role in my life; and I have somehow been involved with sports all my life. I believe that is what led me to pursue a career in Physical Education. I look forward to teaching the kids at Harmony and helping them to develop their movement and sport skills along with their fitness levels.

Outside of school, I'm an avid golfer. I also like to workout and play tennis. But, on those warm, fall Saturdays, I can always be found in front of my TV... watching the Dawgs!

**Congratulations Mr. Guyotte and Welcome to
Harmony!**



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!

HOLIDAY TEACHER LUNCHEON

Thank you to both Stacy Jones and DeAnna Davis for organizing and coordinating the luncheon and all of the volunteers. It was a beautiful event for the teachers and staff. Thank you to all of our parents who donated all the wonderful side dishes, salads, and desserts! All the food brought in was very much appreciated!

We'd also like to thank all the room parents who volunteered in the set up and take-down of the whole event! We sincerely appreciate you!

THANKS TO

Leigh Ann Haller and Stacy Jones for organizing Bingo for the students and our Harmony families. A great time was had by all!

Lecia Dillard for all her work on updating the PTA website! She is sure to make it a great resource for parents and members!

DeeDee Cormier and Tina Collyer for working so hard on our Harmony Yearbook . . . we can't wait to see it! And to Karen Jones for organizing the yearbook ad sales!

And a BIG Thank You to all of our Family Bingo Night Sponsors:

- Lake Lanier Islands Resort
- Chili's at Hamilton Mill
- Imaginations at Play
- The Diner at Sugar Hill
- NexGym - Mall of Georgia
- Buckhead Pizza Company
- Gymnastix Training Center
- Hamilton Mill Shane's Rib Shack
- Dairy Queen
- Papa John's
- Red Sky Café
- Famous Joe's
- Dino's Pizza
- Stevie B's Pizza
- Ceramics By You II
- Skate Country

2009-2010 DRUM ASSEMBLY



The Harmony PTA has provided all students with multiple opportunities to engage in the Cultural Arts this school year. With school and family budgets being tightened, these were opportunities the students may never have been able to participate in had the PTA not offered to provide them at no cost to the families or school.



The opportunities included a West African Drum Assembly provided in November for all grade levels. The students (and staff!) thoroughly enjoyed learning about the culture, music and

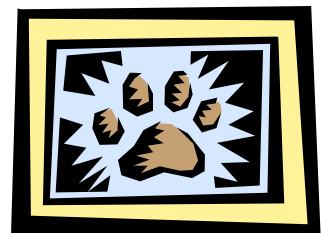
people from West Africa. I am certain the students will not soon forget seeing their favorite teachers, principal and assistant principal moving to the rhythm of the African drummers. What a wonderful way to explore first-hand some important music AKS.

Pictured at right:
(From left) Ms. Russell, Mr. Hutchins (5th grade), a drummer from the performance, Ms. Batchelor (kindergarten), Anne Marie Keskonis (principal).



Other opportunities will be provided for each grade level this year. Some of these opportunities include learning about science from the Tie-Dye Guy and learning from a professional story teller who will stop by Harmony Elementary posing as a historical figure. The fifth grade will be able to see a wonderful play about the life of Anne Frank, which coincides with their AKS.

These rich learning opportunities are meant to enrich and extend the instruction taking place in the classrooms at Harmony Elementary. The PTA is proud to provide these opportunities to your children at no cost to the school – or your family!





MARKETPLACE

brought to you by BOX TOPS

Our school needs to purchase office and classroom supplies on a regular basis. We can earn cash for our school simply by purchasing these items through the Box Tops for Education website - www.btfe.com

Shop online and earn CASH for our school . . . here is how it works -

1. Sign up to support our school at www.btfe.com/2010 or www.btfe.com/bonus
2. Shop Online - by starting each shopping trip at www.btfe.com and clicking the marketplace tab. Click the link to the store of your choice, and shop as you normally do. By starting at www.btfe.com, Box Tops can track earnings and automatically deposit them in the Harmony account.
3. **Our school earns cash!** A percentage of every qualifying purchase is automatically donated back to our school!

Shop at the following stores for computers/accessories, school and office supplies:

- Barnes & Noble
- Office Depot
- Office Max
- Staples
- Best Buy
- Oriental Trading Company

Shop for everything else you need for you and your family too! You can earn cash for our school whenever you shop through Box Tops Marketplace including Target, GAP, Old Navy, Pottery Barn, Wal-Mart, JC Penney and many more!

***please contact Lauri Parker for more information - Harmony's Box Top Coordinator
(email Lauri at: jonlauri@bellsouth.net)

Featured Article - February/March 2010

Bullying is a big problem. It can make kids feel hurt, scared, sick, lonely, embarrassed and sad. Bullies might hit, kick, or push to hurt people, or use words to call names, threaten, tease, or scare them. A bully might say mean things about someone, grab a kid's stuff, make fun of someone, or leave a kid out of the group on purpose. Some bullies threaten people or try to make them do things they don't want to do.

Bullying Is a Big Deal

Bullying is a big problem that affects lots of kids. Three-quarters of all kids say they have been bullied or teased. Being bullied can make kids feel really bad and the stress of dealing with bullies can make kids feel physically sick. Bullying can make kids not want to play outside or go to school. It's hard to keep your mind on schoolwork when you're worried about how you're going to deal with the bully near your locker. Bullying bothers everyone — and not just the kids who are getting picked on. Bullying can make school a place of fear and can lead to more violence and more stress for everyone.

Why Do Bullies Act That Way?

Some bullies are looking for attention. They might think bullying is a way to be popular or to get what they want, but most bullies are trying to make themselves feel more important. When they pick on someone else, it can make them feel big and powerful. Some bullies come from families where everyone is angry and shouting all the time. They may think that being angry, calling names, and pushing people around is a normal way to act. Some bullies are copying what they've seen someone else do, and some have been bullied themselves.

Sometimes bullies know that what they are doing or saying hurts other people. Some bullies may not really know how hurtful their actions can be, but most bullies **Do NOT** understand or care about the feelings of others.

Bullies often pick on someone they think they can have power over. They might pick on kids who get upset easily or who have trouble sticking up for themselves. Getting a big reaction out of someone can make bullies feel like they have the power they want. Sometimes bullies pick on someone who is smarter than they are or different from them in some way. Sometimes bullies just pick on a kid for no reason at all.

Bullying: How to Handle It

What do you do if someone is bullying you? Our advice falls into two categories: preventing a run-in with the bully, and what to do if you end up face-to-face with the bully.

Preventing a Run-In With a Bully

Don't give the bully a chance. As much as you can, avoid the bully. You can't go into hiding or skip class, of course. But if you can take a different route and avoid him or her, do so. Stand tall and be brave. When you're scared of another person, you're probably not feeling your bravest. But sometimes just acting brave is enough to stop a bully. How does a brave person look and act? Stand tall and you'll send the message: "Don't mess with me." It's easier to feel brave when you feel good about yourself. You must try to feel good about you. Nobody's perfect, but what can you do to look and feel your best? Maybe you'd like to be more fit. If so, maybe you'll decide to get more exercise, watch less TV, and eat healthier snacks. Or maybe you feel you look best when you shower in the morning before school. If so, you could decide to get up a little earlier so you can be clean and refreshed for the school day.

Get a buddy (and be a buddy). Two is better than one if you're trying to avoid being bullied. Make a plan to walk with a friend or two on the way to school or recess or lunch or wherever you think you might meet the bully. Offer to do the same if a friend is having bully trouble. Get involved if you see bullying going on in your school — tell an adult, stick up for the kid being bullied, and tell the bully to stop.

If The Bully Says or Does Something to You

Ignore the bully! This is the BEST way to get to them because they want you to react. If you can, try your best to ignore the bully's threats. Pretend you don't hear them and walk away quickly to a place of safety. Bullies want a big reaction so acting as if you don't notice and don't care just might stop a bully's behavior.

Stand up for yourself. Pretend to feel really brave and confident. Tell the bully "No! Stop it!" in a loud voice. Then walk away, or run if you have to. Kids also can stand up for each other by telling a bully to stop teasing, and then walk away together. If a bully wants you to do something that you don't want to do — say "no!" and walk away. If you do what a bully says to do, they will likely keep bullying you. Bullies tend to bully kids who *don't* stick up for themselves.

Don't bully back. Don't hit, kick, or push back to deal with someone bullying you or your friends. Fighting back just satisfies a bully and it's dangerous, too, because someone could get hurt. You're also likely to get in trouble. It's best to stay with others, stay safe, and get help from an adult.

Don't show your feelings. Plan ahead. How can you stop yourself from getting angry or showing that you're upset? Try distracting yourself (counting backwards from 100, spelling the word 'turtle' backwards, etc.) to keep your mind occupied until you are out of the situation and somewhere safe where you can show your feelings.

Tell an adult. If you are being bullied, it's very important to tell an adult. Find someone you trust and go and tell them what is happening to you. Teachers, principals, and other grown ups at school like the lunchroom staff or custodian, as well as parents, can all help to stop bullying. Sometimes bullies stop as soon as a teacher finds out because they're afraid that they will be punished by parents. This is not the same as *tattling* on someone who has done something small without being hurtful or mean — bullying is wrong and it helps if everyone who gets bullied or sees someone being bullied speaks up.

What Happens to Bullies?

In the end, most bullies wind up in trouble. If they keep acting mean and hurtful, sooner or later they may have only a few friends left — usually other kids who are just like them. Other kids move on and leave bullies behind. Some kids who bully blame others, but remember, ***every kid has a choice about how to act.*** Some kids who bully realize that they don't get the respect they want by threatening others. They may have thought that bullying would make them popular, but they soon find out that other kids just think of them as trouble-makers.

The good news is that kids who are bullies *can* learn to change their behavior. Teachers, counselors, and parents can all help. So can watching kids who treat others fairly and with respect. Bullies *can* change if they learn to use their power in positive ways.

Some bullies turn into great kids. Some bullies never learn.

But no one needs to put up with a bully's behavior. Everyone has the right to feel safe, and being bullied makes people feel unsafe. Bullying is not tolerated at Harmony, so if you or someone you know is bothered by a bully, talk to someone you trust and keep telling until something is done!

Remember that the best way to protect your own children is to talk to them and make sure they know they can trust you!

*Submitted by Vicki Glenn, Co-Vice President PTA (2009-2010)