



## PTA TIMES Takoma Park Elementary School

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<http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/takomaparkes/>

<http://www.tpespta.org/>

Join the PTA listserv:

Send an email to [TPES-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:TPES-subscribe@yahoo.com)

September 2008

### IMPORTANT Date Changes for Mixers!!!

The **Kindergarten Mixer** will be on Tuesday, September 9, at 6:45 pm, and the **First Grade Mixer** will be on Monday, September 15, at 6:45 pm. The **Second Grade Mixer** remains on its previously scheduled date, Thursday, September 18, at 6:45 pm.



### Two Minutes with the Co-Presidents from Shmuel Shoham and Nina Garfield

On behalf of the PTA Executive Committee, we welcome new and returning parents to the 2008-2009 school year at TPES. This year will be an exciting and challenging year for the TPES community as we continue to support our students and staff at TPES throughout the year and plan for the Grosvenor move occurring next year.

Towards this end, the TPES Executive Committee has been busy over the summer organizing for smooth implementation of the variety of programs and events that we sponsor and support on a regular basis. These include after school programs, explorers club, staff appreciation events, movie nights, lemonade stand, scholastic book fair, art showcase, international night, fall fiesta, kindergarten, first and second grade mixers, reading tutoring, and many others. These programs enrich our school by providing a diversity of experiences for our students, support and appreciation for our staff, and a close and strong parent community. When these three TPES PTA goals are achieved, we can overcome any challenge and demonstrate to our children that challenges present opportunities when we face them with a positive attitude, creative spirit, and a strong community. We begin the school year with committee chairs and volunteers identified, activities scheduled, budgets developed, and a new and revitalized web site at [www.tpespta.org](http://www.tpespta.org) – thanks to our web master volunteer Scott Ward. This web site is the place of record for the TPES PTA – where one accesses information on committee activities, volunteer opportunities, a calendar of school and PTA events and key holidays, PTA budgets, meeting minutes, bylaws,

reimbursement forms, links to and information regarding fundraising opportunities such as Sally Foster, dolphin appeal, and Safeway and Giant registration for school donations, contact information, a photo journal, updates and emerging issues effecting our school, contact information, and much more. We encourage you to visit and bookmark this web site.

The PTA will prioritize establishing a well-organized infrastructure, planning for the Grosvenor move, fostering an informed and engaged parent community regarding issues effecting education at TPES, and fostering diversity within the PTA by, among other things, adding a Spanish and Ahmaric speaking liaison to the TPES executive committee.

We welcome, encourage, and need parent volunteer support to make this year the best that it can be – whether it's pruning bushes, maintaining the atrium and butterfly garden, tutoring students, being a class parent coordinator, preparing food for events, assisting with Grosvenor planning, providing translation, or any of the other myriad of activities that the PTA sponsors. Thank you to the new parents that have volunteered already, It is exciting to see such enthusiasm and new energy! Three years fly by fast so don't wait too long to get involved. You'll miss the fun!



### Be a Room Parent for Your Child's Class

This year the PTA is committed to having a minimum of one room parent for each classroom in all three grades. The specific responsibilities should be developed in consultation with your child's teacher based on classroom needs, but they would include handling (or organizing a parent volunteer schedule to handle) the following items identified by each grade's team of teachers:

#### Kindergarten

- Organize guided reading books
- Copy and distribute homework
- Prep for rotation centers
- Laminating



## Volunteer Spotlight

Head of the Beautification Committee, **Annie Power (photo below)**, led local gardeners **Elena and Marco Grassi; Angela and Daniella Greenfield; Ruth Polk and Aaron and Ethan Shoham; Nina and Bella Garfield; Steve, Stevie, and Ruby Shumaker; and Carol Power**, in a Saturday, August 23d weeding, pruning and watering extravaganza at TPES.



### First Grade

- Organize and recruit volunteers for activity days, such as Apple Day, Grandparents' Day, 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School & Dr. Seuss's Birthday
- Organize supplies for activity days
- Make copies
- Organize & file guided reading books

### Second Grade

- Develop monthly parent volunteer schedules for classroom teachers
- Coordinate parent support (e.g. costume making) for the second grade play in December
- Assist with the May Penny Challenge by taking coins to local banks for counting & ordering class gifts with the collected money
- Help with the second grade picnic at the end of the year

Room parents also should develop a family directory for the class to help parents contact each other and coordinate teacher gifts. If you're interested, please let your child's teacher know as soon as possible, or sign up at Back to School Night (Wednesday, September 3, at 7:00 p.m.). Please contact Frances Cook, PTA Room Parent Coordinator, at (301) 588-3044 or [cookf@gao.gov](mailto:cookf@gao.gov) if you have any questions or decide to sign up for the job.



## Get Involved in the Explorers Club, an Exciting and Innovative Program at TPES!

Find the Ponce de Leon inside you, become the co-explorer in chief or the first mate if you wish, and lead our intrepid youngsters to exciting adventures around DC and beyond... Volunteers are needed to co-chair or serve as members of the Explorers Club committee this year. This wonderful program provides opportunities for TPES children to enjoy specialized tours and hands-on activities at museums, performing arts facilities, a nearby dairy farm, and many other interesting destinations. Potential participants are identified by teachers based on need and trips then are opened up the rest of the school for a small fee. Chaperones' children attend free of charge. If you would be interested in co-chairing the committee, serving as a member, or just planning or chaperoning one of the trips, please contact Explorers Club co-chair, Suzette McMurray at (301) 920-0829 or [suzettecmurray@yahoo.com](mailto:suzettecmurray@yahoo.com).

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## The TPES PTA Needs Your Help!

We need volunteers to the following positions:

- Ready to be a leader? We need nominees for the position of **Co-Vice President**. Curious about leadership, but not quite ready for the commitment of VP? Join us on the leadership committee as "**at large delegate**" to explore the role that would be best for you.
- **4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade committee**: Celebrate the red, white and blue TPES style, and lead this new initiative.
- Worried about childhood obesity? Think fitness is fun? Captain the **Walkers and Runners Club**.



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## PTA Executive Committee

### Co-Presidents (contact at [info@tpespta.org](mailto:info@tpespta.org))

- Nina Garfield
- Shmuel Shoham

### Co-Vice President

- Julie Farb Blain

### Treasurer

- Pam Loprest

### Co-Secretaries

- Frances Cook
- Cathy Ocheltree

Additional contact information may be found on the PTA web site at <http://www.tpespta.org>