



PTA TIMES Takoma Park Elementary School

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

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

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Send an email to TPES-subscribe@yahoo.com

October 2008



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

Did you ever wonder what the PTA does with the money we raise? Well wonder no more. There are three major groups of PTA expenses:

- School programs (about 45%),
- TPES staff support (about 35%) and
- outreach and social events (about 20%).

For specific details check out the proposed budget for 2008-2009 on the website and in the backpack express, and **come to the October 7th PTA meeting for a discussion and a vote on the final budget.**

Everybody is invited to the meeting, but remember, only folks who have paid their PTA dues can vote on PTA business.

One of the real joys of being in the TPES PTA is seeing the passion, dedication and generosity of people in our community. This month we would like to recognize:

- **Suzette McMurray** did yeoman's work putting together the Mixers.
- **Alys Cohen** and **Elena Grassi** who have stepped in this year as the After School Programs Coordinators. Without their hard work these programs would not happen.
- **Sheri Verdonk** leads the Diversity Committee, coordinates a group for multiracial and/or adoptive families and has come back for a second year as coordinator for the popular Coffee with the Principal program.
- **Marcelle Fozard** has come back for another year of fun at the Lemonade Stand.
- **Sara Collina** has hopped on as Sally Foster Chair. A big job.



These are only some of the volunteers who have stepped up during the month of September to support our kids and our community. Thank You!

So needless to say, we need your financial contributions to support these activities. Please make sure you pay your dues, support Sally Foster or the Skip the Stuff Campaign, sign up for Giant and Safeway, save boxtops, and our newest fund raiser, recycle your fax and printer cartridges in the box at the school.

On another note, the **Grosvenor move** seems like it is moving forward but the final decision for allocating the budget will be made on November 11. **Marc Greenfield**, a PTA volunteer, will represent the PTA at these meetings to be the voice of the TPESPTA during these discussions. Because of the precarious budget situation at the national, state, and local levels, we want to make sure that this move will occur with guaranteed funding and no impact on TPES program budgets. Thanks Marc for representing the TPES in these discussions.

In the meantime, Zadia Gadsden and Nina Garfield are planning a meeting in October to continue the planning process begun last year. At our next PTA meeting in October we will be providing an update on Grosvenor and voting on the revised TPES PTA bylaws which are available at www.tpespta.org. Please take a look and come prepared to vote.

Finally, we would like to recognize the behind-the-scenes heroes of our school PTA. **Scott Ward** has been maintaining and updating our newly revised TPESPTA web site. **Frances Cook** and **Patti Mallin** publish the newsletters and **Sara Mussie** and **Ms. Paz** translate them into Amharic and Spanish. And we would like to extend a profound thanks to the **TPES PTA Executive Committee** who dedicates a tremendous amount of time to make this PTA the successful organization that it is. Their commitment, energy, creativity, and passion make us proud to be the Co-Presidents and make being presidents of the PTA fun. Thank you for all your hard work.

It takes a village to raise a child, and our PTA clearly demonstrates that!



Big Bang for Your Buck: Promote Your Organization & Support the Dolphin Directory

Exciting news: the 2008-09 Dolphin Directory is in production. This handy guide features contact info for all individuals in our school community, listed by classroom affiliation and indexed by surname. We received great reviews last year for this concise volume, and forward to delivering this year's edition to families this fall, **absolutely FREE of charge.**

You may ask, "How can the PTA afford this high quality publication printed for so many families on 100% recycled paper by the local and independently-owned Community Printers in Takoma, DC?" We're happy to answer: we sell **low-cost ads** to businesses, non-profits and individuals interested in reaching out to the members of our tight-knit, loyal Dolphin community.

Do you have a business card that says it all? Do you sponsor an annual event that thrives on local support? Have a small business for which even one new client would improve your bottom line? Or do you just love your child's school so much you're thinking about a taking out a few square inches of "thank you"? We have unbeatable rates for something folks will turn to again and again, and we're easy to work with! Tell your friends!

Contact one of our helpful volunteers for rates and specifications: Debra Bodner debra_bodner@mac.com 301-270-5040, Liesl Groberg lieslgroberg@mac.com 301-891-6810, Felicia Widmann fwidmann@starpower.net 301-589-7297



The Book Exchange is Coming Up in November

Please start gathering and saving your books now to donate to the TPES PTA Book Exchange. All of the books will be organized and displayed by PTA volunteers for the children on **November 7** -- every child at TPES goes home from school that day with at least one book of their very own. Please do not send in toddler age books -- we are hoping for some great K-2 age appropriate books, either fiction or nonfiction!

Celebrate Diversity at TPES

Did you know that we have over 30 countries represented in our school including the United States? Did you know that the largest non-English speaking community comes from Ethiopia? This year to celebrate our diverse community we would like to have **weekly informational spots** highlighting a special person/place or piece of information about the countries represented in our community. Our celebration will culminate with our International Night in May, so if you would like to help provide information about the countries represented or International Night or anything in between, please feel free to contact Sheri Verdonk at sverdonk@yahoo.com. Thank you!



Principal's Coffees

Principal's Coffees have been moved.... Effective October Principal's Coffees will be held the **4th Friday of the month** unless the school is closed, in which case the coffee will be moved to the Third Friday of the month.



Staff Appreciation

The Staff Appreciation Committee hosted a very successful welcome back lunch for teachers and staff on August 25th and a breakfast on September 4. The committee will be coordinating an ice cream party in October, and the parent conference dinner will be on November 12 - at this event the committee provides a full dinner for the teachers when they stay late into the evening to meet with parents. We'll be looking for parents to **bring desserts and other things.** Please contact Denise Thompson at msdenise@gmail.com if you would like to bring something or help out in any way.

Volunteers Needed!

There is always a need to have items of interest translated for our non English Speaking Community. If you are **willing to translate** periodic items into any language represented in our community please contact Sheri Verdonk at sverdonk@yahoo.com.

The PTA will be holding a **bake sale** on election day, November 4th. We will need homemade treats as well as store bought doughnuts, bagels or fresh fruit. Volunteers are also needed to work the day of the sale. Student helpers are welcome to participate. Contact bake sale coordinator, Donna Moran, at the4morans@verizon.net to sign-up.