



# Dogwood Dolphin Echo

SEPTEMBER 2010

## From the Administration . . .

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Welcome to all our new families and welcome back to our returning families. We are planning another exciting year at Dogwood. We are delighted to be sharing this special time with you and your children.

Be sure to read the Student Handbook located in the front of your student's agenda homework planner. Most of the school expectations can be found there.

This year, car riders are keeping the car numbers assigned last year. New families and/or new car riders can request a number by calling the school office and leaving a message. It may take a day or two to get the car tag to you. Remember, no cell phones in the car line. Violators will lose the privilege of using the car line. No exceptions.

Bus riders should check the route numbers and stop locations. Routes do change from year to year. Kindergarten and First grade bus riders must have the school identification tag clearly visible on their backpacks during the first two weeks of school.

No lunch visitors during the first two weeks of school or on party days. Thank you for giving us time to get organized. During the school year, visitors will sit in the designated area in the center of the cafeteria with your child only. Our larger classes do not allow space for parents to sit with the class. Please consider visiting days other than Friday as

seating is limited on that day.

The school bookstore is open from 8:45-9:00.

We hope you were able to purchase or order school spirit wear. This year we will be showing our school pride every Friday. Adult spirit wear is available on the order sheet.

Student lunch price has increased to \$2.00. Be sure to put money in your child's lunch account.

Contact Mrs. Yoho in the cafeteria or go online to answer ques-

tions. The school menus are posted on the system website under calendars.

We love to celebrate our student's successes. If you know of a special honor, please email Mrs. Simpson and these will be included in the morning announcements if appropriate.

Please call or email if you have questions, comments, or suggestions.

Welcome to the 2010-2011 school year.

## From the President . . .

Welcome to a new year at Dogwood! We want everyone to be involved in their child's experience at Dogwood. We have 28 dedicated leaders in place that have created an excellent PTA board for this year. Everyone has made time in their busy schedules to help all the students at Dogwood.

Please review and sign up for volunteer opportunities on our website

[www.dogwoodpta.com](http://www.dogwoodpta.com) OR turn in the last page of the PTA guidebook. ALL PTA volunteers are needed to help us have a wonderful school.

The PTA has several forms of communication:

**Constant Contact** - weekly emails to notify families of Dogwood activities. Please keep your email address current by

sending changes to [dogwoodelemp-ta@yahoo.com](mailto:dogwoodelemp-ta@yahoo.com).

**Echo** - Dogwood monthly newsletter—You will receive one sheet of paper and the rest will be posted at [dogwoodpta.com](http://dogwoodpta.com).

**Room Parents** - They will send out information pertaining to your classroom.

PTA monthly meetings are open to everyone. Please put the meeting dates on your calendar and plan to attend at least one. We have both day and night meetings to meet everyone's schedule.

September 14	9:15am-cafeteria
October 12	9:15am-cafeteria
November 9	6:00pm-cafeteria
December 14	9:15am-cafeteria
January 11	9:15am-cafeteria
February 8	6:00pm-cafeteria
March 8	9:15am-cafeteria

(Continued on page 4)

*Approved  
M.A. Simpson*

## TOGETHER WE CAN . . .



*Did you know? If your child has a temperature of 100° F, your child must be sent home and cannot return to school until they are fever-free without medication for 24 hours. So, if your children have a fever, please do not send them to school. Let's keep everyone healthy!*

Back to Dogwood or first year at Dogwood means one thing for sure . . . time for those fun contests to begin! REFLECTIONS is our first contest to kick off this new school year. I know many kids jumped in last year and shared their creativity, but this is a call to ALL Dogwood Dolphins! I'll bet you are wondering how you can be a part of Reflections.

Kids, best news is that it's all about you and how you can better your world, "TOGETHER WE CAN . . ." is our topic this year. You can participate in one or all six divisions: literature, musical composition, photography, visual arts, dance choreography and film/video production. What this means to you is that once you think of something that represents "Together We Can . . ." you can

either write about it, compose music to express it, take a picture of it, or grab your crayons, markers, pencil, pen, finger paints, or paint brush and get your ideas on paper or grab your dancing shoes and your video camera. Time to show all the things you can accomplish when we do it "TOGETHER!"

Just a little note to parents . . . PTA Reflections contest is a program of recognition and achievement for students. We display all photography and visual arts in our cafeteria and hallway for everyone to enjoy. Dogwood winners go onto Shelby County PTA for the next level of judging and those winners go onto Tennessee State PTA and those winners go to

compete at the National level PTA!

The Rules and Entry Form will come home in your child's backpack soon. Entries will be accepted Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup> in the cafeteria first thing in the morning.

If you are wondering how to be involved in Dogwood's fun and exciting year, we are looking for your help! Call or email today to be a part of Cultural Arts at Dogwood. Your kids will love the fact that you are helping with a contest too!!

Lori Brown 275-8745  
loribug414@aol.com

Polly Cotton 755-6073  
cotten17@aol.com

## Know your Way Around a Band-Aid?

When your child skins a knee at school or doesn't feel well, he or she is taken care of by a volunteer in the Health Room. We are asking volunteers to cover one 2 1/2 hour shift a month, August through May. The shifts are the same time every month. We have had a great response (Dogwood parents are the best). We still have afternoon shifts (12:30p-3:00p) available on Mondays,

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. We have a few shifts available on Friday mornings (9:00a-12:30p). I would like to thank the parents who have already signed up for a



specific shift, put your names on the sub list or

worked the first few weeks of school in the Health Room. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, please contact me.

Kim Grant  
Health and Welfare Chair  
kim@grantnewhomes.com

## Help us Bring Science to Life

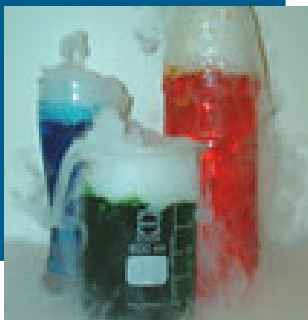
Science Action is gearing up for another exciting year. Each class will participate in 4 Science Labs (one each quarter) that relates to their in-class science studies. Science Action gives the students an extra special "hands-on" experience as they participate in different stations exploring various aspects of each topic. We will

cover the Human Body, Weather, Chemicals, Plants, Animals, the Solar System and much more fun stuff this year.

The very best part of Science Action might just be that parents are the biggest piece of the Science Action fun. Each lab is led by parents who get to spend an hour or so sharing

hands-on learning time with their child in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. All of the information and materials for the labs are provided, so all the parents need to do is come ready for some fun!!!

Susie Gregory  
Science Action Chair  
susieandgreg@live.com



## Teacher Appreciation

Here at Dogwood, we are blessed with wonderful teachers and staff! What better way to say “thanks” than with food! We started the year off with a “welcome back” breakfast hosted by the PTA. Thank you to everyone who brought delicious food and helped with set-up and clean-up! For those who signed up to bring treats this year, we will be calling on you soon. We are looking forward to the great year ahead!

Brandy Blank and Carrie Ditter  
blankb@bellsouth.net and carrie@ditter.us

## Winterfest 2011 is set for Jan. 22

It might be hot outside, but Winterfest 2011 will be here soon! Planning for Winterfest, which will be held January 22, is underway & we are looking for Dogwood parents to serve on sub-committees. Let Tara Teutsch know if you would be interested in serving on any of the following sub-committees:

**Procurement**-This committee will gather donations for the silent auction. Responsibilities include requesting donations from businesses, gathering the information for the paperwork on donations, securing those donations & delivering them to the school before the auction. *Time:* mid-October at earliest, but November & December with some in January; to be done on their own

time & will need to have 1-3 meetings to plan.

**Paperwork**-This committee will take care of all paperwork in relation to the silent auction. Responsibilities include ordering bid sheets, printing off description labels for each auction item, attaching labels to baskets (Friday before auction), & sending out thank you notes to the donors. *Time:* little in December & 1<sup>st</sup> of January, but busy the week of & after Winterfest; to be done mostly at home with the exception of attaching labels to auction baskets & will need to have 1-2 meetings to plan.

**Pretty Committee**-This committee dresses & prepares all the auction baskets. Responsibilities include gathering supplies & ordering

new supplies if needed, setting up donation room, scheduling shifts for helpers, wrapping baskets at school, & cleaning the auction room along with putting away the supplies in storage. *Time:* little planning late October/November, but busy in January with much time spent the Wednesday, Thursday & Friday before the auction—will need to have 1-2 meetings to plan.

**Auction**-This committee will work the silent auction. Responsibilities include helping the Pretty Committee, set up silent auction baskets on Friday after school/early evening, working the auction,

assisting with any questions, closing out the auction, handing out items to winning bidders & helping with organizing pick up of auction baskets the following week. *Time:* January 18 through January 26 - will need 1 meeting to plan.

**Prizes**-This committee will work in connection with the carnival games. Responsibilities include organizing & ordering prizes for the ticket redemption booth, coordinating volunteer schedules to man the ticket booth (one hour shifts) for Winterfest. *Time:* January—will need 1 meeting to plan.

Malissa Henager  
malhenager@yahoo.com

Tara Teutsch  
tara.t@comcast.net

## Dogwood Dolphins! You are TERRIFIC!

The Dogwood PTA Membership Drive was a *HUGE SUCCESS* this year—thanks to you!

The following classes earned 100% in PTA Memberships and SMARTIES from the Membership Team (because we think they're *smart!*) . . . CONGRATULATIONS!!

**Mrs. Norman's Knights**  
**Mrs. Harris' Hound Dogs**  
**Mrs. Berry's Bullfrogs**  
**Mrs. Ryan's "Pride of the Lions"**  
**Mrs. Berry's Buccaneers**  
**Mrs. Sparrow's Spiders**  
**Mrs. Downey's Dragons**  
**Mrs. Marcom's Mad Dogs**  
**Mrs. Smith's Smashers**  
**Mrs. Pettit's Players**

**Mrs. McIntyre's Mountain Lions**  
**Mrs. Dickens' Doodlebugs**  
**Mrs. Henderson's Honeybees**  
**Mrs. Scott's Screech Owls**  
**Mrs. Waldrip's Winners**  
**Mrs. Jacob's Jitterbugs**  
**Mrs. Padawer's Powers**  
**Mrs. Hale's Hounds**  
**Mrs. Scott's Scorpions**  
**Mrs. Williams' Whales**  
**Mrs. Thomas' Titans**

That's 21 classes at 100% Memberships!! WOW!

**REMEMBER:** Dogwood PTA Family Memberships are available throughout the school year. So if we missed you during our Membership Drive . . . There's still an op-

portunity to JOIN PTA. Please download the registration form available at the Dogwood PTA website-and send it to school with your child, along with your \$10 Family Membership Dues.

We want to thank our Dogwood Dolphin Parents for all you do to support Dogwood PTA—Your Membership Makes a Difference in the lives of our children.

The PTA Membership/Directory Team

Amy Burns  
ajburns64@comcast.net

Louise Stewart  
louiseecs@comcast.net

*Dogwood is a great school because our parents are so supportive. Visit [dogwoodpta.com](http://dogwoodpta.com) to find out how you can help the school and your children become even better.*

**PTA**<sup>®</sup>  
everychild.onevoice.<sup>®</sup>

# New Standards for Excellence Impact TCAP scores



Be informed: Attend Shelby County School Board Meetings

Sept. 16, 2010

Work Session

Sept. 23, 2010

Student Advisory Council Mtg

5:00p

Business Meeting/Public Forum

6:30p

\*\*\*Bolton High School

TCAP scores, which will be released this fall, will be lower by almost 50%. This sounds alarming and while it is, there is a reasonable explanation. Due to new standards set at the National level with the Race to the Top program and reestablishing the norm for the baseline to measure academic success, TCAP scores will take a hit and Shelby County schools will find itself in a position much like it did in 2000. We may not have all A's on our report card. Though this news is tough to digest, our students haven't lost any learning; the bar has just been raised on the acceptable standards for measuring the learning.

The problem is competition for jobs is now worldwide, today's student will have 10-14 jobs by the time they are 38. Technology is changing profoundly and the United States no longer corners the market for "highly qualified" workers. We must set higher standards for our children. Their future depends on stronger abilities for higher order thinking, abili-

ties to solve problems, and analytical thinking. Tennessee currently ranks 41<sup>st</sup> in the nation for student achievement. Our students do not score as well nationally. A majority of our 8<sup>th</sup> graders are not proficient in math or reading according to the NAEP. 1.2 million Tennesseans over the age of 18 don't have a diploma/GED and 21% of Tennesseans over 18 cannot fill out an application, read a food label, or read a story to a child.

In response to these staggering revelations, TN launched the Tennessee Diploma Project in 2008. Students experienced a more rigorous and relevant curriculum in 2009, and in 2010 TN students took revised tests based on the new standards. Tennessee was awarded \$500 million dollars in "Race to the Top" funds; 5.3 million will go to Shelby County Schools over the next four years. Fewer, higher, and clearer academic standards have been set at the state level in order to align TN students with college and work expectations both nationally and

internationally. The state-led and developed standards were achieved with input from teachers, administrators, content experts, state education leaders, and the general public (parents).

The new baseline was established because to this point, progress has been measured by the average achievement established by 1998 testing. Our schools have been doing so well that since that time we have "outrun our base". Statistically the baseline should be re-averaged every five years or so. The new baseline will not affect prior year's scores. Initially, we will experience lower TCAP scores for our students and lower grades on our system report cards. In the long run, establishing new baselines and more stringent standards will enable Tennessee's students to achieve at a higher level and prepare them for the future job market.

For more information on "Race To the Top", please visit [www.scsk12.org](http://www.scsk12.org).

Michelle Johns  
michellerjohns@yahoo.com

## President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

April 19 9:15am-cafeteria

May 10 11:30am-cafeteria

A little about me, I have two boys (5<sup>th</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>) at Dogwood and I love to play tennis. I was a Curriculum Technology Specialist and taught 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade for Shelby County Schools before having children. I know from personal experience how valuable the PTA and parent involvement is to a quality educational experience.

This is my second year as Dogwood PTA President and my job is made easier because we have such a strong PTA Board.

We are looking forward to a wonderful school year. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, ideas or concerns.

Elaine West, 850.9995  
elainewest2@gmail.com



## Ways to Support Dogwood

Dogwood PTA will **kick off our family donation drive on September 9**. Last year, we raised more than \$35,000 from the generous families at Dogwood. The success of our donation drive last year allowed the PTA to provide many enhancements to the quality of our children's education, including the purchases of additional classroom computers, iPad cart, outdoor lab, digital cameras, bathroom/health room renovations and teacher supplies. These extras are what make a Dogwood education great and they would not be possible by relying only on state funding. Our goal for this year's drive is, first and foremost, **100% participation by our families**. We would also like to exceed last year's gift total. We hope each family will make a gift donation to meet our

participation goal. We also ask that those who can put Dogwood high on their list of giving priorities do so. Every gift is tax-deductible and every dollar helps improve the school environment for YOUR child.

### Restaurant Night

For the past several years, Dogwood has partnered with local restaurants and establishments to provide a percentage of sales back to the school. Dogwood families enjoyed pizza from Pizza Pro for our first restaurant night, look forward to many more family nights to come.

### Support Dogwood

*Schnuck's eScrip Customer Card*-The Schnuck's rewards card you use for gasoline can now be used to earn cash rewards

for Dogwood. Simply go to [www.escrip.com/schnucks.jsp](http://www.escrip.com/schnucks.jsp) and register your card. Swipe your card to receive great gas discounts, and Dogwood will receive up to 3% of your purchase amount as cash back.

*Target REDcard*-Target offers three types of REDcard as part of the Take Charge of Education program. Dogwood receives up to 1% of your purchase amount as cash back. In addition, you earn points toward 10% shopping discounts with each purchase you make. Sign up at Target or visit [www.redcard.target.com/redcard/content/rcw\\_benefits](http://www.redcard.target.com/redcard/content/rcw_benefits).

Stacie Dunham  
[dunham.stacie@gmail.com](mailto:dunham.stacie@gmail.com)

## Ben and Jerry's Celebrates our Summer Readers

Our Summer Reading Ice Cream Party was a wonderful success with 247 students completing their summer reading and participating in the party. A special thank you to Mark Tate from Ben & Jerry's for donating the ice cream again this year. Thank you also to the parents who helped make this party run so smoothly!

AR will be up and running Monday, August 30. Letters with your child's User Name and Password as well as log-in information for the Renais-

sance Home Connect website are on their way home. Please keep this information in a safe place so you can monitor your child's AR success throughout the year. The AR Reading Goal Contracts will be coming home on or before September 17<sup>th</sup>. Please sign and return this contract to your child's teacher.

We are looking forward to 100% participation in the end of the year ice cream party. All students must reach at least 25% of their goal to participate. Also, our top three

readers (highest points) for each grade will receive a trophy and lunch with the principals this year! We also have dog tags again this year to mark your child's achievements in AR. I would LOVE to see all students at 100% of their goal at the end of the year, so get out there and READ!

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

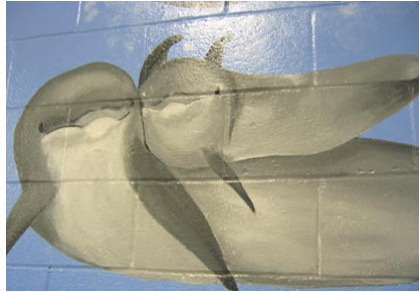
Catherine Arick  
753-0585 or [catarick@comcast.net](mailto:catarick@comcast.net)



### Calendar of Events

- ▶ Friday, Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> - AR Mom Meeting—9:15am
- ▶ Monday, Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> - Labor Day Holiday—NO SCHOOL
- ▶ Thursday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> - Room Parent Meeting 9:15 am
- ▶ Thursday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> - Ben & Jerry's
- ▶ Thursday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> - Family Donation Drive Begins
- ▶ Friday, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> - Grandparents' Day (Last Name A-M) 7:45 am Cafeteria
- ▶ Monday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> - Grandparents' Day (Last Name N-Z) 7:45 am Cafeteria
- ▶ Tuesday, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> - PTA Meeting 9:15 am Cafeteria
- ▶ Thursday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> - Make-up pictures & Parent Conference Night 4:00-7:00pm
- ▶ Thursday, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> - Pizza Pro
- ▶ Tuesday, Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> - Open House

## Dogwood Dolphin Echo



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## PTA BOARD 2010-2011

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