



Dogwood Dolphin Echo

NOVEMBER 2011

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From the President . . .

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable fall break!

I would again like to thank all of the Dogwood Families that supported the Dogwood PTA during our Family Donation Drive. Dogwood families generously donated about \$28,700 to the PTA! Due to the generosity of our families, the PTA will be able to continue to fund grade level crafts, purchase 6 Promethean Boards and 4 document cameras, and provide just over \$10,000 to improve Dogwood's science lab. We were very pleased that we were also able to take advantage of a matching funds promotion through Promethean, which provided us with a savings of \$3,250 on the purchase of the Promethean Boards. The administration is very pleased that all classrooms in grades 3rd through 5th will now have a Promethean Board, as well as several of the lower grades. Thank you again to all who supported the PTA!

October was a busy month at Dogwood. We participated in Go Jim Go and raised more money for LeBonheur Children's Hospital than any other school! We celebrated Red Ribbon Week with some very creative outfits! We also had our 3rd grade sock hop, 4th grade newcomb ball tournament, 5th grade crazy chemist and our fall parties. We also came together as a community and helped build the awesome Delta at Dogwood Park and the students all had a blast playing on for the first time.

In November, we have our Book Fair at Barnes & Noble, kicking off on November 3rd and continuing through the 8th, with proceeds benefiting our Dogwood library. The Race for Education is on November 6th at Freeman Park in Bartlett. The 5th grade volleyball tournament, 2nd grade habitat day and the kindergarten feast will also all take place in November.

Please join us on November 8th at 6:00 p.m. for our General PTA Meeting. This is one of two evening PTA Meetings that we will hold this year. We will be entertained with a performance by our Dogwood kindergarteners.

Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

*Laura Clausen
Dogwood PTA President*

Don't miss
out on
these great
fundraising
restaurant
nights!

Thursday,
Nov. 10th
Pizza Pro
Night

Thursday,
Nov. 17th
Petra Café
Night



COUNSELOR'S CORNER . . .

November is National Child Mental Health Month. Mentally healthy children enjoy a positive quality of life, function well at home, in school, and in their communities. Over the past two weeks, students have learned about the importance of understanding and expressing their feelings. Most importantly, they realize that all feelings are okay, however, it's what they do with them that matters. Students who are comfortable communicating their feelings often respond better to conflict and find effective solutions to problems.

Ways to encourage emotional expression

- Encourage your child to explain what the feeling looks like.
- Explore positive ways to deal with negative feelings. For example, children could take deep breaths or count to ten.
- Help your child understand their feelings and the intended behaviors. For example, let your child know that it's okay to be angry, but it's not okay to say hurt comments to others.
- Incorporate puppets, books, or games to assist with expressing feelings. For example, give your child an opportunity to act out a particular feeling and discuss it.
- Model acceptable forms of expression. Children often observe how adults deal with their own feelings.

*Mrs. Fitchpatric
School Counselor*

Donation Drive Update and Restaurant Nights

Thank you so much to everyone that donated to our family donation drive. The totals were: \$28,998.52 (83% to goal) & 275 families participated (65% family participation). Dogwood PTA is hosting a Home Business Bazaar to hopefully help us reach our \$35,000 goal. Check out all the wonderful home businesses that are participating by [clicking here](#).

Dogwood Restaurant Nights for November are:

Pizza Pro: Thursday, November 10th and

Petra Cafe: Thursday, November 17th (Petra Cafe will be an all day event).

Classroom winners for our past Dogwood/Pizza Pro Night are:

Mrs. Mickens and Mrs. Marcom. They will be scheduling a class Pizza Party for having the most classroom participation.

Coming Soon . . .

You don't want to miss the Dogwood Family Breakfast December 1st and 2nd from 8 to 8:45am! We are busy planning this new, community building event, so look for more information in Constant Contact as to the day you should come for breakfast in the cafeteria.



*Malissa Henager & Tara Teutsch,
Hospitality Chairs*

YEARBOOK



As we get closer to the holidays, just a reminder that you have until **November 30, 2011** to pre-purchase a Dogwood Dolphin Tales Yearbook for the 2011-2012 school year at the \$40 price. It will be a hard cover book with over 125 full color pages. **Books are pre-purchased now and only the number of books ordered are printed and delivered to the students in May.**

The yearbook committee will be glad to print a customized "gift card" for you or your loved ones to present to the student for the holidays or their birthday. Please do not think of the yearbook as an expensive school supply, it is a tangible reminder of the fun your student has had this year at Dogwood. The yearbook committee's mission is to include as many candid photos as possible from each class' Shutterfly website in this year's book so don't miss out.

Yearbooks can be purchased online only at <http://www.yearbookforever.com/> which accepts either Paypal or Visa/Mastercard/Discover Card/American Express.

At this website, you type Dogwood and click Dogwood Elementary in Germantown, TN and then click on Buy Yearbook. This will show you all the choices including name imprinting on the cover and year in review supplements which are all optional.

The basic price of the book will go up to \$45 if you order after **November 30, 2011 (extended)**. **The final day** to place your order for a yearbook for this year **will be January 13, 2012.**

If you have any questions, including did I already purchase my student's yearbook, please email nancy.yenser@comcast.net. I will be glad to look that information up for you.

5th GRADE YEARBOOK ADS . . .

5th Grade Yearbook Ads Sales have ended. If you were one of the 83 sets of parents who purchased an ad for your 5th grader, now the fun begins. You need to decide on your text - what you want to say about or to your student. You need to find from 1 - 4 of your favorite photographs to include in your ad. The yearbook committee can scan in professional photographs and prefer the 8 x 10 size for clarity. You can also provide us with a digital file as well. Since this is a new yearbook company this year, we do not have all the templates loaded from the previous years. If you know what you want or if you have a yearbook from the last few years and like one of those ad formats, please email us including the year and page number and color preferred. The yearbook committee is putting together a set of new templates and would like to work with those parents who are ready to get this completed and off their to-do list. We will then have templates to show the other parents who are undecided.

All the ad details must be finalized by December 1, 2011 so that we can make our deadline with the yearbook company.

Please email jennifercampbell82@yahoo.com or nancy.yenser@comcast.net if you are ready to get started.

If you have any photos of your child or your child's class that you would like to share, please send them to Kathleen Kizer at kckizer@comcast.net

Teacher Feature . . . MARY LIRETTE

Mrs. Mary Lirette is new to Dogwood Elementary this year. She teaches 2nd grade but has previously taught 1st grade at Highland Oaks Primary School and kindergarten at Highland Oaks Elementary School. She received her Bachelor's Degree from The University of Memphis in Human Development & Learning (Early Childhood Education). She is certified pre-k through 3rd grade and is highly qualified in all subject areas. Mrs. Lirette is currently finishing up her Master's of Education



degree in Innovation and Education through Webster University and plans to pursue her doctoral degree soon thereafter.

Mrs. Lirette is happily married and is the proud mother of a two-year-old daughter named Gracie. She enjoys spending time with

her family and her two cats, Hercules and Xena, as well as reading, organic gardening, and surfing the internet for creative ideas to incorporate into her classroom. She feels blessed to be a part of Dogwood and looks forward to getting to know the many families within the community.

Community Coffee Cash for Schools Program

Drink Community coffee or tea products and earn cash for Dogwood Elementary School!

Cut out and turn in the UPC labels from Community Coffee tea and coffee products, and send them with your child to school. A Community Coffee tin located at the front desk serves as the collection box.

Our deadline for submission is January 31, 2012!

Any questions? Ask Melissa Cychowski at ecychowski@comcast.net

Reflections Winners

Music

1st Caleb Lindow

Photography

First Grade:

1st Griffin Long

2nd Zach Pearsall

2nd Cody Pearsall

Third Grade:

1st McKenzie Cotten

2nd McKenzie Cotten

Fifth Grade:

1st Kaitlyn Farmer

2nd Allison House

Visual Arts

Kindergarten:

1st Anna Claire Lindow

2nd Claire Enemark

3rd Julia Skordeles

HM Maya Nowak

HM Claire Enemark

HM Anuj Sinha

HM Anuj Sinha

First Grade:

1st Alice Qu

2nd Maaz Haider

3rd Stephanie Crist

HM Campbell Kizer

HM Lexy Hearn

Second Grade:

1st Zhuoyuan Li

2nd Sophia Cheng

3rd Tess Enemark

HM Tess Enemark

HM Lauren Wicinski

HM Anna Holloway

Best of Show (k-2) Zhuoyuan Li

Best of Show (3-5) Zhuoyi Galvin Li

Third Grade:

1st Pranav Desurkar

2nd Nabeeha Haider

3rd David Kizer

HM Katy Cotten

HM Pranav Desurkar

HM Sophia Skordeles

HM Pradnya Desurkar

JM Hannah Hopson

Fourth Grade:

1st Julia Keisling

2nd Crystal Odor

3rd Asavari Shanker

HM Madeline Broadhurst

Fifth Grade:

1st Zhuoyi Galvin Li

2nd Sumayyah Haider

3rd Lindsay Carney

HM Ashley Heavey

Literature:

Kindergarten:

1st Upamanyu Shanker

First Grade:

1st: Matthew Wingfield

Second Grade:

1st: Vaidehi Bhatara

2nd Pranav Desurkar

3rd Avani Garde

HM Pradnya Desurkar

Third Grade:

1st Allison House

2nd Allison House

Citizenship Winners

Division 1

(kindergarten)

1st Maya Nowak

2nd Upamanyu Shanker

3rd Arjun Shah

Division 2

(grade 1-2)

1st Kalea Brown

2nd Zhuoyuan Alex Li

3rd Anissa Pokorny-Yadav

Division 3

(grade 3-5)











1st Grace Higley

2nd Kate Murphy

3rd Morgan Nowak



UPCOMING EVENTS

-  Thursday, Nov. 3 - Book Fair
-  Thurs. & Fri., Nov. 3 and Nov. 4 - 5th grade Volleyball Tournament
-  Sunday, Nov. 6 - Race for Education, Freeman Park, Bartlett
-  Tuesday, Nov. 8 - General PTA Meeting 6:00pm
-  Wednesday, Nov. 9 - 2nd grade Habitat Day
-  Thursday, Nov. 10 - Pizza Pro Fundraising Night
-  Friday, Nov. 11 - NO SCHOOL Veteran's Day
-  Thursday, Nov. 17 - Petra Café Fundraising Night
-  Monday, Nov. 21 - Kindergarten Feast
-  Wednesday-Friday, Nov. 23-Nov.25 - NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break

Dogwood Dolphin Echo



Dogwood Elementary School
8945 Dogwood Road
Germantown, TN 38139

Phone: 901.756.2310

Fax: 901.751.7852

E-mail the Editor: jmcomas@comcast.net



Shelby County Schools offers educational and employment opportunities without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex or disability.

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