



Deer Tracks

Your 7th District PTA Newsletter

September 2011

Mark Your Calendar!

- 9/13 Volunteer Training @ 6:30 pm
Back to School Night @ 7:00 pm
- 9/12 5th Grade Field Trip
- 9/17 Assembly
- 9/20 Pinwheels for Peace
- 9/21 7th District Night at Shrewsbury Chick-Fi-A 5-8 pm
- 10/4 PTA Exec Board Meeting, 3:30 pm
Cross Country @ Prettyboy 4:00
- 10/13 Cross Country @ 7th 4:00
- 10/18 1st/2nd Grade Concert
- 10/19 4th Grade Field Trip
- 10/24 Book Fair Week through 10/28
- 10/24 Wear Red Clothing*
- 10/25 Wear athletic clothing*
- 10/26 Wear college logos*
Book Fair Parent Night
- 10/27 Wear red white and blue*
- 10/28 Wear your spirit wear or blue and yellow!*
SGA Election Day
Fall Dance and Talent Show 6:30-8:30 pm
- 10/31 Dress as your favorite book character
5th Grade Pumpkin Math
K Halloween Parade

*SRed Ribbon Week Activities

Contact Us!

Jenn Gillispie, PTA President
jennifergillispie@verizon.net

Jennifer Jones, Vice President
3jones@comcast.net

Jen Perry, Treasurer
tjtperrys@comcast.net

Jody Eber, Secretary
jody@eberhome.com

Executive Board Message

Thank you so much to everyone who returned our PTA survey and promptly sent in their membership forms! We are diligently working to process all of your information; adding you to our email lists, contacting volunteers, and taking in your feedback. The survey that was sent home in your back to school packet has been a valuable tool for us to learn what you as parents and teachers want-and don't want-from our PTA, and many of your ideas and thoughtful comments have been added to our to-do list! If you did not receive a survey but would like to complete one, a copy is available on our website, www.sevethdistrictpta.org.

On the survey, the vast majority of families preferred **Direct Donation**, and our drive has gotten off to a great start. This will be our main fundraiser for the year-all of our programs, events, and school support will be funded through your donations. Our goal is 100% participation, and our yearly budget is based on what we receive. The more that is donated, the more we can do for our children!

We truly thank you for your patience as we work to process all of this information for the first time, and welcome any further questions or comments that you may have. We would also like to thank Mrs. Brooks, Mr. Pizzo, and the entire 7th District Staff for the wonderful support, encouragement, and collaborative efforts that have been put forth already. We're looking forward to a great year!

~Jenn Gillispie, PTA President

Please check our updated website...same address, new look!

www.seventhdistrictpta.org

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Volunteers Needed ASAP!

Where?	What will I be doing?	Contact:
Library	organizing and shelving books, helping students as needed	Betsi Cogan betsicogan@comcast.net
Cafeteria	awarding kids for good behavior, helping open lunch items and assisting students as needed	<i>Coordinator Needed!</i> Please contact Jennifer Jones if you're interested 3jones@comcast.net
Copy Center	helping to prepare all materials for teachers	Cindy Schmidt cindyschmidt@comcast.net

Coming Soon...sign up to volunteer online!

What does our PTA do?

The PTA is the Parent Teacher Association – it is the largest child advocacy group in the US.

MD PTA statistics show that when schools, families and community groups work together to support learning:

- Children tend to do better in school,
- Stay in school longer and
- Like school more.

MD PTA defines our mission as:

- A powerful voice for all children
- A relevant resource for families and communities, and;
- A strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.

One of our PTA goals is to help you get involved, thereby helping your children succeed in school and becoming a part of a larger voice in child advocacy. Please consider becoming a member and be a part of a network of families who support the 7DE community!

PTA: Every child. One voice.

PTA meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of every month at 3:30 in the library. All are welcome!

Supervision for school-age children will be provided in the Tots room-please RSVP by emailing Jody Eber at jody@eberhome.com. Child care space is limited, so please contact us early!

Is 3:30 a tough time for you to meet? *We still want you to be a part of the PTA!* We will be holding quarterly update meetings at various events throughout the year to keep you informed; stay in tune with our website/facebook/twitter; watch for our monthly newsletter; we'll even Skype you in if you'd like! Please contact us at any time with questions, concerns, and ideas.

Snap. Send. See it online!

Do you have a smartphone? Do you use it to take photos? (Of course you do!) Send us your photos directly from your phone to 7thdistrictpta@gmail.com and see them online, on our newsletter, on our facebook wall, or in the yearbook!



So Far This Year...



Our **KinderConnect** program for incoming Kindergarten students was a huge success! More than 2/3 of our new Kindergarteners got to meet each other on the playground before school began.

Back to School Kits were ordered and delivered. This was not a fundraiser, but was offered at cost as a service to our 7DE families. Thanks Beth Amos for managing this new program!

Thank you to Betsi Cogan (and kids) for putting together over 400 **Back to School Packets** and Tanya Thompson for helping to **organize new books** before school even started!

A new 7DE logo has been designed, and new, updated **Spirit Wear** has been ordered...we plan to have it available for sale at Back to School night and other events throughout the year!

We've already seen **Box Tops and Receipts** sent in to school! Last year we raised over \$3000 through these programs, so please keep saving them and sending them in!

We hosted a **Welcome Back Luncheon** for the teachers and staff-teachers, thank you for the lovely cards, and thanks to Deb Kramen for all of your help! We've also planned a **Back To School Night Dinner** for the staff-thanks to Emily Craig and the new Hospitality Team for organizing!

Over 150 people signed up on our **Volunteer Sheets!** WOW! We're processing all of your contact information and will be in touch. A special thanks to all who have signed on as committee chairs!

Our **Membership and Direct Donation Drive** is off to a great start with over 30% of families joining the PTA within the first 3 days of school! The grade level with the highest participation at the end of September will receive an ice cream party!

The **Yearbook** planning and design has gotten underway! Many thanks to Beth Cain and the Yearbook Team for taking on this challenge!

PTA Survey Results

- Our favorite 7th PTA initiatives are the Book Fair, Grandparents/Generations Day, and the Yearbook. We'll be continuing these programs and work to improve them with your input and help!
- The Sally Foster fundraiser, website, spirit wear and directory need an overhaul-we've been working to address these items. We've already begun creating this year's directory!
- Over 75% of people who returned our survey prefer a Direct Donation fundraiser. Some people would still like sales options to be available, and we will look into this as a possibility.
- Most of all, you want to know what's going on at 7DE! Through our monthly newsletter (digital and hard copy,) website, social media, and email updates, we'll do as much as we can to keep you informed.

Thank you to all who participated in our survey!

Did You Know?

Every Friday is **Spirit Day!** Wear your 7DE spirit wear or blue and gold to show your school spirit!

New this year, the school and PTA will work together to award **Students of the Month** who show excellent character and values. Each month a different value will be highlighted and teachers will nominate one child per grade level who has exemplified this trait. Winners will be awarded on Live News and their photos posted on the bulletin board next to the nurse's office.

The **School Store** will be open every week on Wednesdays during lunch!

You must attend **Volunteer Training** to assist at school, on field trips, etc. Training will be held at 6:30 on Back to School night, then periodically throughout the year.

Direct Donation

How will this money be used?

This year, rather than selling wrapping paper, cookie dough, and other cumbersome items that give marginal profits to the school, we are asking families to Donate \$50 to our Direct Donation drive. Any amount you can give is welcome-our goal is 100% participation.

What will we do with this money?

- Fund assemblies and subsidize field trips
- Purchase awards for Students of the Month
- Purchase classroom supplies and resources like Time for Kids and Scholastic News
- Hold fun family events like our Ice Cream Social and our new outdoor movie night planned for the spring
- Host teacher appreciation events
- Buy planners for 2nd-5th grade students
- And much more!

Direct Donations are 100% tax deductible and can be made by *anyone* (grandparents, friends, businesses, etc.) who wants to support 7DE.

Our plans for the year are based on an estimated fundraising total of \$8,000 for our first year. We will vote to approve our yearly budget at Back to School night and a copy will be posted on the website for you to preview. The more funds we raise, the more we can do for our children!

**Check out
our new
logo!**



Available on our ALL NEW spirit wear!

A limited selection of spirit wear will be sold at Back to School Night and at events through the year; a PDF catalog is coming soon to the website, and orders can be sent in to school with your child!