



Stoneleigh Elementary School

PTA[®]

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Gold and Blue Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 3

November 19, 2009

From Your Stoneleigh PTA President

Dear Stoneleigh Families and Friends,

Your PTA is very excited to announce **Holiday Celebration 2009** is on its way! This fun-filled event will take place only 16 days from now. If you have not already volunteered to help, we could always use extra hands before or during the Celebration for an hour. This is a great way to help support your PTA! Please contact Kathleen Nuetzel at knuetzel@verizon.net if you are able to volunteer.

Some of us may not yet fully understand the change in our plans for this event: Holiday Bazaar versus Holiday Celebration. In the past, the Bazaar earned money that was used to fund many of our PTA programs. This year, we are returning to the PTA's original intent for this event: a FUN Holiday Celebration, instead of a profit-making Holiday Bazaar. This change in planning also aligns us with the recent Baltimore County Public School's interpretation of rules regarding the use of school property. With that being said, we will be asking for donations to cover the cost of the many crafts and games planned for the day.

Holiday Celebration 2009 will also be offering entertainment and food and beverages for a nominal donation. With the planning that started in September for this event, I am sure the Holiday Celebration will be great fun for your family! Please join us on December 5th from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at Stoneleigh Elementary.

With Thanksgiving coming in a few days, I would like to express my thanks to all of the volunteers who have already given their time and talents to SES. First and foremost, I could never do my job without the endless support, advice and friendship of my

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[Stoneleigh Elementary School PTA](http://www.stoneleighpta.org)

900 Pemberton Road ❖ Baltimore, MD 21212

<http://www.stoneleighpta.org>

Dates to Remember

NOVEMBER

- 19 Report Cards Distributed
Central Area Education Advisory Council Meeting (CAEAC), Dumbarton Middle School, 7:00 p.m.
Topic: "Have Questions About College?"
- 20 Magnet School Application Deadline
- 23 **Schools Closed**, Conference Day
- 26-27 **Schools Closed**, Thanksgiving Holiday

DECEMBER

- 1 Board of Education Meeting, Greenwood, ESS Building, 7:00 p.m.
- 5 Holiday Celebration, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- 15 Winter Concert, Stoneleigh Gymnasium 7:00 p.m.
- 17 *Gold and Blue* Newsletter distributed (one week early)
- 23 Winter Break begins, end of school day
- 24- Jan 3 **Schools Closed**, Winter Break

JANUARY

- 4 **Schools Reopen**

Newsletter Information

Would you like to see your information printed in the December 17th edition of the newsletter? Just send your articles/information by **December 11** to Susan Schoenfeld sschoenfeld@blr.com. Editing for space/content may occur. Thanks for contributing!

PTA 2009-2010 OFFICERS

Please feel free to contact any member of the Executive Board with any PTA related questions or concerns you may have. Thank You!

President	Sheri Buttarazzi	stoneleighptapresident@gmail.com
1st VP, Programs	Colleen Mahony	stoneleighpta1stvp@gmail.com
2nd VP, Volunteers	Denise Supensky	stoneleighpta2ndvp@gmail.com
Secretary	Kim Deinlein	stoneleighptasecretary@gmail.com
Treasurer	Fred Kline	stoneleighptatreasurer@gmail.com
Membership	Sarah Morris	stoneleighptamembership@gmail.com

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Executive Officers. They, in turn, couldn't do their jobs without the contributions from our many committee chairs. These are the people that arrange the cultural assemblies, produce family activity nights, manage spirit wear, publish the school directory, put out this newsletter, package up the many Original Works orders, coordinate hospitality sponsored events, and run the fall fundraiser.

They are also the people who tirelessly promote the Reflections program, work to improve school safety, promote Walking Wednesday, schedule after-school language classes, and take care of ongoing programs like Boxtops. And where would THEY be without all of the volunteers who assemble and distribute Thursday fliers, hand out fundraising orders, help at Family Activity events, and cook and bake for hospitality? Last, but certainly not least, we are thankful to all of our Room Parents and the many parent volunteers who help in their child's classroom.

Thank you to each of you!! Thanks for the huge amount of support that you show our school.

Sincerely,
Sheri Buttarazzi
PTA President



Innisbrook Fundraiser: A Great Success!

\$13,900.00 – that is how much money the 2009 Innisbrook Fall Fundraiser generated to support all the great PTA programs for the 2009-2010 school year!

Many, many thanks to Mindy Williams and Angela Shrewsberry, the Fall Fundraiser Chairpersons, for all of their hard work. Also, a big thanks to all of the parent volunteers and students who worked so hard to sell Innisbrook goodies and distribute them on Pick-Up Day!

Please remember that Stoneleigh Elementary will continue to earn profits from any online orders placed throughout the school year. So, remember to go to www.innisbrook.com and enter our school's number (#103318) to get school credit for your purchases!

Volunteer Connection

Call for Cakes: Cake Walk!

Who can make the fanciest, most appealing, or craziest cake? We need volunteers to provide cakes for the Cake Walk game at the Holiday Celebration (think Musical Chairs with cakes for prizes).

Cakes can be delivered to 7010 Copeleigh Road (Buttarazzi house, across from school) after 3:00 p.m. on Friday, December 4th, or to the school cafeteria on December 5th (before 11:00 a.m.). Service plates or platters will not be returned. Please contact Sheri Buttarazzi at stoneleighptapresident@gmail.com to sign up.

Scholastic Book Fair

The PTA is looking for volunteers to help with the Scholastic Book Fair in early February. The Book Fair is one of the best ways to raise funds for the school library! If you are interested in serving as a Chairperson for the Book Fair, or volunteering to help in some other way, please contact Sheri Buttarazzi at stoneleighptapresident@gmail.com.

PTA Hard At Work

So, what does the PTA really do? We thought you'd never ask! Here are just a few of the activities and programs that the Stoneleigh PTA sponsors:

- Family Socials (Ice Cream Social, Movie Night, Family Picnic)
- Cultural Assemblies
- Holiday Celebration
- Science Fair
- Language Clubs
- Reflections Art Contest
- Scholastic Book Fair
- Original Works Art Project
- Fine Arts Committee

In addition, the PTA has recently given several "mini-grants" to support school programs that contribute to the excellent learning environment at our school, including:

- \$324 to purchase four "flip cams" (camera-size video cameras) for use in classrooms, science projects, interviews and presentations.
- \$450 for a "green" assembly featuring Billie B. and his show, Recycle Mania.
- \$470 for dry erase/white boards for first grade classrooms.
- Underwriting a portion of the Scholastic newsletter subscription service to ensure that all students receive a copy of the Scholastic newsletter.

Gifted and Talented: Primary Grades Parent Information Night

Ellen Galvez

On Thursday evening November 12th, a "Primary Grades Parent Information Night" was hosted jointly by The Department of Professional Development Parent Support Services and the Office of Special Programs K-12 at Timonium Elementary School. Cecilia Silva from the Office of Gifted and Talented Education shared a very informative presentation that included the focus and philosophy of Gifted and Talented Education in the Baltimore County Public Schools as well as an overview of the GT curriculum and the review and referral process.

The focus of the evening was on recognizing and nurturing early learning behaviors. In grades K-2, BCPS currently provides two specific programs aimed at enhancing the daily curriculum: Primary Talent Development (PTD) and Primary Achievement and Enrichment Program (PACE). All students in grades K-2 throughout the county participate in two PTD units per year designed to challenge students' problem solving skills as well as their ability to follow through and implement solutions. Additionally, some students who have demonstrated grade level mastery in Reading and/or Math also have the opportunity to participate in the PACE enrichment program.

Additional "Primary Grades Parent Information Nights" will be held in the coming weeks in the other four areas of BCPS, all parents are welcome to attend. It is not necessary to RSVP. The upcoming dates and locations are:

Southeast Area: Wednesday, **November 18, 2009** at Sandy Plains Elementary

8330 Kavanagh Road, Baltimore, MD 21222

Northeast Area: Monday, **November 23, 2009** at Gunpowder Elementary

9540 Holiday Manor Road, Baltimore, MD 21236

Northwest Area: Wednesday, **December 2, 2009** at Woodholme Elementary

300 Mt. Wilson, Baltimore, MD 21208

For more information on Gifted and Talented Education in the Baltimore County Public Schools, please refer to their website, <http://www.bcps.org/offices/gt/>.

REMINDER: Submissions for the PTA Reflections Program are due tomorrow, Friday November 20, 2009.

Guidelines for submissions are available at www.stoneleighpta.org/enrichment-programs/reflections.

News from the Cultural Enrichment Committee

Nina Rutledge

Stoneleigh students were wonderfully well-behaved and attentive at our first Cultural Enrichment Assembly, "Einstein Alive!" held on November 10th.

Mr. "Einstein" was engaging. He gave a well planned presentation that taught the children a bit about relativity in a very entertaining way!

I would like to thank all the parent volunteers who shared their time, watching the performance and keeping an eye on the kids.

If you don't get out to the 'theater' much, please consider volunteering for the next assembly, when the singing group, "SnowDay" will share the definition, history, and experience of 'a capella' singing in an interactive hour of fun. The assembly will be held on December 23rd, at 1:45 p.m.

This is the last day of school before Winter Break- please volunteer and join us! A 20 minute volunteer training program is required for those of you who have not gotten the training yet. We would love to have you! Contact Lisa Darwin to volunteer at lisadarwin@yahoo.com.

Holiday Celebration: NEW THIS YEAR!

Did you know that for the first time ever, the Stoneleigh Holiday Celebration on December 5, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **will be funded entirely by donations from YOU?**

Due to changes in BCPS's rules regarding fundraising and in-school activities, we will no longer charge fees for the fun activities and entertainment at the Holiday Celebration. The great activities at the Holiday Celebration will be FREE.

These activities include:

- Gingerbread House Decoration
- Crafts
- Dress-A-Bear
- Cake Walk
- Music & Entertainment
- Games & Prizes for All Ages
- Food & Beverages

We are asking that families attending the Holiday Celebration voluntarily contribute to defray the cost of providing these fun activities.

Without your donations, we would be unable to bring this fun event to the Stoneleigh community.

Please look for the brightly colored donation boxes set up in activity rooms during the Holiday Celebration and remember to donate what you can.

Thank you for your support!



Walking Wednesday Update

Number of Walking Wednesday calendars returned by Stoneleigh elementary students in October	141
Number of miles walked by Stoneleigh elementary students in October	1,745
Average number of miles walked per student in October	12
Gallons of gas that were saved by walking (based on 25 mpg) in October	70
Amount of money for gas (at \$2.70 per gallon) that was saved by walking in October	\$188
Places in the United States "visited" so far in our "Hike across the United States" in November	Cathedral State Park, WV; Natural Bridge, VA; and Serpent Mound, OH

Please have your children complete and return their Walking Wednesday calendars after each month so we can continue our "Hike across the United States"!

Keep walking Stoneleigh!

Are you involved in Box Tops for Education? Now is the perfect time to join!



From now until December 1, everyone who joins Box Tops online will earn **five Box Tops for their school**, just for signing up. Plus, if you sign up, you could get a bonus for our school, too! That's cash our school can use to buy anything they need.

When you join Box Tops, you'll be able to get free coupons, and track our school's progress on the way to their earnings goal - all in real time. Go to

<http://www.boxtops4education.com/One/default.aspx?esrc=14463&refid=303918> to sign up!



Get Newsletters & Updates By E-Mail

If you haven't already done so this year, please consider going green and requesting electronic copies of school newsletters. Visit the Parent's Page of our school's website to print the form required to go paperless.

<http://schools.bcps.org/schools/ces/stoneleigh/parents-page.html>

Also, sign up for PTA updates and get the latest Stoneleigh news by email at

<http://www.stoneleighpta.org>



Holiday Celebration 2009

Saturday, December 5th

11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Stoneleigh Elementary School Gymnasium and Cafeteria

There will be:

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| * Games | * Prizes |
| * Crafts | * Entertainment |
| * Dancing | * Face Painting |
| * Cake Walk | * Food and Beverages! |

Volunteers are needed

(1 hour each) to run the booths. Please contact your Room Parent, or Kathleen Nuetzel at knuetzel@verizon.net to sign-up.

Call for Posters

We are looking for students to make “Winter Themed” posters advertising the Holiday Celebration, date, time and activities.

On poster board, please include the following information:

- Holiday Celebration
- Saturday, December 5th
- 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.
- Games, Prizes, Crafts, Face Painting, Food & Entertainment

All posters must be turned in to the Front Office by November 30th - thanks!

CREATIVE MINDS CLUB ENROLLING NOW

CREATIVE MINDS is an after school activity for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders involving team work, problem solving, experimentation, construction, language play and performance. This program seeks to encourage children to see themselves as creators, to see their peers as collaborators, and to develop skills to think outside the box and use common materials in unusual ways.

For one hour each week we will contemplate questions such as: What could you do with a 5000 pound truck load of peas? How can I direct someone to place 5 colored marbles in cups of matching colors when I can't use sound or write a message to communicate? We will also determine what kind of structures can be built with 40 pieces of spaghetti, 2 drinking straws, mini marshmallows, one adhesive label and a pair of scissors.

C.M. activities at Stoneleigh will be based on material associated with 2 well known national programs: Destination ImagiNation (more heavily emphasizing performance and team communication) and Odyssey of the Mind (more heavily emphasizing construction). Unlike these programs, the Stoneleigh program will not be involved in inter school competitions.

This after school activity is funded by the PTA, there is no cost for participation. The program will be led by Amanda Konradi (parent of a Stoneleigh 3rd grader and 7th grader).

A short FALL CYCLE will run Wednesdays: December 2, December 9 and December 18, A longer WINTER/SPRING cycle will be enrolled in January 2010. A new registration form will be required.

Each time the club meets, participants will go from their homerooms to the meeting room after the last bus is called at the end of the school day. Students also enrolled in Play Centers will first go there to sign in and then proceed to the meeting room. At the end of the meeting, the instructor will bring all students to the cafeteria lobby for pick-up at 4:30 p.m., sign-out to Play Centers, release as designated walkers. Parents arriving for pickup more than 10 minutes after dismissal time should be aware that their children will not be admitted to the next session. If schools are closed or close early for any reason, the club will not meet that day. Cancelled meetings will not be made up.

Following the practices of the language clubs, there will be a formal **behavior policy**. Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated in Creative Minds. Students who misbehave will be given one warning. On the second occasion, the student will be instructed to sit out of the activity and a note will be sent home to the parent. If the behavior reoccurs a third time, the student will not be able to continue in Creative Minds.

Enrollments will be based on the **postmark** of completed registrations, and will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Students must be in grades 3, 4 or 5 at Stoneleigh. The maximum for the FALL CYCLE is 25 students

If you have questions, contact Amanda Konradi (akonradi@loyola.edu).

CREATIVE MINDS meets at the school from 3:30-4:30 p.m. on
Wednesdays

DECEMBER 2, DECEMBER 9 AND DECEMBER 18

CREATIVE MINDS REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete and send to Amanda Konradi, 514 Sussex Rd., Towson, MD 21286.

Child _____ Grade _____

Homeroom Teacher _____

Parents' Names _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Tel. (Day) _____ (Eve) _____

(Cell/Emergency for contact between 3:30 and 4:30) _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ (required)

- After club meetings, my child will (circle one):
1. Go to Play Centers
 2. Be picked up by _____
 3. Be released to walk home.

I understand that my participation in Creative Minds requires that I comply with standard classroom behaviors and I may be asked to leave, if I do not do so.

Student Signature

I understand that after arriving more than 10 minutes after dismissal time for pick-up may jeopardize my child's participation in Creative Minds.

Parent Signature